

The Department of Biology welcomes two new faculty members this fall, Dr. Camila Carlos-Shanley and Dr. Chris Serenari. Camila is originally from Brazil and most recently was a postdoc at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She is a microbial ecologist studying bacteria and the other microbes that form microbiomes within larger organisms such as insects. Her research also includes studies of how climate change affects microbiomes and the interaction between microbes and hosts. She uses metagenomics (analysis of DNA collected in the environment) in much of her research. Chris is originally from Ohio. Prior to coming to Texas State he was working for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Chris studies the human dimensions of wildlife – this is a broad academic field that essentially involves how humans interact with wildlife. Chris has conducted research examining the public's view of wildlife conservation and the effectiveness of governmental policy related to wildlife and natural areas conservation. He has been involved in the red wolf recovery project in North Carolina and has conducted studies in Chile and India. (Posted 9-21-2018).

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Dr. Thom Hardy was awarded with the Honorary Fellowship of the Ecohydraulics Committee during the 12th International Symposium on Ecohydraulics, a conference recently held in Tokyo, Japan. Thom received the award for past and ongoing efforts in studying a broad range of ecohydraulic topics. In the words of the selection committee, Thom has "been an excellent ambassador for interdisciplinary ecohydraulic research". Congratulations to Thom! (Posted 8-30-2018)

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Dr. Kristy Daniel recently published an edited book, *Towards a Framework for Representational Competence in Science Education* (Springer Publishing). The book covers the current state of thinking and what it means to have a theoretical framework to investigate, teach, and assess how people make sense of and use visual illustrations of science data. (Posted 8-27-2018)

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Various student clubs within the Biology Department are often involved in promoting science to the greater community and K-12 students. Most recently, some of our students from the Pre-Med Pre-Dent Society, Ornithology Club, and Tri Beta participated in the "Science Hall" at Saints Peter and Paul School in New Braunfels. School officials, parents, and the K-12 students themselves very much appreciated the enthusiasm and generosity of our students. Job well done! (Posted 4-23-2018).

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The Tri-Beta Biology Student Colloquium and the Women in Science and Engineering Conference were recently held on campus. The following students gave outstanding presentations at the Tri-Beta Colloquium: Cory Goff (Best Oral Presentation by Ph.D. Student), Amara Garza (Best Oral Presentation by M.S. Student), Hannah Perkins (Best Oral Presentation by Undergraduate Student), and Starla Thornhill (Best Poster). Biology Department students also won big at the WISE Conference: Sara Weaver was recognized as Outstanding Doctoral Student by the College of Science and Engineering and won first place in the poster competition. Rebekah Rylander (Ph.D. student) won a Women's Giving Circle - WISE scholarship. Congratulations to all these students! (Posted April 9, 2018)

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Tim Cioffi, a graduate student in Dr. Nihal Dharmasiri's lab, recently won first place for oral presentation of his research, IBRS affects steady-state levels of SCF/AFBs components to regulate auxin response, at the annual meeting of the Southern Section of American Society of Plant Biologists. Congrats to Tim! (Posted March 27, 2018)

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The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society recently held their annual meeting in Dallas. Many undergrad and grad students from the department were in attendance along with several faculty members. Four

students from the department won awards, they are Zach Adcock (second place in the Clarence Cottam Award Competition), Sara Weaver (first place in Poster Competition), Kristin Dyer (Outstanding Wildlife Undergraduate Student Award), and Joshua Robledo (first place in Wildlife Art Competition). In addition, our student team (Kristin Dyer, Hannah Weipert, Dillon Harriman, Kaitlyn Lowe, Sonia Duran, Amanda Jackson, David Klingele, Joshua Robledo, Maya Ressler, and Robert Tyler) reached the semifinals of the Quiz Bowl. Congratulations to all these students! (Posted February 18, 2018)