

The Natural Enquirer



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Compiled by Jessica Bittel, Writing Intern
and
J. LaFantasie

Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012

In Memory: Margaret Anderson



On the morning of January 1, Mount Rainier Ranger Margaret Anderson was shot and killed while attempting to stop a car that had raced through a mandatory chain-up check point and was headed for Paradise, the park's most popular winter destination, where more than 100 people were already playing in the snow.

The heroic actions of Margaret Anderson and the other rangers who stopped the gunman, were the result of deliberate, tactical decisions designed to protect the visitors, volunteers, and employees at Paradise, many of whom have said they believe Ranger Anderson saved their lives.

Margaret and Eric have two daughters; Annalise who will be four next month and Kathryn Page who will be two in May. Donations to help the family can be sent to KeyBank, P.O. Box 159, Eatonville, WA 98328. Checks should be made out to the Margaret Anderson Donation Account. Online donations can be made through the National Park Foundation at www.nationalparks.org/Margaret-Anderson.

Last Saturday, with the help of rangers from across the country, local partners and volunteers, we re-opened the park and gave the mountain back to the people. That's what Margaret would have wanted. That the place she loved was again welcoming visitors to their national park.

Ranger Anderson was a biologist with a master's degree from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. She was also a highly-trained National Park Service commissioned law enforcement officer. She loved her job. She had a passion for the park, for her co-workers and for the people she served.



“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.”

Shannon L. Alder

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Undergraduate Feature: Interview with Cassie Schmidtberger

Name and classification:

Cassie Schmidtberger, senior

Where are you from?:

Victoria, KS

Why did you choose FHSU?:

It's close enough that I can live at home! I also really enjoy having small classes and getting the chance to really get to know my professors and fellow students.

Why did you decide to major in Biology?:

Well, I really enjoy science, and especially Biology. Dr. Packauskas also recommended the major when I was a freshman. Additionally, I'm specializing in pre-veterinary medicine, so it was a logical choice.

What is your major and emphasis?:

Biology (Pre-Vet Specialty) with a minor in Spanish

Favorite classes or memories?:

I have to say that I've just really enjoyed getting to know the entire Biology Department, especially over the last two years when I switched majors. They are just a great group of people who understand being nerdy! I've also had a great time in the Modern Language Department, even after I completed my minor in Spanish.

Plans after FHSU?:

I've been accepted into Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and am super excited to move to Manhattan and start classes in August. I'm hoping to focus in large animals.

What are some interesting and/or exciting experiences you've had as a Biology major?:

I started doing research with Dr. Kobayashi last June, and we were able to attend the World Aquaculture Society international conference Aquaculture America 2012 February 28 - March 2 in Las Vegas, NV. It was an awesome experience meeting people not only from all over the USA but from many other parts of the world. It was a fantastic learning opportunity as I got to listen to others speak about types of aquaculture that occur in climates and regions so different from our own. I believe I was accepted into KSU CVM in large part because I had performed undergraduate research. I highly recommend to any undergraduate to take any opportunity to work with a professor. It is a once-in-a-lifetime chance, and it can take you far in life!!



Undergraduate News

Awards

- Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. 2012. Genetic and environmental influence on physiological drought tolerance in big bluestem. American Society of Plant Biologists Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), \$4700
- Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. 2012. Does salinity tolerance encourage invasiveness in marsh communities? How physiological advantages of the invasive saltcedar *Tamarix ramosissima* impact a Kansas salt marsh. Weed Science Society of America Undergraduate Research Award, \$1000
- Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. 2012. Physiological, anatomical, and ecological responses of salt marsh communities to spilled oil using experimental mesocosms. Society of Wetland Scientists Student Research Grant, \$989
- Caudle, K.L. and B.R. Maricle. Fall 2012 EPA Environmental Protection Agency Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowships for Undergraduate Environmental Study, \$48,900
- Jeff Carter received the David P. Fellows Scholarship from the Great Plains Nature Center based on his academic performance at FHSU, as well his proposed research on songbird behavior. Jeff, a Colorado native, plans to initiate a MS at FHSU in Spring '13. The scholarship is named for a former biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and is intended to help mentor the next generation of professional biologists.
- Keri Caudle was named College of Health and Life Sciences Outstanding Undergraduate Student!



Keri Caudle accepts the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from Dean of College of Health and Life Sciences, Dr. Jeff Briggs

Photo Credit: Mitch Weber

Congratulations to undergraduate biology majors Gavin McCafferty, Katie Wildgen, and Ashley Spaeny, who were accepted into the Medical Technology program at Wichita State University

Brendon McCampbell has begun undergraduate research in plant biotechnology under the guidance of Dr. Sam Zwenger. Brendon is over-expressing various heat stress-associated genes, such as heat shock factors, in *Arabidopsis thaliana* in hopes that transgenic plants will show improved heat tolerance. Genes that result in better heat tolerance will be used to generate wheat plants with increased ability to tolerate heat and drought.

Graduate Student News

Awards

- Weston Fleming: 2012 Otto Tiemeier / Frank Cross Graduate student scholarship award. Certificate in Geographic Information Systems: User Emphasis in Applications in Fisheries Biology
- Clinton Helms: Kansas Ornithological Society Research Grant
- Clinton Helms and J. LaFantasie: Chickadee Checkoff Grant
- Clinton Helms and J. LaFantasie: The Nature Conservancy research grant
- Victoria Cikanek and Dr. Greg Farley received a KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism 'Chickadee Checkoff' grant to investigate "Habitat characteristics surrounding prairie-chicken leks of different sizes in Northwest Kansas".

- Megan Rohweder was named College of Health and Life Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student!
- Megan Rohweder presented her research supported by the Fleharty Fellowship entitled "Hotspots of Biodiversity in Kansas."
- Megan Rohweder and Andree Brisson were both recipients of the Graduate School Outstanding Thesis Award
- Joanna Fay was awarded the Graduate School Outstanding GTA Award

Congratulations to Graduate Students who passed their Oral Examinations!

- Caroline Curtis
- Will Moore
- Scott Schmidt
- Jeff Sekavec



Megan Rohweder accepts the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from Dean of College of Health and Life Sciences, Dr. Jeff Briggs. Photo Credit: Mitch Weber



Joanna Fay with major advisor, Dr. Eric Gillock and Dr. Farley (above) and Dr. Rob Channell with graduating MS students Megan Rohweder, Andree Brisson and Caroline Curtis (left).



Congratulations Spring 2012 Biology MS Graduates!

Katie Talbott



Thesis Title: 'Sexual selection dynamics of a Smoky Hills population of *Crotaphytus collaris*' .

I developed an interest in field ecology as an undergraduate at Doane College, where I

had my first experiences in field research. After completing my senior thesis, an investigation of tiger beetle population genetics, I was hooked and knew I wanted a career in research. At FHSU, I worked with Dr. Greg Farley on a field investigation of the mating system of the eastern collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*). This included documenting the spatial distribution of individual lizards, analyzing habitat structure, and performing an in-field experiment on a potential male ornament. I really enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in every step of the project, from formulating a hypothesis to carrying out field work and analyzing the results. The next steps in my career will be focused on research. I will assist with herpetology-focused field research projects this summer, and plan to apply for Ph.D. programs in evolutionary ecology for the fall of 2013. After that, I hope to find a position researching behavioral ecology, possibly in a university or zoo setting.

Megan Rohweder

Thesis Title: Spatial Conservation Prioritization of Kansas for Terrestrial Vertebrates

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Fort Hays State University in May 2009. I decided to continue my education at Fort Hays and started my graduate career in the Fall working with Dr. Channell. For my thesis research I developed a plan that would aid in prioritizing conservation efforts for terrestrial vertebrates in Kansas. Along with developing a priority ranking of potential areas of conservation, I also assessed the potential threats to those areas of conservation and examined the effectiveness of existing Kansas reserves at meeting conservation goals. I'm currently working in Hays helping a fellow grad student with her field work. I hope to work as a conservation biologist for the government or a non-profit organization.



Weston Fleming

Thesis Title: Assessment of Aging Structures and Recruitment of Walleye *Sander vitreus* in Cedar Bluff Reservoir

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Fort Hays State University in December of 2009 and started my graduate career with Dr. Stark in the spring of 2010. Our research focused on measuring walleye recruitment at Cedar Bluff Reservoir. As a

result we evaluated precision of three aging methods. Also, we evaluated various gear used to measure walleye recruitment. During my graduate career I also had the opportunity to conduct research with fellow Dr. Stark advisees Bryan Sowards, Ryan Pinkall, and Jordan Hofmeier on freshwater mussels. In March of 2012 I accepted a job as a fisheries biologist with Pond King Inc.



Ryan Pinkall

Thesis Title: Distributional survey and habitat associations of crayfishes in three river basins in Kansas

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Friends University in May 2007 and started my graduate career at Fort Hays State University with Dr. William Stark in 2008. Our research consisted of surveying crayfishes in the Kansas, Republican, and Missouri river basins in Kansas. During my graduate career I assisted

Dr. Stark with Herpetology, Ichthyology, and Stream Ecology labs. Additionally, I had the pleasure of collaborating with fellow graduate students Bryan Sowards, Wes Fleming, and Jordan Hofmeier to assess freshwater mussel populations of the Saline and Smoky Hill Rivers. I am currently working for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Research Division.



Bryan Sowards

Thesis Title: Survey of the freshwater gastropods of south-eastern Kansas with emphasis on the distribution and habitat use of the delta hydrobe (*Probythinella emarginata*)

I first became interested in aquatic organisms while fishing with my dad and brothers. This passion led me to study fisheries biology at FHSU in 2004. I have worked with the native fish of Kansas with Dr. Stark of FHSU and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) at some level since 2006. My interest in freshwater mollusks stemmed from stream survey work with KDWPT and subsequent research of these unique and imperiled organisms. My colleagues and I have received funding for projects involving the distribution and habitat use of freshwater mollusks of conservation concern. I have accepted a position as a freshwater mussel ecologist for the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources in San Antonio, Texas. I am grateful to FHSU and their exceptional biology program for providing me with the tools necessary to make the transition as a professional biologist.



Caroline Curtis

Thesis Title: The effect of climate change on the distributions of invasive plants and their associated biological control agents in North America.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Bridgewater State University in 2008. After taking two years to pursue a corporate career, I decided that obtaining advanced degrees in the natural sciences would ultimately lead to more satisfying career opportunities. I began working at Fort Hays State University toward my Master of Science degree in fall 2010 with Dr. Rob Channell. In the fall, I will begin a Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts, where I will be studying the large scale ecology of invasive plants.



Jake Olsen

Thesis Title: Gas exchange and leaf anatomy of *Andropogon gerardii* ecotypes over a climatic gradient of the Great Plains

I grew up in Utah, spending much of my time hiking and climbing the Wasatch mountains where I gained an interest in learning about the natural world. I graduated from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City with a B.A. in Biology in 2010. I first became interested in research on plants during my senior year as an undergraduate. I took a class on the anatomy and physiology of plants and was very interested in how plants function. This led me to Fort Hays where I obtained a research assistantship under Dr. Brian Maricle and have been researching gas exchange and leaf anatomy of big bluestem. The project looks at distinct populations of big bluestem to investigate whether the variation is primarily caused by variation in climatic variables or whether there is genetic variation.

Andree Brisson

Thesis Title: The Face of Extinction: Are Charismatic Species more Vulnerable to Endangerment?

My research found charismatic species at greater risk of extinction than non-charismatic species. I will be presenting my results at NAOC (North American Ornithological Conference) this August, an international meeting.



Faculty News



Dr. Channell accepts his award from President Hammond
Photo Credit: Dr. Kim Perez

Awards

- Dr. Brian Maricle was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.
- Dr. Robert Channell received the Spring 2012 University Outstanding Teaching Award

Anitha Devadason (BS, 2007) currently serves as Research Program Coordinator for the Pediatric Liver Transplant Team with Johns Hopkins Medicine, and was recently featured in a Johns Hopkins publication!

Alumni News

Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012



Originally from Ellis, KS, Lynn W. Kinderknecht DDS, currently practices general dentistry in Hays, and attended Fort Hays State University in the late 70s. In 1986, Dr. Kinderknecht opened his own practice in Hays, with a focus on prevention and restoration. FHSU has been a great patient referral base for his practice, as well as the school of choice for his three sons who graduated simultaneously 20 years after their father. Bill, 31, Ben, 28, and Jon, 26 walked across the stage together in 2007, and are flourishing today. The Kinderknecht brothers all graduated with majors in molecular and cellular biology, and minors in chemistry. Bill is currently a medical student along with his wife Kim (FHSU grad) at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience. Ben recently graduated from KCUMB with a degree in medicine and will begin a surgery residency in Kansas City. The youngest, Jon, recently graduated from UMKC, and plans to join his father's practice. Dr. Kinderknecht also has a daughter, Katie, 25, who chose a different path as a Journalism and Public Relations major, and works as a concert promoter and agent.



FHSU Biological Sciences graduates William, Ben and Jon Kinderknecht with their sister Katie Kinderknecht (above). Drs. Lynn and Jon Kinderknecht at UMKC graduation this spring (right). Photos provided by Dr. Lynn Kinderknecht

Publications

- Owens, H.J., J. LaFantasie and P. Adler. (in press). Mycorrhization rates of two grasses following alterations in moisture inputs in a southern mixed grass prairie. *Applied Soil Ecology*.
- Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. (in press) Effects of flooding on photosynthesis, chlorophyll fluorescence, and oxygen stress in plants of varying flooding tolerance. *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*
- W. E. Meshaka, S. E. Trauth, K. M. Talbott, and C.J. Schmit. (in press) Reproductive Characteristics and Sexual Maturation of the Eastern Collared Lizard, *Crotaphytus collaris* (Say, 1823), at the Northern Edge of its Geographic Range. *Journal of Kansas Herpetology*

Faculty and Student Outreach and Presentations

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, Dec 5-7, 2011.

Weston Fleming, Ryan Pinkall, Jordan Hofmeier, and Bryan Sowards attended

Weston Fleming presented: Precision of Age Estimations Among Hard Structures and Evaluation of Recruitment of Walleye in Cedar Bluff Reservoir, Kansas.

Jordan Hofmeier and Bryan Sowards co-presented: Kansas freshwater mussel populations in the upper Smoky Hill and Saline rivers with emphasis on the cylindrical papershell (*Anodontoidea ferussacianus*).

Bryan Sowards presented on behalf of Bob Angelo: Historical Changes in the Occurrence and Distribution of Freshwater Mussels in Kansas

K-INBRE Symposium, Kansas City, MO, Jan 14-15

Jordan Hofmeier, Drew Thomas, Yass Kobayashi, Bill Stark. Vitellogenesis in Male Channel Catfish: A Biomarker of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals in the Arkansas and Ninnese Rivers in Kansas.

Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS, Jan. 26-27

Bryan Sowards and Bill Stark. Occurrence and Habitat Requirements of the Delta Hydrobe (*Probythinella emarginata*) in Kansas

Bryan Sowards, Weston Fleming, Jordan Hofmeier, Ryan Pinkall and Bill Stark. Kansas freshwater mussel populations in the upper Smoky Hill and Saline rivers with emphasis on the cylindrical papershell (*Anodontoidea ferussacianus*)

Brian Tanis and Elmer J. Finck. Ecological Impacts of Wind Farms on Mammalian Mesocarnivores

Megan Rohweder and Rob Channell. Spatial Conservation Prioritization of Kansas for Terrestrial Vertebrates

Brian Serpan, David Spalsbury and Bill Stark. Stocking of saugeye to decrease white crappie numbers.

Victoria Cikanek and Greg Farley. Habitat Characteristics Surrounding Prairie-chicken Lek of Different Sizes in Northwestern Kansas

Ryan Pinkall and Bill Stark. Distributional Survey and Habitat Associations of Crayfish in the Kansas, Missouri, and Republican River Basins in Kansas

Scott Schmidt and Elmer J. Finck. Avian Response to Eastern Redcedar Succession in Grasslands

Brandon Calderon, Elmer J. Finck and David Dahlgren. Assessing the Impact of Artificial Wildlife Water Developments (Guzzlers) on Species Occupancy (**Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's best student paper, 2nd place**)

Weston Fleming and Bill Stark. Precision of Age Estimations Among Hard Structures and Evaluation of Recruitment of Walleye in Cedar Bluff Reservoir Kansas

Andrew Pettibone, Jordana LaFantasie, and Spencer Casey. Expansion of Old World bluestems over an eight-year period

Amanda Cheeseman and Elmer J. Finck. Stable isotope analysis of the diet of Kansas Mephitidae (**Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society's best student paper**)

Jordan Hofmeier, Bryan Sowards and Bill Stark. Benthic Macroinvertebrate Diversity and Biotic Indices of Cedar Creek, Kansas

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Spokane WA, Jan 29-Feb 3 2012

Jessica Casey, Jordana LaFantasie, and Richard Packauskas. Does invasion by non-native Old World bluestems reduce habitat for soil microfaunal groups?

Heath Owens, Jordana LaFantasie, and Peter Adler. Mycorrhization rates of two grasses following alterations in moisture inputs in southern mixed grass prairie

Andrew Pettibone, Jordana LaFantasie, and Spencer Casey. Expansion of Old World bluestems over an eight-year period

Jordana LaFantasie, Brian Meador and Andrew Kniss. Black greasewood community response to aminocyclopyrachlor application.

Brian Serpan, David Spalsbury and Bill Stark. Stocking of saugeye to decrease white crappie numbers.

Kansas Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Wichita State University, March 30-31, 2012

Barrett, K.M.† and B.R. Maricle. Effects of nitrate and phosphate concentration on photosynthesis and nitrate assimilation in *Phalaris arundinacea* and *Phragmites australis*.

Caudle, K.L.*†, P.B. Adler, and B.R. Maricle. Physiological and ecological responses of Kansas grasses to water availability.

Olsen, J.T.†, R.K. Goad†, M.L. Mendola*, H.M. Tetrault†, L.C. Johnson, S.G. Baer, and B.R. Maricle. Gas exchange of *Andropogon gerardii* (big bluestem) ecotypes across a climatic gradient of the Great Plains.

Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. Influence of spilled oil on respiration and photosynthesis in coastal marsh species.

Biggs, T.N.* and B.R. Maricle. Effects of nitrogen source and wind on photosynthesis and nitrate reductase activity in reed canarygrass.

White, S.J.*, A. Meraz*, N.G. Maforo*, and B.R. Maricle. Effect of ethanol toxicity on enzymes of respiration and carbon metabolism in plants.

Caudle, K.L.*, C.M. Smart*, B.M. Betzen*, and B.R. Maricle. Effects of salinity on plant water potential in native and introduced salt marsh species.

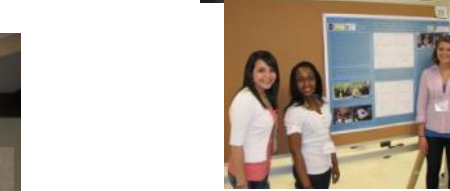
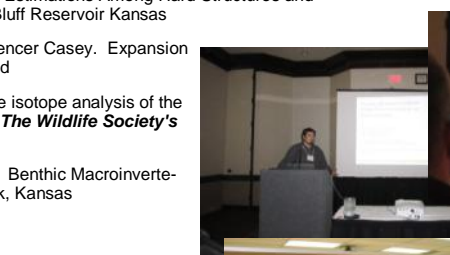
Caudle, K.L.* and B.R. Maricle. Effects of flooding on photosynthesis and root oxygen stress in plants of different flooding tolerance.

Kansas Professional Communicators Conference, Lindsborg, April 28

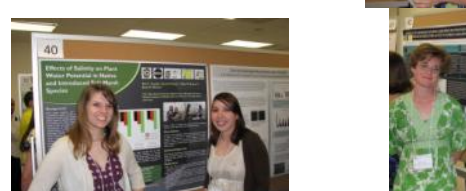
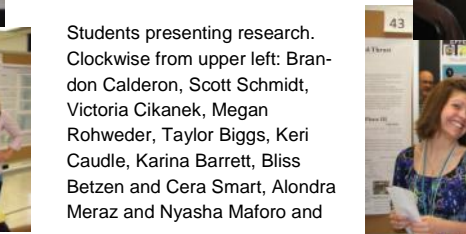
Amber Barratt, Jenna Rolland, and Scott Schmidt. Assessing local awareness among frontline workers along the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway



The "Spawn of Stark" were observed schooling at the 2012 Kansas Natural Resource Council meeting in January in Wichita. From left, Dr. Bill Stark, Jeff Connelly, Jason Luginbill, Bryan Sowards, Scott Brack Front Row: Aaron Austin, Ryan Pinkall, Wes Fleming, Jordan Hofmeier and Curtis Wolf



Fort Hays State University student, professor, and alumni attendance was strong at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference. FHSU bested Emporia State University with 54 attendees (15 over ESU).



Students presenting research. Clockwise from upper left: Brandon Calderon, Scott Schmidt, Victoria Cikanek, Megan Rohweder, Taylor Biggs, Keri Caudle, Karina Barrett, Bliss Betzen and Cera Smart, Alondra Meraz and Nyasha Maforo and

Fort Hays State University's Community Garden: Victor E. Garden



Several hundred feet behind the service buildings near the Union parking lot, a 48 x 20 foot patch of land is bursting with fresh colors of green as fruits and vegetables begin to sprout from the soil. Victor E. Garden is Fort Hays State's second campus garden, and was created as a service-learning project during the spring of 2011. It sprouted from FHSU Political Science Chair Shala Mill's Food and Politics class (POLS 380). The garden is now flourishing with over forty different types of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, including potatoes, onions, carrots, strawberries, beets, rosemary, and rhubarb. The goal of the garden was to provide an alternative and healthy food source for low income college students, faculty and staff, as well as bring students a little closer to their food. Students are detached from the production of what they put in their mouths, and the FHSU garden will get students in there; turning soil, planting seeds, harvesting crops and designing beds. The garden has allowed students to experience service-learning and understand the process of a growing garden, and the hard work—as well as the rewards—of an organic garden. Besides the direct benefits of food-production and community involvement, it has been proven that regular work outdoors and in gardens can help relieve stress and promote a sense of peacefulness in students. The FHSU Garden was named the "Victor E. Garden," and is currently being looked after by the Student Environmental Organization, the FHSU Grounds Department, and other individuals on campus and in the community.

For more information about the garden, send an email to fhsugarden@gmail.com or visit our blog (<http://fhsu-garden.blogspot.com/>)!



Cabbage currently growing in the garden



Tomatos and peppers grow along this path



Mark Schneweis, in POLS 380, places mulch upon the rows.



Brothers Brendon and Luke McCampbell, both members of the Student Environmental Organization and POLS 380, mark potato plots in the garden

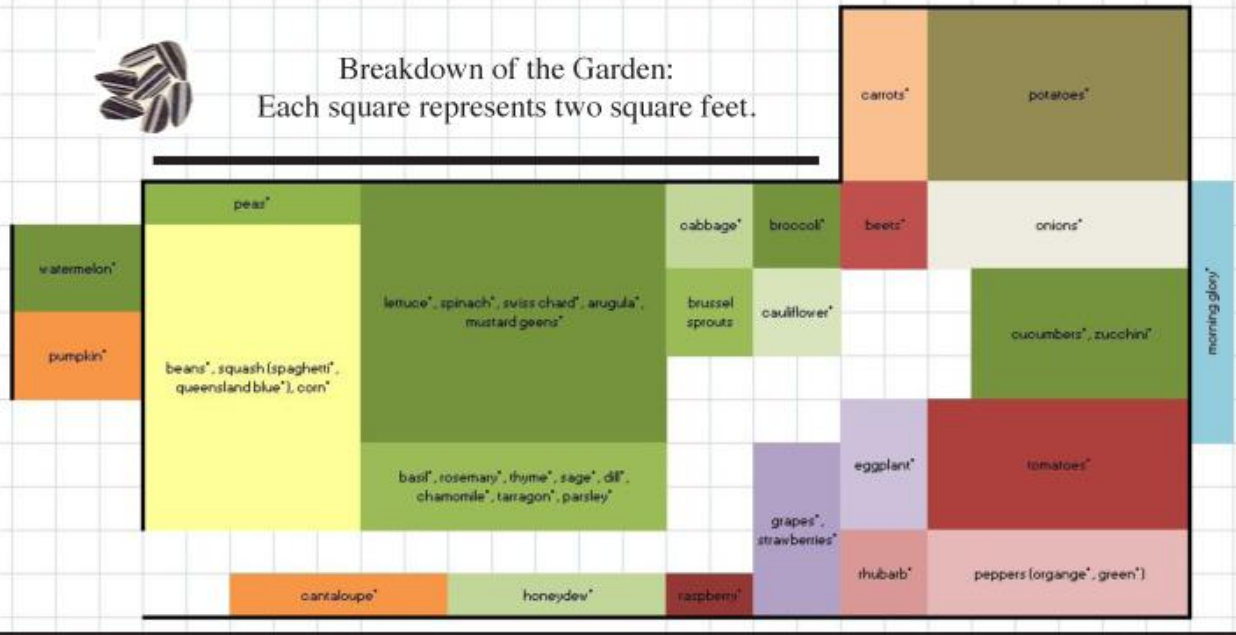
Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012





Breakdown of the Garden:
Each square represents two square feet.



Did you know this isn't the first garden at FHSU? The first on-campus garden was planted in the early 20th century.



Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012





FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S
KANSAS WETLANDS
EDUCATION CENTER

Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012



KWEC GWAs help with WaterLink project

During the Fall 2011, KWEC staff applied and received approval for a WaterLink grant through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment through EPA 319 funds. WaterLink is a service-learning project available to colleges, universities, and community watersheds in Kansas, with the main goal of improving water quality through community/campus partnerships. For the grant, the KWEC designed a research project involving monitoring siltation at Cheyenne Bottoms, with an emphasis on the effects on various wetland organisms. Graduate Wetlands Assistants, Clinton Helms, Katie Talbott, Scott Schmidt, and Brian Zinke, have been charged with carrying out weekly sampling for the project. Sampling involves taking several water quality parameters as well as sampling aquatic invertebrates at the inlet and outlet locations of Cheyenne Bottoms. Using the information provided from sampling, the KWEC will design a program that will be shared with students that come to the KWEC. Additionally, with the funds received, the KWEC was able to purchase numerous pairs of waders and other sampling equipment that will be used by students coming to the KWEC for fieldtrips.



Clint Helms sampling invertebrates

KWEC Research Facility Close to Completion

Since the Kansas Wetlands Center opened in 2009, plans for a bunk house and a research lab facility have been discussed. This spring, these plans have become closer to a reality. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism partnered with FHSU and the KWEC to design and construct this new facility on the grounds of the KWEC. KDWPT was able to secure funding for constructing the facility through Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act funds. Included in the project are 2 "cabins" connected by a screened-in porch. One building is a two-bedroom bunk house with a restroom and kitchenette; the other building will be a research lab. The buildings were constructed off-site at Ellsworth and Hutchinson correctional facilities and transported in and placed on concrete foundations directly east of the main KWEC building. Additionally, the KWEC was granted FHSU Action Plan funds this spring to equip the lab with basic equipment, including a fume hood, a drying oven, storage cabinets, and freezers. Once completed, the labs will be available for use by KWEC Graduate Wetlands Assistants, as well as other researchers at Cheyenne Bottoms. Construction should be completed before the summer.



Scott Schmidt sampling water quality

600 Park Street
Hays, KS 67601

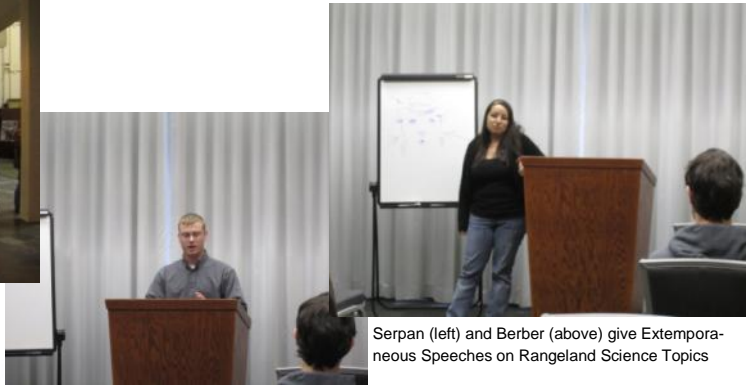
Phone: 785-628-4214

We're on the Web!
www.fhsu.edu/biology

FHSU Rangeland Competitive teams ~ a photo essay



URME Team, Berber, Pettibone and Serpan



Serpan (left) and Berber (above) give Extemporaneous Speeches on Rangeland Science Topics



Undergraduate students Brian Serpan, Stasya Berber and Andrew Pettibone traveled with their coaches, Dr. Jorge LaFantasie and graduate student Jessica Casey to Spokane, WA for the Society for Range Management Annual International Meeting. Students competed in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), Extemporaneous Speaking and Range Plant Identification contests. Pettibone and Serpan gave oral presentations on their research and Casey gave a poster presentation on her previous undergraduate research. The trip was a success!



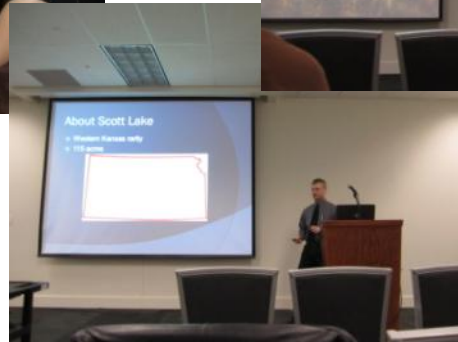
Range Plant Identification Team, Serpan and Berber



Serpan and Berber study plants



Serpan (left) and Pettibone (above) present their research



Biology Department Internship

Jessi Bittel
Spring 2012



Portions of this newsletter were made possible by the FHSU English Writing Intern program. Jessi Bittel served as writing intern to the Department of Biological Sciences during the Spring, 2012 semester.

“Forget the condor, snow leopard, and panda. Pick some little musquash, guib or buzzing thingamajig that nobody thinks about. Adopt it. Care about it. See that it gets what it needs: its food, its space, pure air and good water. Succeed in that and the condor, snow leopard and panda will be ok too.”

John Cody