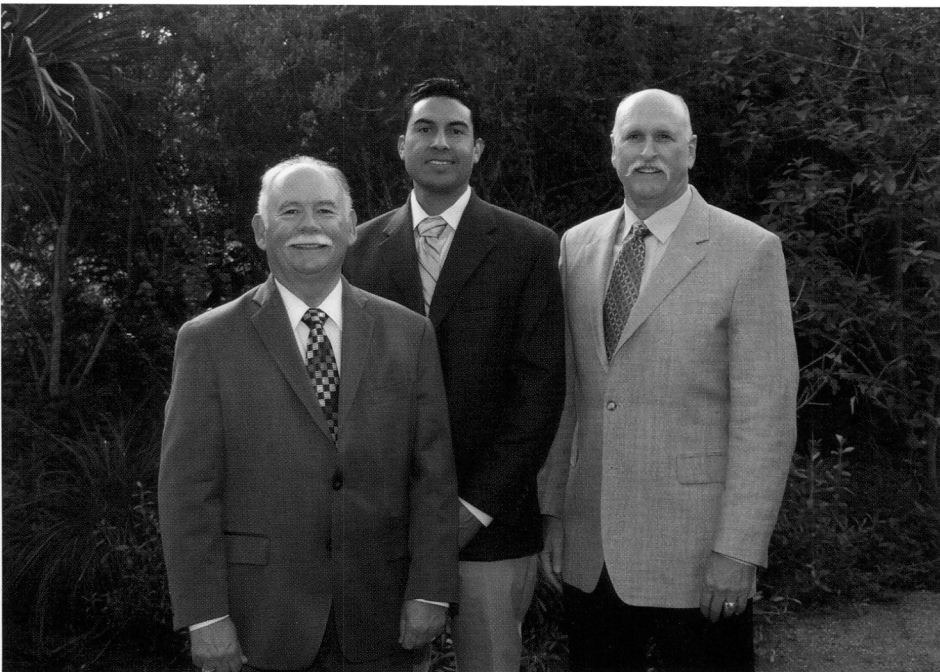


SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE



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TAMUK President Dr. Steven Tallant with Drs. Fidel Hernández and Fred Bryant of the CKWRI

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR: DR. FIDEL HERNÁNDEZ

by Colleen Schreiber

The Fulbright Scholar program is one if not the most prestigious in the country. Fulbright scholars have gone on to become university presidents, heads of state, ambassadors, and cabinet ministers. Also, Fulbright alumni account for 43 Nobel Prizes and 78 Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other award program in the world.

Editor's Note: Colleen Schreiber is a staff writer for Livestock Weekly.

Now, one of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institutes' (CKWRI) own, Dr. Fidel Hernández, has been bestowed with the esteemed title of Fulbright Scholar. Fidel holds the *Alfred Glassell Jr. Endowed Professorship* at the CKWRI and is a professor in the Department of Animal, Rangeland, and Wildlife Sciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Though his accomplishments are many, being one of this year's 800 Fulbright scholars chosen from thousands of applicants from around the world, is undoubtedly his major achievement—at least thus far in his career.

The Fulbright program, a merit-based program that awards scholarships to students, scholars, and professionals to study, research, or teach abroad, was created in 1946 by J. William Fulbright, a congressman from Arkansas. Fulbright believed that one of the most effective foreign policies for developing a mutual understanding between the United States and other nations was the exchange of scholars.

Fidel credits his family, particularly his parents, for instilling in him the drive and determination to reach for the things that at first glance might seem unreachable. Native to Zacatecas, Mexico, Fidel's parents, Santiago and Francisca, immigrated to the United States in 1954. Santiago was the foreman on the 65,000-acre Silver Lake Ranch near Brackettville, Texas, where they raised a family of 6 children.

It was from this agrarian lifestyle that Santiago and Francisca taught their children the value of

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By The Numbers

13 weight in pounds of a largemouth bass that set a new record at Lady Bird Lake in Austin, Texas, which was caught by our very own CKWRI Board Member Ken Leonard

4 to 18 clutch size of the Texas diamondback terrapin (Texas Diamondback Terrapin; Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Wetlands leaflet)

hard work and the importance of an education. Fidel, the youngest, and his siblings, collectively, have 10 college degrees.

Fidel acknowledges and fully understands what his parents gave up, specifically leaving their families behind in Mexico, and this has always motivated him to excel. "I think if I can't pursue every opportunity that comes my way or really develop my potential, it is as if all their sacrifices were in vain," says Fidel. "It is my way of thanking my parents for everything they've done for us."

Fidel began traveling to South America about 5 years ago. He had traveled to Mongolia, China, and Australia, but the culture, history, and ecology of South America spoke to him in a way no other place did. It was his desire to get involved with research in this geographic region that drove him to pursue the Fulbright Scholar program.

For his Fulbright Scholarship, Fidel will be teaching and conducting research on rangeland and wildlife sustainability on the grazed Patagonian steppe of Chile in partnership with the University of Magallanes.

Fidel opened his Fulbright Scholar application with this quote: "The world is an open book, and those who do not travel read only a page." — *St. Augustine*. He closed his application with this quote: "The world is an open book. This is my quest to read it."

CKWRI Director Dr. Fred Bryant, referring to Caesar Kleberg, the Institute's patriarch, wrote in a recent column announcing Fidel's nomination, "I find amazing all the fruits that have been borne from

one man's passion for South Texas wildlife, the generation of applied knowledge for the sound management of wildlife resources, the education of numerous students from across the United States on wildlife conservation on private lands, the influence of policy for the conservation of wild animals and places, and now, the contribution to conservation in a region more than 6,000 miles away. The legacy of Caesar Kleberg is inspiring and heart warming. Our goal is to continue it into the future." ~

CKWRI NEWS

TCTWS Meeting a Success!

CKWRI faculty, staff, and students rose to the occasion to represent CKWRI at the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's (TCTWS) annual meeting held during February 20–22 in Austin, Texas. Twenty-seven of the 85 (32%) scientific oral presentations and 30 of the 63 (48%) poster presentations had 1 or more coauthors from the CKWRI. These presentations signify the extensive research activities conducted by CKWRI personnel that advance our knowledge in wildlife science, conservation, and management.

Our own **Dr. David Hewitt** is president of TCTWS for the 2014–2015 term and **Dr. Randy DeYoung** is the vice president. Holding committee chairs for this term are **Dr. J. Alfonso**

Ortega-Santos (Cottam Award Committee), **Dr. William Kuvlesky, Jr.** (Local Arrangements Committee), **Dr. Mike Tewes** (Program Committee), and **Kim Echols** (Scholarship Committee). These individuals are donating their time and effort to help the TCTWS and represent CKWRI in this professional service.

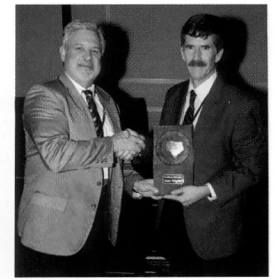
In addition, several of our researchers received awards in recognition of their accomplishments. **Drs. Fidel Hernández** and **Fred Guthery** (who was at the CKWRI from 1983–1997) won the Best Book Award for the revised edition of "Beef, Brush, and Bobwhites; Quail Management in Cattle Country," published by Texas A&M Press.

Dr. Fidel Hernández received the Best Book Award from the 2013–2014 TCTWS President Dr. Matt Wagner.



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The outgoing TCTWS President Dr. Matt Wagner (L) received a plaque in recognition of his service from incoming President Dr. David Hewitt (R).

In Grateful Appreciation to the Texas Members of the Boone and Crockett Club who Contributed to our B&C Fellowship for Ungulate Research, Completed March 1, 2014, Total Gifts: \$445,851

C. R. "Bob" Palmer, Houston*
Ben Wallace, Corpus Christi
Tim Hixon, San Antonio
René Barrientos, Cotulla
Ben Hollingsworth, Houston
Floyd Nation, Houston
F. R. "Jayar" Daily, Houston

Dan Pedrotti, Sr., Corpus Christi
Kyle Krause, Richmond
Steve Lewis, San Antonio
Jim Arnold, Austin
Ned Holmes, Houston
James H. "Red" Duke, Houston

*Bob and Rebecca Palmer made a \$125,000 Challenge Gift to secure this Fellowship.