

# NATURAL INQUIRER

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences

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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Scott Newland** (BS, 1998; MS, 2002) was recently promoted to Senior Zookeeper for the Avian Collection at Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, where he supervises five employees caring for a wide array of species from around the globe. Scott's area of expertise is breeding and reproduction in captive birds.

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**Kenneth Lloyd** (BS, 2000) was recently promoted from his entry-level position with the Corps of Engineers in Washington state to a Park Ranger position at Lake Lanier in Georgia. Lake Lanier is a high profile lake NE of metro-Atlanta and is consistently in the top 3 most visited lakes in the country.

## FACULTY HAPPENINGS

**Dr. William Stark** and **Mark Eberle** traveled to Lawrence on September 13 to visit Allen Press and the KU Museum of Natural History. They were given a tour of the publishing facilities of Allen Press, which publishes over 300 professional journals. They also met with several staff members, who provided information on changes in the publication process that accommodate changes in technology. This information will be used to improve efficiency and reduce costs associated with the publication of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Mark assumed the duties of managing editor for this journal in May 2002. At KU, they met with Dr. Ed Wiley, Curator of Ichthyology, and Andy Bentley, Collection Manager, about a variety of subjects pertaining to the KU Museum of Natural History and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at FHSU. These two museums house the principal research collections of fishes for Kansas, and we are developing several cooperative efforts.

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**Dr. Jerry Choate, Dr. David Pierson, and Dr. Tony Fernandez** were among the FHSU employees involved in serving on Hays city committees and boards in 2002. Dr. Choate, Director of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, served on the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Dr. David Pierson, retired associate professor of biology, served on the Traffic Advisory Committee. Dr. Tony Fernandez, dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences, served on the Sister Cities committee.

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**Dr. Richard Packauskas** attended the second quadrennial meeting of the International Heteropterists Society, July 16-19, at the Zoological Institute of St. Petersburg in Russia. Dr. Packauskas gave a talk over some of the morphology of his leaf-footed bugs entitled "Evidence for the Re-erection of the Tribe Stenoscelideini Schaefer (Heteroptera: Coreidae)." Dr. Packauskas was also elected treasurer for the Society at that meeting.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**Scott A. Thomasson** was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$500 by The Willis Scholarship Foundation, Inc for the Fall 2002 semester. The scholarship is associated with the Governor's Annual One-Shot Turkey Hunt.

## PUBLICATIONS

Recently published in the August 2002 issue of *The Condor*:

**Matthew Bain** (BS, 2000) and **Greg Farley** Display by Apparent Hybrid Prairie-Chickens in a Zone of Geographic Overlap. *Condor* 104:683-687

## ODDS AND ENDS

The current version of the fieldcourse through the northwestern United States, first offered in 1997, was taught for the fifth time this summer. **Mark Eberle** and five students spent 16 days traveling over 4000 miles in a university van through western Washington, the Oregon coast, and northern California, where they studied aspects of the ecology of western forests, tide pools, coastal dunes, and an estuary. The students read about the ecosystems and completed a study guide before the trip. During the trip, the students were able to connect what they learned to the actual ecosystems and reinforce this knowledge visually. After the trip, each student provided a written summary of the components and processes of the ecosystems they visited.



Mt. Ranier,  
Washington

Among the study sites on this year's trip were: Mount Rainier National Park, Olympic National Park, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, tide pools at Cape Arago and Sunset Bay (Oregon), Redwood National Park, Calaveras Big Tree State Park, and Great Basin National Park. A virtual fieldtrip through the sites we visit, illustrated with images provided by the students and instructor, is available through the Department's website at [www.fhsu.edu/biology/VCCourses.htm#Fieldcourses](http://www.fhsu.edu/biology/VCCourses.htm#Fieldcourses).



Above: Oregon Coast Aquarium "Passages of the Deep"  
Photo by **Eric Hoch**

Currently the Department offers extended fieldcourses to the Pacific Northwest during the summer and the Desert Southwest during spring break. The latter will be offered in its current form for the third time in March 2003.



**Redlegged Frog**

**Dr Eric Gillock** was awarded a grant for \$3000 from the Kansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network to support an undergraduate summer research project in the biomedical sciences. The research was conducted by **Lance Thurlow**, a senior in biology. Lance has been working to isolate bacteriophages from environmental samples that may be useful as therapeutic agents against antibiotic resistant bacteria. He has isolated several candidates he is now testing. In addition he has isolated a novel bacterium that he plans

to characterize for his Master research (pending admittance into the departmental graduate program).

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