

# NATURAL INQUIRER

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Department of Biological Sciences

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## FACULTY HAPPENINGS

The FHSU Astronomy Club hosted a viewing of the Andromeda Galaxy, located approximately 2-million light years from Earth, Friday, October 4. The event started with an informational talk about the galaxy by **Dr. Eric Gillock**, Biological Sciences, and was followed by viewing the galaxy and other astronomical objects from the **Albertson Hall Observatory** and the Observation Deck on top of Tomanek Hall. The event was free and open to the campus community and general public.

**Dr. Jerry Choate** received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for general operating support of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. The grant, \$112,500, is the largest allowable by the IMLS (this amount was received by only six natural history museums in the United States). Since 1981, Choate has received 10 grants, totaling \$298,079, from the IMLS.

## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications by current and former faculty and students (\*) from the Department of Biological Sciences were included in the October 2002 issue of the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, that was dedicated to the late Frank Cross, former professor and curator of ichthyology at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum.

**Eberle, M.E.** 2002. Introduction: a tribute to Dr. Frank B. Cross (1925–2001). Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science 105:97-98.

**Stark, W.J., J.S. Luginbill\***, and **M.E. Eberle**. 2002. Natural history of a relict population of Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*) in northwestern Kansas. Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science 105:143-152.

**Eberle, M.E., E.G. Hargett\***, **T.L. Wenke**, and **N.E. Mandrak**. 2002. Changes in fish assemblages, Solomon River Basin, Kansas: habitat alterations, extirpations, and introductions.

Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science  
105:178-192.

## ODDS AND ENDS

**Drs. Rob Channell, Jerry Choate, and Elmer Finck**, together with two graduate students (**Brian Bartels** and **Justin Hoffman**) attended the annual meeting of the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists (CPSM) at Emporia State University on October 11th and 12th. At that meeting, Bartels presented a paper titled "Identification and distribution of *Sorex cinereus* and *S. haydeni* on the northern Great Plains." Hoffman presented a paper titled "Biogeographic relationship of the yellow-faced pocket gopher (*Pappogeomys castanops*) and the plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*) in Kansas." Choate moderated the paper sessions at the meeting. Finck is the present President of CPSM.

The 54<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society was held in Meade, KS on October 4, 5 and 6 and was hosted by **Tom Flowers** (BS 1977; MS 1979). All who attended appreciated the hospitality of the local wildlife enthusiasts, as well as impressive presentations by amateur and professionals alike. The department was represented by **Dr. Greg Farley, Matt Bain** (BS 2000), and undergraduates **Aaron Pendergraft** and **Eric Hoch** (also a new father). In addition, the outgoing president of the organization is **John Schukman** (BS 1973; MS 1974)

Bain presented a preview of his upcoming M.S. defense on the breeding biology of lesser and greater prairie-chickens in western Kansas. His paper "Agonistic Interactions, Court Size and Location, and Mating Success of Hybrid Prairie Chickens" included data showing hybrid males are successful with territory defense and in behavioral interactions with other males. However, these hybrid males fail to successfully reproduce due to avoidance by females of both parental forms. He deserves congratulations for receiving the K.O.S. 2002 student presentation award.

FHSU last hosted the K.O.S. Fall meeting in 1999, and is scheduled to repeat the adventure with the

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organization's 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in October, 2005.  
Mark your calendars!

On September 28 **Dr Eric Gillock** attended the First Annual Great Plains Infectious Disease Meeting at KU in Lawrence. Also in attendance were **Aileen Johnson** graduate student (**BS 2000**) and **Lance Thurlow**, senior biology major and prospective graduate student.