

Science at HSU

College of Natural Resources & Sciences Quarterly Newsletter

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CNRS Dean's Office

p. 707-826-3256

e. cnrsweb@humboldt.edu

a. 1 Harpst Street, FOR Rm. 101, Arcata, CA

w. <https://cnrs.humboldt.edu/>



Message from the Deans

At this moment faculty and students are working hard to adjust to teaching and learning in a time of social distancing. Faculty, many who have never taught an online course, are quickly getting up to speed on technology that will enable them to keep teaching from home so that students can finish their semesters from home. We all long for the personal, hands-on, lab/field-based education for which the College of Natural Resources and Sciences is famous. Even so, we see resiliency in our students, staff, and faculty. To be sure, we face many current and future challenges, but we will make the best of this unprecedented time in higher education. This newsletter provides highlights of students, staff, and faculty before the pandemic, and at least one recent story about staff and faculty who provided critical assistance to the Humboldt County Public Health Lab. We are already thinking about what we will have to celebrate at the end of the pandemic, including the graduation of over 500 students. Even though our campus is as quiet as I have ever seen it, we have a few dedicated individuals who remain busy to ensure that when this current crisis is over, we'll be able to return stronger than ever.

Health, safety, and peace to you and yours,

Dale and Rick

Claire Till earns Cottrell Scholar Award

Claire P. Till, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, earned the Cottrell Scholar Award for her proposal - *Scandium and Iron: Parallels in Chemical Reactivity, and Reducing the Opportunity Gap in the HSU Chemistry Department and Beyond*.

The Cottrell Scholar (CS) program champions the very best early career teacher-scholars in chemistry, physics, and astronomy by providing significant discretionary awards for research.

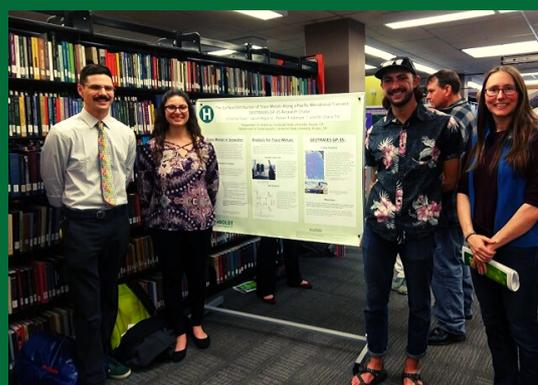
Cottrell Scholar proposals contain both a research and a teaching component. Professor Till's research for this award will involve investigating parallels between two elements in the ocean: scandium and iron. Iron is an essential nutrient required for the growth of phytoplankton, which are the base of the oceanic food chain. In many regions of the ocean, iron is so low in concentration that lack of iron limits the growth of phytoplankton. Because of this, iron has been a topic of interest in the oceanographic community for several decades. However, the oceanic iron cycle is complex, and many areas are still under rigorous study. Professor Till proposes that scandium has potential to be a new tool for understanding iron: while the two elements are very different, they surprisingly show some similarities in the ocean. Professor Till and her students will investigate several chemical reactions that iron is known to undergo to see if scandium participates in these same reactions. By identifying specific ways in which these elements act similarly and where they differ, Professor Till hopes to develop scandium as a tool to help illuminate new aspects of the iron cycle.

Some of the ways this award will be used are for travel for Professor Till and her students to sample nearby rivers, for several day-trips on the R/V Coral Sea, and for hiring students to work on this project.

[For more information about the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, America's first foundation dedicated wholly to science, click here](#)

Research with students: Trace Metals in the Pacific Ocean

Professor Till worked on an NSF-funded project studying surface ocean trace metal concentrations in the Pacific Ocean, along with her student Kezia Rasmussen, who worked full time summer 2018, including traveling to Seattle to help build a plastic room inside a research cruise ship so samples could be collected without contamination. In summer and fall 2019, Prof. Till worked with student Ben Freiberger, who both analyzed the samples from the cruise and participated in a student exchange with a grad student at Texas A&M. Ben Freiberger, Cristina Tusei, and Jake Begorre presented their work at HSU's Ideafest in spring 2019 and will also present at the international Ocean Sciences Meeting this February in San Diego.



Dr. Michalak and students define new depositional ages of basins and bedrock in Klamath mountains

Dr. Melanie Michalak is working with graduate students **Dana Christensen** and **Taylor Team** to determine the depositional age, provenance and relation to extensional faulting in the southern Klamath Mountains. The research team also includes undergraduate students **Dylan Kinser**, **Alyssa Troia**, and **Edward Morales**, who collected samples and traveled to the University of Arizona LaserChron Center, to identify new depositional ages of the Weaverville basin, and pluton crystallization ages in the Trinity Ultramafic Sheet gabbro.



Using eDNA methods to determine broad-scale occupancy of Coho in the Smith River Basin

A team of faculty in the Department of Fisheries Biology is using eDNA methods to aid and enhance monitoring and restoration Coho salmon, which are listed as a threatened species in Northern California. Coho salmon are a threatened species in Northern California, and millions of dollars are spent annually on their restoration.

Drs. Andrew Kinziger, Andre Buchheister, and Eric Bjorkstedt and three graduate students are using environmental DNA (eDNA) as a new sampling method to determine local-scale occupancy of Coho salmon at fish remediation sites and broad-scale occupancy of Coho in the Smith River Basin. One of the highlights of the eDNA method is that it is noninvasive because sampling only requires collecting water at different sites. That water is filtered in the lab, DNA is extracted and tested, and DNA from Coho salmon is detected to determine the presence and abundance of the fish.

This research aims to standardize eDNA methodology to allow for more efficient and cost-effective monitoring of Coho to aid in restoration and conservation efforts.



Photo: Justin Garwood



Department Highlight: Biology

Our Biology faculty are doing some amazing work. Some are not listed here, but you can see their profiles on the [Biology Department website](#).

Dr. Paul Bourdeau and his lab are wrapping up a number of projects before he takes off for sabbatical at the Helen Riaboff Whiteley Center at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories in Fall 2020. In Fall 2019, graduate student Lily McIntire successfully defended her master's thesis, which examined how the world's largest species of chiton (a polyplacophoran mollusc) thermoregulates in the thermally stressful rocky intertidal zone. Lily funded this project completely by herself and is revising a manuscript for publication in a leading marine ecology journal. She'll be headed to the joint doctoral program in Ecology at San Diego State/UC Davis in the Fall. Three more graduate students will defend their theses this Spring (2020). Wesley Hull completed a self-funded project determining the importance of predatory crabs in consuming intertidal mussels in the absence of the mussels' main predator, a sea star, which was decimated by a disease. Wes will begin a research technician position at the University of Washington this summer. Andrea Fieber completed and will defend a thesis looking at the effects of ocean acidification on the algal food choices of two abundant intertidal herbivores. Kindall Murie will be defending her thesis that investigated how environmental stress associated with ocean acidification affects bull kelp, a key foundational species along the northern California coast that is in peril due to human-induced environmental change. Kindall's work was funded by a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship that she was awarded prior to entering graduate school at HSU. One of Kindall's thesis chapters is currently in review at a leading scientific journal and she will continue her work on bull kelp as a doctoral student at the University of Washington in the Fall. Finally, Paul is busy finishing up a Agricultural Research Institute-funded project in collaboration with California Sea Grant Extension specialist Joe Tyburczy, and graduate student Johnny Roche aimed at determining whether the presence of seagrass can alleviate the stress caused by ocean acidification on juvenile farm-raised oysters in Humboldt Bay. We hope the results of this project will help local oyster growers in Humboldt County manage their operations in the face of a rapidly changing environment in Humboldt Bay.

Dr. Sean Craig In Crag's lab grad student Claire Windecker is currently building mussel beds which "heat up" (through the use of conductive wires attached to batteries) to examine the effects of climate change on this important "ecosystem engineer". The lab is also working on the very first phylogeny of Cheilostome bryozoans of the Pacific Northwest in collaboration with Dr. Lee Hsiang Liow (of the University of Oslo, Norway). As part of this ongoing research, two of his graduate students (Hannah Lee & Ismael Chowdhury) will travel to Norway this summer to perform high-throughput genome skimming of their samples at the Norwegian National Sequencing Center. Other ongoing projects include studies of larval resistance to copper (in ship hull paints) in globally invasive bryozoan species (by Alex Strawhand & Jason Lopiccolo) and work to determine how co-settlement of these same larvae form 3-dimensional, lettuce-like "heads" in Humboldt Bay (by Sheena Stephens). Lastly Dustin Price is completing his thesis focused on molecular mechanisms of Sea Star Wasting Disease (SSWD) in *Pisaster ochraceus*, and Franklin Moitoza will be finishing his thesis on sea urchin grazing in kelp beds inside (and out) of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's).

Department Highlight: Biology

Dr. Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler and students in her lab have been working on understanding the functioning of microbial communities associated with animal and plant hosts. Work in the CGLab focuses on developing a conceptual framework and laboratory tools at the interface between ecological theory, microbial systems and molecular/bioinformatics approaches. Projects in the CGLab include studying degradation potential in pitcher plant microbes (in collaboration with Dr. terHorst -CSU Northridge- and Dr. Miller -Florida State University), latitudinal gradients in diversity in anemone bacteria (in collaboration with Dr. Ryan and Dr. Krueger-Hadfield at the University of Alabama, Birmingham), fungi associated with an endangered legume (in collaboration with Dr. Byrne, HSU). Graduate student, Sandrine Grandmond-Lemire, is working on extending some of these ideas to understand water treatment systems, focusing on the Arcata Marsh in collaboration with AMRI.

Dr. Dawn Goley is the Director of the Marine Mammal Education and Research Program and the HSU Marine Mammal Stranding Program. Graduate and undergraduate students in these programs study the behavior and ecology of gray whales, Steller sea lions and northern elephant seals as well as document the patterns of marine mammal strandings in northern California and southern Oregon. Currently 2 graduate students and 31 undergraduate interns are gaining valuable hands-on research experience studying marine mammals in these collaborative programs working closely with colleagues from NOAA, BLM, CDFW and California State and National Parks. Dawn has also been active in the development of two Place-Based Learning Communities within the CNRS - Rising Tides (for incoming Marine Biology and Oceanography Majors) and Among Giants (for incoming Biology, Botany and Zoology majors). Finally, Dawn has served as the CNRS faculty coordinator for Science 100: Becoming a STEM student in the 21st Century and has enjoyed working with colleagues across campus and beyond to develop an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all STEM students at HSU.

Dr. Erik Jules finished a project with graduate student Drew Bost using remote sensing to quantify tree mortality in the Klamath Mountains during the California drought. Along with postdoc Dr. Matt Reilly, his lab also finished a study aimed at understanding the effects of multiple wildfires on plant species diversity. Erik also started a project in which he is resampling permanent plots he established 25 years ago to assess the long impacts of habitat fragmentation on forest understory plants.

Dr. Karen Kiemnec-Tyburczy has been organizing and equipping her new research laboratory during this first year of her tenure-track position. She has been awarded a grant from the Save the Redwoods League to study the genetic diversity of torrent salamanders, a species of special concern in California. Other research projects in her lab include investigating invasion history of bullfrogs and evolution of courtship pheromones in lungless salamanders. She is looking forward to welcoming at least one graduate student into her research group in the fall!

In addition to serving as Director of the Telonicher Marine Lab, **Dr. Brian Tissot** has two graduate students planning to defend and graduate this semester. Georgia Martel is completing her thesis on habitat-based predictive modeling of deep-sea rockfish and Carolyn Belak is defending her thesis on spatial and temporal variation in rockfish recruitment. In addition to serving as a CIMEC liaison, our lab continues to run HSU's CeNCOOS program (with Gavin Zirkel), and lead the north coast subtidal monitoring program (with Sean Craig), and are part of the state-wide deep-sea monitoring program.

Department Highlight: Biology, cont'd

Dr. Mihai Tomescu was recently appointed to the team of Editors for the International Journal of Plant Sciences, as he continues an appointment on the Editorial Board of *Ameghiniana* (published by Asociación Paleontológica Argentina). Mihai and undergraduate and graduate students in his lab continue exploring the diverse plants and fungi in Early Devonian rocks of Wyoming, eastern Canada, and Scotland. They are also preparing for another fossil-collecting trip to Wyoming (June), as well as a trip to present their research at the national meeting of the Botanical Society of America (July; Anchorage, Alaska), and the International Organization of Paleobotany Conference (September; Prague, Czech Republic). Thibault Durieux, Master's student from the University of Montpellier (France), has joined the Tomescu lab for Spring semester to hone plant anatomy and phylogenetics skills while conducting research on Devonian plants. In August, we will be hosting Dr. Yume Imada (Ehime University, Japan) for a four-week collaborative effort focused on plant-animal interactions in the fossil record.

Dr. David Baston has been running the Core Research Facility at Humboldt State University since January 2015. The main function of the Core is to provide Faculty and students, from across HSU, a common shared space to receive mentoring and hands-on experience performing scientific research. Some recent projects in the Core have been: Evaluation the ability of UV light to breakdown microcystin toxins in surface water, Determining the contribution of anthocyanins to fatty acid oxidation, Impacts of ocean acidification on intertidal macroalgae and consumer preference as well as class and lab based projects, summer REUs, and projects through HSU INRSEP and LSAMP. The Core periodically provides support to Jeremey Corrigan at the Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory, most recently we are supporting the Public Health Depts. efforts to minimize the COVID-19 outbreak. We are helping provide materials and preparing Viral Transport Media as well as evaluating and providing 3D-printed components for supply face-shields and face-masks.



Department Highlight: Biology, cont'd

Dr. John Reiss, along with a number of other colleagues in the Department and College, recently received a \$491,000 National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation award to acquire a MicroCT scanner. This will allow 3D x-ray scanning of a wide range of materials, ranging from amphibian noses to fossil sharks to sea star ossicles to sudden-oak death soil structures to conifer cones to bryozoans and chipmunk bacula. The instrument should arrive on campus sometime in summer 2020, and be ready for faculty and student use by the fall.

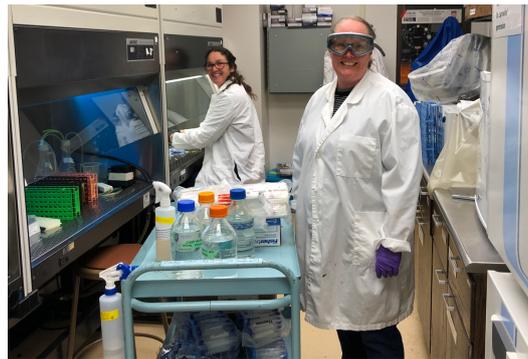
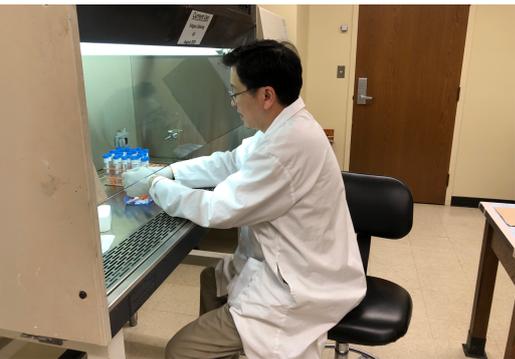
As a new department chair, **Dr. Amy Sprowles** has enjoyed learning more about the department and all the amazing ways our faculty and staff support the training of biological scientists. She continues to mentor research students interested in the biochemical mechanisms that regulate stem cell properties associated with development and disease in partnership with research and HSU CIRM Bridges collaborators at Stanford, UCSF and UC Davis; HSU faculty Jacob Varkey, John Steele, and Brigitte Blackman; and with support of HSU LSAMP and the Moonstone Crossing Winery. Amy enjoys working with colleagues across campus and the nation to create an inclusive learning environment for STEM students of all backgrounds through the HHMI Inclusive Excellence Initiative and HSU HSI STEM. She is especially excited about her work expanding the Among Giants PBLC for all entering Biological Sciences students.

Dr. Joe Szewczak and his colleagues completed a three year assessment of the status of the Townsend's big-eared bat for the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. In collaboration with Yosemite National Park, Joe and his coauthors completed a three year study using stable isotope ratios sampled from bats and birds to evaluate food webs and trophic levels along the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. The journal *Ecosphere* has accepted the published results. Joe also coauthored a new chapter in the upcoming 8th edition of the *Wildlife Techniques Manual: Use of Bioacoustics Monitoring Systems in Wildlife Research*. His graduate students continue work on a variety of projects. Skye Salganek recently completed a project in collaboration with Ted Weller (HSU MS 2000) of the USFS Redwood Sciences Lab funded by Save the Redwoods League. She successfully radio-tagged hoary bat to confirm that many overwinter in the redwoods rather than migrating to points south as formerly presumed. Amon Armstrong is nearing completion of a project supported by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to assess the extent and pattern of bat use in tree hollows. Christy Walker began a study this past fall to radiotrack little brown and Yuma myotis bats from their summer roost to discover their winter hibernation sites. Her summer roost study site has the first detection in California of the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome in bats (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*). We do not yet know where most of our western bat species go to hibernate, and that information will become vital to tracking and managing the potential onset of this wildlife disease in California. This project has collaborative support from National Park Service, Bat Conservation International, the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Faculty assist County in COVID-19 Efforts

Amid the mid-semester mandate to adapt instruction to a remote format, qualified faculty in CNRS found time and resources to help our community in this time of need. When local laboratories were struggling to meet the public health demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, HSU Biological Sciences Chairperson Amy Sprowles collaborated with Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory Manager Jeremy Corrigan (HSU B.S.'04; M.S. '11) and Humboldt State University Clinical Laboratory Scientist Laboratory Lead Judy Tengbom to produce a critical biological solution for COVID-19 testing kits. The kits were composed of 0.85% sterile saline, which is required to remain the integrity of the patient samples until they can be screened by the Public Health Laboratory. The first 1250 kits were produced in the microbiology and biotechnology facilities on our campus by a team that included Microbiology Laboratory Preparator Benjamin Schafer, Core Facility Coordinator Dr. David Baston, Biological Sciences Faculty members Jianmin Zhong and Amy Sprowles; Chemistry Associate Professor Jenny Cappuccio and Wildlife Associate Professor Daniel Barton. Supplies were donated by the Department of Biological Sciences, Biological Sciences Faculty members Mark Wilson and John Steele, and Chemistry Associate Professor Kimberley White. We are pleased to do a small part in supporting the local health care professionals who are servicing our region.



Alumni Highlight and County COVID-19 Collaborator: Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory Director Jeremy Corrigan, HSU Biological Sciences B.S. 2004; M.S. '12 (Jianmin Zhong); Ph.D in prep.

Jeremy Corrigan is originally from Alaska and came to California in 1999 to attend Humboldt State University; in 2004, he received his bachelors of Science in cellular/molecular biology with a minor in chemistry. He then worked towards his California Public Health Microbiologist licensure in 2007 and subsequently was hired as a public health microbiologist at Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory where he worked for 3 years. In 2010, Jeremy went back to Humboldt State University and received his Masters degree in Biology where his research focus was on tick-bourne diseases. Subsequently, Jeremy was hired and is currently working as the Laboratory Manager, ELAP Director and Bioterrorism Coordinator for the HCPHL. He has a strong interest in molecular diagnostics and laboratory bioterrorism preparedness. Currently, he is also attending the University of South Florida's online Doctorate of Public Health Laboratory Science and Practice program and working towards a DrPH and board certification to become a California Laboratory Director. Jeremy manages four other HSU alumni in the Humboldt County Public Health Lab: Heather Maddox, Annayal Yikum, Vannia Pena and Gloria Brown.

Facility Highlight: HSU Vertebrate Museum

The Vertebrate Museum in Science Building C holds over 15,000 mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles. Recently, thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Jim Patton and UC Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the HSU Vertebrate Museum acquired 36 specimen cases (pictured). These cases will be used mainly to expand our collection of mammals, which includes skins and skeletons from all over the world. This semester, museum staff includes Alyssa Semerdjian (pictured), two student employees, and several student volunteers, as well as students and local researchers utilizing the collection for research.



Dr. Karen Reiss (College of the Redwoods) a Vertebrate Museum research associate studying chipmunk speciation, labels vials of tissue used for genetic research



Students and staff volunteered their time to move the 36 cases into temporary storage



Alyssa Semerdjian, manager of the collections and prep lab for the Vertebrate Museum, with an array of teaching specimens

Alyssa Semerdjian, Vertebrate Museum Manager



Alyssa joined us as the Vertebrate Museum's collections manager shortly after finishing her master's work in HSU's Wildlife Department. Her thesis concerned testing monitoring methods and mapping the spatial distribution of the endangered giant kangaroo rat in California's Central Valley. She has spent several years in the field collecting data for ecological projects and specializes in small mammal work. Before enrolling at HSU, she spent significant time learning curatorial tasks while volunteering with the San Diego Natural History Museum between fieldwork jobs.

Allison Bronson, Interim Curator



Allison Bronson recently joined the Vertebrate Museum as interim curator, and teaches Evolution and Zoology at HSU. She earned her PhD in Comparative Biology from the American Museum of Natural History in 2018, and her BSc in Marine Biology and Zoology from HSU in 2014. Allison's research is focused on the cranial anatomy and evolution of fishes, mainly using CT scanning to "digitally dissect" fossil sharks.

Alumni Updates & Achievements

Steven Bowlus, Chemistry ('70) After graduation in 1970, Stephen Bowlus attended University of Illinois (MS '72, PhD '74, postdoc entomology '75), and went into industrial research. He worked primarily in the agricultural chemistry field, starting as a synthesis chemist, then migrating to computational chemistry, molecular modeling and statistics. He retired from industry in 2003. In 2006, Bowlus started teaching as an adjunct instructor at Columbia College (Sonoma, CA), from which position he retired this year (2019).

Leonard Brennan, Wildlife ('84) I am in my 19th year as the C.C. Winn Endowed Chair for Quail Research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University - Kingsville. My seventh book Quantitative Analyses in Wildlife Science was published by Johns Hopkins University Press this fall, coedited with another Humboldt Alum, Dr. Bruce Marcot.

William Chilson, Forestry & Wildland Resources ('67) For the past 10-years, I have been working in the renewable energy industry with a focus on development of utility scale power plants. My current position is Director of Siting and Real Estate with Candela Renewables. Candela develops solar power plants throughout the United States.

Claudia Carlson Cottrell, Fisheries Biology ('74) In 1991 16 years after graduating from Humboldt (never having worked in Fisheries Biology), I graduated from Northwestern Health Sciences University with a doctorate in Chiropractic. After 23 years of running a human chiropractic practice, I went to Options for Animals School of Animal Chiropractic. I now practice exclusively on horses, dogs, cats, and whatever else is presented to me (with a spine, of course). So I feel like I have come full circle, in a way. I live in Duluth MN (my native state) with my husband, Harry Cottrell, who is a native of Arcata, CA, also a graduate of Humboldt. We have two adult sons, and have always had pets, of course. We still visit Humboldt County.

Andre Degeorges, Natural Resources ('73) retired living on the Eastern Shore of Virginia hunting & Fishing. Go to ResearchGate under my name and download for free a 7 volume book on conservation & development in Sub-Saharan Africa, one on the Taliban, many peer reviewed documents, gray literature & PowerPoint presentations on coral reefs, community based natural resource management (CBNRM), dams, wildlife management & hunting issues, development/foreign aid, etc.

Anthony Erba, Forestry & Wildland Resources ('87) After nearly 33 years of federal government service, Anthony has retired from the USDA Forest Service to northern Wisconsin. His last position was as a Regional Director (Eastern Region) overseeing environmental planning, litigation, and landscape-scale conservation (lasting 8.5 years). Anthony's career spanned all four organizational levels of the Forest Service, located on six national forests, one national grassland, one region, and the Washington Office. Never in his wildest dreams would he have been able to predict his career when he graduated in 1987. Anthony is grateful for his experience at HSU, providing him the awareness needed to recognize career opportunities whenever they popped up.

Leona Evans, Natural Resources ('83) retired from the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (Lake Tahoe) in 2015. I am transitioning into retirement from my second job as Coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy through Lake Tahoe Community College where I served for 14 years. I continue to work on-call for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (Forest Service).

Don't see an update you submitted? Updates are as of February 14th.

Submit an alumni update

Alumni Updates & Achievements

Julianne Fernandez, Oceanography, ('14) After earning her B.S. in Oceanography in 2014, Fernandez interned with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District in Illinois. As a Physical Science Technician in Water Quality she assisted in monitoring the upper Mississippi River. Fernandez worked on her M.S. in Geology at the University of Cincinnati, where her research focused on methane emissions from Lake Erie. Fernandez completed her M.S. in 2017 and soon decided to pursue a Ph.D. She's currently a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postgraduate Research Assistant in the Department of Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway University of London, UK. She studies urban methane emissions from London and other European metropolitan areas.

Aneesh Kumar KV Fisheries Biology ('14) currently working as Project Scientist at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology. Their area of research is Eco-morphology of deep sea fishes and Otoliths.

Robert "Robin" Mendenhall, Fisheries ('83) while attending college, he worked seasonally for the Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Klamath River. He had fond memories of his aquaculture studies with Dr. George Allen in the Arcata Marsh. He received a full-time position with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Kooskia, ID, but was tragically killed by a man with a gun while backpacking with his wife Leona in the Trinity Alps. A scholarship fund was set up for undergraduate Fisheries majors in his name. Leona - also an HSU graduate - moved back to her hometown of Meyers (Lake Tahoe) where she is retired from the fire service.

Colin Savage Fisheries Biology ('18) started working with Washington Fish and Wildlife as a hatchery specialist shortly after graduating. During my last year I have worked in rearing many species of salmonids and White Sturgeon.

Tyler Smurr, Forestry & Wildland Resources ('95) worked for Sierra Pacific Industries out of college, but then met a girl and followed her to Texas. He taught middle school science for 14 years, but is currently an Assistant Principal for a San Antonio Middle School. He uses his experience at Humboldt State to talk to his students about finding the right place for them and seeing the beauty in the world.

Judith Stone-Hulsander, Biological Sciences ('92) was promoted to partner at the law firm Lathrop GPM. With approximately 20 years' intellectual property experience, she focuses her practice on patent preparation, prosecution and client counseling in all areas of biotechnology. She holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology and prior to obtaining her law degree, she worked more than five years as a technical specialist and patent agent. Stone-Hulsander has particularly strong patent experience with therapeutic antibodies and antibody-like molecules for a variety of disease indications.

Janelle Thompson, Forestry & Wildland Resources, Wildlife ('93) After 28 years with the U.S. Forest Service in a position as a timber sale administrator, I received a promotion on the Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District as the District Timber Management Officer in September of 2019. I began my career in 1987 as a temporary employee on the timber marking crew at Sierraville. I received my permanent career appointment in 1991 as a Forester with an emphasis in timber sale administration. During the last 20 years I have also worked as an support dispatcher (EDSD) for major wildland fires and other incidents across the United States. In September of 2022 I will be eligible to retire with over 31 years with the U.S. Forest Service.

[Submit an alumni update](#)

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Deborah Rice

707.826.5135

Deborah.Rice@humboldt.edu



@scienceathsu @hsucnrs