

# Wildlife Chapter News



January 2011

## Special points of interest:

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

## Hello again HSU Wildlife Alums!

**The February 10, 2011 Annual Meeting of HSU AA Wildlife Chapter will be held in Riverside, CA in concert with the Western Section TWS meeting. The Chapter meeting will be 7-8am in the Aviators Room of the Riverside Convention Center.**

**Dr. Matt Johnson honored.** Humboldt State University recognized Matt as the 2010 Scholar of the Year for his work on wildlife habitat relationships, bird conservation in Jamaica, and integration of research with undergraduate teaching and mentoring. A public presentation on conservation and food production occurred on October 27, 2010.

**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.

**Dr. Mark Colwell new book published.** His book entitled "Shorebird Ecology, Conservation and Management" was published November 2010 by University of California Press. Description: Throughout, it emphasizes applying scientific knowledge to the conservation of shorebird populations, many of which are unfortunately in decline. Chapters examine phylogenetic relationships between shorebirds and other birds, shorebird morphology, anatomy, and physiology, breeding biology, migration, foraging ecology, population ecology and management issues.

**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 identified 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

Vitek Jirinec won the University award for outstanding undergraduate research project, and Chris Smith was awarded for Academic Excellence in the College of Natural Resources and Sciences.

Chris was also received the Yocum Award for outstanding undergraduate student in Wildlife.

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## Graduate Student Awards

**New graduate scholarship offered in Wildlife!** A generous donation from The Institute for Wildlife Studies has enabled offering a new scholarship to incoming graduate student Angela Darnell. The scholarship is equivalent to a tuition waiver for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Jared Wolfe received the Koplín Award for outstanding graduate student in Wildlife.

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## 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.

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

Over \$1,000,000 in grants and contracts was awarded for faculty-led research projects in the Wildlife Department in 2009/2010 academic year, enabling graduate and undergraduate students to gain first-hand experience with wildlife field work and analysis. HSU’s Wildlife Department has gained more than \$1 million in grant awards and contracts so far this year. Angela Darnell was awarded a scholarship made possible by a generous donation from the Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS).

**“Over  
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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 previously.



**Just a reminder!  
Please join us at the  
annual HSUAA Wild-  
life Chapter meeting  
Feb. 10, 2011 at 7 am  
at the Riverside Con-  
vention Center**

**Wildlife Chapter – HSUAA  
Current Officers**

**President  
Lisa Ollivier  
707-444-3550  
lollivier@fs.fed.us**

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

**President-Elect  
Dominic Bachman  
Dominic\_Bachman@fws.gov**

**Immediate Past President  
Dave Juliano  
(2008-2009)  
707-268-0227  
haw1@att.net**

**Newsletter Editor  
Lisa Ollivier**

## A Note From Your Treasurer, Scott Frazer

### The Chapter Finances are now divided in three accounts;

General Fund	\$ 0.00
Endowed scholarship	\$25,000
Scholarship disbursement account	\$1,000

### The first award of a new Wildlife Alumni Scholarship is scheduled to occur Fall 2011.

Your past support of this alumni organization is appreciated and your continued generosity would be most appreciated at this time. As you can see from the report above, we have placed a high priority on completing the endowment for our new scholarship. In the process of successfully meeting the completion deadline we obtained several individual donations, matching funding from HSU Alumni Association, the Wildlife Department trust fund, and the Wildlife Alumni Chapter's General Fund was depleted to basically zero.

Your consideration of using the "unrestricted" donation line on the membership form at the end of this newsletter would be most appreciated. We will continue to operate as a volunteer organization and are planning several activities for the next year. Having a modest rebuilding of Chapter general operating funds will allow us to conduct routine business without restriction.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Frazer, class of 79

## A Note From Your President, Lisa Ollivier

The board has been considering a reunion in 2011. We would like members to think about a date for a reunion picnic here at HSU.

In order to keep in contact regarding the possible reunion, Wildlife Department news, and travel opportunities we encourage Wildlife Chapter

alumni members to keep their contact information current, especially email address, with the HSU Alumni Association Office.

The 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. Please submit your email address(es) 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.

Thank you, Lisa Ollivier, class of 89

## Quiz Bowl Champions

**The Wildlife Student Conclave wins again!** Our highly successful Wildlife Quiz Bowl Team won the 2010 National Wildlife Quiz Bowl Oct. 5 in Snowbird, Utah, marking HSU's ninth victory in 11 years in the national and regional contests. This follows a win at the Western Regional competition, held at Texas A & M University in Kingsville, Texas. Dr. Kitchen coached the team one last time; he will be officially retired in full at the end the spring semester.



Above: HSU conclave team after their win in Utah.

## 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, ginnet, 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 Riverside on Feb 10, 2011.

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



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

## Future travel plans - Caribbean birds, mon!

See dem! Matt Johnson will lead a birding trip for alumni on the island of Jamaica in early January 2012 (tentative dates Jan 3-8, but negotiable). Matt has researched bird ecology in Jamaica for more than 10 years, and he has scouted out great places to see birds, reasonably priced accommodation, and good food. The trip will visit the edge of the Cockpit Country, coastal wetlands, and the Blue Mountains. Jamaica is home to an astonishing 28 species of endemic birds, as well as Antillean and Neotropical specialties. Jamaica offers some of the most exciting birdwatching in the West

Indies, and it is one of the few tropical countries where you have a good chance at seeing most or all endemics in less than a week. There are also spectacular forests, waterfalls, and crocodile-inhabited mangroves. Round trip flights from the Bay Area to Montego Bay at that time of year are typically \$600-\$800.

For more information contact: Scott Frazer by phone or by "snail mail" at P. O. Box 670, Delano, CA 93216.



Above: At Dr. Matt Johnson's field site in Jamaica, a Jamaican Tody (*Todus todus*) poses for a picture.

### Membership 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 Chapter of HSUAA (unrestricted donation)

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

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

- I would like to receive/keep my 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

*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.*



**Renew Online**

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

Click on join HSUAA



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to get more involved!

