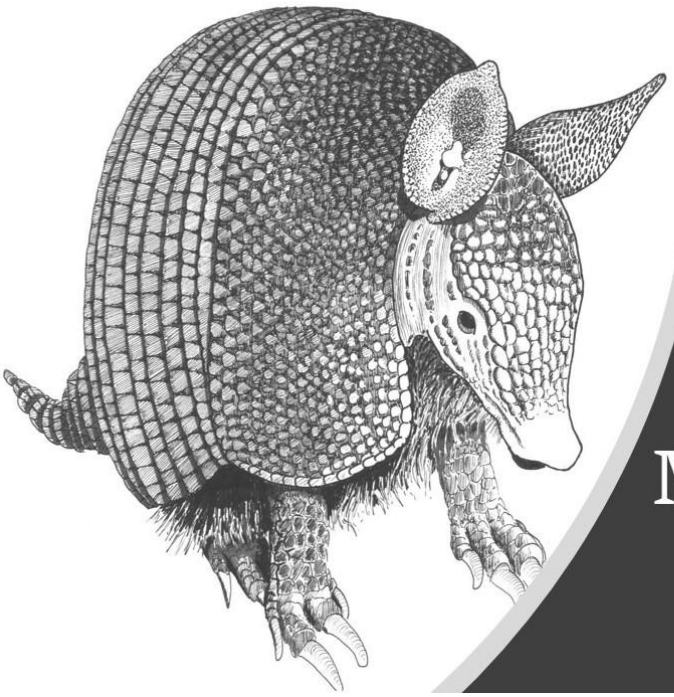

Texas Society of Mammalogists

Newsletter
The 44th Annual Meeting
2026

2026 Guest Speaker

Dr. Michael R. Willig is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut and the Founding Executive Director of the Institute of the Environment. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburg in 1981 and has held faculty appointments at Loyola University, Texas Tech University, and the University of Connecticut. He has been a Division Director with the National Science Foundation and has received over 60 major research grants. Dr. Willig's research is multidisciplinary, quantitative, and addresses important questions in ecology, biogeography, and conservation biology. His research has an evolutionary perspective, and involves manipulative and observational studies, as well as modeling. He is an excellent field biologist. Although he has published on a wide variety of organisms, a major thrust of his research continues to involve terrestrial mammals, and aspects of community ecology, biodiversity, and biogeography, especially in the tropics.

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. A list of Patron members is published on the website 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.

News & Announcements

Students Wanted!

We would like to encourage students to become more actively involved in the society. One of the ways you can do this is to join a committee. Below are the committees that are open for participation. If you are interested in joining a committee, please let us know while you are at the meeting. You also can email TXmammals@gmail.com with the name of the committee(s) you would like to join. We will pass your name along to the committee chair and they will be in touch with you. In addition to committee work, we are looking for volunteers to assist at the meeting every year (e.g., help with registration, etc.). If you are willing to assist at the meeting, please email TXmammals@gmail.com and indicate when you would be available to help and what you would like to do.

Conservation Committee

The role of this Committee is to monitor governmental and other activities that relate to conservation of mammals in Texas; advise officers and membership of the Texas Society of Mammalogists on issues of concern; and respond to the issues via formal resolutions. This Committee is intended to serve as a clearinghouse for information on all aspects of conservation of Texas mammals and to maintain the capacity to respond promptly and effectively in crises.

Ad hoc Auction Committee

The role of this Committee is to request and collect donations, set up and help conduct the live and silent auctions at the meeting, and help collect payments at the end of the auctions. If you are interested in helping, please contact Krysta Demere

Ad hoc Informatics Committee

The role of this Committee is to update and maintain the web and social media presence of the society. TSM currently has Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts.

Website Updates

We continue to work on updating the society website and are seeking requests for information you would like to see included on the site. Please send your suggestions and requests to John Hanson (j.delton.hanson@gmail.com; Editor).

Abilene Christian University

Department of Biology, 1600 Campus Court, Abilene, TX 79699

Tom Lee

Phone: 325-370-4442
Email: leet@acu.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
In 2025, I used my Clark Stevens endowed professorship funds to travel to Ecuador with Bob Dowler. We surveyed the Urraca and Utuana Reserves in southern Loja Province on the border with Peru for mammals.

Furthermore, I conducted research in the lab on sequencing DNA and examining the morphology of members of the genus *Thomasomys* this past summer. The study was on *Thomasomys cinnameus* and *Thomasomys hudsoni* and these data were presented at last year's meeting in TSM 2025 by Cindy Cho.

We are continuing the digitization and cataloging of the Abilene Christian Natural History Collection. With students cataloging and photographing a lot of fossils, marine invertebrates and insects.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

My student Cindy Cho and I are finishing a study on a better characterization of two species of *Thomasomys* using both morphologically and genetics.

My students Lyndsey Klein, Isabella Ortiz de Camargo and Kailey McHenry conducted a camera trapping survey at Abilene State Park in 2025. This project is the seventh camera trapping year for the Abilene State Park. This study is part of the SNAPSHOT camera-trapping program and Wildlife Insights. Furthermore, we tested Gray Fox abundance between the State Park and the City of Abilene as well. These data will be presented at TSM. Data from the camera trapping of Abilene State Park has been combined with national and international studies and published in Ecology and Diversity and Distributions in 2025.

Angelo State University

Department of Biology, San Angelo, TX 76909

Edson F. Abreu

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I am a Brazilian mammalogist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Angelo State University (ASU), where I also serve as Curator of Mammals at the Angelo State Natural History Collections (ASNHC). My research covers a wide range of topics—from investigations of macroevolutionary patterns and processes in globally distributed taxa to analyses of intraspecific genetic and morphological variation—and it spans a variety of disciplines including molecular phylogenetics, historical biogeography, diversification analysis, comparative morphology, and revisionary taxonomy. I am particularly interested in the evolutionary and ecological processes that generated and maintain the extraordinary biodiversity of the Neotropics. My recent efforts have focused on investigating the diversity, phylogenetic relationships, and evolution of tree squirrels using genomic data obtained from historical and modern specimens.

Current Graduate Students and Their Research:

- **Margaret Daun** – Master's student; Rodent diversity in western Amazonia based on Oxford Nanopore DNA barcoding (Spring 2025–present)
- **Ross Vlcek** – Master's student; Diversity and activity patterns of mammals in central Texas grasslands (Fall 2025–present)

Current Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

- **Aramide Oladiran** – Diversity of small mammals along the Purus River in central Brazilian Amazonia based on fieldwork and DNA barcoding (Undergraduate Research, Fall 2024–present)

Additional Information: I am currently seeking a student to join the Master's Program in Biology at ASU in Fall 2026 to work on an NSF-funded project. The student will conduct research under the project "BRC-BIO Marajó: the origin and evolution of vertebrate diversity in the planet's largest fluvial Island". The student will be fully supported for two years: the first year through the NSF grant and the second year (pending satisfactory performance during the first year) though a Graduate Assistantship provided by the Department of Biology.

Loren K. Ammerman

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Web page: www.angelo.edu/content/profiles/75-loren-k-ammerman

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I am interested in bats and other mammals. I work with students to use molecular data to reconstruct evolutionary relationships of organisms, to investigate genetic diversity, and to understand diet. I also am interested in distribution, community structure, and the ecology of bats, especially in Texas. Most recently I have been monitoring seasonal roost use, movements, and colony size fluctuation of *Leptonycteris nivalis* in Big Bend National Park. See my ResearchGate profile https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Loren-Ammerman for recent publications.

Current Graduate Students and Their Research:

- **Kennedy Berry** – MS thesis student, Bat communities across three west Texas mountain ranges using mobile acoustic surveys (Graduate Assistant, Fall 2023 – present)
- **Kate Bonfield** – MS thesis student, Community structure, reproductive timing, and dietary overlap of bat species at a desert maternity roost (Graduate Assistant, Fall 2025-present)
- **Delaney Oates** – MS thesis student, Molecular diet analysis of *Myotis volans* in the Davis Mountains (Graduate Research Fellow, Fall 2025 -present)

Current Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

- **Daniela Childress** – Genetic variation and phylogeography of *Eumops perotis* (Western Mastiff Bat (Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Research, Fall 2025-present)
- **Lela Faison** – Exploring a nuclear barcode to distinguish *Myotis californicus, M. ciliolabrum,* and *M. leibii*) (Undergraduate Research, Fall 2025-present)

Additional Information: The Angelo State Natural History Collection has over 21,000 mammal specimens and over 35,000 tissue specimens. The collection is searchable via Arctos at https://www.angelo.edu/dept/asnhc/collections.php and on VertNet and GBIF. You can contact me or our Collection Manager, Rose Wilhoyt (rose.wilhoyt@angelo.edu), if you have any questions about the collection.

Robert C. Dowler (Retired)

Phone: 325-486-6639
Email: robert.dowler@angelo.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My research interests in retirement continue to be on spatial ecology of skunks in Texas. I am currently finishing up projects with Clint Perkins and Richard Stevens on the plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale interrupta*) in Texas, as well as assessing the status of hooded skunks (*Mephitis macroura*) in Trans-Pecos Texas. I continue to have interest in all skunk species in Texas, porcupine dermatophytosis, and the conservation biology and systematics of Galapagos endemic rodents.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- J. Clint Perkins, former M.S. student, is now a Ph.D. student at Texas Tech University working on the spatial ecology of populations of plains spotted skunks at the Katy Prairie. I am co-advisor with Dr. Richard Stevens at TTU.

Baylor University

Department of Biology, Waco, TX 76798

Kenneth T. Wilkins (Retired)

Phone: (254) 709-7211
Email: ken_wilkins@baylor.edu

After 39 years on the faculty at Baylor University, including 24 years in administration, I have retired. We have taken the Oregon Trail to the Pacific Northwest. We now live in Bend, a vibrant community situated in an ecotone spanning the Ponderosa forest of the lower slopes of the Cascade Range to the juniper scrub of the High Desert at the western extent of the Great Basin. The book written by fellow mammalogists BJ Verts and Leslie Carraway is a tremendous guide to landforms, flora and the mammals of Oregon!

Of interest to Texas mammalogists is that the Department of Biology mammal collection has been transferred to a location on the Baylor campus that should ensure its care in perpetuity and its availability to researchers. The collection is now housed in Mayborn Museum, a larger museum complex that incorporates the former Strecker Museum.

A teaching collection remains with the Department of Biology, but the research caliber materials transferred to Mayborn Museum. The research collection comprises c. 2,000 specimens (predominantly skin & skull preparations of rodents and bats) mainly from Texas. The specimens represent vouchers from an array of projects: surveys on Texas Parks & Wildlife properties (Fort Parker State Park, Lake Fairfield State Park, Hill Country State Natural Area), population and community studies on Texas Nature Conservancy properties (Clymer Meadow, Leonhardt

Prairie), and numerous master's theses and doctoral dissertations conducted at these and other locations. There are a few specimens from Mexico, collected in association with teaching and research at Chapala Ecology Station in Jalisco from 1992 through 2001. Inquiries related to the collection should be directed to Ms. Anita Benedict, Collections Manager at Mayborn Museum.

Cameron University

Lawton, OK 73505

Dana N. Lee

Phone: 580-591-8009
Email: dalee@cameron.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I primarily study bats and am interested in all aspects of their ecology, genetics, and evolutionary relationships; although, I use molecular biology tools to study the genetic variation of other wildlife populations. Undergraduate students in my lab are currently working to determine the diet of the ghost-faced bat and the pallid pat using molecular analysis. We are also screening bats for adenoviruses and microplastics.

Centenary College of Louisiana

2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71104

Scott Chirhart

Phone: 318-869-5209
Email: schirhar@centenary.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Evolutionary Biology, including: Evolutionary/Population Genetics, Vertebrate Speciation and Systematics, Molecular Variation

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Dept. of Vertebrate Zoology, 5555 Herman Park Dr., Houston, TX 77030-1799

Dan Brooks

Phone: 713-639-4776
Email: dbrooks@hmns.org
Web page URL: www.hmns.org/exhibits/curators

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Although I do quite a bit of work with birds, research interests in mammalogy span a variety of topics including community and behavioral ecology, biogeography and taxonomy, harvest patterns, natural history, and conservation. I am particularly interested in Neotropical species in lowland regions east of the South American Andes (especially the Peruvian Amazon, Paraguayan Chaco, and eastern Bolivia). Additional regions of coverage include Texas, Middle America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and more recently Southeast Asia.

Current mammalogy projects:

Exhibits:

- Our division created a 'minimalist' Arctic wildlife diorama for the Extreme Animals Alive exhibit (May 2025 – Sept 2026), which features several species of Arctic mammals.
- Farish Hall of Texas Wildlife was given a minor face lift, repairing broken habitat, removing large out of reach dust blotches, and repositioning several specimens. Additionally, with the help of our Media graphics Department, several culturally-specific "Camera in Use" signs were installed, which seem to be helping to reduce vandalism in this open exhibit.
- The African House bat (*Scotophilus*) kiosk in the Frensley-Graham Hall of African Wildlife was given a face-lift update.

Research:

- The Houston Urban Wildlife Project (HUWP) features a section on urban mammal projects that we're involved in (www.hmns.org/huwp).
- Our division has initiated a long-term project surveying large mammals with camera-traps throughout the Katy prairie (Waller Co.), with hopes of determining status of Eastern Spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) in that region; essentially picking up where the Dowler-Stevens teams left off.

Publications:

- Tim McSweeny and I published a manuscript with Buffalo Bayou Partnership inventorying mammals through film bytes of camera traps, with accounts on specific natural history information: https://blog.hmns.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/BuffaloBayou_Eprint.pdf.

- Tim McSweeny and I are working on a manuscript regarding county records of mammals in Texas.
- Tim McSweeny is also taking the lead on getting all of our collection records on-line for public access. As most of you know this is very much a 'Hurry up and wait!' process.

Presentations:

- Tim McSweeny gave a well-received presentation on the Buffalo Bayou Mammal study at the Texas Biodiversity Symposium 2025 at Rice University (through Rice Institute).
- A presentation on the Houston Urban Wildlife Project was given at the 'Pint-sized Science' series. It was heartening that citizens of Houston had so much interest in this topic, a room had to be added at the last minute to accommodate the standing room only attendees.

Additional Information: The primary driver of the Houston Museum of Natural Science is Education, including outreach. We educate every 4th and 7th grader in the Houston Independent School District annually (approx. 700,000 students/yr), have nearly 2.5 million individuals come through the doors per year. We are also the 4th highest attended museum in the country (surpassed only by Smithsonian, AMNH, and the MOMA) and are the highest attended US museum west of the Mississippi river. Every year I tour college-level classes through our permanent wildlife exhibit halls. If you have any interest in coming for a visit just touch base directly!

Interquest Environmental Consultants

Ray E. Willis

Phone: 806-787-0283
Email: raywillis.interquest@gmail.com

InterQuest
Environmental Consultants

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Private Wildlife Contracts and Surveys. After spending thirteen years in academia, I decided to switch my focus to private wildlife contracts with an emphasis on surveys for business and large ranches. Additionally, I provide solutions for urban wildlife problems and land management for newly developed rural neighborhoods. I am expecting to expand in the future and will need qualified vertebrate biologists for potential subcontracting opportunities.

Midwestern State University

Department of Biology, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Joel G. Brant

Phone: 940-397-4408
Email: joel.brant@msutexas.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My research interests are primarily concerned with the natural history of mammals, particularly in Texas and the Chihuahuan Desert. My current research program focuses on the natural history & ecology of mammals in the Southern Rolling Plains and Chihuahuan Desert. Having recently moved to Midwestern State University, I am still setting up my research projects. I plan to continue exploring the mammal populations in North-Central Texas. MSU operates the Dalquest Desert Research Station, adjacent to Big Bend Ranch State Park, in the Chihuahuan Desert and several of my planned project focus on this resource. Midwestern State University has a long history of training mammalogists in Texas. I hope to continue the legacy.

Purdue University

West Lafayette, IN

J. Andrew DeWoody

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Email: dewoody@purdue.edu
Web page: https://web.ics.purdue.edu/~dewoody/DeWoody/wordpress/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Evolutionary genetics and genomics; molecular ecology and evolution; natural history; conservation biology; wildlife and fisheries management. Our research occurs at the intersection of ecology, evolution, conservation, and genomics. Ongoing or recent projects have centered on the distribution of genomic diversity in threatened or endangered (T&E) fishes, herps, birds, and a variety of mammals including marsupials, rodents, and cetaceans.

Graduate Students and Their Research:
My graduate students and postdocs work on a variety of questions in ecology and evolution, including important conservation issues related to T&E species (e.g., gray whale population structure). Students matriculate through either the Biology program or a Wildlife program.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
My undergraduates are all mentored by graduate students or postdocs. Most start as "assistants," but the best students develop their own research projects.

Additional Information:
I am always looking for bright, motivated students so please contact me if you are interested in an immersive experience at a top-notch graduate school. See my webpage for more details.

Tarleton State University

Department of Biological Sciences, Stephenville, TX 76402

Jenna R. Grimshaw

Phone: 254-968-9158
Email: jgrimshaw@tarleton.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My main research interest is analyzing transposable elements (TEs) in mammalian genomes from a macroecological perspective. As TEs vary in diversity and distribution within and among genomes, TEs may behave similarly as species in ecological communities. Therefore, common macroecological analyses such as species abundance distributions and co-occurrence analyses may provide insights on how TEs interact with each other and their genomic environment. My other research interest is in bat population genetics, especially *Myotis septentrionalis*.

Recent Publications:
Grimshaw, JR., Donner, D., Perry, R., Ford, W.M., Silvis, A., Garcia, C.J., Stevens, R.D., and Ray, D.A. (2024). Disentangling genetic diversity of *Myotis septentrionalis*: population structure, demographic history, and effective population size. Journal of Mammalogy, 105(4): 854-864.

Russell S. Pfau

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Web page: faculty.tarleton.edu/pfau/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My main research focus is population and evolutionary genetics—often with a focus on conservation biology. Small mammals have been the primary subject of my research, but my taxonomic coverage has recently included spiders, crustaceans, fish, plants, frogs, insects. Ongoing projects include:

- Documentation and assessment of contact zones between *Geomys bursarius* and *G. breviceps* in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas

- Population genetics and soil-type correlations of *Geomys texensis*.
- Distribution of shrews (*Blarina*) in the southern Great Plains region using mtDNA sequencing (for identification) and morphometric analysis to examine geographical patterns of variation
- Species status of two bumblebees in Texas
- Phylogenetics and species discovery among Texas anemones (windflowers)
- Conservation genetics of the crawfish frog
- Whether two bumblebee species are reproductively isolated
- Description of new species of wolf spiders

Recent publications:

- Beckham, J. L., Johnson, J. A., & Pfau, R. S. (2024). Molecular data support *Bombus sonorus* and *Bombus pensylvanicus* (Hymenoptera, Apidae) as distinct species. Journal of Hymenoptera Research, *97*, 895-914.
- Pfau, R. S., Kozora, A. N., Gatica-Colima, A. B., & Sudman, P. D. (2023). Population genetic structure of a Chihuahuan Desert endemic mammal, the desert pocket gopher, *Geomys arenarius*. Ecology and Evolution, 13(10), e10576.

Philip D. Sudman (Retired)

Phone: 254-967-5220 (cell)
Email: pdsudman@gmail.com

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

After retiring in 2024, I have been busy chasing our dogs, golfing, fishing, camping and brewing beer. I remain active as Secretary-Treasurer and Trustee of the American Society of Mammalogists, and I hope to spend time over the next several months compiling data from past research and submitting a few mammal-related notes. I am also hopeful that I will be able to continue working with Tarleton's study abroad program – the past three summers I have spent several weeks with students trapping small mammals in the central Kalahari of Botswana (elephant shrews, gerbils, fat mice, pouched mice and rock rats to name a few). It has been a great way to end my career, and I am always game to learn new things!

Texas A&M University-College Station

Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843

Thomas E. Lacher, Jr. (Professor Emeritus)

Phone: 979-255-6131
Email: tlacher@tamu.edu
Web page (*not recently updated*):
https://biodiversitylabtamu.wordpress.com/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Ecology and conservation of macaw species in Peru; livestock, Mammalian biodiversity, and local communities in Huascaran National Park in Peru; Transboundary conservation of bats and agaves in the Texas and northern Mexico; Acoustic biology of nectar-feeding bats in northern Mexico; Models of white-nose transmission in bats in Texas and Mexico; Payment for ecosystem services and mammalian conservation on a landscape matrix in Costa Rica; Spatial ecology of sloths in Costa Rica; Fragmentation and mammalian biodiversity in Costa Rica; Population and community ecology of bats in the southern Brazilian Atlantic Forest; Cacao plantations and marmoset ecology in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest; Climate change and land-use impacts on amphibians in Colombia; Assessment and monitoring of globally threatened species of Rodentia, Eulipotyphla, and Scandentia.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Jessica Gilbert, Ph.D. The impacts and dynamics of the socio-ecological system of livestock grazing on biodiversity in the Huascaran Biosphere Reserve. Major Advisor.

Additional Information:

- Recipient of the Aldo Leopold Award from the American Society of Mammalogists
- Co-Chair IUCN Small Mammal Specialist Group
- Member, IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group
- Associate Conservation Scientist, Re:wild, Austin, Texas
- Co-Editor, Volumes 6 and 7, Handbook of the Mammals of the World and Volumes 1 and 2 of the Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World

Jessica Light

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Web page: https://lightjessica.weebly.com/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I am an evolutionary biologist with a focus on phylogenetic, population genetic, and ecological interactions between parasites and their hosts. To address these broad research interests, I employ a variety of tools such as molecular (multiple genes, population genetic loci, or genomic data) and morphological data from field-collected and museum specimens. My lab is recently or currently funded by the National Science Foundation on three separate projects: 1) Mid-career OPUS to study *Peromyscus* systematics; 2) Collaborative research exploring sucking louse phylogenetics and genomic and morphological selection; and 3) Thematic Collections Network to digitize mammal trait data from western North America.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Ayomiposi Abraham is a 4th-year Ph.D. student interested in host-parasite associations, particularly those between pocket gophers and their chewing lice.
- Oluwaseun David Ajileye is a 4th-year Ph.D. student interested in disease ecology, and tick and filarial worm associations.
- Brady Craft is a 4th-year M.S. student pursuing cranial morphology evolution in *Peromyscus* for her thesis research.
- Haley Ellis is a 4th-year M.S. student pursuing limb morphology evolution in *Peromyscus* for her thesis research.
- Ali Lira is a 5th-year Ph.D. student interested in Neotropical bat flies, bats, and host-parasite coevolution.
- Grace Martindale is a 2nd-year M.S. student interested in *Peromyscus* external trait morphological evolution.

Undergraduate Researchers:
Undergraduate researchers routinely assist with ongoing projects in the lab, as well as conduct their own projects. Numbers of students for the past 3 semesters are as follows: 7 during Summer 2025, 11 during Fall 2025, and 8 for Spring 2026.

Staff and Technicians:

- Heather Prestridge is the lead collections manager of mammals at the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections
- Danielle Dillard is investigating interactions between the giant kangaroo rat and a trombiculid mite. She also is interested in porcupine range expansions, lice parasitizing pocket gophers, and several other projects ongoing in the Light lab.

Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections:
The mammal division in the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (http://brtc.tamu.edu) currently has over 68,500 specimens. Our data are available online through VertNet, iDigBio, and GBIF. The collections are currently staffed by Heather Prestridge, with the help of several volunteers and research interns.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Department Life Sciences, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Dara Orbach

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Research Interests and Projects:
My research interests are the functional anatomy and behavioral ecology of marine mammals. My lab explores the evolutionary drivers of diverse genital morphology and coevolution between the sexes, health of dolphins, and population biology of local dolphins. My lab is particularly interested in how anthropogenic disturbances (e.g., vessel traffic, fishing interactions, contaminants) alter dolphin behavior, habitat use, and physiology. We use a variety of field-based techniques (e.g., photo-identification, theodolite tracking, unoccupied aerial systems, remote biopsy, passive acoustic monitoring) and laboratory tools (computer-assisted sperm analysis, geometric morphometrics, mass spectrometry) to advance science.

Postdoc Research:

- Lorenzo Fiori, Ph.D. Microbiome of marine mammals; body condition of bottlenose dolphins in different foraging contexts.

Graduate Student Research:

- Makayla Guinn, Ph.D. student. Metabolomics, contaminants, and isotopes in bottlenose dolphins

Jonah Smith, M.S. student. Dolphin interactions with fisheries in the Texas Coastal Bend

Undergraduate Student Research:

- Madison Hallmark, Honors student. Heavy metal contaminants in bottlenose dolphins
- Soleil Delorge, LSAMP student. Swim tourism impacts on common dolphin swimming
- Taylor Rausch, Honors student. Population estimates, residence, and site fidelity of bottlenose dolphins in South Texas
- Aiden Adapathya, Honors student. Social network analyses of bottlenose dolphins in South Texas
- Logan Younger, Honors student. Dolphin preferences among swimmers during swim-with-dolphin interactions

Additional Information:

- I have supervised > 140 undergraduate students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines and serve as a faculty mentor to four professional organizations
- I do extensive public outreach that highlights the historic gender bias in the field of genital evolution

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Feline Research Program, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute

Michael Tewes

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Email: michael.tewes@tamuk.edu
Web page: https://www.wild-cat-team.com/
https://www.ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/feline-research-program

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
Small cats – ocelot, bobcat, jaguarundi, mountain lion, margay, clouded leopard, leopard cat, marbled cat, fishing cat
Field biology, population ecology, spatial ecology, behavior, conservation, genomics.

Personnel and Their Research:

- Dr. Emma Brookover- Population genomics of bobcat and ocelot (collaboration with TxDOT)
- Rupesh Maharjan, MS, Doctoral Student- Spatial, temporal, and landscape ecology of bobcats and other wildlife, ecology of vehicle collisions, road ecology (collaboration with TxDOT)
- Sean Kiernan, master's student- Impacts of roads on bobcat and ocelot movements, targeted camera sampling for wild cat monitoring (collaboration with TxDOT)
- Jack Towson, master's student- Characterizing the genomic link to road-crossing success in ocelot and bobcat, patterns of population structure and gene flow in fragmented environments (collaboration with TxDOT)
- Spencer Ferguson, Masters Student and Research Technician- Wild cat behavior, bobcat and canid intraguild competition at wildlife crossings in South Texas (collaboration with TxDOT)
- Two Research Associates-Elizabeth Grunwald and Terry Hanzak, three Research Technicians-Tom Langschied, Spencer Ferguson, and Ed Underbrink, and seven Undergraduate Research Assistants-Zachary Chairez, Paige Dorsey, Joelysa Garcia, Elena Gonzales, Denay Hernandez, Emma McMillian, and Hunter Vasquez, working on various small wild cat research projects

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

District 1 Diversity Biologist, Alpine, TX 79830

Krysta D. Demere
Phone: 432-244-9945
Email: Krysta.demere@tpwd.texas.gov

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
As a Diversity Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, I supervise non-game research projects, provide technical guidance to private landowners regarding management and effective conservation actions for rare and threatened species, conduct outreach programs for landowners and the public, and conduct surveys for nongame species across the ~25 million acres that encompass the 16 counties of the Trans-Pecos Wildlife District. My efforts within the discipline of mammalogy for the past year have primarily focused on compiling a comprehensive database for historical and recent black bear observations, establishing a genetic tissue collection for black bear samples retrieved within west Texas, monitoring overwintering western bat species for the presence of Pd and potential development of white-nose syndrome, and investigating disease outbreaks in local lagomorphs. I have had the honor of serving as the official artist for TSM since 2018 and look forward to representing the society each year.

Texas State University

Department of Biology, San Marcos, TX 78666

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http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ivan_Castro-Arellano

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I use my background and training as an ecologist to address questions to understand the ecology of zoonotic diseases and invasive species. Because mammals are natural reservoirs for many zoonotic diseases, most of my work has been devoted to this taxonomic group, especially rodents and bats. Beyond my interest in disease ecology, I also have done research on theoretical aspects of community ecology, specifically on the analysis of assemblage-wide temporal niche overlap and elements of metacommunity structure. I address these questions using a variety of approaches that include modelling, null models, and analyses of both published and empirical data generated at my lab. Although my research interests are wide, they are intertwined and my

goal is to integrate the study of community level dynamics in mammalian hosts to understand the dynamics of pathogen transmission.

Current Projects:
Although I have worked on multiple research topics and new ones develop based on new collaborations, I currently have three main lines of research at my lab:

1) Ecology and evolution of activity patterns. Using publicly available large databases and fieldwork, my lab addresses multiple questions related to the ecological determinants of activity patterns and how this information can be used to understand the structure of mammalian assemblages worldwide. Another topic within this line is how anthropogenic changes can affect mammalian activity patterns and the implications for the ecology of these species.
2) Host-vector ecology of *Ornithodoros turicata* in Central Texas. The ecology of soft ticks is a little known despite these tick species being vectors of zoonotic pathogens. At my lab, we are trying to ascertain which wild mammals serve the role of reservoirs for the pathogens vectored by these ticks and what role these have to disperse ticks among sites.
3) Ecology of TX Kangaroo rat. With funding from TPWD and USFWS and in collaboration with Dr. Joe Veech (Texas State University), we have worked on different questions related to the ecology and conservation of this rodent species endemic to TX. This species is currently being considered for ESA listing, and the generation of new knowledge is focused on the management for the conservation of this species.

Graduate Students and Their Research:
Current and recent graduate students

- Stoneham, Margaret (M.Sc. 2022). Temporal overlap among common mesocarnivores throughout the neotropics.
- Bergmanson, Stephanie (M.Sc. 2022). Comparison of Tapir species activity patterns across multiple sites in the neotropics.
- Reagan, Cassidy (M.Sc.). Elements of Metacommunity Structure for Bat Assemblages Across Elevational Gradients Worldwide.
- Ramirez, Rosa (M.Sc.). Integrating Host Community Ecology into the Disease Ecology of a Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever Vector.

I AM CURRENTLY SEEKING WELL QUALIFIED MS AND PhD STUDENTS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THE TOPICS WE DO RESEARCH AT MY LAB. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT MY EMAIL IF INTERESTED.

Select past students

- Matt Milholland (PhD. 2017). Matt's dissertation work was centered around the ecological correlates for hantavirus seroprevalence at different spatial scales.
- Sara Weaver (PhD. 2019). Sara worked on the effects wind energy production has on populations of bats at wind farm in south Texas.
- Madison Torres (M.Sc.). Madison's thesis was on the home range dynamics of the invasive Small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes aeropunctatus*) in Puerto Rico.

- Kathryn Michelle Benavidez (M.Sc. 2016). Michelle's research was also in Puerto Rico and centered on the potential role of mongooses and commensal rodents as reservoirs of *Leptospira*, a zoonotic pathogen that has human health concern.
- Bradford Westrich (M.Sc.). Brad's work was related to a NIH-funded grant centered about the population genetic dynamics and vector ecology of *Ixodes scapularis*. His thesis centered on the role of small and meso-mammals as hosts for this tick in eastern Texas.

Leila Siciliano-Martina

Email: sicilia77@txstate.edu
Webpage: https://leilamartina.weebly.com/

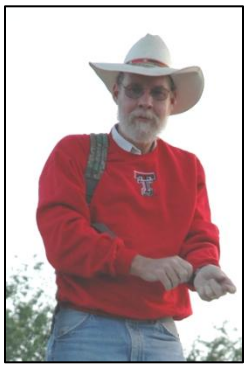
Research Interests, Projects:
My lab is focused on the relationship between animal traits and environmental conditions, particularly the ways in which human-modified systems (e.g., captivity, urbanization) can influence organismal performance and phenotype. We explore functional traits (related to dietary, locomotor, physiological, and behavioral function) at the population and community-level to understand baseline trait-environment relationships as well as the ways in which traits can be modified by disturbances, and what this can tell us about species ecology, evolution, and conservation. We assess these topics using a combination of morphological size and shape analyses (e.g., traditional and geometric morphometric techniques), spatial analyses, and ecological modeling.

Graduate Students and their research:

- **Alyssa Arguijo** – MS thesis student – Spring 2024 to present – Morphological differentiation of red wolves (*Canis rufus*) in captivity.
- **Scott Spencer** – MS thesis student – Fall 2025 to present – Captive Mexican gray wolf forelimb bone density and locomotor stereotypies.
- **Kennedy Wood** – MS thesis student – Fall 2025 to present – Forelimb differentiation and bone density in kangaroo rat species.
- **Sarah Klyn** – MS thesis student – Spring 2026 to present – Growth rates and reproductive seasonality of invasive suckermouth armored catfish.
- **Matt Bushell** – Ph.D. student – Fall 2024 to present – Evolution of hypercarnivorous trait morphology in carnivorans.

Texas Tech University

Department of Biological Sciences, and Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409



Robert D. Bradley

Phone: 806-834-1303
Email: robert.bradley@ttu.edu
Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences,
Director Emeritus of the Natural Science Research Laboratory,
Curator Emeritus of Mammals, and
Special Assistant to the President, Texas Tech University, Webpage:
https://www.depts.ttu.edu/biology/people/Faculty/Bradley/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

Although I recently retired, I am continuing my research interests in: systematic relationships, molecular evolution, genomics, and natural history of mammals, particularly in the cricetid and geomyid rodents; determining the genetic basis for adaptation in *Peromyscus*; examination of hybrid zones between genetically distinct taxa; understanding isolating mechanisms and the dynamics of genetic introgression; exploring the utility and application of the Genetic Species Concept; 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; various wildlife diseases such as chronic waste disease in deer, pneumonia in bighorn sheep, modeling predictions associated with epidemiology and the impacts of climate change; diets, genetics, and conservation of Texas Black Bears and Mt. Lions, and growth and utilization of natural history collections, especially those pertaining to mammals.

Current Projects:

- Systematics of the genus *Peromyscus*
- Use of genomic methods to investigate speciation and adaptation in *Peromyscus*
- Effects of the zonadhesin gene in speciation of mammals
- Hybridization between white-tailed and mule deer
- Detection methods of Chronic Wasting Disease in cervids
- Genetics of transplanted populations of bighorn sheep in Texas
- Phylogenetic relationships of Neotomine and Reithrodontomyine rodents
- Systematic and genome studies of the genus *Cratogeomys*, *Geomys*, and *Thomomys*
- Ecology of hanta- and arenaviruses in the southwestern US and Mexico
- Morphology, landscape genomics and effective population size of the Palo Duro Mouse, *Peromyscus truei comanche*
- NSF funded project “A Partnership to Facilitate Scientific Inquiry into the Vast Functional Trait Diversity of Phyllostomid Bats” (Richard Stevens – project PI)
- Use of next-gen methods for detecting zoonoses
- Detection of novel viruses in *Sylvilagus* using metagenomic methods
- Detection of pneumonia in bighorn and aoudad in Texas

- Illustrated key to the Mammals of Texas (David J. Schmidly, Lisa Bradley, Robert Dowler, Jim Goetze, Richard Manning, Frank Yancey, and Katelyn Albrecht Co-PIs)
- Detection of prion disease genes across Mammalia

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Joanna Bateman (PhD candidate) is in her 8th year and is using genomic methods to determine speciation and evolutionary processes in heteromyid rodents.
- Katelyn Albrecht (MS student – but transitioning to a PhD student) is in her 4th year and is co-advised by Dr. Richard Stevens. Katelyn is using 3D scans of bats to learn more about wing variation in Phyllostomids.
- Sufia Akter Neha (PhD student) is in her 4th year. Her research project will involve microbiome analyses of bear and mountain lions.
- Emily Schmalzried (MS student) is in her 3nd year. Her thesis will involve next-gen methods for detecting zoonoses.
- Brendan Amman (MS student) is in his 2nd year.
- Jacob Machett (MS student) is in his 1st year.

Graduated Students:

Macy Krishnamoorthy, co-chaired by Dr. Richard Stevens, finished her PhD this year. Macy examined bat feeding and pollination impacts on baobab trees, and other bat questions. Macy is a Research Associate at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Research and Collections, Mammal Unit, Raleigh, NC 27601.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

- Last year, 1 undergraduate student worked in the research lab.

Of interest to TSM members

- In 2025, a comprehensive list of type localities for Texas Mammals was published: Schmidly, David J., and Robert D. Bradley. 2025. Type localities of Texas' native terrestrial mammals with comments on the taxonomic status and distribution of species and subspecies. Special Publications, Museum of Texas Tech University 82:1-46.
- In the Summer of 2024, the updated checklist for Texas Mammals was published. Schmidly, David J., Robert D. Bradley, Franklin D. Yancey, II, and Lisa C. Bradley. Comprehensive Annotated Checklist of Recent Land and Marine Mammals of Texas, 2024, with Comments on their Taxonomic and Conservation Status. Special Publications, Museum of Texas Tech University 80:1-76.
- In the Summer of 2023, a catalog of Texas vertebrates was published. Schmidly, David J., Bradley, Robert D., Lisa C. Bradley, and Franklin D. Yancey II (editors). Taxonomic catalogs for the recent terrestrial vertebrates (species and subspecies) described from Texas. 2023. Special Publications, Museum of Texas Tech University 77:iii+1-385.
- In the Summer of 2022, *Texas Natural History in the Twenty-first Century*, by David J. Schmidly, Robert D. Bradley, and Lisa C. Bradley was published by Texas Tech University Press. This book provides an updated synopsis of Texas natural history. In this version, an effort was made to include information for amphibians, reptiles, and birds as obtained by members of the Bureau of Biological Survey. In addition, the information for mammals was updated and expanded.

- In the Fall of 2019, the Memorial Volume for the Dr. Robert J. Baker was completed and provides a synthesis of the career of one of the most ardent supporters of TSM. It is available on the NSRL website and is cited as follows: Bradley, Robert D., Hugh H. Genoways, David J. Schmidly, and Lisa C. Bradley. 2019. Overture. Pp. v-ix in From field to laboratory: A memorial volume in honor of Robert J. Baker (R. D. Bradley, H. H. Genoways, D. J. Schmidly, and L. C. Bradley, eds.). Special Publications, Museum of Texas Tech University 71:xi+1-911.
- In 2019, Dr. Robert Dowler and I were invited to write a summary of North American Mammalogical Research for the Centennial Issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*. This manuscript (see below) provides useful information for students and faculty who are interested in the history of mammalian research methods. Bradley, Robert D., and Robert C. Dowler. 2019. A century of mammal research: changes in research paradigms and emphases. Journal of Mammalogy, Centennial Issue 100:719-732.
- In 2017, David Schmidly led an effort to publish a timeline of important events in North American Mammalogy; this effort resulted in the manuscript (see below) that provides useful information for students (think qualifying exams), faculty, and historians. Schmidly, David J., Robert D. Bradley, Lisa C. Bradley, and Richard D. Stevens. 2017. A timeline of significant events in the development of North American mammalogy. Special Publications, Museum of Texas Tech University, 66:1-37.

Caleb D. Phillips

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
The Phillips laboratory studies metagenomes and genomes and their interaction.

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Khalid Omeir (PhD student): Microbiome-transcriptome-wide association of bacteria in chronic wounds
- Jacob Ancira (PhD student): Structural equation modeling to predict wound healing time based on wound microbial composition
- Sufia Akter Neha (PhD student, co-advised with Robert Bradley): Microbiomes of black bears and other mammals.

Additional Information:
My teaching responsibilities include Bioinformatics I and Bioinformatics II. I am also Curator of Genetic Resources, and Interim Assistant Director at the Natural Science Research Laboratory.

Richard D. Stevens

Department of Natural Resources Management, Lubbock TX 79409
Phone: 806-834-6843
Email: richard.stevens@ttu.edu
Web page URL: https://richardstevens29.wixsite.com/my-site

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

- Patterns of biodiversity of New World bats.
- Conservation of Atlantic Forest bat communities.
- Metacommunity structure of rodents of the Mojave Desert.
- Dispersal and metapopulation dynamics of Texas Kangaroo rats.
- Use of Highway Structures by Bats in the Trans-Pecos and East Texas.
- Trans-Pecos bat community structure

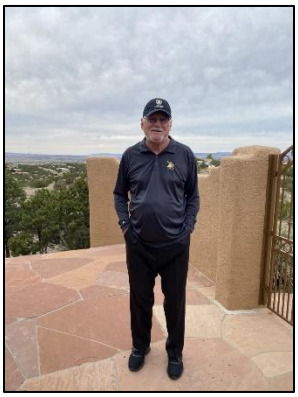
Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Garret Langlois was a Ph.D. student working on the roosting ecology and behavioral network structure of great fruit-eating bats (*Artibeus lituratus*) in Atlantic Forest of Paraguay. Garret has graduated and currently works for the Lubbock Arts & Intersections Research (LAIR) group.
- John Stuhler—John is a Ph.D. student that completed his M.S. at the University of Wisconsin. He is interested in the ecology/conservation biology of Texas kangaroo rats and is conducting an intensive study of habitat preferences. He is also interested in large-scale diversity patterns in heteromyid rodents. He is currently the Collections Manager of Mammals at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Museum of Zoology.
- Jenna Grimshaw is a Ph.D. student co-advised by David Ray and me. She earned an M.S. at Tarleton State University studying patterns of phylogenetic diversity of Mexican bats. Her current research is to identify patterns of genetic structure in three species of critically-imperiled Louisiana bats: *Myotis austroriparius*, *M. septentrionalis*, and *Eptesicus fuscus*. More specifically, she aims to determine if each of these three species comprise a single population or multiple genetic subpopulations with little gene flow. She is also interested in the distribution of transposable elements among mammalian genomes from a genomic ecological perspective. She is currently a Visiting Instructor at Tarleton State University.
- Holly Wilson—Holly is a Ph.D. student earned her M.S. from Fort Hays State University under Elmer Birney. She is interested in how bats use highway structures as day-roosts in the Trans-Pecos of Texas.
- Clint Perkins—Clint is a Ph.D. student who recently earned his M.S. from Angelo State University under Bob Dowler. His project revolves around population and spatial ecology of the plains spotted skunk, *Spilogale putorius interrupta*.
- Macy Madden—Macy is a Ph.D. student co-advised by Robert Bradley and me. She is interested in plant-pollinator interactions between baobab trees and *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and *Epomophorus* species in South Africa and Kenya.
- Angela Alviz—Angela is a Ph.D. student who received her M.S. in Biology from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Angela is interested in Tapir metapopulation dynamics in Colombia.

- Emma Sanchez was recruited into the lab to do her M.S. on use of culverts as day roosts by bats in east Texas. She graduated and is currently working for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
- Amanda Newman joined the lab as a M.S. stuent last year after completing her B.S. at TTU. She is interested in how bats use highway right-of-ways as habitat.
- Jayme Czap also joined the lab last year after completing her B.S. at TTU and is working on her M.S. She is interested in how bats select bridges as day roosts in east Texas.
- Manuel Quispe Lopez is from Peru and just started in the lab. He will be working on bat community structure in the Trans-Pecos.

Texas Tech University/University of New Mexico

60 Homesteads Rd., Placitas, New Mexico 8704



David J. Schmidly

Retired President and Professor Emeritus
Phone: 505-288-9722 (cell)
Email: djschmidly@gmail.com

Research Interests: Natural History, Systematics, and Conservation of Texas Mammals

Projects: In 2025 I joined with colleague Robert D. Bradley to publish "*Type Localities of Texas' Native Terrestrial Mammals with Comments on the Taxonomic Status and Distribution of Species and Subspecies"* as Special Publication Number 82 of the Museum of Texas Tech University. This is the first comprehensive account of the type localities for all 148 native terrestrial species and their subspecies to be published. The various accounts include a discussion of recent taxonomic changes to species and subspecies as well as their geographic distribution within the state.

Two publications planned for 2025 (*"William Blaney Richardson (1868-1927): Natural History Explorer and Specimen Collector in Latin America,"* and species accounts of the species in the *Peromyscus boylii* species complex for a new book *"Handbook of the Mammals of Middle and South America: Rodentia—Cricetidae"*) have not yet appeared but should be published in 2026. Also, my colleague David Marshall and I have completed a book length manuscript, "*Gringo Naturalists: Photographs from the Expeditions of E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman in the Early 20th Century,"* that will be submitted to an academic press in 2026. Finally, my colleagues Robert Bradley and Nicte Oronez-Garza and I will complete a taxonomic monograph of all the taxa (species and subspecies) in the *Peromyscus boylii* species group, and I will continue publishing with Robert and his students.

My website www.davidschmidlyphd.com continues to highlight the books and publications I have produced over the years as well as other aspects of my career.

Aside from this work, I will continue my cancer treatments. Janet and I will be travelling to Spain in May-June to see our son and his family, as well as making back and forth trips to our home in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico.

Trinity University

Department of Biology, One Trinity Place, San Antonio, TX 78212

David O. Ribble

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Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
I am interested in the evolutionary ecology of small mammals, including *Peromyscus* and elephant-shrews. My research in recent years has ranged from studies of social organization to mating behavior to thermal ecology. I have recently been leading a course in Costa Rica where we are monitoring the elevational distribution of small mammals on the Pacific Slope from Monteverde to the coast. I now serve as Dean of the newly established D. R. Semmes School of Science at Trinity. While my own research agenda has diminished, I am enjoying supporting and promoting others at Trinity University.

University of Central Oklahoma

Department of Biology, Center for Wildlife Forensic Science and Conservation Studies, Edmond, OK 73034

Michelle L. Haynie

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Web page: https://www3.uco.edu/centraldirectory/profiles/731091

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My research focuses on mammalian evolution biology, primarily in population genetics and molecular systematics. I am interested in using genetic markers to address conservation and evolutionary questions, with most of my research focusing on comparative hybrid zone studies and the identification of cryptic species. I also am interested in factors that impact how small populations and communities change over time.

My current projects include:

- An evaluation of bobcat genetic diversity and structure in Oklahoma

- A long-term small mammal mark-recapture survey at UCO's Selman Living Lab to identify factors that impact population and community persistence (with Francisca Mendez-Harclerode, Gloria Caddell, Chad King, Sean Laverty, Richard Dolman, and Chris Goodchild)
- A survey of mammals at an old oilfield site and comparison of species diversity and richness between this site and a paired site in Cushing, Oklahoma
- A survey of mammals at Lake Arcadia, Edmond, Oklahoma, to determine the impacts of cedar removal on species diversity

Graduate Students and Their Research:

- Claire Wiley – Hantavirus survey of small mammals at Selman Living Lab; genetic identification compared to field identification of small mammals at Selman Living Lab
- Nadiya Cavallo - A comparison of species richness, species diversity, and trap success on disturbed lands in Cushing, Oklahoma

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

- Kayli Newport – Assisting Claire with genetic species identification of Selman rodents, focusing on *Peromyscus*
- Savannah Glidewell – Assisting Claire with genetic species identification of Selman rodents (graduated in December)
- Liliana Ballon – Identification of internal and external parasites from small mammals at Selman Living Lab; identification of microplastics in rodent fecal pellets
- Joshua Walker – Identification of internal and external parasites from small mammals at Selman Living Lab; identification of microplastics in rodent fecal pellets

Additional Information:

- After many years, Mammals of Oklahoma, Second Edition is finally complete! It became available for purchase in July 2024. I am now the Interim Chair of the UCO Biology Department.

University of Houston—Downtown

Department of Natural Sciences, 1 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Amy Baird

Phone: 713-222-5301
Email: BairdA@uhd.edu
Web page: https://bairdlab.wordpress.com/

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My research interests include molecular phylogenetics, phylogeography, and speciation of mammals. Current projects include molecular phylogenetics and taxonomy of lasiurine bats, including phylogeography and genomics of the Hawaiian Hoary bat; population genetics of bowhead whales (grant funded through the North Slope Borough); and genetic

identification of bowhead whale parasites. I am partially funded by a grant from the North Slope Borough (PI) and an Organized Research and Creative Activities grant through UHD (PI)

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:
Junior Tankoh, Alexandra Hernandez, and Tamsin Ward are examining population genetics of bowhead whales using mtDNA sequences and SNPs. Tamsin is also continuing a study of genetic identification of whale parasites.

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Department of Biology, Box 8432, UMHB Station, Belton, TX 76513

Cathleen Early

Phone: 254-295-5041
Email: cearly@umhb.edu
Web page: https://www.umhb.edu/resources/hr/directory/cathleen-early#1845

Research Interests and Projects:
I am a field biologist primarily interested in behavioral ecology. I am also interested in STEM education research, especially how to improve curriculum to be more effective for first generation students.

While I am not currently conducting research or mentoring research students, I support student research by helping judge student presentations at conferences I attend. I bring undergraduate students to the Texas Academy of Science meeting every year, including students who are not presenting that year.

Additional Information:
I am passionate about making science fun and approachable for all age groups. In 2006, I helped establish the annual Science Saturday event at UMHB, a hands-on STEM event for K-5th grade. I continue to serve as the coordinator of this event and would be happy to share tips with anyone thinking about setting up something similar at their campus.

University of Michigan

Museum of Zoology, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Cody W. Thompson

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Web page: codythompson.org

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:

I consider myself a classically trained mammalogist, and as such, I use knowledge gained from observations made during fieldwork and through the examination of museum collections to answer questions about mammalian diversity. My research program focuses broadly on investigating the evolutionary patterns and processes that generate mammalian diversity. I also leverage natural history collections in the context of the extended specimen to examine museum voucher specimens in new and novel ways, e.g., emerging infectious diseases. My lab currently is funded by the National Institute of Health (Project # 1R15AI80994-01) and the National Science Foundation (Awards #2228389 and 2537244).

Students and Their Research:

- Josie Anderson – Mammalian Trait Data
- Paloma Calvin – Mammalian Trati Data
- Ava Fraleigh – Bat Immunology
- Sam Henry – Bat Development
- Katie Kinney – Rodent Morphology
- Victoria Sullivan – Bat Immunology

Other Lab Personnel:

- Justin Lee – Graduate Curatorial Assistant
- Haley Martens – CT Lab Technician
- Ramon Nagesan – CT Lab Manager

Additional Information:

I joined the Mammal Division at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) in June 2013. The UMMZ is administered by the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB). I serve as the UMMZ Mammal Collections Manager and maintain a research appointment in EEB. With these two roles, I am fully involved in all aspects of the UMMZ Mammal Division, and I enjoy the challenge of integrating my experience working in museum collections with my own research program.

Washington and Lee University

204 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450

Jessica Healy-La Price

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Email: jlaprice@wlu.edu

Research Interests, Projects, and Grants:
My primary area of study is the physiological ecology of ground squirrels that hibernate. Using both laboratory and field populations of thirteen-lined ground squirrels, I investigate interactions between hormones that control food intake and reproduction. A current project involves understanding sex differences in estradiol function in early active season hibernators. Another collaborative project involves investigating the latitudinal differences in hibernation patterns in thirteen-lined ground squirrels from Texas to Canada.

Undergraduate Students and Their Research:

- Kylee Cross & Brian Lee – Physiological regulation of hibernation to active season transition in ground squirrels
- Christina Ziccardi & Whitney Obialor – Hormone secretion profile of active-season ground squirrels

Additional Information:

- I teach a variety of undergraduate courses in ecophysiology and field mammalogy, including a travel term course to Panama.
- I'm currently Secretary of the Board of the International Hibernation Society.