

Tarleton

STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Monthly Newsletter



September 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/2 Labor Day Holiday
- 9/5 Part Time Job Fair
- 9/11 [Lunch & Learn with Ross Veterinary School](#)
- 9/16 [Summer Camp Job Fair](#)
- 9/18 [MMI Workshop for Pre-Vet](#)
- 9/20 [Family Weekend](#)
- 9/25 [Graduate & Professional School Job Fair](#)
- 9/26-28 National FFA Officer training
- 10/5 [Texan Tour](#)
- 10/8 [Ag Awareness Day at the State Fair of Texas](#)
- 10/12 Texan 2 Step—Lamb & Goat Jackpot Show
- 10/14-18 [My day in Texas Ag takeover!](#)
- 10/19 Alumni Homecoming Breakfast**
- 10/19 Animal & Plant Sciences Grand Opening @ Ag Center**
- 10/28-11/2 [National FFA Conv.](#)
- 11/7 [LDE FFA Contest](#)
- 11/28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday

Please submit articles, pictures and ideas to jeamp@tarleton.edu

The new school year has started amid many changes. We are holding labs and classes in the new Animal and Plant Sciences Center. The facility is comprised of a central building with seven state-of-the-art labs, including a merchandizing lab, the Purple Tractor. There is 42,000 sq. ft. of covered working space for livestock with pens, scales, working chutes, and an arena for class use that can be divided when the need arises. There are laboratory preparation areas, four greenhouses, and associated covered outdoor work spaces. Our students and faculty are busy making use of the new space. The grand opening for the building will be homecoming day, Oct. 19, 2019. We hope you can join us for this landmark occasion.



DEAN'S CORNER

Additional exciting news from the college is our significant investment in specialized technologies providing our faculty and students with the tools for a world-class education. These range from complex simulators, to drones with advanced capabilities, from robots, to advanced-capability video equipment, from feed analysis equipment, to DNA, RNA, and protein imaging, from game cameras, to tracking collars, and much more. We will be featuring several of these in the coming weeks on our [Facebook](#) page.

In this edition of our newsletter, you can catch up on the adventures of students on our study abroad summer trips to Australia, Nepal, Southern Africa, Mozambique, and The Czech Republic as well as the Animal Science Industry tour, and the Agricultural Communications study away trip. Student interns are also featured. Faculty and students were busy attending scientific meetings and presenting the findings of their research. Many of those trips as well as descriptions of ongoing research efforts are featured this month. We bring you an update on Tarleton's involvement in summer FFA activities as well as news of state officer elections. Student club updates are included and you can read about our student, Haven Megeed's, rodeo successes. The newsletter ends, as always, with news about the COAES family and a few fun pictures.



We are excited to welcome Dr. James Hurley as the 16th president of Tarleton State University. He has ambitious plans for Tarleton State University and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Hurley has already toured the Agriculture Center to learn about our capabilities and the vital importance of hands-on and experiential learning to our college's philosophy of learning. Welcome Dr. Hurley!

I want to say a special thanks this month to Mr. Allan Morgan. At the end of July, after nearly 22 years of service to the college and the university, Mr. Morgan retired. He has been such a fixture at the Agriculture Center that it is hard to imagine running the place without him. We also say goodbye to Ms. Julie Olufson-Godfrey who has retired. Julie provided service at the Agriculture Center in a variety of positions over 28 years. Her absence is keenly missed. Also at the end of July, Ms. Kay McAfee retired after 6 years of service from the Department of Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystem Sciences. We wish them all long and enjoyable retirements.

Nepal - An outdoor classroom in the Himalayas

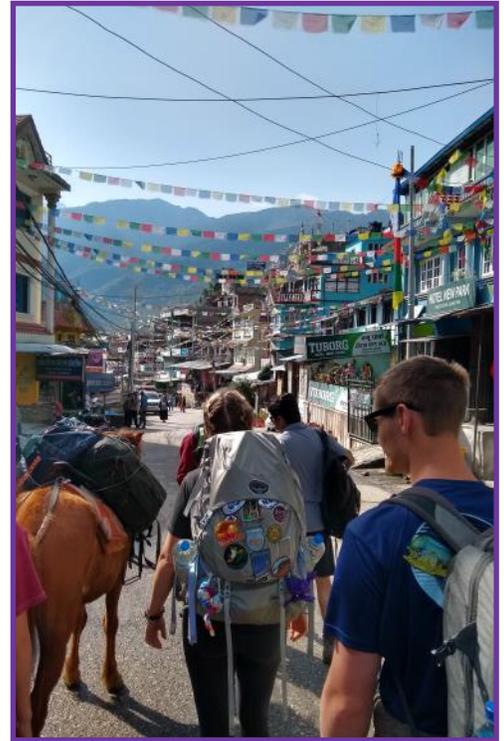
Nepal study abroad provided a unique experience through field-based learning, excursions, and exposures that enhanced the understanding of religion, culture, environmental issues, biodiversity conservation problems and prospects, and various integrated international development agenda.

The program included detailed field examination of the following areas of study: history and political ecology of Nepal, society, religion, and culture, socioeconomics and rural livelihood, wildlife and their habitat, human-wildlife conflict and coexistence, community-based ecotourism, anti-poaching, and biodiversity conservation.

This class visited different protected areas, religious and cultural sites, and the Himalayas. Each have significant roles in socioeconomic development and biodiversity conservation of the region.

Students enjoyed visiting the local's homes. This experience enriched their understanding of rural livelihood strategies. A group of students had the opportunity to see tigers in the jungle during an afternoon field trip while they were staying in homes adjoining the same forest, a tremendous opportunity to learn human-wildlife conflict and coexistence issues.

Tarleton students interacted with the students of Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus, Nepal. Our students gave a talk on the education system and students activities at Tarleton and learned the forestry and natural resource management educational model in Nepal. Students also learned about the changes in floral and faunal diversity between 300 ft and 14000 ft altitude. Students mentioned that being able to examine habitats of tiger and snow leopard in the program was just amazing.



Australia



Dr. Kim Guay, with the Department of Animal Science & Veterinary Technology along with the Australia Study Abroad Students interacted with Australia Zoo staff and learned about the management of behavior in captive animals in zoo setting. As a special treat, they got to see Terry, Bindi, and Robert Irwin feed the crocs! The group also visited the Aquis Park Gold Coast race track where they got a behind-the-scenes look of the horse racing industry in Australia. The trip continued with a tour of the 4Real Dairy where they learned about Australia's dairy industry.



CZECH US OUT!

Twenty-nine students from Tarleton's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences spent two weeks experiencing the Czech culture and Czech agricultural experiences in a study abroad with Dr. David Frazier. This is the seventh year for Tarleton students to participate in this eye-opening experience.

Students attended classes, toured agricultural facilities and farms, and experienced the Czech culture first-hand as they visited large cities and small villages with their Czech friends. Dr. Frazier works with the Czech University of Life Sciences to make this a memorable and educational experience.



Students also visited farms and dairies throughout the Czech Republic, where they saw how the production of dairy cattle, sheep, beef, swine, grapes, wheat, canola, barley, hops, lumber and horses is handled in the Czech Republic. They toured Skoda Car Company, one of the largest brands in Europe where they watched cars being built from the ground up and the Moser Glass company, which produces some of the finest glassware in the world. They also had the opportunity to visit cultural sites such as Lidice and the Bone Cathedral. Finally, the students were able to visit Auschwitz, Poland where they toured the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkeneau, an experience that they will never forget. The trip was a huge success and we look forward to going again. This year's trip was filmed by Dr. Robert Anderson and his movie of the experience will be shown this fall.



Southern Africa



The Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences department led another successful study abroad program to Southern Africa this summer. This year's group consisted of two faculty members, three graduate assistants, and nine undergraduate students. The group spent a month abroad, and traveled through five Southern Africa countries, driving approximately 3,250 miles. Beginning their journey in South Africa, the group studied wildlife conservation and management practices, observed beautiful and rare wildlife species, and immersed themselves in a large variety of cultures through Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia, where the adventure came to its end. The group left with experiences and memories to last a lifetime.



Some of the species students were able to see on safaris included lions, cheetahs, black rhinos, hyenas, as well as a variety of iconic bird species, such as African hornbills, Lilac-breasted rollers, and African fish eagles. Students observed these species in iconic national parks, such as Kruger National Park in South Africa and Etosha National Park in Namibia, from watering hole viewing areas in camp, and during drives between locations. Students were able to practice and utilize birding skills throughout the trip, both on safaris and in camp. The group also experienced a variety of beautiful natural wonders, including Victoria Falls in Zambia, Popa Falls in Namibia, and even spent three days on the coast of Swakopmund, Namibia.

This particular trip included many first-time experiences for the program. This was the first time the group traveled to the country of Zimbabwe, where they camped in Hwange National Park for three nights. This part of the trip held another special first-time experience for the program. Students, led by Graduate Assistant Jarret Vincik, set up game cameras along the camp perimeter's electric fence. The students were able to capture a beautiful picture of a large male lion walking the perimeter of the camp. Other firsts included seeing outstanding numbers of both Greater and Lesser flamingos in both Botswana and Namibia, and a lucky and rare sighting of both a pod of dolphins and a whale in Swakopmund. This was also the last year that the Kazungula Ferry, which carries vehicles and people from Botswana to Zambia over the Zambezi River, will be operating. The Kazungula Bridge is nearing completion, and will take place of the famous ferry. This year's group will be the last study abroad group to experience the border crossing on one of the largest ferries in south-central Africa.

Some of the students from the trip shared their favorite experiences after returning to the states. One of Daniel Andrews' favorite takeaways from the trip was, "... going on game drives in general and learning about the bird and animal species, and being able to identify them after a while." He also shared some of his favorite animal sightings, which included seeing lions in Etosha National Park, and a leopard on his final game drive of the trip. Regan Stewart agreed that the leopard sighting was one of her most "memorable moments" from the trip, along with "... tracking elephants in Hwange National Park, tracking rhinos in Etosha National Park, quad biking in Namibia, and doing a microflight over Victoria Falls." One of Alyssa Terrell's favorite experiences was, "When we drove out onto the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans in Botswana and saw thousands of flamingos on the water! And then we stayed and watched the sunset while listening to the Lion King Soundtrack."



It was certainly another successful summer and the group was proud to represent Tarleton State University and the WSES Department while visiting the African continent.

Summer travel to Mozambique

Drs. Darrel Murray and Jim Muir (WSES), along with Tarleton alumnus Jacquie Glass, traveled 10 days through Zimbabwe and Mozambique this summer. Their objective was to set up research contacts in wildlife and grassland ecology as well as explore prospects for future study abroad possibilities that included culture, conservation, and marine wildlife. They had three primary destinations.



Great Zimbabwe

Great Zimbabwe is a UNESCO World Heritage Site Located in Zimbabwe, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, close to the town of Masvingo. It was built between the 11th and 15th centuries. One stone structure, the Great Enclosure - a high circular wall and tower - is the largest ancient monument in Africa south of the Sahara. Great Zimbabwe was home to a cattle-herding people who also traded in ivory and gold. It offers a great lesson on long-term human impacts on the environment. Travel through Zimbabwe was interesting, with fuel shortages, currency issues, and electricity outages. Due to the political climate over the last two decades, tourism is very low. There are indications the situation is improving.



Gorongosa National Park

Gorongosa has a great conservation history. It was first established as a hunting reserve in the 1920's under the management of the Portuguese colonial government. A tourist camp was built on the floodplain of the Mussicadzi River but was abandoned due to heavy flooding that occurs during the rainy season. In 1951 Chitengo camp was built and serves as the park headquarters, dining, and lodging facilities. On July 23, 1960 Gorongosa officially became a national park and had increased to 5,300 sq km. On June 25, 1975 Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal. At that time, the region showed healthy populations of wildlife. Civil conflict between the government and the resistance within the park and on Mount Gorongosa devastated populations of wildlife by 90% or more. In 2004 Greg Carr, an American entrepreneur and philanthropist, visited the park for the first time and saw the potential for restoring the park to its former glory. In January of 2008 a 20-year joint agreement between the government of Mozambique and Gorongosa Restoration Project (headed by Greg Carr) was signed. Not only are wildlife numbers increasing and thriving, but efforts to work with the surrounding community and research facilities have also grown. During their visit the group saw elephant, lion, sable, and numerous waterbuck. The elephants are still leery of vehicles, as the group found out when charged by several on one encounter.



Isla Santa Carolina, Mozambique

Santa Carolina is one of six islands that make up the Bazaruto Archipelago, a marine reserve. Santa Carolina, also known as Paradise Island, is a popular travel destination for tourist in the Inhassoro district. The island, once a popular Portuguese resort, has spectacular beaches and scenery. The water was super clear but cool. The group caught a ride on a dhow and snorkeled on pristine reefs where they saw a wide diversity of tropical marine fish such as parrot, angle, and butterfly to name a few. We also saw porpoise and sea turtles.

Mozambique culture

Mozambique, especially along the coast, has a long history of interacting with Arabs, Indians, Portuguese, and more recently, the English. As a result, the culture is very different from the rest of southern Africa which is dominated by Bantu and English cultures. Food, for example, is therefore fascinating and far tastier than elsewhere in the region, dominated by Portuguese and Indian seafood dishes. Fruits and vegetables are likewise diverse and very tropical.

Animal Science Industry Tours

Over the summer, students enrolled in Animal Science Industry Tours course, had the opportunity to gain an understanding of food animal agriculture through a farm-to-fork experience. Students traveled for a week within a 3 hour radius from Stephenville. They visited with feed mills, cattle producers, sheep operations and dairys for live animal production. Students also learned about meat/food processing by touring packing plants, and further processing facilities.

Some production operations students toured were RA Brown Ranch in Throckmorton, Winn Meat Company in Dallas, PX Feeders in Evant, Cargill Meat Solutions in Fort Worth, Gorman Milling Company in Gorman, Pederson's Natural Farms in Hamilton, and Pinnacle Cattle Development Center in Desdemona, just to name a few.

If you are interested in this course please contact Dr. Lea Ann Kinman.



ACOM takes over the American Mid-West



Tarleton's Agricultural Communication program embarked on its first official study away course at the end of July that covered eight states in 10 days. Sixteen students (graduate and undergraduate) and Dr. Chandra Andrew kicked off the course at Veldhuizen Cheese Shop where students had the opportunity to learn about niche markets and taste a variety of cheeses, including a sheep gouda.

From there, the class traveled to Womack Nursery, and Lone Star Family Farms. The second day included Dutch Harvest Dairy and Brennan Vineyards. After staying close to home for two days, the group headed north to Missouri and to Lucas Cattle Company, which is owned by Lucas Oil. Lucas Cattle Company is one of the largest Simmental operations in the country as well as other beef enterprises. While there, Protect The Harvest spoke about the importance of advocacy and provided tips and insight about effective communication involving agriculture.



Once the ranch tour finished, the class headed to Assumption, Illinois, to visit Sloan Implement (largest John Deere dealer in the nation) and the Corzine family, who farm 3,100+ acres of corn and soybeans as well as raising hogs. We were all impressed at the lack of smell coming from a barn with almost 2,600 pigs that were roughly 150 pounds in size.

After leaving Assumption, the group traveled to Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks, Indiana, to learn about the importance of transparency in the agricultural industry. One of our former students, Ashley Willits, had previously interned with Fair Oaks Farms and made it possible for the group to have a private tour. The individual tour provided our students with the chance to ask pointed questions on how Fair Oaks Farms handled the animal rights organization's infiltration and their damage control plan. Upon leaving Indiana, the group headed to Madison, Wisconsin, for the night where we got to see the largest Wal-Mart that also had an underground parking garage.

The next morning, the group headed toward Minneapolis for the Agricultural Media Summit, which is a professional conference for agricultural print media. The conference was overflowing with information and networking opportunities. After the conference, the group headed to East Moline, Illinois, to visit the John Deere Harvester Works. The Harvester Works capped off the class and exposed students to a broad array of agricultural operations as well as highlighting many career paths that many did not consider prior to the trip.



Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award

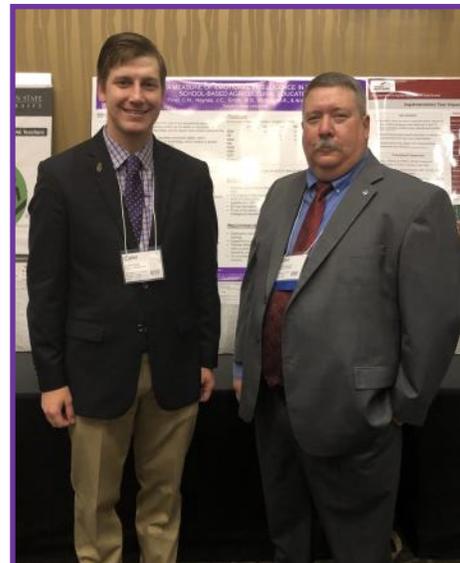


Dr. Jacob Manlove, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural & Consumer Sciences was awarded runner up for the TPRC Benton award paper. The TPRC (the Research Conference on Communications, Information and Internet Policy) and the Benton Foundation announced the third year of the Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award winners, recognizing scholarship in the area of digital inclusion and broadband adoption. The leading conference on communications, information and Internet policy, TPRC promotes interdisciplinary thinking on current and emerging issues in communications and the Internet by disseminating and discussing new research relevant to policy questions in the U.S. and around the world. It serves researchers, policymakers, and members of the private sector and civil society, from students to well-established practitioners.

Learn more about the [Charles Benton Early Career Scholar Award](#)

American Association of Agricultural Educators National Research Conference

Tarleton's Department of Agricultural and Consumer Sciences was successfully represented in May at the American Association of Agricultural Educators National Research Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Cyler Frost presented his research poster titled "*A Measure of Emotional Intelligence in Texas School-Based Agricultural Educators*" and was recognized as a Distinguished Research poster. McKenna Skidmore also attended the conference to present her innovative Idea poster titled "*Using Virtual Reality Simulations for Teaching Safety in the Secondary Agricultural Mechanics Setting*" and was recognized as a Distinguished Innovative Poster. Both students traveled with Dr. Chris Haynes, who along with members of their graduate committees mentored and prepared them for the experience. There were over 90 posters in each category. Great job Cyler & McKenna!

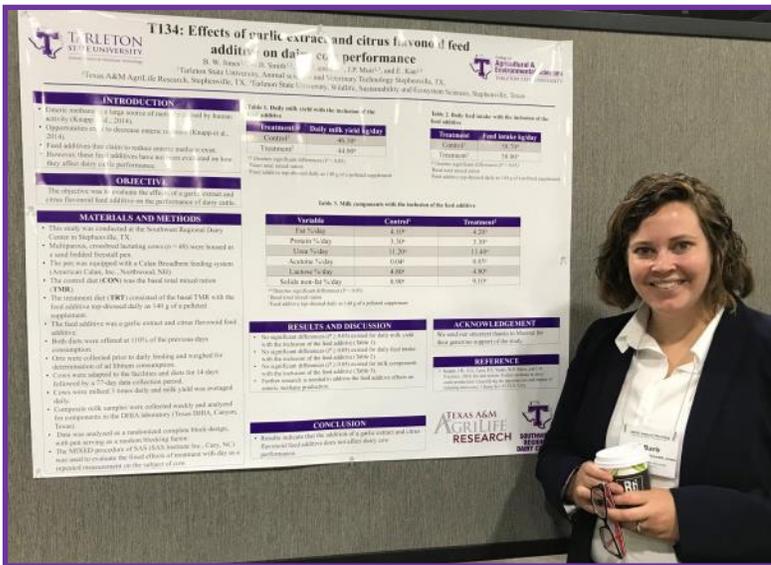


Fishers Island Conservancy

Dr. Adam Mitchell conducted outreach this summer for the Fishers Island Conservancy, an environmental non-profit serving the community of Fishers Island, New York. Dr. Mitchell conducted research during his PhD with the conservancy on restoring native grasslands to the island's southwestern corner, which has now grown to 120+ acres of native grassland habitat for birds and insects and supports over ten species of endangered or threatened birds in the state of New York and Connecticut. Dr. Mitchell visits the island each summer to assess native biodiversity of the restoration sites, give public talks on insect biodiversity and invasive species management, and visits residential properties to advise and encourage on native landscapes that promote wildlife habitat. In addition to summer visits, Dr. Mitchell leads the fall and spring migrant bird counts for the island. The image to the left is of Dr. Mitchell showing a Carolina Sphinx moth caterpillar found on the island during the conservancy's public education event, Nature Days.



American Dairy Science Association



Dr. Barbara Jones, director of the Southwest Regional Dairy Center, attended the American Dairy Science Association conference in Cincinnati, OH. She presented a poster titled “*Effects of garlic extract and citrus flavonoid feed additive on dairy cow performance*”. She was also elected secretary/treasurer of the Southern American Dairy Science Association branch.

Arthropod Biodiversity

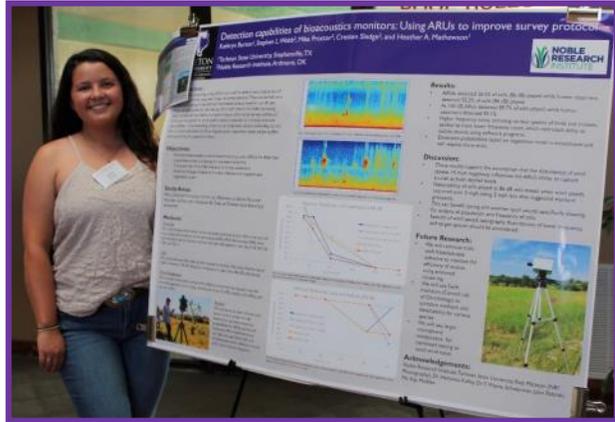
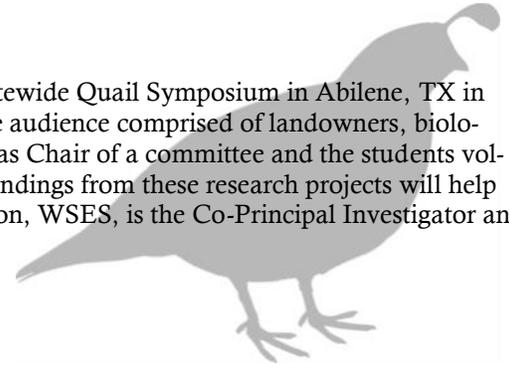
This summer, Avery Smith (sophomore, WSES-Wildlife) conducted research under the supervision of Dr. Adam Mitchell under a variety of projects to improve our understanding of arthropod biodiversity in response to changes in land-use in the North-Central region of Texas. This included collecting arthropods on ranches under different grazing and fire regimes, including Tarleton's Hunewell Ranch, as well as assessing roadside habitat for pollinators and other insects. The image to the right demonstrates Avery Smith on Highway 377 using a modified leaf vacuum to collect insects and other arthropods.



Quail Research

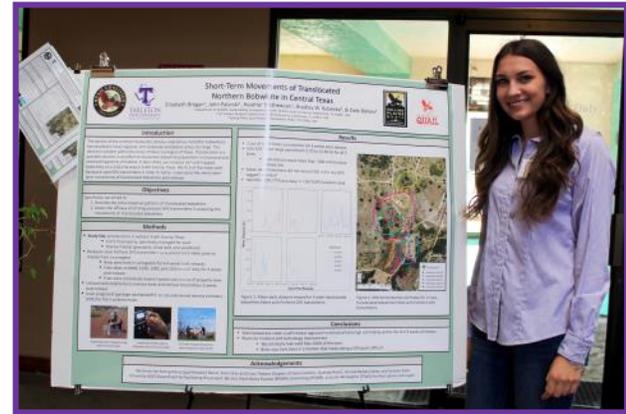
By John Palarski

Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences (WSES) students recently attended the Statewide Quail Symposium in Abilene, TX in August with Dr. Heather Mathewson. All four students presented quail research to a diverse audience comprised of landowners, biologists, and academics working directly with quail from across Texas. Dr. Mathewson served as Chair of a committee and the students volunteered throughout the symposium helping with registration, and set-up and take down. Findings from these research projects will help inform and advise management practices related to quail in the state. Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES, is the Co-Principal Investigator and Advisor for these research projects. Funding for travel provided by private donations.



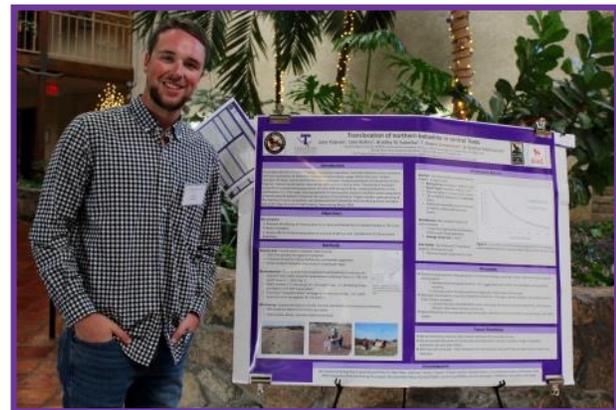
Kathryn Burton, now a MS student, presented her TSU undergraduate research "Detection Capabilities of Bioacoustics Monitors", a collaborative project with Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES, and Dr. Stephen Webb, Mick Proctor, and Cresten Sledge at Noble Research Institute in Ardmore, OK.

Elizabeth Brogan presented her undergraduate research "Short-term Movements of Translocated Northern Bobwhite in Central Texas". Co-authors were John Palarski and Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES, Brad Kubecka with Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, and Dr. Dale Rollins, Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.



Brandon Consalus presented his undergraduate research "Predator Detections Associated with Northern Bobwhite Nests and Mortality Locations". Coauthors were John Palarski and Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES.

John Palarski presented his MS research "Translocation of Northern Bobwhite in Central Texas". Co-authors were Dr. Heather Mathewson, WSES, Brad Kubecka with Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner, WSES, and Dr. Dale Rollins, Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.



Undergraduate Research: In my own words

By Elizabeth Brogan



Elizabeth Brogan holding a male Northern Bobwhite during the capture and translocation portion of the research project.

My name is Elizabeth Brogan, a sophomore at Tarleton State University, studying Wildlife Science in the Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences Department. During my freshman year I became involved, as a field technician, on a project evaluating translocation as a means of restoring northern bobwhite populations in Erath County. I wanted to become even more involved, so I began conducting an undergraduate research project of my own in accordance with the fieldwork. For my research, I am examining short-term movements of translocated bobwhites using Pinpoint GPS transmitters. We've attached backpack-style transmitters to 5 male bobwhites that were translocated to Erath County and released. We programmed these transmitters to record locations 4 times/day for 3 weeks post-release. The transmitters use GPS technology to record and save the location information. We captured the

quail after 3 weeks to retrieve the transmitters and location data. We found that the quail maintained fairly high site fidelity post-release with none of the males leaving the property. I recently presented my research at the Statewide Quail Symposium in Abilene, Texas and will present in October at The Wildlife Society annual conference in Reno, Nevada. I am very interested in photography and wildlife research and hope to further my knowledge and experience during the remainder of my time here at Tarleton. Dr. Heather Mathewson is the advisor for this research in collaboration with Dr. Dale Rollins, Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation, and John Palarski is the MS student advisor and researcher.



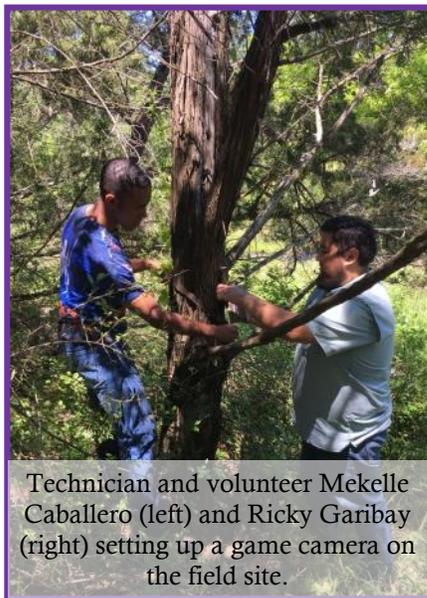
Elizabeth Brogan conducting radio telemetry to locate remotely, the position of a bobwhite with a transmitter.

Land Mitigation Project

Update and Call for Volunteers

Tarleton WSES team of Drs. Heather Mathewson and Darrel Murray, and graduate assistant Kathryn Burton, are collaborating with multiple state and private agencies on an ongoing land mitigation project outside of Strawn, TX (Palo Pinto County). We are focusing our efforts on riparian areas across the properties. We are evaluating before and after influences of land management activities on avian, mammal, invertebrate, and plant communities. Along with seasonal surveys, we use game cameras and detailed photos of each site to assist in evaluating changes over time. We will participate in land restoration activities including brush removal, plantings, and prescribed burning.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate! Volunteers are needed and will be able to get hands-on field experience, as well as valuable skills to add to their resumes. Also, ask us about undergraduate research opportunities!



Technician and volunteer Mekelle Caballero (left) and Ricky Garibay (right) setting up a game camera on the field site.

Email Kathryn Burton at sw_burton@tarleton.edu to get involved!

[Press Release for Land Mitigation Project](#)



Volunteer Amber Penney Kennedy (left) and Graduate Assistant Kathryn Burton (right) using an ATV to visit points on the property.

WSES students complete their summer internships

Dr. Hennen Cummings, Professor in the Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystem Sciences department, visited students conducting their internships this summer and reviewed their weekly reports. He learned about the Exotic Resort Zoo, Aggieland Adventure Zoo, Buena Vista Wildlife Safari, Center of Animal Research and Education, Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary, Austin Wildlife Rescue, The Heard Museum, TX Wolfdog Project, Ft. Worth Nature Center and Refuge, TPWA, NRCS, Upper Trinity Groundwater District, AgriLife, TIAER, and many ranches. Students were in Johnson City, Thrall, New Braunfels, Breckenridge, Bend, Barnhart, Springtown, College Station, Elgin, McKinney, Santo, Lake Worth, Evant, Mexia, Plainview. Students completed their internships as far as Orr, MN; Trenton, NE; and Cimmaron, NM.



Texas FFA Convention

Congratulations



Congratulations to Agricultural & Consumer Sciences students Calvin Morgan and Breanna Bailey. Calvin was elected Texas FFA's 1st Vice President, he is an Agricultural Education major. Breanna, elected State Vice President, is an Agricultural Services & Development major. The 2019-2020 State Officers are photographed with the retiring 2018-2019 State Officers from Tarleton; Preston Cummings, Kenna Ferguson, Ryan Driggers, and Ashley Thompson.



[Complete list of 2019-2020 State Officers](#)

Learning by doing.



In July, 35 students participating in Dr. Frazier's State FFA Convention class attended the State FFA Convention in Fort Worth. Prior to the convention, students were given a multitude of online assignments that taught them all the responsibilities that would be incurred with travel to this or other events when they become agricultural education teachers and FFA advisors. During the week, students gained experience with every aspect of the state FFA convention and spent countless hours interviewing current FFA advisors, students and supporters. They also

helped run the Texas FFA state public speaking event. Another highlight was spending time recruiting in the State FFA booth where over 14,000 students had the opportunity to see the booth and visit with our students and staff. Once the convention was over, students were asked to reflect on all that took place and complete their final reports.



Breanna Bowen
Como-Pickton FFA
State Winner
Dairy Production



Montana Steele
Dawson FFA
State Winner
Swine Production



Jaylin Smith
Eastland FFA
State Winner
Goat Production



Katie Perkins
Frost FFA
American Degree Star
Production Winner

Tarleton State University students Breanna Bowen & Montana Steel, Agricultural Services & Development majors, and Jaylin Smith, Biomedical Science major were named Texas FFA State Proficiency winners. Katie Perkins, Agricultural Communications major was named the American Degree Star Production winner for Texas.

Ag Industries & Agencies student wins 2019 Collegiate National Finals Tie Down Roping Championship title

Along with the CNFR championship title, Haven Megeed is also fresh off the tie-down roping title in the National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Kissimmee, FL, is currently ranked third in the PRCA world standings, and leads the PRCA Resistol Rookie of the Year standings for his event. Way to go Haven!! Best of luck throughout the remainder of the PRCA season.

[Press Release](#)



Student Academic Mentors (SAMs)

Meet the 2019 Student Academic Mentors in WSES!

By Ricky Garibay

Student Academic Mentors (SAMs) serve as peer mentors for first-year students in WSES. They attend the first-year seminar class, organize fun activities, help instill helpful study skills, promote healthy well-being practices, provide knowledge of university resources, promote student involvement in organizations and university events, and much more! This year Ricky Garibay returns for his third year as a mentor and his dedication and motivation to the program has awarded him the role as Senior SAM. Ricky is coordinating the program under Dr. Heather Mathewson's supervision, the program advisor. Coordination of a program with 13 mentors and over 130 first-year students will be no easy task, but Ricky is excited to see what the semester has in store. Also joining us for the third year is graduate student Cheyenne Holt along with Taylor Breeden, who is returning for her second year. Please thank our new SAMs cohort for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment towards making this a successful semester for our first-year students!



Back row, left to right: Ricky Garibay (Senior SAM), Sara Beth Boggan, Josef Leachman, Taylor Breeden, Molly Koeck, Rosie Baxley, Rebekah Halepaska. Front row, left to right: Sierra Oguzhan, Emily Meade, Casiana Little, Jamieth Gonzales, Sara Wilson. Not pictured: Cheyenne Holt, Elle Phelps, and advisor Dr. Heather Mathewson

Student Organizations

Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

By: C. Jennifer Matthews, Historian for Tarleton State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society



TSCTWS officers and members after roadside cleanup. From left to right: Cheyenne Holt, Wyatt Bagwell, Sara Beth Boggan, Avery Smith, Cody Carter, Dillion McAuliffe, Brandon Consalus, Molly Koeck, and Caitlin Elliot.

After a busy summer of internships, summer courses, and studying abroad, Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TSCTWS) officers are ready for the fall semester! The student chapter is excited to offer members opportunities like traveling, workshops, exposure to the wildlife field through guest presentations as well as opportunities for networking and growth.

This year the student chapter welcomes many new officers and salutes those returning like President Cody Carter who was last year's Student Liaison. As president Carter will oversee chapter activities and strive to enhance the student chapter for current and future members. This summer Carter stayed busy by working and gaining experience in the wildlife field. Carter worked as a wildlife technician for graduate student John Palarski's quail project, his own undergraduate project at Caprock Canyons State Park with Dr. Heather Mathewson, assessing predator abundance, while also working as a ranch hand at the Lucky Boy Ranch.

Also returning is SaraBeth Boggan as this year's Vice President. Last year, Boggan served as the chapter's Web Manager, but this year her duties have changed to assisting the president and making sure the chapter runs smoothly. In addition, Boggan will

be chairperson of the chapter's Wildlife Veterinary Committee, which she created last year to provide opportunities and experiences for those students interested in Pre-Vet or Zoo Management. This summer Boggan accompanied Dr. Hemanta Kafley in his first study abroad to Nepal where students studied conservation and ecotourism. She returned to TSU to work in the WSES office as a student worker while she took Natural History of Vertebrates and participated in several class field trips across Texas.



SaraBeth Boggan meeting an elephant in Nepal.

The new Secretary this year is Avery Smith, who will be responsible for keeping track of the chapter's records. Avery will also be chairperson of the Tarleton Outdoors committee, which is an event the student chapter hosts every spring for the Stephenville community. She spent her summer as a research technician working under Dr. Adam Mitchell studying arthropod diversity at Hunewell Ranch and the TSU Farm. Smith is also planning a BioBlitz at Lake Mineral Wells State Park set to take place later this school year.



Avery Smith looking at arthropods through a microscope.

Molly Koeck is this year's Treasure. She is responsible for keeping track of the chapter funds as they are gained and spent on chapter activities. Koeck is a wildlife technician for graduate student John Palarski working on his quail project and she works for Texas A&M AgriLife. She volunteers her time helping graduate student Kathryn Burton on her mitigation project at Turkey Peak.

This year's new Historian is Jennifer Matthews who will be responsible for keeping records and photos of chapter activities. She is the chairperson of the Education and Outreach committee, which strives to educate TSU students, local schools, and the public about wildlife. Matthews spent her summer as a Natural Scientist Assistant Intern at the [Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge](#). There she undertook a game camera project monitoring wildlife diversity, managed a bison herd, and learned many techniques of the wildlife field.

Caitlin Elliott is this year's Web Manager. This position is in charge of the student chapter's social media accounts, like Facebook and Instagram. Elliott will share important information related to the wildlife field and keep members up to date with chapter meetings and events. This summer Elliot spent some time at home and took summer courses. She also assisted President Carter with his undergraduate research at Caprock Canyons State Park.

In charge of Risk Management is Brandon Consalus. He will make sure the chapter is operating within TSU guidelines and ensure the safety of officers and members during trips and events. This summer, Consalus worked as a wildlife technician for graduate student John Palarski, while working on his own undergraduate project with Dr. Heather Mathewson focusing on predator detections relative to bobwhite nests and adult mortality locations. Brandon also assisted President Carter with his research at Caprock Canyons State Park.

This year's Student Liaison is Dillion McAuliffe, who will be representing and speaking for the chapter. Dillion worked as a summer camp leader at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge's Camp Paddle Cast program. He worked with kids, teaching them about fishing, canoeing, and camping while educating them about local wildlife.

The first general meeting will be held September 3rd at 6:00 pm in Ag 113 and continue bi-weekly through the semester. All TSU faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend general meetings, and any student can join the society. For more information about the Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society contact Dr. Mathewson, mathewson@tarleton.edu, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram @tsuwildlife.



October 12, 2019

Tarleton State University Equine Center
5102 CR 518 Stephenville, TX

Entry fee: \$20 per ring, must show in A to show in B

WEIGH CARDS DUE: 9:00 AM

Scales open: 7:30 am

*Turn in your own weight card.
A 5 pound weigh back will be enforced.*

SHOW STARTS: 10:30 AM

Show Starts at 10:30 am with Showmanship

*(Split into rings for Goats and Lambs)
Showmanship is \$5 at the gate winner take all*

Showmanship divisions: PeeWee, Junior, and Senior

- Lamb and Goat show will begin immediately following showmanship
- Lamb and Goat Ring A will run concurrently and judges will switch for Ring B
- Sheep will show in a 5 breed format. Goats will show in 3 weight divisions

**Buckles will be awarded to Overall Grand and Reserves in Ring B only
Judges: Denton Lowe and Josh Kouns**

All proceeds support Tarleton State University Judging Program Activities. Stall space is not available and are encouraged to show out of trailer. No Dogs allowed.

For more information contact:

David Roper: droper@tarleton.edu

Growing Up Green Chef and Gardening Camp



The Wildlife, Sustainability, & Ecosystem Sciences department hosted their 5th annual Growing Up Green Chef and Gardening camp in June. During the three—one day sessions, 75 children and their parents visited our sustainable teaching garden and foods lab, learning valuable food handling and preparation skills and well as how to incorporate sustainable practices in the kitchen. The camp is lead by faculty members Paula McKeehan and Crissa Nugen.



Ag Teacher Workshop

During this summer's Ag Teacher workshop, hosted at the Tarleton Agriculture Center's Agricultural Mechanics facility, Mr. Jeff Payne, an Agricultural Education alumni, demonstrated the craft of buckle and spur making. More about [Jeff Payne](#)

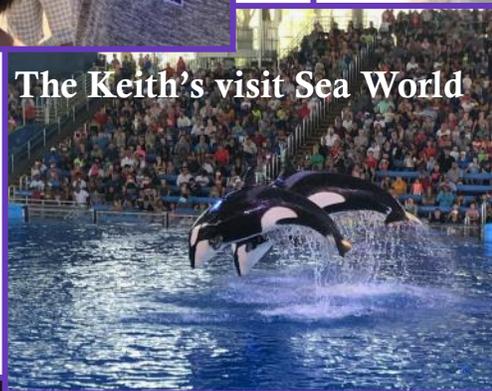


The COAES ambassadors promoted the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences over the summer at MooLa Fest! They shared information about the agriculture industry. The booth included activities like making cow rations, playing in corn and making butter.

The COAES Family



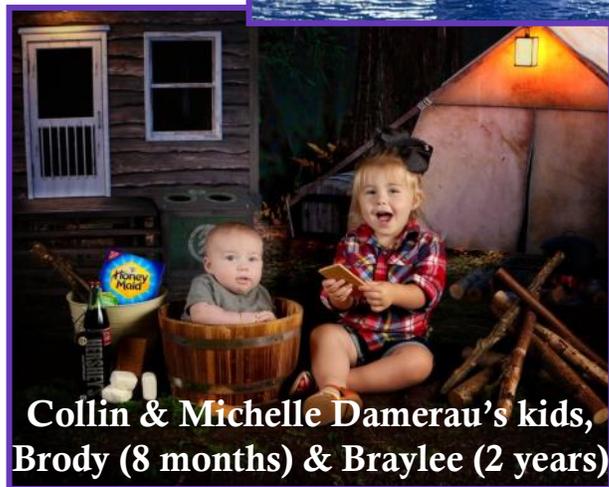
The Keith's visit Sea World



Cooper Peterson (5 months), Drs. Steve & Rebecca Damron's grandson, already working hard!



The Waddell family made it to the top of Pike's Peak this summer!



Collin & Michelle Damerou's kids, Brody (8 months) & Braylee (2 years)



Jenna Camp made the South Rim trail trek (13 miles) at Big Bend Nation Park

Would you like to receive the monthly newsletter direct?

[Subscribe](#)



[Tarleton COAES](#)



[Tarleton COAES](#)



[Tarleton COAES](#)