



Spring 2018

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"On The Move" Newsletter



Congratulations to our newest Department of Environmental Toxicology graduates! We know they will make great accomplishments in the world and we wish them the best in their future endeavors!

R.P. Oates, Ph.D.
Jess Mauricio, MS
Steve Lasee, MS
Amanda French, Ph.D.
Mary Hayden, Ph.D.



After more than five years as Department Chair, Dr. Todd Anderson stepped down on October 31st. Thank you for serving!



TIEHH students, current and alumni, attended and presented at the National SETAC conference held in

On November 30th, the Department of Environmental Toxicology hosted the Faculty Research Club inside Jones AT&T Stadium. The Faculty Research Club is a monthly gathering intended to provide a social setting to stimulate interdisciplinary research collaborations, promote informal discussions about research, and disseminate information about campus resources to faculty. Presentations were made by Celine Godard-Codding, Jordan Crago, David Klein, and Steve Presley.

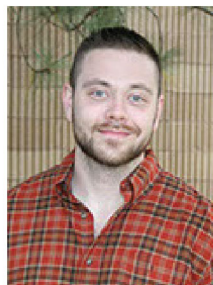
Student News

Juliette Jordan was awarded a \$1000 Graduate Student Research Support Award provided through the CH Foundation, the Texas Tech University Office of Parenting and Family Relations, the Graduate Student Advisory Council and the Graduate School for the 2017-2018 academic year.



Katie Hayett was awarded a \$757 Graduate Student Research Support Award provided through the CH Foundation, the Texas Tech University Office of Parent and Family Relations, the Graduate Student Advisory Council and the Graduate School for the 2017-2018 academic year.



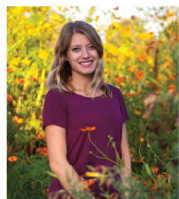


Students from Dr. Steve Presley's lab will be representing the Department of Environmental Toxicology at the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) Conference and Annual Meeting being held in Kansas City, MO. Each will be making oral presentations during the conference. Steve Peper and Hannah Greenberg each received a \$1,000 travel award as the AMCA Young Professionals' Industry Shadowing Program recipients. Hannah is sponsored by AMCAC Environmental Products and Steve's sponsor is Atlantic Paste & Glue Co., Inc. Katie Haydett received a Graduate Student Travel Award for her travels to present at this conference.

"Probability of canine heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) infection in mosquitoes from Lubbock, Texas" - by Steven Peper

"Geospatial predictive modeling of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in Texas" - by Hannah Greenberg

"Insecticide resistance survey of *Stegomyia* mosquito species throughout Texas jurisdictions" - by Alex Wilson-Fallon



Hannah Greenberg is the current South Plains Local Section American Chemistry Society Chair and Lucy Lim is serving as their Chair-Elect. The South Plains Local Section of the ACS is centered in Lubbock and serves the surrounding colleges and communities in western Texas and eastern New Mexico, including Wayland Baptist University, Lubbock Christian University, Eastern New Mexico University, South Plains College, and Texas Tech University. This group covers Texas counties: Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines,



Steve Peper was invited to present his research at the 7th International Society of Vector Ecology Congress in Palma of Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain this past October. He was awarded \$2,400 in travel funding to aid in his conference expenses so that he could attend.



Spring Events

February:

Special Judging at the South Plains Regional Science Fair

ACS Live Stream Program -
"Opioids: Combatting Addiction with Chemistry" - Live-Stream and Discussion

March:

U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) - Local high schools administer competition exams

Society of Toxicology (SOT) Annual Conference and Meeting being held in San Antonio

April:

UNSCO National Exam is administered by the Coordinator

ACS South Plains Banquet featuring Dr. Todd Anderson

Tech to Town volunteer day - The Department of Environmental Toxicology will be volunteering at an animal shelter

Regional SETAC Conference and Meeting hosted by Texas Tech University on the Junction Campus - Junction, TX

Arbor Day - The Department of Environmental Toxicology will help beautify the Texas Tech campus in their assigned spot!

The Department of Environmental Toxicology Student Awards Banquet featuring TIEHH Alumni Dr. Scott Weir from Queens University of Charlotte - Charlotte, NC

May:
Graduation



Will Thompson received a SETAC Foundation for Environment Education travel award to present his research at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Minneapolis, MN.



Chandini Revanna received an American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) Ph.D. travel scholarship in the amount of \$800 to present her research at the 2018 AAAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.



Lihua Lou received a \$600 award from the AATCC Foundation for her research project entitled "Incorporation of Functional Matters in Nanofiber Webs for Drug Delivery Vehicle and Filtration"



Recent Ph.D. graduate, R.P. Oates, received one of the 2018 Environmental Chemistry Graduate Student Awards from the Environmental Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS).



The Student Association raised \$200 towards a new recycling shed from the TIEHH 20th Anniversary t-shirt sales. Thank you to all those that purchased a t-shirt to support the cause!



Starting February 4, 2018 and continuing through March 31, 2018 Texas Tech will be competing in a nationwide recycling competition called RecycleMania. We will be competing against approximately 300 other universities, including 5 other Big 12 schools. The Department of Environmental Toxicology is striving toward Recycling Champ status!!

New Students

The Department of Environmental Toxicology welcomes 2 new students to our program this Spring!!



Weijie Yu
Donghua University, China
Ph.D. - Dr. S.S. Ramkumar



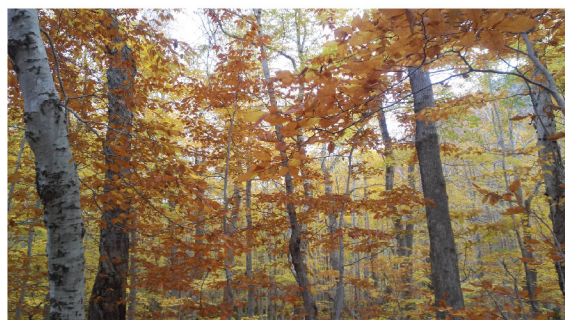
Yousef Ali
Southern Illinois University
at Edwardsville
Ph.D. - Dr. Greg Mayer



Kelsey Thompson and Eric Peterson traveled to Colorado to sample the sediment bacterial communities of the Animas River Watershed. The Animas River and its tributaries have been polluted by acid mine drainage for decades, shifting the bacterial community structures. They sampled at the same sites visited two years ago after the Gold King Mine Spill. This trip will be used to help identify how the continual release of lower doses of acid mine drainage are affecting the river.



TIEHH LE-SETAC student group gathered together during their Adopt-A-Highway work day to clean up the roadsides along 4th street. This is a photo of a few students that volunteered that day. Great job everyone!!



While attending and presenting a speed talk at the 22nd Biennial Conference for the Society of Marine Mammalogy this past October, Christiana Wittmaack captured this beautiful Fall image from Nova Scotia! Christiana's presentation was entitled "A Review of Cetacean Cell Culture: Methodologies, Research Applications, and Future Directions".



Katy Shaw traveled to Oahu, Hawaii in October where she spent her time collecting more samples for her research. What an amazing opportunity!

Staff News



Brad Thomas was named the Staff Employee of the Semester!

New Employees



Uday Turaga - Senior Research Associate in Dr. Steve Presley's Milk Lab



Sylvia Mason - Research Associate in Dr. Steve Presley's BSL Lab



Kelly Commons - Research Aide in Dr. Ron Kendall's Lab



Jo Lynne Stark - Administrative Assistant

Faculty News



A journal article co-authored by Dr. Todd Anderson (Development Biology. 302:1-12) has been cited more than 1,300 times according to Web of Science. This highly cited paper has received enough citations to place it in the top 1% of all papers published in that year and academic field.



Dr. Jaclyn Canas-Carrell was asked to serve on the TTU President's Gender Equity Council for a 2 year term beginning in September 2017. She was also asked to serve on the Texas Tech Committee on Achieving HSI Status in August 2017.



Dr. Steve Presley will be presenting a plenary memorial lecture honoring Dr. Fred Knapp from the University of Kentucky at the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) Conference and Meeting in Kansas City, MO.



Dr. S. Ramkumar (Ram) was selected by the University of Mumbai-India to deliver the prestigious Professor Achwal Oration and Public Lecture on his cotton research.



The Institute for Forensic Science was well represented at the 70th Annual American Academy for Forensic Sciences Meeting in Seattle, WA having 3 of their Master's students present their research projects!

"Narcotic Age and Working Dog Performance: Instrumental Perspectives on Training Aid Lifespan" by Lauren Alejandro and Dr. Paola Prada

"Human Skeletal Evidence: Perspectives for Narcotrafficking Group Identifications Through Modus Operandi from the Medico-Legal Department, San Joaquin de Flores, Heredia, Costa Rica" by Kashmiere N. McGee, B.A., Georgina Pacheco, M.S., Dr. Kathy Sperry and Dr. Paola A. Prada

"Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Programming Among United States Police Agencies" by Ethan Dodson, Dr. Megan Thoen, Dr. Brandy Pina-Watson (TTU Psychological Sciences), and Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo (TTU Human Development and Family Services)



Dr. Goddard-Coddling traveled to Mexico in January for gray whale field research in collaboration with the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS) and the University of Hawaii. The research focused on the collection of skin biopsies, blow samples, and photogrammetry data collected by unmanned aerial vehicles from mother and calf pairs. The research involves two TTU and 1 UABC graduate students as well as one University of Hawaii post-doctoral researcher.

A Note from the Chair...

Greetings from the Department of Environmental Toxicology!

There have been several changes in the department since our last newsletter. Dr. Todd Anderson stepped down as Chair of the department this past October and I assumed this position on the first day of November. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize and thank Todd for his five-plus years of devoted service as the Department of Environmental Toxicology Chair. Dr. Anderson remains as the Interim Director of The Institute of Environmental and Human Health and I am certain he will continue to do an outstanding job. It has been a very busy, but smooth transition, thanks largely to the excellent advice and assistance from Todd.

As many of you have previously heard, and realized by the format and headings in this newsletter, our department has taken several steps (*more like giant leaps*) forward over the past few months. The department is growing! As was mentioned in the Fall 2017 edition of the Newsletter, the Institute for Forensic Sciences (IFS) has now fully transitioned (*at least on paper*) into the Department of Environmental Toxicology. Dr. Robert Morgan is currently serving as the Interim Director of the IFS. The IFS faculty that have joined our department are Drs. Paola Prada, Kathy Sperry, and Megan Thoen. We are currently determining additional laboratory, teaching and office space needs for the IFS Faculty and students, as well as investigating options and alternatives for current and future infrastructure needs as the department grows.

Working with Drs. Anderson and Morgan, and the excellent faculty that are in our department, I am confident that the future is bright with continued growth in student numbers, increasing externally funded research expenditures, increasing numbers of scholarly publications in high-quality scientific journals, and increasing professional service and community engagement. I look forward to hearing from you, our alumni, friends, colleagues, and partners with any concerns, suggestions, or comments.

We build innovators.

Steve Presley, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Environmental Toxicology
TTU College of Arts & Sciences



VISION STATEMENT

“We will be a leader in research and education integrating environmental and human health sciences. Our department and institutes will contribute innovative solutions to environmental problems by embracing disciplinary diversity, creating partnerships and committing to excellence.”