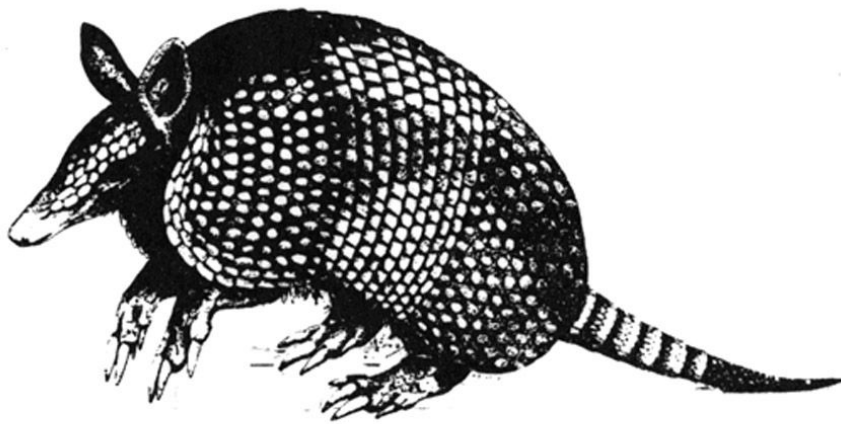


Texas Society of Mammalogists



Newsletter

2009

The 27th Annual Meeting

Patron Membership

Members are encouraged to consider becoming Patrons of the Society by donating \$100 (or more) to support the Society's student paper awards. Patron members receive a certificate of recognition, and a list of Patron members is published in the annual Newsletter and in the Program. Regular Patron membership is achieved with a donation of \$100. Members who exceed \$100 in donations to the Society's student awards fund will receive a certificate recognizing their total donation level as follows: \$125, Ocelot Level; \$250, Bobcat Level; \$500, Puma Level; \$1000, Jaguar Level. Members can upgrade at any time, and all donations are cumulative. There is no time limit or minimum contribution requirement as a member works toward the next level. Donation levels are confidential.

Minutes of the 2008 Business Meeting

Texas Society of Mammalogists
Annual Business Meeting
Texas Tech University Center
Junction, Texas
23 February 2008

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President John Bickham in the Packard Building of the Texas Tech University Center at Junction. The minutes of the 2007 Annual Business Meeting as written in the 2008 annual meeting program for the Texas Society of Mammalogists (TSM) were approved.

Officers' Reports

Secretary-Treasurer, Loren Ammerman, summarized the Treasurer's Report for 2007 as printed in the 2008 meeting program. Total assets for TSM at the end of 2007 were \$34,629.18. The checking account balance as of 1 January 2007 was \$5,408.16. Total income in 2007 was \$17,678.79 and total expenses were \$15,112.74 for 2007.

Income was higher compared to 2006 primarily because of the auction that raised \$6,167. Much of the 25th anniversary expense including the publication and mailing of the "History of the Texas Society of Mammalogists" (\$4,812) was covered by the extra funds raised by the auction. The checking account ended the year with a balance of \$7,974.21. The Security Fund earned \$133.50 and the account balance was \$26,654.97 at the end of 2007.

Contributions to TSM in 2007 (\$701), patron membership dues in 2007 (\$675), and the profit from the auction after subtracting publication costs (\$1,355) were transferred to the Security fund in January 2008. The treasurer's report was approved.

Ammerman thanked Dana Lee, Michael Dixon, Russell Pfau, and Cody Webb for their assistance with the annual meeting. She also thanked Tom Lee, Molly McDonough, Peter Larsen, and Anne Merchant for agreeing to serve as moderators this year.

Permanent Secretary, Lisa Bradley, told the membership that she would welcome any items for the archives to be deposited at Texas Tech University and will be taking photos throughout the meeting for the archives. She also announced that the 25th anniversary publication "History of the Texas Society of Mammalogists" by Robert J. Baker, Clyde Jones, Robert E. Martin, and Lisa C. Bradley (Vol. 52, Special Publications of the Museum, Texas Tech University) was mailed to all members from last year. New members should see her to get a copy or a pdf will be available on the TSM website.

The membership recognized Lisa Bradley for her excellent work on the 25th anniversary publication with a round of applause.

Newsletter Editor, Russell Pfau, announced that the newsletter is posted on the website and a few print copies are here at the meeting. He requested that anyone with suggestions for improving the newsletter contact him. It was suggested that the link to the annual newsletter be sent to Mammal-L listserv.

Reports of Committees

Phil Sudman reported for the Committee for Honorary Members that there were no new nominations this year to bring forward. The membership should contact a member of the executive committee or himself to nominate honorary members. Earl Zimmerman and Guy Cameron will receive their award for their contributions to the science of mammalogy at the banquet tonight. Later, at the banquet, Sudman reported that John Bickham had been nominated for honorary membership and the executive committee approved of the nomination. The membership approved the nomination with a round of applause.

Cathy Early was invited to give a report for the Conservation Committee regarding the proposed sale of the Christmas Mountains (Brewster County) by the state of Texas. Jerry Patterson, Land Commissioner and School Land Board member, wishes to auction the tract that was donated by the Mellon Foundation in 1991, to a private party for development and hunting, despite the foundation's desire that it be managed as a natural area. Patterson has recently rejected bids from conservation groups and the National Park Service (Big Bend National Park) because hunting would not be permitted. Negotiations are ongoing, however numerous conservation groups and individuals in Texas oppose the sale of the land to private parties.

Early offered to write a position letter on behalf of TSM opposing the sale of the Christmas Mountains to a private party. There was support for this by the membership and a motion was approved to draft a position statement representing TSM and send to Jerry Patterson. Loren Ammerman, Robert Baker and David Ribble offered to work with Cathy Early. Individual members of TSM were also encouraged to write letters.

President-Elect David Ribble reported for the Committee for Student Honoraria that the winners of the presentation awards would be announced at the banquet. After the banquet dinner, each award winner received a certificate signed by TSM President Bickham and a cash prize (\$150 for the Packard Award and \$100 for all others). Ribble thanked the judges for their assistance deciding on the award winners.

The award winners for oral presentations were:

1. Rollin H. Baker Award — Cassie Cox (Tarleton State University/West Texas A&M University)
2. TSM Award — Cody Thompson (Texas Tech University)
3. William B. Davis Award — Adam Ferguson (Angelo State University)
4. Robert L. Packard Award — Hugo Mantilla-Meluk (Texas Tech University).

Poster presentation award winners were:

1. Clyde Jones Award — Roy N. Platt (Texas Tech University)
2. Vernon Bailey Award — Brianna Kirchner (Baylor University)

John Young with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) reported for the ad hoc Government Liaison Committee. He notified the membership that during the last legislative session TPWD was granted approval to spend all Horned Lizard conservation license plate funds, increasing the amount of money available for Wildlife Diversity Conservation Grants. Also, the deadline for State Wildlife Grants was extended until 12 March 2008.

Joel Brant on behalf of the ad hoc Auction Committee thanked the membership for their support of the auction last year and their help raising \$6,167. He thanked the members of the committee for their work throughout the year (Marcy Revelez, Adam Ferguson, Mandy Husak, Mike Husak, Robert Bradley, Lisa

Bradley, and Meredith Hamilton). There were 23 donors (companies, presses, and individuals) to the auction this year. The membership was told that the proceeds of the auction this year will be contributed to the Rollin Baker Memorial Fund and past-presidents were asked to see Joel to sign a few copies of the History of TSM publication for future auctions.

Robert Baker reported for the ad hoc Constitution and By-Laws Committee that the membership issue was clarified last year and that the amendments to the constitution and by-laws are printed in the meeting program.

Election of Officers

President Bickham announced that the Executive Committee had nominated Michael Tewes from Texas A&M Kingsville for President-Elect. The floor was opened for additional nominations. There were none. Tewes was elected by acclamation.

New Business

The first item of New Business was the selection of a site for the 2009 meeting. It was moved and seconded to hold the meeting at TTU Center. There was some discussion about meeting the needs of a larger group especially at mealtimes. Motion was approved and the dates of the meeting will be 20-22 February 2009.

President Bickham closed the meeting by providing a summary of the current handling of the membership contribution levels as presented by the ad hoc Committee on TSM Membership and approved by the Executive Committee. TSM will have 2 membership levels (Regular and Patron). The patron membership requires a donation of \$100 and the official list of patron members is published in the newsletter. A certificate is given to recognize individual patron members. There is no constitutional change required. Additionally, TSM will refer to the "Cat Levels" as initiated by Rollin Baker as a fund raising effort to be held in relative secrecy. If contributions are made at the extra levels, the appropriate Cat Certificate will be received (by mail or at the annual meeting). Nothing will be published as a list nor will contribution levels be announced. Members can upgrade at any time and work toward the next level. Upgrading is cumulative and has no time limit or minimum contribution requirement.

This will require the Secretary-Treasurer to keep records to document when members have reached the pre-set "Cat Levels" (Ocelot \$125, Bobcat \$250, Puma \$500, Jaguar \$1000).

President Bickham closed the meeting by thanking the society for the opportunity to serve TSM and spoke of the passing of two very important individuals in the mammal community this year, Terry Yates (University of New Mexico) and Rollin Baker (Michigan State University-emeritus). They touched many lives and have left a rich legacy. Bickham thanked Lisa Bradley, Loren Ammerman, and Russell Pfau for their help this past year. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary-Treasurer

Skunk Information Wanted

As part of a large study of skunk species in Texas, we are requesting any information on specimens of all skunk species collected in Texas that may be deposited in museum collections. In addition, if you have photo records or reliable sightings of skunks, especially eastern and western spotted, hog-nosed, or hooded skunks, we would like to receive this information. Please contact Robert Dowler (robert.dowler@angelo.edu), Jerry Dragoo (jdragoo@unm.edu), or Adam Ferguson (adamwferguson@gmail.com).

Abilene Christian University

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Tom Lee

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Abilene Christian University Math/Science, Research Grant and Grant from the dean of Arts and Sciences.

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Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Tyler Cochran: The Mammals of Santa Rosa Imbabura Prov. Ecuador.

Additional Information:

Tyler and I collected mammals in tropical highlands (1400 to 2400 feet) near the town of Santa Rosa Ecuador. We collected a wide diversity of species. During this trip we were also able to collect mammals in the high dry forests at 7800 feet.

Angelo State University

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Loren K. Ammerman

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

I am interested in using molecular data to reconstruct evolutionary relationships of organisms and to investigate species boundaries. Projects on bonneted bats (*Eumops*) and *Myotis* species are currently underway. The lab currently is funded by an ASU Research Enhancement Grant to investigate molecular systematics of the family Molossidae. I am also interested in community structure and the ecology of bats, especially in Big Bend National Park and the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande. This summer will be the third year to monitor the colony size of *Leptonycteris nivalis* in Emory Cave using thermal infrared imaging techniques.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

Richard Dolman – Molecular systematics of *Nyctinomops*. MS student and Carr Research Scholar
Dana Lee – Taxonomic status of the Davis Mountain's cottontail, *Sylvilagus robustus*, revealed by amplified fragment length polymorphism. MS student and Carr Research Scholar

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Guillermo Hernandez and Marie Tipps are undergraduate assistants working in the lab to sequence representatives of the family Molossidae for phylogenetic analysis.

Robert C. Dowler

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My current research in Texas deals with ecology of medium-sized carnivores. I recently received funding from the Davidson Foundation for a radio-telemetry study of ringtails (*Bassariscus astutus*) and hog-nosed skunks (*Conepatus leuconotus*). With Terry Maxwell and Adam Ferguson, I am studying patterns of road-killed mammals over a 100-mile route near San Angelo. In addition to these projects I am working on a book entitled the Skunks of Texas with coauthors Jerry Dragoo and Adam Ferguson. For that project we are seeking any records of specimens of skunks from Texas, as well as visual or photo records, especially of the less common species of spotted skunks, hog-nosed skunks, or hooded skunks. I continue to work on the conservation biology of Galapagos rodents, collaborating with a colleague at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago and with Cody Edwards at George Mason University.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

I currently have only one graduate student, Andrew Tiedt, who is conducting research on denning ecology and home range of ringtails.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

I have two undergraduate students doing research on medium-sized carnivores. Wes Brashear is studying den site selection and home range in hog-nosed skunks. Robby Heischman is conducting a study of food habits of ringtails.

Baylor University

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Kenneth T. Wilkins

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Our projects generally relate to ecology and distribution of small mammals (primarily, rodents and bats) at the population and community levels. Recent funding is from the Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, American Museum of Natural History (Theodore Roosevelt Fund), and assorted private foundations.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

The mammalogy group includes 5 graduate students. Brianna Kirchner expects to graduate with the MS. in Environmental Biology in May 2009. Her thesis pertains to effects of fire on the small-mammal community

in a native tallgrass prairie. Tommy Pettit's dissertation research relates to use of vertical and horizontal edges by bats in montane forest communities. Anica Debelica is embarking on dissertation research related to roosting and foraging ecology in the bat community of eastern Texas pineywoods. Nick Green has begun study of effects of degree of habitat contrast on the small-mammal community in tallgrass prairies. Li Han is developing a dissertation project on urban ecology of small mammals.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

David Sergeant, an undergraduate Honors student, graduated in May 2008. His thesis examined the effects of fire on cover and biomass of vegetation in a tallgrass prairie. David is now studying pharmacy at the University of Texas School of Pharmacy. Rachel Rotondi has recently joined the group and will conduct her Honors thesis on bat ecology.

Additional Information:

Recent publications:

- J.A. Scales & K.T. Wilkins. 2007. Seasonality and roost fidelity in the Mexican free-tailed bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*, in an urban setting. *Western North American Naturalist*, 67(3):402-408.
- J.W. Hermanson & K.T. Wilkins. 2008. Growth and development of two species of bats in a shared maternity roost. *Cells, Tissues and Organs*, 187:24-34.

Recent presentations:

- Effects of fire on the small mammal community and vegetation of a tallgrass blackland prairie in Texas. American Society of Mammalogists, South Dakota State Univ. June, 2008. Brianna Kirchner (presenter) & K.T. Wilkins.
- Forest Bat Activity Along Traditional and Sky-Canopy Edges. Poster; North American Symposium on Bat Research. Univ. of Scranton, PA. October, 2008. Tommy Pettit & K.T. Wilkins.

California Baptist University

Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, 8432 Magnolia Avenue, California Baptist University, Riverside, CA 92504

Art Cleveland

Dean of Research

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Primarily on "the effects of intense efforts to secure federal funding for numerous research projects and equipment by university faculty".

Graduate Students and Their Research:

Jennifer Jackson will defend her thesis this spring (Bat project funded by Georgia DOT) which has already been presented at the Merida Bat meeting.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Katherine Johnson on "altitudinal effects upon burrowing depths by Botta's pocket gopher in southern California ranges."

Additional Information:

I continue to be active on several local and international boards and am working on four manuscripts. Two reviews were accepted for the JM (Feb and April numbers). Southern California is proving to be very

different from Alaska. Vicki and I are having fun here in spite of the traffic and urban problems. She is Executive Director of a non-profit in Riverside. We are trying to spoil the five grandkids in Texas, Minnesota and Florida. I have become active in the National Council of Research Administrators which gives us a good excuse to go to Santa Fe (attend a meeting in April). I look forward to a time when we will be living closer to Junction...

Centenary College of Louisiana

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Scott Chirhart

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Evolutionary Biology, including: Evolutionary/Population Genetics, Vertebrate Speciation and Systematics, Molecular Variation

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

George Tiller-Research: Implications of mitochondrial and nuclear variation in a deer mouse species endemic to North Eastern U.S. Region

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Darin S. Carroll

Poxvirus Rabies Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd, Bldg 18, MS-G6, Atlanta GA 30333

Phone: 404-639-1719

Email: dcarroll@cdc.gov

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants: The Ecology and Evolution of mammal-borne Zoonoses

Serena A. Reeder Carroll

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Research interests focus on examining the origin and evolution of viral pathogens as well as their associated mammalian hosts, how historical evolutionary processes have shaped current distributions of hosts and

viruses, whether those processes overlap, and whether certain viral lineages are more virulent than others. Current projects include molecular ecology/epidemiology of Rift Valley Fever virus associated with a recent outbreak in Kenya; comparative genomics of viral hemorrhagic fever viruses; molecular evolution of hantaviruses; and an ecological investigation of potential reservoir species of Marburg hemorrhagic fever.

McMurry University

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Joel G. Brant

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants

My research interests are primarily concerned with the natural history of mammals, particularly in Texas and the Chihuahuan Desert. I am currently setting up a research program for myself and selected undergraduates that will focus on the natural history & ecology of mammals in the southern Rolling Plains, northern Edwards Plateau, and northeastern Chihuahuan Desert. My current projects include a survey of the mammals of the Southern Rolling Plains, specifically Taylor County & surrounding areas (with Tom Lee); a monitoring & management project for black capped vireos (*Vireo atricapilla*) in Taylor County; & continued morphometric studies of *Perognathus flavus* & *merriami*.

Midwestern State University

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Frederick B. Stangl, Jr.

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

- Current status and historical zoogeography of *Spermophilus mexicanus* and *S. tridecemlineatus*
- Another look (yes, another look) at silky pocket mice of the *P. flavus/merriami* complex: one species or two?
- Mid-to late-Holocene mammal fauna from a rockshelter near the Nevada/Oregon border

Oklahoma State University

Karen McBee

Department of Zoology and Collection of Vertebrates, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My research interests focus on two different aspects of the role that environmental stressors play in altering the genetic structure of populations. My lab uses several genetic techniques to investigate relationships

between exposure to environmental pollutants and induction of genetic damage in wildlife species and to explore how induced genetic damage may translate into long term population demographic effects. I'm also working with a group of students and collaborators with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife and University of Oklahoma to develop a Digital Atlas of Oklahoma Mammals.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

Kimberly Hays is working on her Ph.D. She is investigating genetic effects in rodents and turtles resulting from interactions among lead, zinc, and cadmium contaminants at Tar Creek Superfund Site.

Meredith Magnuson defended her Master's Thesis in December 2008. She used three dimensional imaging to investigate relationships among tragus size and shape, echolocation call frequency, and feeding niche in Phyllostomidae. Currently, she's working on the Digital Atlas of Oklahoma Mammals project.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Alesia Hallmark is a Wentz Scholar who is assessing levels of fluctuating asymmetry in *Tadarida brasiliensis* collected over a 50 year period from Vickery Cave, Oklahoma.

Lauren Krepps is completing an honors thesis on osteological anomalies in rodents from Tar Creek Superfund Site.

Tara Jorski is investigating effects of substrate texture and color on activity in a dermestid beetle colony.

Dani Black is investigating chromosomal aberrations in rodents at Tar Creek Superfund Site.

Ronald A. Van Den Bussche

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My research interests primarily focus on molecular systematic, conservation genetic, phylogeography, and most recently the genetics of invasive species.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

Brandi Coyner (Ph.D. Student)--Molecular phylogenetics of grass mice, genus *Akodon*

Zachary Roehrs (Ph.D. Student)--Molecular phylogenetics of *Vespertilioninae*

Justin Lack (Ph.D. Student)-- Phylogeography of invasive species *Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus* in the United States

Michael Schwemm (Ph.D. Student; Co-Advised with Dr. Anthony Echelle)--Phylogeography of Leopard Darters

Elaine Fite (M.S. Student)--mtDNA variation within and among populations of *Rattus rattus* and *R. norvegicus* in the United States

Dustin Lynch (M.S. Student; Co-Advised with Dr. Anthony Echelle)--Phylogeography of Logperch

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Craig Stanley- Helping with a variety of projects on molecular phylogenetics of vespertilionid bats

Jeremy Wilkinson- Helping with a variety of projects on molecular phylogenetics of vespertilionid bats

Purdue University

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Systematics, phylogenetics, phylogeography, conservation, ecotoxicology. Currently my lab is involved in genetic analysis of Steller sea lions, bowhead whales, mosquito fish, as well as other species and species complexes with emphasis directed toward the afore mentioned disciplines.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

Geoff Laban- Ecotoxicology: Evaluating sublethal effects of present and potential contaminants and other environmental stressors by developing molecular biomarkers of exposure and effects to these environmental contaminants, specifically silver nanoparticles on the growth and development of the Fathead Minnow.

Brian Rinner- Ecotoxicology and phylogenetics: Studying the genetic effects of ecological contamination and global dispersal history of *Gambusia*.

Caleb Phillips- Molecular evolution, phylogeography and systematics: Describing ancient divergences within *Eumetopias jubatus* using genetics and morphometrics, understanding the molecular evolution of the genetic elements used to infer population structure and employing phylogeographic approaches to better understand how environmental processes have helped to shape observed population structure.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Alisha Frist: X- and Y- chromosome directed sequencing efforts in Steller sea lions and bowhead whales.

Kathleen Hargarten: X- and Y- chromosome directed sequencing efforts in Steller sea lions and bowhead whales.

Kendra Duhon: Effects of reticulate evolution in *Artibeus* on the distribution of alleles at MPI.

Research Scientists:

John Patton (jcpatton@purdue.edu): Evolutionary processes using mtDNA, X- and Y-chromosome loci as contrasted to autosomal loci. This design allows the determination of the contribution of males and females, respectively, in the evolutionary history of a species. Autosomal loci involved include those under selection (MHC and Toll genes) as well as loci thought to primarily evolve in a near neutral fashion. Current primary emphasis is description of patterns of reticulate evolution in mammals utilizing these genetic tools.

Tarleton State University

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Russell S. Pfau

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My research interests are population and evolutionary genetics and my research questions usually ask in what ways do populations differ genetically and why. One of my more specific interests is how the landscape affects gene flow across a species' geographical distribution. My students and I go on several field trips throughout the year to collect our study specimens and then analyze DNA in the lab using techniques such as DNA sequencing, microsatellites, and AFLP. While most of my work is with mammals, I am also investigating the population genetics of an estuarine crab that has recently invaded Texas freshwater reservoirs.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

None currently.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Rece Laney and Rachel Seay are sequencing Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA respectively in the hispid cotton rat, *Sigmodon hispidus*, to better understand the levels of introgression across the hybrid zone between eastern and western lineages of this species.

Jordan Sparkman and Emily Culver are developing microsatellite markers for *Sigmodon hispidus*.

Becca Peters is sequencing mitochondrial DNA of shrews to determine levels of introgression across a hybrid zone.

Mark Nelson is using AFLP analysis to document levels of genetic diversity in the Texas kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys elator*.

Philip D. Sudman

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Current projects include systematic studies of pocket gophers working with graduate students here at Tarleton as well as the University of North Texas and Fort Hays State University. I also have a student working on white-eyed and black-capped vireo genetics, looking specifically at sex ratios of hatchlings, and extra-pair mating. This research is being conducted at Ft. Hood.

Grad Student:

David Davis – Sex ratio and extra-pair mating in vireos.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Scott E. Henke

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

- *Babesia bovis* and *B. bigemina* in white-tailed deer and nilgai from northern Mexico and southern Texas.
- Feral swine interactions with domestic swine: potential for disease transmission.
- Habitat selection and genetics of Maritime pocket gophers.
- Susceptibility of wildlife to aflatoxin.
- Home range and time budgets of urban squirrels.
- *Baylisascaris procyonis* in Texas
- Striped skunk movements along the urban and suburban interface: potential for rabies transmission

Graduate Students and Their Research:

AJ Cantu (PhD candidate) - *Babesia bovis* and *B. bigemina* project

AC Wyckoff (MS student) - feral swine project

JD Cortez (MS student) - Maritime pocket gophers

CK Williams (MS student) - Aflatoxin project

AE Kresta (PhD candidate) - *Baylisascaris* project

DM Ruffino (PhD candidate) - Skunk project

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

CJ Wineberger - genetics of Maritime pocket gophers

J Trantham - Maritime pocket gopher project

TAMUK Wildlife Society - squirrel project

Michael Tewes

The Frank Daniel Yturria Endowed Chair for Wild Cat Studies

Regents Professor, Texas A&M University System

Feline Research Center, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, MSC 218, 700 University Blvd.

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Texas Tech University

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Research Interests, Projects and Grants:

Robert J. Baker is in his 42nd year as a faculty member at Texas Tech University. He has no plans to retire in the immediate future, but would like to finish up a lot of projects that he has started over the last 42 years.

Interests include: the Genetic Species concept, Phyllostomid bats, and the effects of the Chernobyl environment on mammals.

Graduate Students and their Research:

Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan is a first year PhD student. He finished his Master's degree last summer (2008).

His Master's degree was concerned with the degree to which Borneo is isolated from Peninsula Malaysia as reflected in the genetics of bats. His education before coming to Texas Tech University was in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. He is interested in the systematic and phylogeography studies that contribute towards the conservation effort in South East Asian mammals. Museum of Texas Tech University Occasional Paper 281 reports the results of his Malaysian field work in 2006. faisal.anwarali@ttu.edu

Cibele Sotero-Caio is a first year PhD student. She obtained her Master's degree in March 2008 from Universidad Federal de Pernambuco, Recife – Brazil, where she could develop a comparative chromosomal study among vampire bat species. Her research interests include karyotypic evolution, as well as the use of cytogenetic approaches to the understanding of evolution, biogeography and systematics of mammals, giving emphasis to bat species. As an initial work at Texas Tech, she will be investigating the distribution patterns of repetitive sequences in bat chromosomes by means of in situ hybridization, classical cytogenetic techniques, as well as fluorescent banding. cibele.caio@ttu.edu

Peter Larsen is a fourth year PhD student. His research interests include speciation, phylogeography, and systematics of Neotropical and Palearctic mammals. Current projects include systematics and phylogeography of Caribbean, Central American, and South American bats of the genera *Artibeus*, *Micronycteris*, *Myotis*, and *Pteronotus*; systematics and phylogeography of Central Asian rodents and shrews of the genera *Apodemus*, *Alticola*, *Dryomys*, *Microtus*, *Rattus* and *Crocidura*; systematics of Malaysian species of *Kerivoula*. His dissertation is entitled: "Speciation, Hybridization, and the Bateson-Dobzhansky-Muller model: an analysis of a recent radiation of New World leaf-nosed bats". peter.larsen@ttu.edu

Roxy Larsen is a second year PhD student. Her dissertation will focus on the biogeography of Lesser Antillean bats, specifically the genera *Myotis* and *Pteronotus*. Her current projects include phylogenetic and phylogeographic studies of Caribbean *Myotis*. Last fall she received the J Knox Jones, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. roxy.larsen@ttu.edu

Hugo Mantilla-Meluk is a sixth year PhD student. His research interests include speciation, phylogeography, and systematics of Neotropical mammals. Current projects include systematics and phylogeography of

Neotropical bats of the genera *Anoura*, *Lonchophylla*, *Uroderma*, *Desmodus*, and *Histiotus*, the primate genera *Lagothrix* and *Cebus*, and the carnivore genus *Mustela*. In his work Hugo applied innovative approaches such as molecular analysis and Geographic Information modeling in combination with classical morphological analysis to elucidate modes of mammalian speciation in the Neotropics. Hugo is part of the UICN group of experts on mammals, the group of experts of Highland Mammals of Colombia, and the group of experts Wild-life management of the Chocoan Mammals. His dissertation is entitled: "Computer modeling applied to the study of Phyllostomid bat speciation". Hugo is also in charge of a program of cooperation between Texas Tech and Colombian institutions. hugo.mantilla@ttu.edu

M. Raquel Marchán graduated with her Master's degree at Texas Tech in December 2008. Currently, she is a first year PhD student, co-advised by Dr. Richard E. Strauss. Her work is focused on using morphometric analyses to discriminate and diagnostic populations of species, mainly of neotropical bats. Also, she studies the evolutionary history of shape and size among the species of a phylogenetic lineage. In addition, she uses Maxent and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for niche modeling and to predict geographic distribution of species. raquel.marchan@ttu.edu

Molly McDonough is a Research Technician, and a Ph.D. student beginning in August 2009. She published her first paper in October 2008, "Speciation within bonneted bats (Genus *Eumops*): the complexity of morphological, mitochondrial, and nuclear datasets in systematics" in the Journal of Mammalogy. molly.mcdonough@ttu.edu

Julie Parlos is a first year Ph.D. student. She obtained her Master's degree from Texas State University-San Marcos in May 2008. Current projects include evaluating karyotypic, mitochondrial (cytochrome-*b*), and morphological congruence among species of *Lonchophylla* as well as evaluating congruence of phylogenies generated using mitochondrial (cytochrome-*b*), AFLP and microsatellite data among various genera of bats. Her research interests focus on describing both inter- and intraspecific genetic variation among bats. julie.parlos@ttu.edu

Miguel Pinto is a fourth year MS student. Miguel's research interests include the evolutionary relationships of mammals and their infectious agents, biogeographic and systematic studies of Neotropical mammals, and the human impact in the evolutionary processes. His Masters research is entitled: "Genetic diversity of the common vampire bat *Desmodus rotundus* in Ecuador: Testing cross-Andean gene flow" miguel.pinto@ttu.edu

Lizette Siles Mendoza is a first year Ph.D. student. She received her Bachelor's degree from Universidad Mayor de San Simon (Bolivia) and has worked extensively in conservation projects across Bolivia. Her interests focus on the conservation, systematics and distribution of Bolivian bats and to learn molecular techniques that could be used to elucidate the taxonomic status of some Neotropical bats that occur in Bolivia. Her current research is on the systematics of bats of the genera *Micronycteris*. liz.siles-mendoza@ttu.edu

Vicki Swier graduated with her Ph.D. in December 2008. Her dissertation was titled "Chromosomal evolution in *Sigmodon*: the use of chromosome painting, telomere repeats, and fluorescent G-bands to elucidate the mechanisms of chromosomal repatterning and karyotypic conservation in the cotton rats." Two manuscripts from this dissertation have been submitted, one to Cytogenetics and Genome Research that has been accepted, and the other to Chromosome Research, which is in review. vicki.swier@ttu.edu

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Research Interests, Projects, And Grants:

My research interests include systematic relationships, molecular evolution, and natural history of mammals, particularly in geomyoid and cricetid rodents. Examination of hybrid zones between genetically distinct taxa; including isolating mechanisms and the dynamics of genetic introgression. Examination of the origin and evolution of rodent-borne viruses; especially in the use of rodent phylogenies and genetic structure to predict the transmission and evolution of viruses. Modeling and predictions associated with epidemiology. Growth and utilization of natural history collections, especially those pertaining to mammals. Natural history and distribution of mammalian species.

Current Projects:

- Systematics of the genus *Peromyscus*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of *Peromyscus boylii*.
- Phylogenetic relationships of Neotomine and Reithrodontine rodents.
- Study of hybridization between two species of *Neotoma*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Sigmodon*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Neotoma*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Geomys*.
- Systematics and phylogenetic studies of the genus *Oryzomys*.
- Ecology of emerging hanta- and arenaviruses in the southwestern US.
- Role of the transferrin receptor in binding arenaviruses

Graduate Students And Their Research:

Cody W. Thompson (PhD student) is in his second year. Research topic probably will involve a study of hybridization between *Spermophilus mexicana* and *S. tridecemlineatus* in north-central Texas.

Sheri B. Westerman (MS student) is in her second year. Research topic will involve determining if the transferrin receptor in *Neotoma* is associated with binding arenaviruses.

Nicté Ordóñez-García (PhD student, Co-chaired with Dr. Jorge Salazar-Bravo) is in her first year. Research topic probably will involve systematics of the *Peromyscus mexicana* group.

Kathy MacDonald (PhD student, Co-chaired with Dr. Richard Strauss) is in her third year. Research topic will involve modeling biological and genetic parameters involved in the association of *Catarina arenavirus* with *Neotoma*.

Matt Mauldin (MS student) is in his first year. Research topic to be determined. Matt was in the program for 1 year as an undergraduate.

Megan Corley (MS student) is in her first year. Research topic to be determined. Megan was in the program for 1 year as an undergraduate.

Graduated Students

J. Delton Hanson (PhD student) graduated in May 2008. Dissertation topic involved - Molecular systematics of Oryzomyines. Dr. Hanson currently is in a teaching postdoctoral position at Texas Tech University and pursuing research on the Oryzomyini.

Ryan R. Chambers (MS student) graduated in May 2008. Thesis topic involved - Nuclear genes and molecular systematics of *Geomys*. Ryan is employed with the Oregon State Police forensic laboratory in Portland, Oregon.

Dallas D. Henson (MS student) graduated in May 2008. Thesis topic involved - Nuclear genes and molecular systematics of *Sigmodon*. Dallas is employed with a forensic laboratory in Houston, Texas.

R. Neal Platt (MS student) graduated in December 2008. Thesis topic involved - Multigene approach in examining phylogenetic relationships of Neotomine-Reithrodontine rodents. Neal is pursuing his PhD with Dr. David Ray at West Virginia University.

Undergraduate Students And Their Research:

Six undergraduate students are involved in various research projects in the Laboratory.

Additional Information:

I teach Mammalogy at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction during May (referred to as the Intersession Semester). This is an excellent opportunity to receive credit at the Graduate or Undergraduate level.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

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Raymond Willis

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

I am currently studying protein isoform expression and variation in tissues of reptiles and mammals. Current projects include 1) Na,K pump variation observed in cultured opossum kidney cells 2) Investigation of the physiological specialization of Na,K pumps in a subpopulation of cottonmouths that enable them to ingest marine prey.

Trinity University

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

I am interested in the evolutionary ecology of small mammals, primarily *Peromyscus* and elephant-shrews. My research in recent years has ranged from studies of social organization to mating behavior to thermal ecology. We are currently trying to wrap-up a study of paternity of *Macroscelides* from South Africa.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

None at Trinity.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Laney Redus and Erica Scott - Paternity in Round-eared Elephant-shrews (*Macroscelides proboscideus*).

University of Central Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma, Department of Biology, Edmond, OK 73034

Michelle L. Haynie

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

My research interests lie in population genetics and molecular systematics. Currently, I have students examining genetic diversity in striped skunk populations in the south central United States and woodrat populations in Arizona. Funding for this research has been provided by the Office of Research and Grants at UCO. A NSF-MRI grant currently is under review. The grant is for acquisition of an automated DNA sequencer for the Department of Biology at UCO.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

Kelly A. Smith – Genetic variation in striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) populations in the south central United States

Robert X. Sorg – mtDNA d-loop variation in *Neotoma albigula* populations in Arizona

Ashley M. Wade – Microsatellite variation in *Neotoma albigula* populations in Arizona

Additional Information:

I am in the process of writing the “Mammals of Oklahoma” with Bill Caire, Lynda Loucks, and Marcy Revelez.

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

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Cathleen N. Early

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

UMHB Faculty Development Grant for a Floral and Faunal Inventory Update for Bell County, Texas with Emphasis on Vascular Plants and Vertebrates for the amount of \$13,605.

University of New Mexico

Christine L. Hice

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Email: clhice@unm.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Conservation and natural history of mammals in the southwest, particularly Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. Natural history and ecology of neotropical mammals.

Current projects include

- 1) Second edition of *The Bats of Texas*, with Loren Ammerman and David Schmidly as co-authors.
- 2) Small mammal trapping on Galveston Island to assess the impact of Hurricane Ike on the mammal community, with David Schmidly
- 3) Revised edition of *The Mammals of Texas*, with David Schmidly as co-author
- 4) Archival natural history of New Mexico: project uses national archives, particularly from the US Biological Survey, to assess changes in land use, habitat, etc. over the past 100 years in New Mexico, with David Schmidly

David J. Schmidly

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Conservation and natural history of mammals in the southwest, particularly Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico.

Current projects include

- 1) Second edition of *The Bats of Texas*, with Loren Ammerman and Chris Hice as co-authors.
- 2) Small mammal trapping on Galveston Island to assess the impact of Hurricane Ike on the mammal community, with Chris Hice
- 3) Revised edition of *The Mammals of Texas*, with Chris Hice as co-author
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University of Texas

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Paleo Lab: <http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/paleo/index.html>

DigiMorph: <http://www.digimorph.org/about/pamelaowen.phtml>

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Evolutionary history of American badgers (Taxidiinae)

Morphology, evolution and systematics of Carnivora

Late Cenozoic mammalian faunas

Natural science education and outreach

Additional Information:

Public education and outreach have been my focus the past few years. I have been a co-leader of TNSC's Evolution Professional Development programs and this spring I will be teaching a workshop for secondary science teachers: Getting into the Swim -- Evolution of Aquatic Adaptations in Mammals and Reptiles. I continue to provide annual mammalogy training for the Capital Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and serve as Associate Editor (Fossil Record section) for Mammalian Species.