



CUAA Newsletter

Fall 2020

Message from the board

As we move into the final months of 2020, the CUAA board has continued to work on your behalf, toward the success of CUAA and the benefit of the students at HSU. Although we all admit, we are ready to return to some normalcy and hoping 2021 is an improvement. However, even with the challenges of 2020, CUAA has had an incredibly successful year, and this newsletter will highlight some of those accomplishments.

We are indebted to all our members who came forward and donated to our optics project. We raised over \$11,000 and were able to purchase 135 pairs of binoculars for the Dept. to loan to wildlife students. We offer special thanks to a few of our donors whose generosity was key to our success: Dave Garcelon, president and founder of the Institute of Wildlife Studies, John Ives, and Jane Hicks. The board thanks you sincerely for your support! We also have received donations toward our undergraduate internship honoring Dr. Stan Harris. Fully funding this internship through donors and partnerships will be a major focus for us in 2021. The board is also exploring online giving opportunities, to expand our scope, so stay tuned for some exciting announcements in months to come.

The University reached out to our members and asked them to participate in HSU's Academic Master Plan process. Our members were tasked with completing a comprehensive survey, providing input for future decisions that will affect wildlife students for years to come. The board wants to thank all those who responded, especially given the short deadline. Once again, you continue to prove that Humboldt wildlife alumni are a family that cares.

With the current Covid-19 restrictions, it appears that our Humboldt Wildlife Alumni annual meeting will be virtual this year. As you know, we normally meet in conjunction with annual conference of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society. This year the Wildlife Society conferences (both national and sections) are being held virtually. The board is currently working with the Western Section to determine the best method for holding our annual meeting. We will update our website and social media platforms as we finalize our plans.

The board would like to hear from you, our members on what more we can offer you. Our role is to help support the Wildlife students; however, we feel we need to do more for you our members. We do not take for granted your support, or your caring for the students. In light of Covid-19 restrictions, we have talked about virtual "zoom" type gatherings to network and reconnect with alumni. We have also talked about field trips (safe distancing of course) for birding trips, hunts, or other outdoor activities. CUAA is for you as well as the students, so reach out to us via email, messaging, or call any of the board members with ideas. The board is committed to making your membership a positive experience for everyone.

Finally, we are still facing the numbers challenge. With over 3000 graduates from the Humboldt State Wildlife Department, we are hearing that many still do not even know that we exist. We saw in the 2020 national elections how successful the get out and vote message was spread. The board feels we as an organization can do better in reaching our alumni. We challenge you to spread the word and educate / recruit 1 new member this coming winter. It is through personal connections that we gain our strength. Membership Online is easy, relatively inexpensive, and with an all-volunteer board and staff, no overhead is taken. 100% of our membership dues go directly to the Department and Wildlife students. It is our pleasure to represent you, the members, and serve the wildlife students at HSU.

Brian Barton,
CUAA Board Chairman

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of
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Fundraising

This year's optics fundraising effort has been a resounding success. In total, we purchased 153 pairs of binoculars that will be used by HSU Wildlife students during their "virtual learning" semesters during the Covid-19 pandemic. We received donations of all sizes from across the country, but we especially recognize The Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) directed by wildlife alum Dave Garcelon, The Jonathan and Rosemarie Ives Family Fund, and CUAA member Jane Hicks for providing critical funding. Please read the attached letter from Frank Whitlatch the Executive Director of the Humboldt State University Foundation, acknowledging our initial purchase.

Please consider supporting our current fundraising goals! www.CUAAHumboldt.org

Scott Frazer
Fundraising Committee Chair

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION



September 10, 2020

Conservation Unlimited Alumni Association
1720 Stewart Ave
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Conservation Unlimited Alumni Association,

Thank you for your recent support of Humboldt State University. Your generous contribution of 50 pairs of Vortex Raptor 8.5x32 binoculars to the Wildlife Department will help us to continue offering the most complete and life-changing education possible to our students and support our world-class faculty as they push the boundaries of knowledge forward.

The mission of Humboldt State University is to offer affordable, high-quality education that is responsive to the needs of an ever-changing world. We are proud to offer 49 majors and scores of research initiatives that encourage academic achievement and responsible citizenship. A Humboldt State education is a catalyst for life-long learning and personal development.

It is through generous support such as yours that we continually improve the university. On behalf of the students and campus community, thank you very much!

Again, thank you for your generous gift and for supporting the mission of Humboldt State University.

With appreciation,

Frank Whitlatch
Executive Director, Humboldt State University Foundation



Humboldt State University Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #94-6077724. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the tax implications of your gift. Please retain this letter as the receipt for your donation.

Tracking Wildlifers

Have you ever wondered what your classmates have been up to since graduation? Probably a lot! In this column, we track down outstanding alumni and learn how they put their HSU education to good use.

RHIANNON KLINGONSMITH (class of '04)

As a young girl growing up in suburban southern California, watching PBS specials about wildlife around the world, Rhiannon Klingonsmith knew early on she wanted a career in wildlife. She attended Humboldt State University from 2001-2004, graduating with a B.S. in Wildlife Management and Conservation. During her time at HSU she was involved in the Student Chapter of Conservation Unlimited, attended Western Section TWS meetings, and assisted in student quiz bowls. "I remember traveling to other states and Canada with Dr. Kitchen and Dr. Johnson to attend TWS Conferences, how exciting it was to have the opportunity to learn about what others do in the wildlife world, meet potential employers, and gain amazing friendships along the way. Many of the friendships I made at HSU are still going strong 15 years later!" Through her participation in CU and while in the wildlife program, she gained long lasting friendships. These same college friends hold an annual Hogan Cup Fishing Derby. In 2020, they celebrated 15 years of fishing derby campouts!

Rhiannon has remained a California native, working throughout the State in both public and private sectors, starting as a scientific aid doing botany surveys, trapping small to large mammals, and grew into a wildlife biologist. She lived and worked at a wildlife area and learned to hunt waterfowl. From there she moved onto the private sector which allowed her the ability to travel all over the state, seeing and working in numerous beautiful habitats. After years of high paced private sector, she has settled back into a State position as a Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor) where her work is currently focused in the Suisun Marsh. In addition to a great career, Rhiannon has held numerous positions on her local Sacramento-Shasta TWS Chapter board: President, President elect, Professional Development Chair, and Student Scholarship Chair. She continues to participate in the annual Western Section Meetings and makes a point to attend the CUAA meetings every time. She attributes her continued success in the wildlife profession to the knowledgeable and passionate HSU professors, amazing hands-on program, and a room full of animal heads too.



Events

As is tradition, we will be holding an open gathering for HSU alumni and CUAA members in conjunction with the 2021 Western Section of the Wildlife Society annual meeting. Due to Covid-19 concerns, the conference and our gathering will be virtual. We are currently scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 3rd from 5-7pm and we hope to see you there!

What: HSU Alumni Annual Gathering

When: Wednesday, Feb 3rd 2021 from 5-7pm

Where: Whova Virtual Event Platform.

<https://twswest.org/virtual2021/>



Stay in touch!

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Send us an email: cuaahumboldt@gmail.com

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