



Selected Highlights from the Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Academic Year 2007-2008

I. Selected Outstanding Outcomes

Outstanding Science Award for Furthering the Mission of the U.S.G.S. Cooperative Research Units Program – Dick Neves, Mike Vaughan, Paul Angermeier

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Achievement Award – Mitchell A. Byrd

Two teaching awards:

- Diggs Teaching Scholar Award – Brian Murphy

- American Fisheries Society Excellence in Fisheries Education Award – Eric Hallerman

Two NSF Graduate Research Fellowship recipients – Sarah Orlofske, Brian Gerber

Established Wildlife Disease research program, investigating, among other issues:

- Shenandoah River fish kills

- Human – wildlife tuberculosis interactions in Botswana

Equipped and launched a Human Dimensions laboratory serving departmental and college faculty
President, Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society – Steve McMullin

II. Departmental Accomplishments

A. Learning

The department's slate of courses for the academic year included:

- 15 undergraduate and 11 graduate classroom courses delivered
- Mean Student Perception of Instruction scores:
 - Fall 2007: 3.55/4.00
 - Spring 2008: 3.59/4.00
- Included two new graduate courses (both as FiW 5984): Foundations of Fisheries and Wildlife Population Ecology and Management, Survey of Topics in Marine Fisheries

Expected Student Learning Outcomes developed for all degree programs. A matrix of evaluation metrics completed for B.S. degrees in Fisheries Science and Wildlife Science. Such matrices are under development for other degrees.

Continuing effort to redesign doctoral program to produce broad thinkers ready for academic or other career paths

Awards:

For faculty:

- Diggs Teaching Scholar Award – Brian Murphy
- American Fisheries Society Excellence in Fisheries Education Award – Eric Hallerman
- Curriculum Clubs’ Faculty Award – Marcella Kelly

For Graduate students:

- Virginia Tech Future Professoriate: Global Perspectives – Daniel Catlin

For undergraduates:

- Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement – Koan Heindel
- Outstanding Sophomore Scholar Award – Daniel Schultz
- Dean’s International Study Scholarship – Adrian Roadman
- Class of 1952 Wildlife Scholarship – David Hogue
- Richard H. Cross, Jr. Scholarship – Staci Hudy
- Robert H. Giles, Jr. Scholarship – Trevor Michaels
- Henry S. Mosby Memorial Scholarship – Nathan Lambert, Heather Sparks, Daniel Schultz
- William O. Ross Scholarship – Kirk Dunn, Koan Heindel
- Department of English Composition Program – Garrett LaCivita

Co-sponsorship of events:

- Virginia/West Virginia Water Research Symposium, with Virginia Water Resources Research Center, November 26-30, 2007
- Special seminar – Gary Meffe (University of Florida), with Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Graduate Student Association, April 23, 2008
- Swine and Soiree event, with Forestry Graduate Student Association, April 2008

Recruitment efforts:

- VT Majors Fair, October 4, 2007
- New brochures produced for both undergraduate and graduate programs
- Every prospect offered admission written or called – Judy Araman relates that admissions will be sharply up, maybe double last year’s

B. Discovery

Overview of departmental productivity: 2 books, 2 monographs, 15 book chapters, 65 refereed journal articles, 51 other reports, 152 presentations

Overview of departmental grantsmanship: \$3,392,441 (2007 data, OSP)

With material assistance from Fralin Biotechnology Center, a wildlife disease laboratory established Established Hatch or McIntire-Stennis projects for Haas, Jiao, and McLean. Several proposals in review.

Awards:

For alumni:

Outstanding Graduate Alumni Achievement Award – Mitchell A. Byrd
For faculty:
Outstanding Science Award for Furthering the Mission of the U.S.G.S. Cooperative Research
Units Program – Dick Neves, Mike Vaughan, Paul Angermeier

For graduate students:
CNR Outstanding Doctoral Graduate Student Award – Daniel Catlin
A.B. Massey Honorarium – Sarah DuRant, Amy Villamagna
Burd S. McGinnes Graduate Fellowship – Daniel Catlin, Jessica Homyack
Robert L. and Esther S. Youngs Award for Excellence in Written Contribution to Natural
Resources – Christine Bergeron
International Student Scholarship – Maria Guadalupe Bravo-Vinaja, Jose Bernardo Mesa
CONACYT Scholarship – Maria Guadalupe Bravo-Vinaja
Royal Thai Scholarship – Pawapol Kongchum
Patrick Scanlon Memorial Scholarship – Daniel Catlin
Fulbright Scholarship – Claudia Wultsch
George and Gladys Cunningham Doctoral Scholarship Award – James Dwyer
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – Sarah Orlofske, Brian Gerber

Best paper awards:
Best Poster Award - World Aquaculture Society 2007 – Guillaume Salze
Research Symposia Awards:
- First Place (Natural, Physical, and Biological Sciences) – Meghann Vincie
- Paper Presentations – Sarah Orlofske
Runner-Up – Best Paper Award: Palmer, G., J. Williams, M. Scott, E. Hallerman, K. Finne, N.
Johnson, D. Dutton, and B. Murphy. Genetic marker-assisted restoration of the presumptive
native walleye stock in the upper New River, Virginia and West Virginia. 61st Annual
Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Charleston, WV,
October 21-24, 2007.
Runner-Up – Best Student Paper Award: Davis, J.E., and E.M. Hallerman. 2008. Population
genetic characterization of southwestern Virginia brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)
populations. Brook Trout Restoration Symposium, Annual Meeting of the Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society, Wheeling, WV, February 28-March 1, 2008.

C. Engagement

Editorships: 5 faculty, 6 journals, including *Conservation Biology and Aquaculture*
One officer in professional societies (McMullin, American Fisheries Society)
12 advisory boards and councils
32 workshops and symposia organized, involving 716 people
10 faculty have considerable international research, teaching, or outreach activity

Awards:
CNR Award for Outreach Excellence – James Parkhurst
VT Chapter American Fisheries Society Outstanding Member Award – Meghann Vincie
FiW Graduate Student Association Outstanding Member Award – Thomas Gorman
VT Wildlife Society Outstanding Member Award – Christopher Latimer
Xi Sigma Pi Outstanding Member Award – Nathan Lambert
Star Gazer Prize in Discovery Channel Young Scientist of the Year Competition – Karl Sorenson,
Blacksburg High School student mentored by Ewen McLean and Steve Craig
Loan of three fiberglass fish production tanks to the Saltville AREC

D. Diversity

Our diversity:
Faculty: 15 males and 6 females, including 1 Asian and 1 African

Staff and research faculty: 11 females and 9 males, including 2 Asians
Graduate students: 31 females, 26 males, including 6 Asians, 2 Hispanic-surnamed, 1 African-American, and 1 Native American

Undergraduates: *VT data are aggregated at the college level*

Departmental diversity initiatives:

Faculty:

Female faculty member recruited

Memberships: Organization of Women Faculty (2), Women in International Development

Working Group, LGBT Faculty and Staff Caucus (2), SafeZone (2), East Asian committee of VT

Undergraduates:

Sarah Karpanty phoned and I wrote to every out-of-state prospect and to every prospect offered admission to encourage their enrollment at VT – a large share of these prospects were females and minorities

Jim Parkhurst mentored an African-American female student who developed natural resources learning modules for the Philadelphia Public Schools

Graduate students:

With CNR support, recruited Nakeisha Bridgers, an African-American female student, who began fall 2007. MAOP support has been secured for her studies in academic year 2008-2009

Awards:

AdvanceVT Fellowship – Amy Villamagna

Dean's Diversity Scholarship – Joyce Barkley

SafeZone of the Decade Award – Carola Haas

E. Foundation

Friend of the College Award – Mitchell A. and Lois E. Byrd

Gerald Cross Alumni Leadership Award – Barbara Knuth

Display at Ut Prosim Campaign kick-off, October 20, 2007

F. Some departmental goals for 2008-2009

General:

Begin work to revise and update our strategic plan

Systematize oversight of student and worker safety training

Shepherd Hopkins through tenure evaluation process and Karpanty and Jiao through 2-year review

Learning

Complete revision of doctoral program; i.e., reach closure on implementing objectives and processes

Complete development of and then implement use of metrics tracking progress in achieving student learning outcomes for all degree programs

Discovery:

Complete establishment of necropsy room in Latham Hall

Establish wildlife disease laboratory in new Integrated Life Sciences Building

Establish Hatch or McIntire-Stennis projects for Fraser, Hallerman, Karpanty, Murphy, Orth, and Parkhurst. Proposals are in review for most of these faculty members.

Develop and sign MOU with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cover its redefined relationship with the U.S.G.S. Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Learning and discovery:

Hire new Conservation Aquaculturist

Engagement:

- Hire new aquatic extension specialist