



Summer 2018 Issue

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"On The Move" Newsletter

2018 Department of Environmental Toxicology Spring Student Awards Banquet



Dr. Scott Weir

The Department of Environmental Toxicology held its annual Spring Banquet and Student Awards. The event was held at the Llano Estacado Winery in Lubbock, TX on April 20, 2018.

The guest speaker for the event was TIEHH alumni Dr. Scott Weir of Queens University of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

Highlights of the evening were the yearly event awards going out to faculty, staff, and students. Awards were given to the outstanding doctoral students, masters students, faculty, staff, and TA. Lab Safety awards were given based on outstanding safety practices in the labs. A photo competition was conducted with winners being announced and door prizes were also awarded. The meal was catered by J&M Barbeque.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our banquet!!



Banquet Emcees: Katie Haydett and Katy Shaw



Spring Banquet Awards



Outstanding Doctoral Student -
Zhongwei Liu



Doctoral Student Award -
Yu-Wei Chang



Outstanding Masters Student -
Eric Peterson



Masters Student Award -
Kendall Blanchard



Safety Award winners: Eric Peterson,
Katy Shaw, Kendall Blanchard, and Alex
Wilson-Fallon



Outstanding Staff - Seeni Subbiah

Outstanding TA - Yu-Wei Chang

Outstanding Faculty - Dr. Todd Anderson
and Dr. KP Singh

**Congratulations to all of our
winners!!**

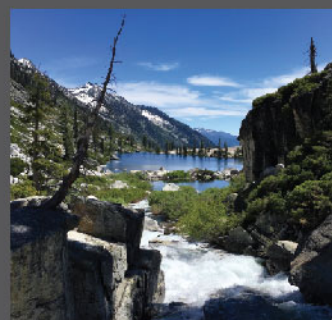
2018 Photo Contest Winners

First Place:



Cicada - Ryan Bounds

Second Place:



Take A Hike - Kia Hayes

Third Place: Tie



Sidewinder - Will Thompson



Macro Unveiled - Kia Hayes

Lab Safety Photo Winner



Office Hazard Identification -
Will Thompson

Spring 2018 Graduates

We extend our deepest **Congratulations** to the Spring 2018 Department of Environmental Toxicology graduates! We want to wish them all the best in their future endeavors and can't wait to see what kind of innovators they become!

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health Graduates

Alex Wilson-Fallon, M.S.
Hannah Greenberg, M.S.
Shanoy Anderson, Ph.D.
Darryll Oliver, M.S.

Institute for Forensic Science Graduates

Lauren Alejandro, M.S.
Kashmiere McGee, M.S.
Silas Kemboi, M.S.
Valeree Meili, M.S.
Jaxon Ward, M.S.
Ethan Dodson, M.S.



Terracon Representatives Erin Loyd, Adam Finger (TIEHH Alumni) and Dr. Kristina Kohl (TIEHH Alumni) presented a check in the amount of \$7,500 to the Department of Environmental Toxicology student scholarships for 2018. Pictured with the Terracon representatives are Department of Environmental Toxicology Chair Dr. Steve Presley, Interim TIEHH Director Dr. Todd Anderson, LE-SETAC Organization President Katy Shaw, and ENTX Student Organization President Steve Lasee.



The Department of Environmental Toxicology's Dr. Jordan Crago and Dr. Todd Anderson served as the program chairs for the 2018 SETAC South Central Regional Chapter annual meeting at Texas Tech's Junction Campus in Junction, TX, April 26-28, 2018. This year's theme was "The Junction of Environmental Science and Society". TIEHH was well-represented with students who presented, both in platform and poster.

Cassandra Schmidt tied for 1st in the poster competition. Kelsey Thompson had the 2nd place platform presentation. Olushola Awoyemi had the 3rd place platform presentation.



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a red and white life vest over a black and white patterned top and black shorts, is smiling while holding a large, flat, yellowish-brown stingray. She is sitting on the edge of a boat, with the ocean and a cloudy blue sky in the background. The stingray has a long, thin tail and a mottled pattern on its underside.

We are all VERY proud of her
and her accomplishments!! You
ROCK Katy!!



Yu-Wei Chang received the Renal Toxicology Mechanistic Award at the National Society of Toxicology with her 2nd place research topic entitled "Arsenic exposure induces toxicity and fibrotic changes in human kidney epithelial cells".



Student News



LE-SETAC students held a work day for their Adopt-A-Highway section that runs for 2 miles beginning on Research Boulevard down 4th street. Great job everyone!



5 members of the Student Association volunteered at the South Plains Food Bank this past spring. They helped sort sodas and build disaster relief packages.



Katie Haydett was awarded a \$1,000 Academic Freedom Scholarship from Texas Tech Faculty Legal Action Association for 2nd place. She received Honorable Mention for her entry in the American Mosquito Control Association student paper competition. She was named the AMCA Mosquito Monthly's Young Professional Spotlight of the Month for January. Katie was nominated for the TTU Raiders Who Rock Cooperation and Communication: Student Association and LE-SETAC and TIEHH Student Organization *Most Improved*.
Way to go Katie!!



Summer Events

June

"Science: It's a Girl Thing"
Science Camp

July

"Shake Hands with Your Future" TTU Summer camp

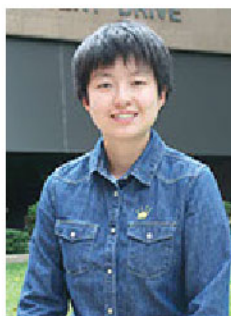
Will Thompson travels to Italy to present at the "State of the Map 2018" conference

August

Graduation



Naveen Kumar received the TTU Preston and Ima Smith Graduate Fellowship in the amount of \$2,000 for 2018-2019. He was also the recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning award.



Fenqian Chen was awarded a TTU Study Abroad fellowship this past spring.



Cassandra Schmitt was awarded the 2018 TTU Sustainability Scholarship.



Student News

New Student Organization Officers for 2018-2019 Announced!



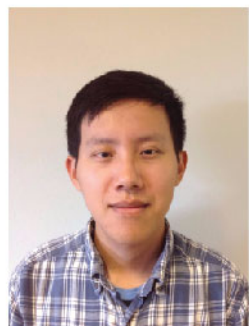
Forensic Science Society 2018-2019 Officers are (L to R) President - Jennifer Raymer, Vice President - Preston McCullough, Vice President of Fundraising - Katie Blamar, Secretary - Nataly Gomez, Treasurer - Kiana Holbrook, and Historian - Alicia Torres



ENTX Student Association 2018-2019 Officers are (L to R) President - Steve Lasee, Secretary/Treasurer - Narayan Acharya, Public Relations - Audrey Martinez, Green Committee Chair - Kendall Blanchard, Welcoming Committee Chair - Cassandra Schmidt, and Vice President - Eric Peterson



LE-SETAC 2018-2019 Officers are (L to R) Treasurer - Lihua Lou, SORC Rep - Armando Velazquez, Vice President - Cassie Henry, and President - Katy Shaw



Undergraduate student in Dr. Degeng Wang's lab, Tingzeng Wang, was awarded a TTU Biology Rushing Scholarship. Tingzeng also received a TTU CALUE Undergraduate Scholar Project Funding award. Congratulations Tingzeng!



TIEHH Ph.D. student Steve Lasee and his wife Holly welcomed a new baby boy on April 28, 2018. Welcome to the world Jack Lasee!!



We would like to extend our utmost congratulations to Dr. Amanda French and her family. She has accepted a job at the University of Waikato in New Zealand and will begin her duties there on June 25th. We wish you the best on all of your future endeavors as you begin your new journey!!

Faculty News

The Department of Environmental Toxicology faculty's dedication and outstanding performance was recognized on many levels during the Spring semester. They each work tirelessly in their efforts.



Dr. Todd Anderson was the recipient of some prestigious awards during the Spring semester! President Lawrence Schovanec awarded 13 faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences with special professorships for teaching or research. Dr. Anderson was 1 of 6 Arts & Sciences faculty who was selected for a Presidential Research Excellence Professorship to begin September 1st.

Dr. Anderson was also the recipient of the 2018 Bernie E. Rushing, Jr Faculty Distinguished Research Award in the STEM disciplines. This award recognizes excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activity.



Dr. Céline Godard-Codding was the recipient of the Texas Tech University President's Excellence in Teaching award this past April.

Dr. Godard-Codding also traveled to La Paz, Mexico for an invited seminar at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS) Biology department. While in La Paz, she established a new collaboration with the Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas of the Instituto Politecnico Nacional (CICIMAR-IPN) on hormone analyses in endangered shark and ray species. She is serving as co-advisor on Ph.D. student Edgar Bercerril Garcia committee.



The graduate students voted Dr. Todd Anderson and Dr. KP Singh to receive the departmental Outstanding Faculty awards during the Spring 2018 Banquet.



Dr. Degeng Wang's collaborator, professor Fangyuan Zhang of the TTU Math Department, was awarded a TTU Open Access Initiative award for their publication in Scientific reports entitled "A Multi-Parameter Analysis of Cellular Coordination of Major Transcriptome Regulation Mechanisms".



Dr. Greg Mayer was one of the recipients for 2018's Seed Grant cycle offered through the International Research and Development Division (IRD) of the TTU Office of International Affairs.

The IRD Seed Grants have helped increase focus on the importance of international collaboration and research. The Seed Grant competition also reflects the ongoing commitment of the Office of the Provost, the Vice Presidents for Research at both TTU and TTUHSC, and the International Research & Development Division of the Office of International Affairs to enhancing international research and development activities and scholarship.

Staff News

Analisa Guevara was promoted to the new Graduate Program Coordinator on May 1st. She started with the Department of Environmental Toxicology as an Administrative Assistant in February 2015.

Analisa's main focus will be in recruiting new students to our department. She plans on attending national conferences as well as Texas Tech's Graduate School fairs, advertising research assistantships online, and participating in more recruitment opportunities. As students apply to our department, she will coordinate with the Admissions Committee on admissions of new students. For the graduate students in our department, she will notify them of upcoming deadlines, assist them with the appropriate forms needed, give permits for classes, coordinate defenses, and ensure that each student has met all requirements to graduate. Analisa will also work on the department's New Student Handbook and coordinate New Student Orientation in the Fall semester.

Analisa serves as a mentor with Mentor Tech and will begin her 4th year this Fall. She is also very family oriented and enjoys spending time with her husband and son.



Sylvia Mason and Dr. Cynthia Reinoso Webb attended "Agents of Bioterrorism: A Hands-on Wet Workshop" put together by the Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Preparedness Branch on 2 February 2018 in Austin, Texas. This training helps identifying agents of Bioterrorism via bacterial culture.

Dr. Cynthia Reinoso Webb attended the national meeting for the Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) on 26-28 February 2018 in Bandera, Texas. This meeting brings together Texas LRNs and is a chance to report the work that has been done in each laboratory in relation to select agents, Zika and Influenza testing and surveillance. At this meeting, labs discuss the testing for emerging diseases and select agents.



New Employee



We welcome our new office assistant, Julie Gollighugh! She brings with her over 25 years of administrative and clerical customer service experience. She enjoys all Texas Tech sports as well as cooking and spending time with her family.

Celebrating with our department staff!

•Tami James, our Unit Accounting Manager, attended both of her daughters' graduations this spring. One graduated from Frenship High School and one graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree from San Angelo State University. Congratulations to them both!!

•Our Sr. Account Manager, Stephanie White's son will be deploying to Dubai with the US Air Force this summer. We send good thoughts for safe travels and a speedy deployment for both him and his mom!

•Brad Thomas, our PC/Network Support Specialist, attended his daughter's graduation from the US Army's Basic Training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. She is now completing her AIT at Ft. Lee in Virginia. Congratulations!



Karrinne Truelock has returned as a part-time accountant reconciling accounts for the department.



A Note from the Chair...

Greetings alumni, colleagues and friends of the Department of Environmental Toxicology, The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, and the Institute for Forensic Science. I hope you are enjoying a beautiful early summer wherever you may be. As you will note from the newsletter our graduate students, staff and faculty have had a very busy, productive and highly successful Spring 2018 semester. We enjoyed a very fun and pleasant Spring Banquet hosted by the graduate students at the Llano Estacado Winery. The evening included a very insightful, yet reflective talk by Dr. Scott Weir providing some great advice and encouragement for our graduate students.

Our graduate students continue to bring great credit upon themselves, the Department of Environmental Toxicology, and Texas Tech University through their scholarly research publications and presentations (both poster and platform) at various local, regional, national, and international professional meetings and conferences. They are truly excellent ambassadors for our department and institutes, always representing the highest quality academic and professional standards for which we strive. It has also been a very busy semester as ten of our students graduated in May (9 M.S. and 1 Ph.D.) – again, congratulations to you all.

I would like to formally welcome Julie Gollihugh as the newest administrative staff member in the department – welcome onboard Julie. I also want to acknowledge the hard, oftentimes thankless, efforts of Jerry Cowen for his dedicated efforts to keep our buildings and physical plant functioning properly – thank you Jerry.

On the faculty front, please join me in congratulating Drs. Jaclyn Canas-Carrell, Weimin Gao, and Ernest Smith on their approval and pending promotion to Full Professor. Many of our faculty have been recognized during the semester at the university, national and international levels for their professional scholarly achievements through a wide array of awards – congratulations to them all on a job well done.

And most importantly, my very sincere appreciation to you, our alumni and friends, for your consistent and generous support of our graduate student scholarships and other important aspects of our department. I especially thank Terracon for their recent significant donation to our graduate student scholarship fund. Best regards, and please stop-by to visit at your opportunity.

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.”