



Department Update – Dr. Micaela Gunther

Greetings Wildlife alumni! I hope this new year finds you all well and enjoying time in the field (hopefully more time than I get to spend in the field as Department Chair).

I thought I would provide you with a brief update on the State of the Department as we stand at the start of 2016. Our program continues to be a very popular one; the number of undergraduate students is close to 500! As a result, the demand for seats in our courses also continues to rise. To reduce the pressure on these courses, we have declared impaction, which means that there are now certain criteria student applicants have to meet to be admitted into the Wildlife program (GPA for first time freshmen and prerequisite courses for transfer students). Also, we are adding a new faculty member. Yes, you heard it right: we are in the process of hiring a new (eighth) tenure track faculty member in the discipline of Conservation Biology to add to our current team of seven. We look forward to having our new faculty member on campus for the start of the Fall 2016 semester.

I would also like to extend huge thank yous from our faculty and students for the generous support that you have provided to our students and program. We continue to receive substantial donations from Wildlife program alumni to support student scholarships (via the CUAA endowment), student field research experiences (through our trust fund) and many other aspects of our daily activities. This year, the recipient of the CUAA Scholarship was Rachel Guinea, a first generation college student, single parent and Marine Corps veteran who excelled in her classwork during the academic semester, conducted field research experiences during the summer, and followed up her research activities by presenting her results at both local and national conferences. She plans to pursue graduate school to obtain a graduate degree in Wildlife Ecology.

We also supported four less-experienced undergraduate students in field research experiences, one of which was Ian Axsom, who worked with Professor Tim Bean and graduate student Cara Appel to track porcupines in Tolowa Dunes State Park in Crescent City. During his time in the field, he gained experience capturing, handling and processing porcupines, as well as using GPS units and tracking VHF radio-collared individuals in the field. These skills have increased his abilities in the wildlife field and will make Ian more attractive to future employers. All thanks to the generous support of our alums!

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Getting Re-Started for Wildlife Alumni – Terra Fuller

Last year at the Wildlife Society Western Section Meeting, we voted to maintain status as an independent organization as the Conservation Unlimited Alumni Association (CUAA). Since then, we have been working on getting this started. We have renewed our non-profit status and have just finished setting up a bank account for donations. Our annual \$1,000 student scholarships are still being disbursed through CUAA endowment fund. However, receiving donations through CUAA allows for additional support to students and the Wildlife Department. CUAA donations in the past have provided equipment to the Department and training opportunities for students. In the coming months, we will be setting up a PayPal account linked through our website (www2.humboldt.edu/wildlife/alumni.php) and/or our Facebook page. Until we're up and running on the net, if you would like to donate to the CUAA alumni fund, please contact Treasurer Brock Ortega (bortega@dudek.com). We still recommend registering with Forever Humboldt (forever.humboldt.edu), so you'll receive our newsletters and any other important HSU alumni information. We're looking forward to a productive year as CUAA, by re-establishing our funding autonomy, providing support to HSU wildlife students and networking for wildlife alumni. Thank you for your support!

Western Section of the Wildlife Society Conference and Alumni Meeting – 2016

If you are attending the Western Section of the Wildlife Society Conference in Pomona, CA this year, come to the Humboldt State Alumni meeting. The meeting will be at 5:30 PM in the Vineyard Ballroom 1 and Foyer preceding the conference awards banquet. For those of you not attending the banquet, we will be going to O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub near the conference center after the alumni meeting.

HSU Wildlife Research at the Western Section

Keep an eye out at the meeting in Pomona for the latest research being done at HSU!

Lead Author	Day	Session	Lead Author	Session
Ryan Baumbusch	Wed.	Challenges and Conflict in Vertebrate Predator Mgmt.	Nathan Alexander	Poster Session
Teresa King	Wed.	Challenges and Conflict in Vertebrate Predator Mgmt.	Cara Appel	Poster Session
Emily Cate	Wed.	The Effects of Drought and Water Mgmt. on Wildlife	Dr. William (Tim) Bean	Poster Session
Shannon Mendia	Thur.	Human-Wildlife Conflict and Solutions	Pairsa Belamaric	Poster Session
Dr. William (Tim) Bean	Thur.	Spatial Analysis of Wildlife-Habitat Relationships	Claire Bortot	Poster Session
Dawn Blake	Thur.	Spatial Analysis of Wildlife-Habitat Relationships	Kyla Garten	Poster Session
Sharon Dulava	Thur.	Wildlife Techniques and Technologies	Aliya McCarthy	Poster Session
Shannon Murphy	Fri.	Ecology and Conservation of Birds		
David Orluck	Fri.	Ecology and Conservation of Birds		

Conclave Victory!

HSU Wildlife took home another Conclave trophy at the 2015 Wildlife Society meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Annie Meyer, Emily Aarsvold, Abbie Ruthrough, Jane Wong, and Sasha Robinson were led by Dr. Barbara Clucas and Teresa King. There were three nail biting rounds before the team took the final round with a score of 141 to 30 against Lakehead University.



International Excursion

Scott Frazer would like to coordinate a trip to Costa Rica during Jan 2018 or another location, possibly Zambia again (2017 or 2018), or first time to Kenya if there are at least 6-8 people who contact me within next 90 days to discuss details.

Brief details about possible trip to Costa Rica are an all inclusive 14 day package with ground transportation, meals, lodging, entrance fees and snack foods with an English speaking natural history guide and driver for approximately \$3950. Interested? Contact Scott at genescottf@gmail.com for more details.

Third Annual Wildlife Science Symposium - HSU

The Wildlife Department in conjunction with the California North Coast Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be hosting its third-annual Wildlife Science Symposium May 6th, 2016 of the Humboldt State campus. Local managers and researchers will be presenting their latest work and the graduating class of 2016 will have a poster session for the honors theses and senior project. Stay tuned to www.wildlife.org/cncc for more details in the near future.

Get Involved!

Do you have ideas for future newsletter articles, alumni activities, or a story to share?

Contact Ryan Baumbusch:
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Stay in Touch

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