



CUAA Newsletter

November 2024

Greetings!

Welcome to the return of the Conservation Unlimited Alumni (CUAA) Newsletter. We have some updates about online store fronts, CUAA art contest, the 72nd Annual Western Section Meeting, the Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge Internship, an introduction of the new board members, and a call for volunteers.

Wildlife Department Updates

This Fall Semester, Dan Barton will serve as Chair of the department, while Barbara Clucas will serve as Vice Chair. They will switch roles in Spring 2025.

New Faculty

Kelly Robinson will be joining the department as a full time lecturer. They are an ecologist and evolutionary biologist specializing in herpetology. They will teach

Conservation Biology (WLDF 460), Intro to Wildlife Conservation and Administration (WLDF 210), Senior Project (WLDF 495) and the graduate student wildlife seminar (WLDF 585). You can learn more about Kelly here:

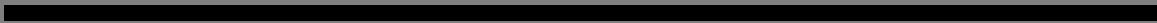
<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kelly-Robinson-4>.

Yvonne Verkuil will be joining the department as a lecturer. They are a seasoned shorebird ecologist and will be teaching Shorebirds (WLDF 423). You can learn more about Yvonne here: <https://scholar.google.nl/citations?user=nSLFpKUAAAAAJ&hl=nl>

Online Store Fronts

CUAA has opened two online stores through Zazzle and Bonfire. The [Zazzle Store](#) has items such as t-shirts, pint glasses, hats, coffee cups, koozies, and bottle openers.

The [Bonfire Store](#) has a wider selection of t-shirts, jackets, hoodies, tank tops, and long sleeved shirts. All proceeds from sales go towards CUAA scholarships and internship opportunities for students in the College of Natural Resources at Cal Poly Humboldt.



Art Contest

CUAA is hosting an art contest for new graphic designs to be used digitally and on items in our online stores. Winners will be awarded \$200!

Contest Rules:

- Designs must be the artist's original work.
- Must include at least 1 Humboldt species of wildlife, fish, or tree, with preference given to wildlife or designs with all three.
- May contain the text "Conservation Unlimited Alumni Association", "CUAA", or "Humboldt CUAA", and "Established in 1968" or "Est. 1968". Text is not required.
- Include 1-8 colors and be easily converted to grayscale.
- Be legible when printed in small and large sizes, and be in vector format.
- Multiple submissions per artist encouraged.

Email submissions and/or questions to: CUAAhumboldt@gmail.com

Submissions due **November 30th, 2024.**



Western Section Annual Conference 2025

The 72nd Annual Western Section of The Wildlife Society meeting will be held in Visalia, February 3-7, 2025. The San Joaquin Chapter is organizing field trips, birding walks and other fun activities. If you have any ideas and wishes to elevate your experience let us know! CUAA will also be hosting a mixer at this conference. Stay tuned for more information about the location as we get closer to the Annual Meeting.

Fundraising

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Endowment Fund annually awards \$1000 to a currently enrolled/continuing junior or senior student with a declared major in Wildlife at Cal Poly Humboldt. Preference is given to students who demonstrate professional promise, are active in extracurricular activities, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.

Internship Fund

The Conservation Unlimited Internship Fund will annually support a Cal Poly Humboldt undergraduate student as a summer biological intern stationed at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The selected intern will assist refuge staff during biological monitoring, wetland management activities and will collaborate with other refuge interns on conservation oriented projects. Conservation Unlimited Alumni Association (CUAA) has established this student internship in memory of Dr. Stanley "Doc" Harris. As a renowned ornithologist and professor at Cal Poly Humboldt, Doc was a legendary mentor for generations of wildlife students who are now leaders in natural resource conservation throughout the United States. This internship not only commemorates Doc's legacy but also advances his vision of providing undergraduates with immersive, hands-on learning experiences.

Gear Fund

The gear fund helps provide scientific and research equipment to students in the Wildlife Department at Cal Poly Humboldt. We receive special requests from staff and faculty for items needed to supplement classroom and outdoor labs and we connect them with our large and generous donor pool. By donating, you can help ensure today's wildlife students have the tools they need to succeed.

To donate to any of these funds, please visit [our website](https://www.cuaahumboldt.org/fundraising.html) at <https://www.cuaahumboldt.org/fundraising.html>

Board Members

Matt Lau, Board Member



Matt Lau is currently a wildlife biologist with the National Park Service at Point Reyes National Seashore. He leads the western snowy plover monitoring and management program, and enjoys contributing to other monitoring programs including, northern elephant seals, mountain beavers, tule elk, and northern spotted owls.

Matt graduated from Humboldt State University in 2012 with a BS in Conservation Biology and Applied Vertebrate Ecology. He returned shortly after to complete his Masters in Wildlife Biology to Mark Colwell's Shorebird Ecology Lab to focus on common raven space use in snowy plover habitats. He has worked for USGS and the NPS since graduating in 2015.

For CUAA, Matt is working on getting our newsletter up and running through mail chimp, reaching out to colleagues about CUAA, and is interested in CUAA's social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram.

Brian Fagundes, Board Member



Brian is a working lands partner biologist for Point Blue Conservation Science and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Tulare County, California. He works within the nexus connecting agriculture, human communities, and nature to help create a more wild and resilient future. At Humboldt State University (Cal Poly Humboldt) Brian completed a BA in Geography and BS in Wildlife Conservation and Management in 2012, and a MS in Natural Resources Wildlife in 2022 assessing the ecosystem service of Aleutian cackling geese on livestock pastures. Over the years they have worked at non-profits, private companies, state and federal agencies surveying and studying frogs, salamanders, salmonids, small mammals, mesocarnivores, ungulates, passerines, raptors, and waterfowl.

For CUAA, Brian is working on a logo contest to have updated designs for our swag, but don't worry, we will keep the original logo available! He is also the planning coordinator for CUAA at the 2025 Western Section meeting in Visalia.

Will Goldenberg- CUAAs Past President and Treasurer



Will was raised in South Lake Tahoe and graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt with a B.S. in Wildlife Management in 2008 and an M.S. in 2013. Will then moved to the UK and studied wildlife filmmaking with the BBC Natural History Unit/University of the West of England in Bristol, England. Now back in Arcata and working as a wildlife cinematographer, Will is eager to help support the next generation of Humboldt wildlife students.

For CUAAs, Will supports the website and is the treasurer.

Carolyn Buesch- CUAA President



Carolyn graduated from HSU in 2016 with a B.S. in Wildlife Management and Conservation with a minor in geospatial studies. She has worked seasonal jobs for the U.S Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife doing a variety of wildlife surveys. Carolyn currently works for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as an Environmental Scientist.

Carolyn decided to get involved with CUAA in 2020 by making a donation to the binocular campaign for students. After that she joined the fundraising committee and helped to coordinate and plan CUAA mixers during The Wildlife Society conferences in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Carolyn joined the board in 2023 and looks forward to working with CUAA in their mission to lend a helping hand to students of the College of Natural Resources at Cal Poly Humboldt.

For CUAA, Carolyn has set up the online store fronts, helped advertise the Humboldt Bay Refuge Internship program with Scott Frazer, assists with social media, and is looking for folks who are interested in volunteering for CUAA.

Tracking Wildlifers



Spencer Stiff

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, fortunate to have a creek running behind our home, where I spent most of my summers. In high school I volunteered at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, and later was employed there to maintain the aquatic and riparian exhibits. I then attended HSU from 1990 to 1995, having participated in several Wildlife Conclaves. My senior project required salvaging almost 150 roadkill opossums over the course of a year, for skull and other skeletal measurements, so I got fairly proficient at that and I was pleased to donate all specimens to the HSU collection. I did a side project on dentition in the New Zealand brushtail possum, having obtained a large number of those skulls from NZ, and donated them to the HSU collection as well. Two of my elective courses at Humboldt were entomology courses, and that landed me a two year position identifying approximately 60,000 insect specimens (from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest) for the USFS Redwood Sciences Lab in Arcata in the mid-1990's.

After 9 years in Arcata, my wife Poppy (HSU Biology and Teaching Credential program) and our two small kids moved to the East Bay for her first teaching job. I wound up substitute teaching for the local high school district, and soon pursued my

teaching credential. We have both been high school science teachers since then. I started with Biology and Earth Science, but in the interest of something new and different, I wrote a course proposal for Entomology within our school district. It was accepted and I have been teaching both Biology and mostly Entomology since about 2006. I have been an advisor to the school garden club for many years, and in Spring 2020 started my school's amateur radio club.

We never shook our love for the north coast, and in 2011 started to build a kinetic sculpture for the Kinetic Grand Championship. We had volunteered a few times and in 2012 attempted our first race, unfortunately breaking an axle at the race start in 2012. Our team and sculpture "Mite Make It" showed up again to play and race in 2015, and then again in 2018. We try to visit Arcata a few times per year to escape the heat and suburbia. We've also traveled a little bit over recent years, experiencing Iceland, Kenya, and Argentina, taking photos of insects, plants, wildlife, and geology wherever we go.

In Summary

This organization is run by volunteers who want to help students in the College of Natural Resources. CUAA is looking for folks to help with newsletters, membership outreach, internship and scholarship fundraising, social media, and new ideas! We want this organization to be fulfilling for volunteers and a resource for students. Please reach out to us at cuaahumboldt@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Consider becoming a [CUAA Member today](#). Proceeds go towards scholarships and internships for students in the College of Natural Resources at Cal Poly Humboldt. We hope you tour our cuaaonline store fronts ([Zazzle](#) and [Bonfire](#)) and support students today!

Stay tuned for information about the mixer at the 72nd Annual conference in Visalia!

Sincerely,
CUAA Board

Carolyn Buesch, Will Goldenberg, Brian Fagundes, and Matt Lau