<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker/Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
<td>Speakers set up presentations</td>
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| 8:30 AM | Introductory Remarks and Welcome                                                                 | Dr. Joe Tomasso, Chair, Department of Biology
Vince Rice, President, Tri–Beta Honor Society
Dr. Chris Nice and Dr. Caitlin Gabor, Faculty Sponsors, Tri–Beta Honors Society |
| 8:45 AM | Mike Vandewege (Graduate Student) Testing Pedigree Reconstruction to Assess the Short Term Effects of Head–starting on a Houston Toad Population (Mentor/ Advisor: Michael Forstner) |                                                                                                |
| 9:00 AM | Goniela Iskali (Graduate Student) Biodiversity in the Bracken Bat Cave Ecosystem:Effects of Guano Subsidy (Mentors/ Advisors: Dr. Yixin Zhang) |                                                                                                |
| 9:15 AM | Donald Brown (Graduate Student) Short–term Outcomes for Juvenile Amphibians After Fire (Mentor/ Advisor: Michael Forstner) |                                                                                                |
| 9:30 AM | Diego Araujo (Graduate Student) Recovery of Endangered Fountain Darter Habitat Following a Period of Exceptional Drought. (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Al Groeger) |                                                                                                |
| 9:45 AM | Thilanka Jayaweera (Graduate Student) Modulation of Plant Auxin Signaling in Response to Environmental Stress (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri) |                                                                                                |
| 10:00 AM | Ivana Mali (Graduate Student) Toward Sustainable Worldwide Utilization of Chelonians (Mentor/ Advisor: Michael Forstner) |                                                                                                |
| 10:15 AM | 15–Minute Break                                                                                 |                                                                                                |
| 10:30 AM | Jesse Becker (Graduate Student) Influence on Land at Multiple Spatial Scales on Nutrient Concentration and Ecosystem Function in a Large River System (Mentor/ Advisor: Dr. Weston Nowlin) |                                                                                                |
| 10:45 AM | Jon Richey (Undergraduate Student) Inference of pCO2 Levels and Climate in the Late Cretaceous from Fossil Lauraceae (Mentor/ Advisor: Dr. Garland Upchurch) |                                                                                                |
| 11:00 AM | Alisa Abuzein (Graduate Student) Organic Matter Sources Supporting Communities of an Arid and Semi–arid Riverine System: The Lower Rio Grande Drainage (Mentor/ Advisor: Dr. Weston Nowlin) |                                                                                                |
| 11:15 AM | Adam Duarte (Graduate Student) Dynamics of Rumen–reticulum Capacity and Fill in Female White–tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus) (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Floyd Weckerly) | Nirmala Karunarathna (Graduate Student) IAA28 May have Multiple Functions in Plant Growth and Development (Mentor/ Advisor: Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri) |
| 11:45 AM | Yuting Hou (Graduate Student) Characterization and Identification of PIC7, a Gene Important in Plant Hormone Response Pathways (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri) |                                                                                                |
| 12:00 PM | 1 hr Break/Lunch                                                                                |                                                                                                |
| 1:00 PM  | Praveen Kumar Kathare (Graduate Student) Functional Characterization of SAUR Genes in Plant Auxin Response (Mentor/ Advisor: Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri) | Lisa Jones (Graduate Student) Ecology and Restoration of Blackbrush (Coleogyne ramosissima) in The Mojave Desert (Mentor/ Advisor: Susan Schwinning) |
| 1:15 PM  |                                                                                                  | Qiong Sha (PhD Student) Temporal Analyses of the Distribution and Diversity of Salmonella in Natural Biofilms (Mentor/Advisor: Dittmar Hahn) |
| 1:30 PM  |                                                                                                  | Amber Harper (Graduate Student) Assessing Drought Impacts on Herpetofauna (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Michael Forstner) |
2:00 PM  **Melissa Jones** (Graduate Student)
"Is Bigger Always Better?" Mate Selection on the Houston Toad (*Bufo houstonensis*)
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Michael Forstner)

2:15 PM  **Dori Thompson** (Undergraduate Student)
Understanding the History of the Redwoods: A Late Cretaceous Redwood from the McRae Formation of South-central New Mexico
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Gary Upchurch)

2:30 PM  15–Minute Break

2:45 PM  **Drew Davis** (Graduate Student)
Phylogenetic Generalization of Predators by the San Marcos Salamander (*Eurycea nana*)
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Caitlin Gabor)

3:00 PM  **Sarah Kane** (Graduate Student)
Evidence for Multiple cAMP-Dependent Pathways for Activation of F98 Cells to the Reactive State
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Joseph Koke)

3:15 PM  **Megan Lindsay** (Graduate Student)
Effects of a Freshwater Turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) on Ecosystem Functioning in Experimental Ponds
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Yixin Zhang)

3:30 PM  **Krystle Moore** (Undergraduate Student)
Splicing Defects in pic59 Mutant Causes Picloram Resistance in Arabidopsis
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri)

3:45 PM  **Tesfalem Zere** (Graduate student)
Role of Indole and cAMP on *Escherichia coli* Mixed Culture Growth (Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Bob Mclean)

4:00 PM  15–Minute Break

4:15 PM  **Trey Newman** (Undergraduate Student)
Effect of Bacteriophage Infection on the Survival of *Escherichia coli* in Single and Mixed Culture Biofilms
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Gary Aron)

4:30 PM  **Jeff Troy** (Graduate Student)
Modeling Artificial Light by Fledgling Seabirds
(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Clay Green)

4:45 PM  **Shawn McCracken** (Graduate Student)
Multi-rotor UAVS- A New Tool for Biologists

(Mentor/Advisor: Dr. Michael Forstner)

5:00 PM  Closing Remarks

6:00 PM  Poster Session and Colloquium Reception
Texas River Center Aquarena Springs

**Poster Presentations:**

**Sherille Bradley** (Graduate Student) Cellular Architecture of *Treponema pallidum*: Novel Flagellum, Periplasmic Cone, and Cell Envelope as Revealed by Cyro Electron Tomography

**Brock Geary** (Graduate Student) Juvenile Dispersal and Site Fidelity of Reddish Egrets: Initial Observations

**Kristina Dame** (Graduate Student) Resident Scientists in the Classroom: Secondary Science Students’ Attitudes Toward Science in the NSF GK–12 Program Project Flowing Waters

**Matthew Davidson** (Undergraduate Student) Identification of the Rab27 Guanine Nucleotide Factor Homologue in Zebrafish

**Gabriel Hurtado** (Undergraduate Student) Analyzing Lipocalin–2 in Zebrafish Optic Nerve Injury

**John Kinsley** (Graduate Student) The Surrogator: Post Release Survival and Dispersal of Bobwhite Quail

**Jacqueline Ma** (Graduate Student) 11–Ketotestosterone Does Not Influence Mate Preference or Mating Behavior of Male Saifin Mollies (*Poecilia latipinna*)

**Joseph Mendoza** (Graduate Student) Detection and Distribution of Salmonellae in the Intestine if Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*)

**James Muraco** (Graduate Student) Maintenance of a Unisexual–Bisexual Mating Complex: Importance of Behavioral Syndromes

**Luis Neve** (Graduate Student) An Anti–bystin Antibody Labels Hypertrophic Astrocytes in Zebrafish Following Optic Nerve Injury: Possible Marker for Reactivity

**Kelly Rodibaugh** (Graduate Student) Bacterially Mediated Carbon and Nutrient Dynamics in a Highly Impacted River System

**Lily Swanbrow** (Graduate Student) The Impact of Turbidity and Visual Versus Chemical Cues on Predator Avoidance by Fountain Darters, *Etheostoma fonticola*