Texas A&M University-Kingsville - Activity Report
February 2013 Highlights

Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences

Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences

Graduate Assistant Francisco Melgoza was awarded 2nd place in a poster competition at the 67th Annual Meeting of the Subtropical Plant Science Society held in Weslaco, Texas on February 15, 2013. The title of the poster is: "Understanding and Improving Cold Tolerance in Citrus." Authors are: Francisco Melgoza, Research Associate Ayako Kusakabe, Professor Juan Carlos Melgar and Professor Shad Nelson.

Department of Animal, Rangeland, and Wildlife Sciences

Dr. Fidel Hernandez was honored as an "Outstanding Community Leader" by League of United Latin American Citizens and the LULAC Council #1 annual dinner on Thursday, February 21st, at the Corpus Christi Omni Hotel Bayfront.

Following are the result of our student competition at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society February 21-23 in Houston, Texas.

34% of the posters and presentations were from CKWRI/TAMUK. (NOTE: There are 12 universities and colleges in Texas that offer wildlife degrees; therefore, if evenly represented, then TAMUK should account for ~8% of the meeting.)

TAMUK Student Wildlife Society:
Texas Student Chapter of the Year (2013); 10th time received award out of 12

Wildlife Quiz Bowl:
3rd Place: TAMUK (Brandon Mitchell, Eric Joles, Taylor Garrison, Nick Kolbe)

Plant Identification Contest:
2nd Place: TAMUK (Megan Lesak, Zach Pearson, Tyler Raegan, Blake Martin)
3rd Place: TAMUK (Breanne Carr, Shannon Hall, Henry Hernandez, Francisco Elias)

Outstanding Undergraduate Student: Nick Kolbe (TAMUK)

Undergraduate Poster Competition (70 Undergraduate Posters were submitted)
1. Blake Martin for “Habitat use and dispersal of scaled quail in landscapes dominated by exotic grass”; Additional authors: Eric Grahmann, Michael Hehman, Tim Fulbright and Fidel Hernandez
2. Allen Farge for “American alligator food habits in southeastern Texas”; Additional authors: Brent Newman, Cord Eversole, and Scott Henke
Top Ten Undergraduate Poster Honorable Mention:

- Eric Mehlenbacher for “Everything is bigger in Texas! Or is it?; Additional authors: Scott Henke
- Eric Mehlenbacher for “Prevalence of sarcoptic mange in selected wild mammals in southern Texas”; Additional authors: Scott Henke and Alfonso Ortega-S, Jr.
- Nick Kolbe for “Success rates of finding white-tailed deer fawns using vaginal implant transmitters”; Additional authors: Asa Wilson, David Hewitt, Charles DeYoung, Tim Fulbright, Kim Echols, and Don Draeger
- Shannon Hall for “White-tailed deer fawn birth and bed-sites in relation to water sources”; Additional authors: Asa Wilson, Charles DeYoung, David Hewitt, Tim Fulbright, Kim Echols, and Don Draeger

Graduate Poster Competition (27 posters submitted):
1. Katherine Miller for “Do brood parasitism and multiple mating occur in lesser prairie chickens in Texas and new Mexico?; Additional authors: Randy DeYoung, Leonard Brennan, Kelly Corman Robert Perez, and Heather Whitlaw
2. Eric Grahmann for “Management and control of buffelgrass and Kleberg Bluestem to increase native vegetation”; Additional authors: Blake Martin, Forrest Smith, Michael Hehman, Tim Fulbright, and David Wester
3. Kara Campbell (Hometown: Granville, Ohio) for Fixed kernel home range estimates of urban deer in Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas”; Additional authors: Charles DeYoung, Randall DeYoung, David Hewitt, Jessica Alderson, Ryan Schoeneberg, Richard Hielbrun

Top Ten Graduate Poster Honorable Mention:

- Anastasia Krainyk for “Prioritizing mottled duck habitat for management along the Western Gulf Coast”; Additional authors: Bart Ballard, Michael Brasher, Barry Wilson, Mark Parr, Eric Redeker
- Chad Parent for “Limitations of using broad-scale weather data to assess small-scale ecological processes: a case study using northern bobwhite”; Additional authors: Fidel Hernandez, Leonard Brennan, David Wester, Fred Bryant Matthew Schnupp
- Blaise Korzekwa for “Granjeno spine growth as a defense against herbivory from white-tailed deer”; Additional authors: Whitney Priesmeyer, Tim Fulbright, David Hewitt, Charles DeYoung, Kim Echols, Don Draeger
- Corey Lange for “Impacts of wind energy on wintering redheads along the lower Texas coast”; Additional authors: Bart Ballard, Dan Collins, Eric Redeker, Dale James

Clarence Cottam Award:
2. Jennifer Korn for “Discovery of a new sub-population of ocelots in Texas: Genetic rescue for an endangered species”; Additional authors: Jan Janecka, Randy DeYoung, Arturo Caso, Jody Mays, Alfonso Ortega-S, Jr., Dan Kunz, Linda Laack, Michael Tewes
3. Chase Currie for “Influence of white-tailed deer on cattle fever tick eradication efforts in southern Texas”; Additional authors: David Hewitt, Alfonso Ortega-S, Greta Schuster, Kim Lohmeyer, Tyler Campbell

Faculty Awards:
Publication Award (Electronic Media): Leonard A. Brennan for YouTube Quail Posts, with Justin Drebilius (Texas Wildlife Association) and Dale Rollins, Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch.

Publication Award (Outstanding Edited Book): Joseph. P. Sands, Stephen J. DeMaso, Matthew J. Schnupp and Leonard Brennan (editors) 2012 for Wildlife Science: Connecting Research with Management. CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, Boca Raton, Florida. (Sands, Ph.D. Days Creek Oregon); (Schnupp, M.S. ??? West Virginia) and (DeMaso, Ph.D., ??? Michigan). Note: Sands, Schnupp and DeMaso conceived the idea for this book and completed 90% of it when they were graduate students at CKWRI. The book is a product of a Symposium that they organized for the 2008 Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Miami, Florida. I was largely an advisor and coach in the processes of identifying authors, writing the initial book proposal to the press, and getting the final manuscript delivered. This book is almost entirely a product of CKWRI graduate students.


Outstanding Achievement Award: Mike Tewes

David Hewitt became President Elect

Jennifer Korn was elected Representative-At-Large