PUBLICATIONS


Tony W. Chen (former graduate student), Geng Chen (graduate student), Lisa Funkhouser (undergrad student) and Sang-Chul Nam. 2009. Membrane domain modulation by Spectrins in Drosophila photoreceptor morphogenesis. Genesis 47: 744-750.


PRESENTATIONS


Han Li, Nick Green and Ken Wilkins. 2009. Biogeographical patterns in the small mammal faunas of eastern and central Texas. Poster: Texas Society of Mammalogists, Junction, TX.


**Sang-Chul Nam.** Spectrins and Spastin in *Drosophila* photoreceptor morphogenesis, Department of Biological Sciences, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daejeon, Korea, 2009.8.3 (Invited talk, department seminar)


**Jacquelyn Duke** and Helen Harris (School of Social Work) presented “Research Opportunities for Lecturers” at Baylor’s Fall faculty orientation in August 2009. She also led a breakout session with **Ken Wilkins**, “Graduate Students in the Sciences” at Baylor’s Fall graduate student orientation in August 2009.


**Flather, C.H. and K.J. Gutzwiller.** 2009. The relative importance of climate and broad-scale habitat for predicting regional bird richness. 94th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Albuquerque, NM.


**Forbes, M., R. Doyle, J. Yelderman and A. Clapp.** “Water Quality and Water Storage Functions of Coastal Prairie Freshwater Wetlands in the Galveston Bay Area.” Society Wetland Scientists 2009 Annual Meeting, Madison, WI.


**GRANTS**

**Jacquelyn Duke** received a $70,000 grant from the Texas Water Development Board for her project "Riparian Productivity in Relation to Stream Dynamics Along Two Rivers: San Antonio and Brazos, in Central/South Texas" in November 2009. She was also awarded a $4,500 grant from Baylor's University Research Committee for "Riparian Forest Basal Growth Response to River Flow Along an Impounded River in Central Texas" in June 2009.

**Kevin Gutzwiller** received a $40,182 grant from USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station Joint Venture Agreement to model persistence thresholds in avian abundance in relation to landscape composition and configuration across the conterminous United States.

During 2009, **Ken Wilkins** submitted several successful proposals to U.S. Army Contracting for renewal of Baylor/Army programs in Physical Therapy (DPT, $682K), in Nutrition (MS, $473K) in Health and Business Administration (MHA/MBA, $1.596M) and for establishment of a new degree, the Doctor of Science in Occupational Therapy (DScOT, $22K). These programs are offered as collaborations of Baylor University Graduate School and the U.S. Army Medical Center & School at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.

**Robert Doyle and Maggie Forbes** were awarded an additional $111,570 from TCEQ and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program to study wetland functions of coastal prairie freshwater wetlands. This brings the research grant total to $361,570.

**Anica Debelica** (graduate student) was awarded several grants in 2009: Jack G. and Norma Jean Folmar Research Grant ($1000); C. Gus Glasscock Jr. Endowed Fund for Excellence in Environmental Sciences ($2000); Howard McCarley Student Research Award (Southwestern Association of Naturalists) ($1000); Texas Academy of Science Student Research Proposal ($500); and Baylor University Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Achievement Program Small Grant (URSA) ($5000).
**TRAVEL**

**June Wolfe** (graduate student) was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) fellowship and spent 10 weeks conducting aquatic research in Matsue, Japan this past summer. June worked with Japanese scientists at Shimane University in Matsue investigating bio-mediated sorption processes and the use of recycled concrete materials to help manage water quality conditions in Lake Shinji.

**Han Li** (graduate student) attended the International Congress for Conservation Biology 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology held in July in Beijing, China.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Many of you may have heard of “Marsh Madness” but not known exactly what it is. Marsh Madness is a program of GEAR UP Waco. Baylor, along with several other partners, received over $11 million from the U.S. Department of Education to work with Waco ISD and LaVega ISD students for 6 years from the 6th grade through high school graduation. The overall goal of GEAR UP programs is to increase student and family awareness of and readiness for post-secondary education. The role that Marsh Madness plays is to provide students with hands-on science activities, primarily through field trips to the Lake Waco Wetland. Biology faculty, staff and graduate students who are or have been a part of Marsh Madness include Robert Doyle (PI), Melissa Mullins, Sara Seagraves, Rachel Bormann, Marty Harvill, Bob Baldridge, Jacquelyn Duke, Shannon Hill, and Maggie Forbes. Field trips are generally every Tuesday and Thursday during the semester; we welcome any observers or participants (wear your boots!).

**Ken Wilkins** was elected to the School Board of the Crawford Independent School District in May 2009. Trustee’s terms last for 3 years. He serves as assistant secretary for the board.

**FORMER GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Zun Liu** graduate with his Ph.D. from the department in May and is now working as a post-doctoral researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Jason Locklin** was awarded a 2009 Texas Academy of Science Ph.D. Research Grant (1st place, $1500), a 2009 Texas Academy of Science graduate student presentation award (honorable mention), and a 2008 Entomological Society of America’s President’s Prize: 2nd place in student competition for presentation at the annual meeting held in Reno, NV (Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity).

Dr. David Hillis (BS Biology, 1980) has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. David is now the Ruark Professor of Biology at the University of Texas in Austin, and the son of **Bill Hillis.**
Chris Filstrup successfully defended his doctoral research entitled “Organic matter sources through annual and decadal timescales in a polymictic reservoir” in October 2009. Chris will graduate in December!

Brianna Kirchner completed her graduate studies at Baylor and graduated in May 2009 with her Master of Science degree in Environmental Biology. Brianna’s thesis was entitled “Indirect effects of fire on the small mammal community of a tallgrass blackland prairie remnant in Texas.”

David Eldridge was voted the Collins Outstanding Professor by the 2008-2009 graduating class. The award involved a public lecture and a cash award of $10,000. The Collins Professor was established by the Carr P. Collins Foundation to recognize outstanding teaching at Baylor. In addition to the Collins Professor Award, the foundation also provides numerous scholarships to Baylor students. Dr. Eldridge has used various forms of humor in his classroom and this lecture entitled “What’s So Funny About Science?” was delivered on May 5, 2009, in the Baylor Science Building.

**SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

There are many opportunities for donations in support of the Department of Biology Scholarship Funds. Among these are the Frederick R. Gehlbach, David W. Eldridge, F. Ray Wilson and Eugene Crowder Scholarship Funds. For more information contact Ms. Diane Attaway in the Office of University Development, One Bear Place 97026, Waco, TX 76798, or call (254) 710-8501.

Message from Dr. David Eldridge:

Over the past year I have thought about printing a t-shirt for sale and using the proceeds to donate to my Endowed Scholarship at Baylor. Last year we awarded $4000 to four Biology students to help with their education. The t-shirts have several different phrases that are meaningful to students that have been in my classes.

If you are interested in a t-shirt let me know and I will be happy to send you one. The cost is $15 (be sure to specify small, medium, large, extra large, or 2X large when you place your order). You may send your request to Dr. David Eldridge, Department of Biology, One Bear Place 97388, Waco, TX 76798.

Any other contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.