Endowed Funds in Biology

The Department of Biology is fortunate to have many generous benefactors who have endowed activities within the Department. Most of the funds support scholarships for students pursuing degrees in the life sciences; however, some are to support faculty positions and research activity. The active endowments are listed here to recognize the benefactors and provide some insight into their motivations for the gifts.

Annually, a selection committee for each scholarship endowment chooses a recipient or recipients. The winners are recognized during the annual Department of Biology Awards Day. The names of recipients are engraved on plaques that are on permanent display just outside of the student study room in the Jerome and Catherine Supple Science Building.

John P. Eben and Dorothy Eben Elledge Endowed Scholarship – Established by the estate of John P. Eben to honor the Eben family. The scholarship is awarded to thesis or dissertation students who have demonstrated significant potential in research activities.

Ward Lee Eggleston Memorial Scholarship – Established to honor the memory of Ward Lee Eggleston, a sophomore wildlife biology major who died in a motorcycle accident. The scholarship is presented to an outstanding full-time undergraduate majoring in wildlife biology.

Whiteside Endowment Fund – Established by colleagues and friends of Dr. Bobby Whiteside, who taught at Texas State University for over thirty years. The fund is used to support activities in the Aquatic Biology program, including providing scholarships to students pursuing the BS and MS degrees.

Russell and Ruth Strandtmann Field Biology Development Fund – Established by Dr. Russell Strandtmann and his wife, Ruth, for the purpose of supporting undergraduate field research in the areas of whole organism taxonomy, systematics, and life history studies.

Charles Spurgeon Smith Scholarship in Biology – Established by Mr. Spurgeon Smith in honor of his father, Dr. Charles (cont’d on page 3)

New Endowed Fund
Lamar and Marilyn Johanson have endowed a new scholarship fund to support graduate students.

Faculty Retirements
Gerald Farr (left) and Glenn Longley retire after a combined 90 years of service to the University.
Jerry Farr
Retiring

Professor Jerry Farr has decided to retire after 45 years as a faculty member in the Department of Biology. Professor Farr was hired in 1967 as an Assistant Instructor of Biology while he was working toward his MS degree at what was then Southwest Texas State University. Upon completion of his degree, he was promoted to Instructor of Biology and in 1979 to Assistant Professor of Biology.

Jerry spent most of his career in the classroom, teaching large sections of freshman students. Fifteen-thousand would be a conservative estimate of the number of students who have passed through his classes. Professor Farr comments that former students often recognize him and say hello when he is travelling in the state.

Lamar and Marilyn Johanson
Graduate Endowment in Biology

Lamar and Marilyn Johanson have contributed $100,000 to fund the Lamar and Marilyn Johanson Graduate Endowment in Biology in Memory of William K. Davis. The funds will be invested by the University Foundation and proceeds will be used to provide stipend or fellowship support to graduate students in the Department of Biology.

Lamar Johanson entered what was then Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1953 with the goal of becoming a high school coach and history teacher. As a freshman, he was informed that he was required to take a laboratory science course. Lamar chose Biology and was assigned to a general biology section taught by Dr. William K. Davis. Within three or four class periods, Lamar had decided to change his major to biology.

Lamar graduated in 1957 with a BS in biology and a minor in Chemistry. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force immediately upon graduation but was granted an active duty deferment so he could pursue a master’s degree in Biology, which he completed in 1958. Lamar speaks fondly of being one of the “onion root boys” in Dr. Henry Norris’ lab, where they studied metabolism using a Warburg apparatus. After earning his master’s degree, Lamar spent three years in the Air Force at USAF Hospital Chanute in Illinois. After the service, he became an instructor at Tarleton State College in Stephenville. During a leave of absence from Tarleton, he completed a Ph.D. at Texas A&M University.

Lamar spent 40 years at Tarleton State and during that time he served as both Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He also held positions as President of the Texas Academy of Science, President of the Lone Star Athletic Conference, and Chairman of the National Conference of Academic Deans.

Lamar sums up his feelings well. “I experienced a very interesting, worthwhile, satisfying career, all because by chance I ended up in William K. Davis’ freshman biology class where he inspired me to change my major and career goals. In order to honor Professor Davis’ influence on me to change my major, which led to a fabulous and very satisfying career, Marilyn and I wish to establish the Lamar and Marilyn Johanson Scholarship in Memory of Professor William K. Davis.”

He also directed the Faculty Advancement Center for 23 years, where he helped faculty members become better classroom teachers.

Jerry and his wife Anna plan on remaining in San Marcos as well as spending time on their ranch in Matagorda County. He can be reached at gf01@txstate.edu
Biology Department Endowments

Spurgeon Smith, who was a long-time faculty member in the Department of Biology. The scholarship is awarded to the undergraduate Biology major who is graduating with the highest grade point average.

Howard D Schulze Biology Scholarship – Established by Dr. Christopher B. Schulze in honor of his father, Howard D. Schulze, who earned his BS (1950) and MS (1957) degrees from Southwest Texas State University. The scholarship is for juniors, seniors, or graduate students majoring in biology and recognizes both academic achievement and scholarship.

A. B. and Irene S. Rogers Endowed Scholarship Fund – Established to honor the memories of A. B. and Irene S. Rogers. The scholarship is awarded to a junior- or senior-level student pursuing a degree in aquatic biology.

Fred and Yetta Richan Aquatic Biology Development Fund – Established by Mr. Fred Richan, who worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior for 32 years in the field of fisheries management. His career included many years at the old federal fish hatchery in San Marcos, which is now the site of the Freeman Aquatic Biology building. Awards from the fund are made in recognition of exceptional contributions to the Aquatic Resources Program by a graduate or undergraduate student.

W. E. “Henry” Norris, Jr. Endowed Scholarship – Established by the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Henry Norris, a longtime professor and administrator at Southwest Texas State University. The scholarship is for students majoring in biology and is awarded to recognize past and future contributions to the biological sciences by a graduate student.

Chuck Nash Aquatic Studies Endowed Scholarship – Established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation to honor Chuck Nash, a San Marcos businessman, community leader, and member of the board of directors of the Foundation. The scholarship provides support for a full-time junior, senior or graduate student pursuing studies in aquatic resources.

George H. Meyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Microbiology – Established by the colleagues, family, and students of George H. Meyer, a longtime professor of microbiology at Southwest Texas State University. The scholarship is for junior and senior microbiology majors and graduate students and is awarded to recognize exceptional student research presented at a national or international research conference.

Sally Karnau Biology Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Established by William and Eileen Karnau in memory of their daughter, Sally, who earned BS and MS degrees at Southwest Texas State University. She was pursuing a PhD in Geography at Texas State University when she became ill and passed away after a lengthy struggle with cancer. The scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior biology major with demonstrated scholastic ability and financial need.

Dr Audrey L. Evers Endowed Scholarship – Established by Southwest Texas State University alumna Dr. Audrey L. Evers to support students pursuing a BS in Biology with a Life Science Teacher Certification.

W. K. Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund – Established by the student members of the Biology Club during the 1970s in recognition of the priceless contributions of Professor W. K. Davis, who sponsored the club and freely shared his vast knowledge of field biology. This scholarship is presented to full-time, undergraduate Biology majors to support research activities in the field of natural history. Note: This endowment is in addition to the recently-endowed Johanson Scholarship.

Ed Cape Water Resources Fund – Established to recognize the many contributions of Mr. Edward Matthew Cape to water resource management in Central Texas. This fund is used to support the annual Ed Cape Water Resources Seminar as well as the professional activities of students and faculty members studying water resources and aquatic biology.

Homer E. Prince Development Fund – Established in 1987 by the partners of the Association of Allergists for Mycological Investigations to honor the group’s founder, Homer E. Prince. The Fund supports the Homer E. Prince Professorship in Microbiology, which was held by Dr. Gary Aron for many years. With Dr. Aron’s retirement, Dr. Robert McLean has been named the second Homer E. Prince Professor.

Richard Michael “Mike” Palmore Computer-Assisted Instruction Memorial Fund – Established by Mr. Dewitt Palmore in memory of his son Mike who died in an automobile accident in 1980. This fund supports computer-assisted instruction activities in the Department of Biology.

Herbert (Ben) Hannan Limnology Fund – Established by Dr. Ben Hannan, an alumnus and longtime faculty member in the Department of Biology. The fund supports research activities of the faculty member teaching Limnology within the Department.

Alexander-Stone Chair of Genetics – Established by the estate of Dr. Mary Alexander, a faculty member for 20 years in the Department of Biology, to honor Professor Wilson S. Stone, her graduate advisor at the University of Texas. Funds from this endowment are used to supplement the salary of the holder of the Chair and provide research support. Dr. Michael Forstner is the first and current holder of the Chair.
Glenn Longley to Retire

Dr. Glenn Longley has decided to retire after 45 years as a faculty member in the Department of Biology. Along with teaching courses in water quality and pollution biology, he has served as director of the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center since 1979.

Nineteen master’s students wrote their theses under Dr. Longley’s direction with two still in progress. Many of his students have gone on to be leaders in state and federal environmental agencies. He and his students have published 43 research articles, reviews, and chapters in books. Dr. Longley has also served as President of the Texas Academy of Science, the Texas Organization for Endangered Species, and the Water Environment Association of Texas.

Glenn and his wife, Frances, plan on remaining in San Marcos where Dr. Longley will continue to serve as a member of the Science Subcommittee of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Plan. He also plans to assume the position of “gentleman rancher” at his ranch on the Pecos River in Terrell County.

Dr. Longley can be contacted at gl01@txstate.edu. Dr. Longley’s class field trips are legendary. Please send us stories of your experiences on these trips.

WHAT’S UP?
Keeping tabs on our graduates

1979
Jim Swift (BS) worked for a national publishing company in Houston and San Antonio for eleven years after graduation. In 1990, he began teaching high school and junior high science in the San Antonio area and continues teaching today. Jim has three grown children and three grandchildren. He is happy to point out that one of his children is a Texas State graduate and all are gainfully employed!

1995
Steven G. Buschang (BS) earned an MS in Environmental Science from TAMU-CC and has built a career with the Texas General Land Office (TGLO), first in Corpus Christi and now in Austin. Most of his time has been spent dealing with various aspects of coastal oil spill responses. Currently, he is Director of Research and Development and State Scientific Coordinator for TGLO. He lives in Austin with his wife and two daughters.

2002
Carrie Preite (MS) earned a PhD in aquatic ecology from James Cook University in Queensland, Australia. She currently teaches at the College of Southern Nevada.

2005
Jacob West (BS) received the OD degree from the Houston College of Optometry in 2010 and now owns West Vision Care in Tyler.

2006
Olivia Gamez Holzhaus (BS) worked at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio for two years after graduation and then moved to Perkin Elmer, Inc. for two years. While working for Southwest Research Institute, she completed an MS in Management of Technology at UTSA. She now owns a consulting firm specializing in technical applications and business practices for the laboratory. She is married to Layne Holzhaus and they live in San Antonio.

2007
Michael Small (PhD) works for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as the Region 3 Heritage Preserve Coordinator. He lives in Columbia.

From The Editor

The response to our call for information for the first newsletter was tremendous. However, only a small amount of material was received for this one. Please consider sending us:

• updates for the “What’s Up?” section;
• short stories of your experiences at (Southwest) Texas State, especially those involving the retiring faculty members;
• pictures to go with your stories, or just captioned photos from your time in San Marcos.

All contributions can be sent to biologicalumni@txstate.edu

I also want to recognize the staff who contribute to the production of each issue of Biology on the River: Ms. Janet Wisian, who monitors the email inbox and manages the mailing database, and Dr. David Lemke, who formats the text and photos into what you see here.

I hope to hear from you soon.

– Joe Tomasso