

# Wildlife Chapter News



Winter 2009

## Special points of interest:

- Faculty awards
- New faculty hire
- Big grants
- Student Awards
- Record Enrollments
- Join the Wildlife Chapter-HSUAA

## Hello again HSU Wildlife Alums!

**The January 29, 2010 Annual Meeting of HSU AA Wildlife Chapter will be held in Visalia, CA in concert with the Western Section TWS meeting. Room location to be announced at the registration table. Time will be 7:30 to 8:30 AM. Food service will be available.**

The Wildlife Department had a banner year in 08-09, and it is off to a great start for 09-10!

**Dr. Dave Kitchen honored.** The North Coast Chapter of The Wildlife Society named Dr. Dave Kitchen as the Professional of the Year in 2009. Dave has been a professor of wildlife at HSU since 1972.

**Dr. Jeff Black honored.** Jeff Black was inducted into the prestigious California Academy of Sciences with a ceremony held in San Francisco on October 13, 2009.

**Creative new position fills a teaching need and serves the professional conservation community.** HSU Wildlife hired a new lecturer whose appointment is partly funded with monies from Ducks Unlimited. **Dr. Sharon Kahara**, a wetland wildlife specialist, is teaching part-time in the program and serving as the California coordinator for the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, a public-private partnership focusing on the identification, protection, and restoration of important wetlands. Among other courses, Dr. Kahara is teaching Conservation & Management of Wetland Habitats for Wildlife, a critical course in the wildlife curriculum that we were seldom able to offer previously.

**Wildlife is the highest academic programmatic priority for the university.**

## Record Enrollments and Rising Importance of the Discipline

The number of wildlife majors has grown over 20% in the last 5 years, and Wildlife is now the 5<sup>th</sup> largest major on campus (out of 92 different majors). A recent internal report indentified Wildlife as the highest academic programmatic priority for the university. We graduate the 6<sup>th</sup> highest number of undergraduates in the university, and the most Master's of

Science graduate students of any program. Demand for our graduates continues to rise, with California's Economic Development Department predicting jobs appropriate for graduates of HSU's wildlife program to be among top 50 fastest-growing jobs in the state over the next decade. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that jobs appropriate

for graduates of HSU's wildlife program will grow 22% over the next decade, which is 9-15% *faster* than the average growth among all jobs in the country.

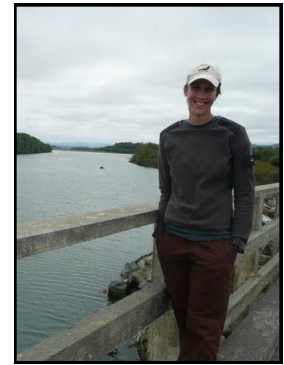


## Undergraduate Student Awards

Sara Petersen was awarded the Braden C. Hogan Memorial Scholarship, Amon Armstrong was awarded the Bush Memorial Scholarship, and Chris Smith and Casey Zarnes were awarded Harris Scholarships; Casey was also selected as the 08/09 Outstanding Undergraduate in Wildlife.

## Graduate Student Awards

New graduate student Joseph LaManna was awarded the Alistair & Judith McCrone Graduate Fellowship Award. Kristin Brzeski and Shannon Murphie were awarded Marin Rod & Gun Club Scholarships, and Jared Wolfe was awarded a Harris Graduate Scholarship.



Above: Current graduate student, Kristin Brzeski, was awarded a Marin Rod & Gun Club Scholarship.

## Large New Grant will Provide Excellent Opportunities for Undergraduate Students from Groups Traditionally Under-represented in the Sciences

Drs. Bruce O’Gara (Biology) and Matt Johnson (Wildlife) are the principle investigators on a \$930,000 grant funded by the National Science Foundation. The program, called Undergraduate Research and Mentoring, will provide stipends, travel funds, research opportunities, and faculty mentors to 24 under-represented students over the next five years. Students and their mentors will be from a variety of majors in the College of Natural Resources & Sciences.

## Grants Engage Graduate and Undergraduate Students in Faculty-led Research

Over \$600,000 in grants and contracts was awarded for faculty-led research projects in the Wildlife Department in 2008/2009 academic year, enabling graduate and undergraduate students to gain first-hand experience with wildlife field work and analysis. This academic year is off to roaring start for grants, with over \$1,000,000 already awarded to the department.

**“Over 600,000 dollars in grants and contracts were awarded for faculty-led research projects in the Wildlife Department”**



Left: Casey Zarnes, recent HSU Wildlife Graduate and recipient of both the Outstanding Undergraduate in Wildlife Award and the prestigious Harris Scholarship.  
Right: Graduate student Shannon Murphie with a black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) fawn at her study sight on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. Shannon was awarded a Marin Rod and Gun Scholarship.



WILDLIFE CHAPTER  
HSUAA

## **ATTENTION:**

The 4th annual meeting of Wildlife Chapter - HSUAA will be held in conjunction with the Western Section of The Wildlife Society conference in Visalia, CA, on January 29 from 7:30 to 8:30 am.



Above: A banded Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) looks for a spot to cache his peanut. Jays are the focal species of 2 current Master's student theses.

Below: Graduate Student Joe LaManna was the recipient of the Alistair & Judith McCrone Graduate Fellowship Award.



## Request for Email Addresses from Wildlife Chapter HSUAA

We would like to send out a couple of mailers each year to Wildlife Chapter alumni members. HSU Alumni Association provides one newsletter mailing per year for each alumni chapter. With email addresses, we can send out at least one more newsletter with timely

information and announcements. For instance, an opportunity came up this year after our regular mailing to invite Wildlife Chapter alumni to the African safari with Archie Mossman. Additional mailings cost us quite a bit more, but if we have email addresses for most of our members, we can "snail mail" letters to just those

members not using email and cut back on costs. Please submit your email address(es) BY **JANUARY 21, 2010** to Kim Sekas at the Alumni office at [alumni@humboldt.edu](mailto:alumni@humboldt.edu) and specify that you want your email address added to the HSUAA Wildlife Chapter roster.

### Wildlife Chapter – HSUAA Current Officers

President  
Dave Juliano  
707-268-0227  
hawol@att.net

Treasurer/Secretary  
Scott Frazer  
661 725-2767  
Scott\_Frazer@fws.gov

President-Elect  
Open for Nominations

Immediate Past President  
Chet Ogan  
(2005-2007)  
707-442-9353  
oganc@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor  
Marlene Wagner

## Quiz Bowl Champions

**The Wildlife Student Conclave wins again!** In fall of 2008, HSU Wildlife students took first place in the National Wildlife Student Quiz Bowl competition, hosted by The Wildlife Society in Miami, Florida. In the spring they won again, this time at the Western Wildlife Conclave Competition held at Utah State University. The team suffered a narrow defeat for the national title this September in Monterey, but that still makes HSU the National Champion in 6 of the last 9 years!



Top: Dr. Kitchen and the HSU conclave team adding to their life-list in Monterey.



Left: HSU conclave team on a field trip in Utah.

## A Note from the Treasurer, Scott Frazer

I would like to report several activities that were approved at the 2009 annual meeting in Sacramento. First we plan to complete fundraising for our scholarship endowment using a challenge 1:1 match available from the University. If you would like to help us reach the \$25,000 minimum objective for the endowed scholarship, please use the donation form at the end of this newsletter to submit your donation. Due to current market conditions we will need to exceed the minimum balance to have adequate resources to make annual scholarship awards. The first Wildlife Alumni Scholarship award (\$500) is planned for 2010.



Above: At Dr. Matt Johnson's field site in Jamaica, undergraduate student Vitek Jirinec holds a Jamaican Tody (*Todus todus*).

Next, there appears to be interest in group travel opportunities. Preliminary discussions with Matt Johnson indicate that a trip to Jamaica would be possible one year from now, in addition to the possibility of another trip to one or more destinations in Africa. Please see the brief description of the Mossman safari to McBride's camp in Zambia. If you are wondering how you missed hearing about this trip in time to participate, the answer is that attendance at the annual meeting in Sacramento or being among a select group of friends was the only publicity utilized due to the spontaneous response that occurred. So there are important benefits associated with attending Alumni events.

Anyone that is interested in participating in the next HSUAA Wildlife junket should contact S. Frazer at P.O. Box 670, Delano, CA or call

(661) 319-1243. Email is not an option for travel arrangements at this time. Traveling with knowledgeable fellow biologists proved to be a very economical alternative to conventional ecotourism firms for our visit to Zambia. The cost of travel and method of securing reservations will be determined during the new year. Maximum participation is limited to 18 persons.

Included in this newsletter is the Jan 2009 report given at the annual meeting held in Sacramento. There are surprisingly few financial activities to report, including very few membership renewals or income from membership dues. So the drum beat that I hope you will start to hear is the call of your friends and fellow alum asking you to send in a membership to the Wildlife Chapter. It is \$10 in addition to your HSUAA dues.

## Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2008

### Humboldt State University Alumni Association - Wildlife Chapter

#### TREASURER'S REPORT, Jan. 20, 2009 For FY ending June 30, 2008

<b>University Account</b>		<b>Loan Account (Operated by Financial Aid Office)</b>	
<b>Deposits:</b>		Balance June 30, 2007	\$7,137.34
Membership	\$930.00	Balance Jan. 22, 2009	\$8,570.34
Donations	\$85.00		
Balance: July 1, 2007	\$3,151.70	June 30, 2008 (\$4,868.48 +120 correction)	\$4,988.48
<b>Total Asset Balance</b>	<b>\$13,588.82</b>	<b>Scholarship Endowment Funds</b>	
Updated Balance Dec. 8, 2008	\$5,322.48	CUAA	\$1,000
Expenses (Up to 6-30-08)		HSUAA Match (x2)	\$2,000
Univ. Ctr. Catering (old bill)	\$298.22	(Eligible for additional \$1,000 in 2009)	
Expenses (Up to 12-30-08)		Individual Donations	\$5,000
Newsletter Preparation	\$150	HSU WLD Dept.	\$4,000
Note: \$500 credit from HSUAA to cover mail		Bequest	\$2,800
		Subtotal	\$14,800
			\$15,800 with Match

Respectfully Submitted : Scott Frazer, Treasurer 1/22/09

## Safari to McBride's Camp a "Roaring" Success!

Twenty-one hardy souls accompanied the Legendary (the Legend relates to a quote by C. McBride in a recently published story in South African Airlines in flight magazine) Dr. Archie Mossman and Dr. Sue Lee to visit HSU Wildlife alumni Chris McBride at his bush camp inside Kafue NP, Zambia. This news brief will not do justice to the outstanding wildlife viewing, lions, elephant and hippo walk through the camp at night, or the extremely pleasant fellowship enjoyed by all of the travelers. For 7 days our group of 23 explored Zambian natural won-

ders observing abundant herds of Puku, Impala, occasional Bushbuck, Waterbuck, bush pig, Warthog, baboon, ginnel, monkey and over 100 species of birds. Leopards were seen by a lucky few at two different locations. While there is some difference of opinion over what the most exciting wildlife encounters are, Chris McBride contends it is all about the King of the Jungle. At any rate there was unanimous acquiescence that this trip could be considered a "once in a life time" encounter with the wild Humboldt tribe.

For more information check out the McBride bush camp web site: [www.mcbridescamp.com](http://www.mcbridescamp.com), or ask one of the legendary travelers at the next annual Wildlife Chapter meeting in Visalia on Jan 29, 2010.

**"...lions, elephant and hippo walk through the camp at night..."**



A few of the **wild Humboldt tribe** on the Kafue River in Zambia.

## More Creatures of Interest...



Left: An African Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) spotted along the Kafue River during the Humboldt Safari to Zambia.

Right: A lazy river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) at Hookton Slough of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. River otters are currently the study organism of 2 Humboldt Master's theses and a recent Wildlife Techniques class.



### Registration Information

- \$45 annual dues Wildlife Alumni Chapter—HSUAA Membership
- \$10 annual dues Wildlife Alumni Chapter (current HSUAA life member)

**Additional donation opportunities: Please circle one of the following 3 to indicate how you wish your additional donation to be allocated:**

- \$25, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Scholarship Endowment Fund
- \$25, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Chapter of HSUAA Endowment
- \$25, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Department Trust Fund (supporting recruitment and the purchase of classroom/lab equipment)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 C/S/Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Tell me more about Alumni spreading the word about the HSU wildlife program.

- I would like to receive/keep my [humboldt.edu](http://humboldt.edu) email address. Below is the data required for activating my account, including my HSU ID # OR my Social Security #.  
 HSUID/SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOB \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: HSUAA**

**Return to :** Alumni Association  
 Humboldt State University  
 1 Harpst Street  
 Arcata, CA 95521



**Renew Online**

[alumni.humboldt.edu](http://alumni.humboldt.edu)

Click on join HSUAA

Membership in the Alumni Association is important. Member support of key programs – such as alumni scholarships, grants, special events, and publications – is what drives our success.



1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT No. 78  
Arcata, CA 95521

Look inside to stay  
connected and find out how  
to get more involved!

