

# 2020 Newsletter

14 February 2020

## **President**

Claire Hoffmann

## **Vice President**

Noelle Thompson

## **Treasurer**

Emily Liljestrand

## **Secretary**

Trey McClinton

## **Research Symposium**

Clara Graucob & Kelly Kapsar

## **Seminar**

Courtney Harrison & Rachel Menale

## **Spotlight Magazine**

Mimi Gong

## **Fundraising**

Katelyn King & Samantha Betances

## **COGS**

Veronica Frans

## **GEU**

Connor Buckley

## **Community Outreach**

Claire Hoffmann

## **Travel Grants**

Sophia Chau

## **Curriculum Committee**

Ashley Huinker

## **Faculty Meeting**

So-Jung Youn

## **FW Club**

Trey McClinton

## **Safety Officer**

Leslie Skora

## **Graduate Committee**

Nick Jaffe

## **Social Events**

Courtney Harrison

## **Webmaster**

Melissa Starking

## **Spring Picnic**

Emily Liljestrand

## **Welcoming Committee**

Jackie Beck & Katelyn King

## **DAC Representative**

Megan Cross

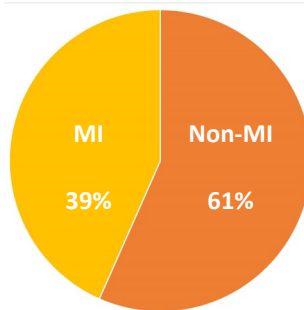
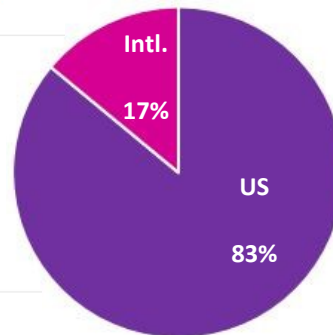
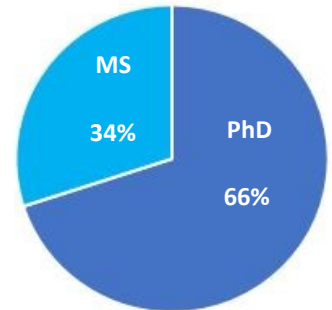
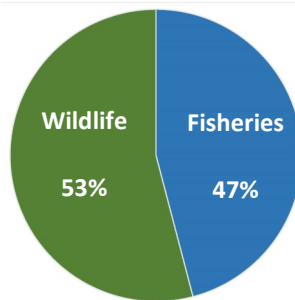
## **DEI Committee**

Sam Betances, So-Jung Youn & Tesseliz Quiles-Delgado

## **Departmental Communications**

Jonathan Trudeau

## FW Graduate Student Statistics



***\*\*Special thanks to Jill Cruth for providing the data to make these charts!***

## 2020-21 Position Nominations

Are you interested in becoming more involved with your Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Organization? Do you know someone who would excel in one or more of the positions?



If so, please send your name, or the name of the person you are nominating, and the position(s) to Noelle Thompson at [thomp996@msu.edu](mailto:thomp996@msu.edu).

*If you have questions about a specific role, contact the person currently occupying that position.*



# GSO Newsletter (Continued)

## Welcoming new students

This year, our department grew by 10 students in the fall and 5 in the spring.  
The department turned out in force to welcome them all!



Claire Hoffman and Jackie Beck hosted the 2019-2020 fall welcome BBQ.



Over 30 grad students made it out to celebrate Lansing's annual Tour of Terror this year.

## Outreach Activities

### **Feb 29 2020 – GWIS Middle School Girls' Math and Science Day**

*This is an opportunity for middle school girls to try science demos and games while working with enthusiastic and knowledgeable science students and researchers at MSU. Past activities included practice with GIS mapping, learning fire ecology, building a vertical growing system, and many others! Girls choose which sessions they would like to attend and rotate every half hour to a new session.*

### **April 13 2020 – Fenner Nature Center Earth Day Extravaganza**

*Fenner Nature center celebrates Earth Day each year and visitors of all ages are welcome to join in the search for salamanders, planting trees, and restoring habitat in the park. The "Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge" is one of the event's highlights and is a way to remove the invasive mustard from the park. Volunteers are needed to help clear brush to prepare the land for the planting of native Michigan grasses and wildflower species.*

### **May 2, 9, 16 2020 – Dr. Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program**

*This is a free program for youth ages 5-16. Participants get to learn basic fishing skills such as casting, knot tying, rigging for different types of fishing, regulations, and ethics. Participants then get to apply those skills and knowledge at a local fishing site in the Lansing area with the assistance of trained volunteers. Fishing experience is not necessary.*

Contact Claire Hoffmann at [hoffm523@msu.edu](mailto:hoffm523@msu.edu) for more information.

# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## Diverse graduate students? ✓



*Check out where  
our students are  
coming from!*

GIS images provided by: Noelle Thompson

Data provided by: Jill Cruth

## COGS Alert!

Have you heard of the Council of Graduate Students (COGS)? With an \$11 membership fee, COGS may fund professional development and social activities for you to partake in! Additionally, COGS advocates for graduate students to the university administration.

To learn more, go to <http://cogs.msu.edu/> or contact our COGS rep:  
**Veronica Frans, [fransver@msu.edu](mailto:fransver@msu.edu)**

*For more information  
on the GSO and events*

*Visit our website at:  
[http://msufwgso.wix.com/  
fwqso](http://msufwgso.wix.com/fwqso)*



# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## Fisheries and Wildlife GSO Spring Seminar Series

Fall semester 2019, the Fisheries and Wildlife GSO Seminar Series focused on emphasizing work within academia. Speakers represented a wide variety of fisheries, wildlife, and human dimensions research. These included Dr. Vikram Vakharia, a fish virologist with the Institute of Marine & Environmental Technology at the University of Maryland discussing viruses within Salmonid species, and Dr. Marta Jarzyna who received her PhD in the Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. at MSU and spoke about the research she is conducting regarding critical scales and dimensions of biodiversity change as a professor in the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at the Ohio State University.

The spring semester starts off with FW faculty and staff, Dr. John Robinson and Dr. Jared Homola, discussing their research with population and conservation genetics. Other exciting topics to come include the understanding public perceptions about invasive species by Greg Norwood with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, environmental consulting with Dr. Leslie TeWinkle, and a video conference with Dr. Burnham Curtis, Forensic Scientist with United States Fish and Wildlife Service discussing wildlife forensic genetics.



**Dr. Marta Jarzyna**



**Dr. Jared Homola**

### **January 30**

Dr. John Robinson  
*Michigan State University*

### **February 6**

Dr. Jared Homola  
*Michigan State University*

### **February 13**

Greg Norwood  
*Michigan Department of Natural Resources*

### **February 20**

Dr. Gregg Sass  
*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

### **February 27**

Dr. Jennifer Owen  
*Michigan State University*

### **March 12**

Dr. Ellen Marsden  
*University of Vermont*

### **March 19**

Dr. John Walden  
*Queens College*

### **March 26**

Dr. Leslie TeWinkle  
*Fish & Wildlife Solutions, LLC*

### **April 2**

Dr. Keither Gido  
*Kansas State University*

### **April 9**

Dr. Burnham Curtis  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service*

### **April 16**

Dr. Jennifer Moore  
*Grand Valley State University*



**Field and lab work? Teaching? Avoid the worry!**  
**Get training in first aid and CPR this semester!**

**Date:** March 5th 2020

**Time:** 8 am — 4 pm

**Price:** \$67.50 (before 2/21)



Contact Leslie Skora,  
[skorale1@msu.edu](mailto:skorale1@msu.edu) for location

# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## FW Spring Picnic

**Who:** You and your loved ones

**When:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 5 pm-Sunset

**Where:** Patriarche Park, 950 Alton Street, East Lansing, MI 48823

**Why:** Well, because... solidarity and celebration!

**Food/drink:** Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, toppings, condiments, and assorted alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided!

**Activities:** We'll host another ticketed raffle as well as the popular pie-in-the-face contests!

### **Pie-in-the-face contest matchups:**

1. Symposium co-chair v. co-chair: Clara Graucob v. Kelly Kapsar
2. Fisheries v. Wildlife v. Human Dimensions: Connor Buckley v. Trey McClinton v. **NEEDED**
3. Principle Investigator v. Principle Investigator: **NEEDED**
4. Principle Investigator v. Student: **NEEDED**

***Please note that the contest jars will be placed in the main office (NR 13) with Jamie from February 25 through April 16. The person with the most money in his/her jar per matchup will receive a pie in the face delivered by his/her opponent at the picnic.***

***All donations to the contest will support FW GSO Fundraising!***

*\*2 - 4 volunteers are needed to visit local businesses and solicit donations for the picnic's raffle. Please email Emily Liljestrand, [liljest@msu.edu](mailto:liljest@msu.edu), to sign-up and volunteer ASAP!\**

## FW GSO Research Symposium

### **Dr. John Virdin**



*"Lost at sea: twenty years of trying to solve ocean problems with science and money"*

The 15th Annual Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Organization Research Symposium will take place **Friday, February 21, 2020 beginning at 8:00 AM in the MSU Union Ballroom**. Throughout the day there will be oral and poster presentations from graduate and undergraduate students. This year the plenary address will be given by Dr. John Virdin from Duke University Marine Laboratory. Following the student presentations, there will be an awards ceremony and reception with food and beverages provided. Please come out to support and learn about the diversity of research being conducted in FW. **Don't forget to register as an attendee!**

*To register for the event or view the programs from previous years, please go to the FWGSO website at:*

<http://msufwgso.wixsite.com/fwgso/symposium>



# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## Accounting

To keep up on GSO accounting for Spring 2020, view our budget here: <https://tinyurl.com/gso-treasury-report> or contact our treasurer Emily Liljestrand (liljest3@msu.edu)!

## Travel Grant Award Recipients

Nicole Watson

Claire Hoffmann

# committees

### SYMPOSIUM

**Clara Graucob**  
**Kelly Kapsar**  
**Dr. Thomas Loch**  
Aimee Baier  
Sam Betances  
Connor Buckley  
Sophia Chau  
Ibrahim Dertli  
Courtney Harrison  
Chris Henderson  
Amber Johnston  
Jacob Kimmel  
Trey McClinton  
Rachel Menale  
Emily Mensch  
Samantha Strandmark  
Noelle Thompson  
Alex Walrus  
Yuqian Zhang

### SPRING PICNIC

**Emily Liljestrand**

Volunteers NEEDED!

### TRAVEL GRANT

**Sophia Chau**  
Janice Albers  
Katelyn King  
Trey McClinton  
Nan Nourn  
Joe Stachelek

### SPOTLIGHT

**Mimi Gong**  
Sam Betances  
Emily Dean  
Trey McClinton  
Trazy Melvin  
Emily Mensch  
Nan Nourn

### SEMINAR

**Courtney Harrison**  
**Rachel Menale**

### FUNDRAISING

**Mikaela Hanson**  
**Nan Nourn**

\*Individuals in **GREEN** are the Chairs/Coordinators of the committee

\*Individuals in **PINK** are faculty advisers on the committee



# GSO Newsletter (Continued)

## FW Strategic Planning

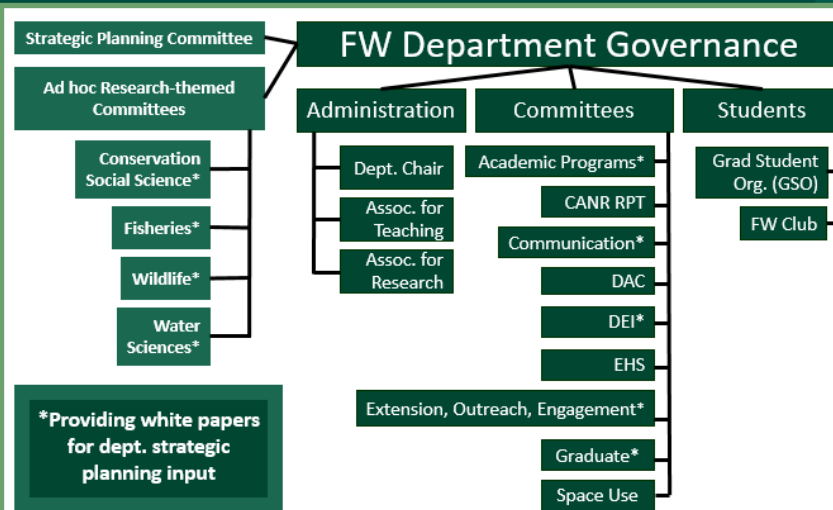
During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Fisheries and Wildlife Department developed a Strategic Planning (SP) Initiative and a corresponding SP Committee with the primary goal being to update its strategic plan by evaluating where the department is, where it has been, and where it wants to be. In addition to the main SP committee, 10 additional subcommittees have been formed or have joined the initiative to assist with this process: four committees corresponding to the research themes encompassing the FW department (fisheries, wildlife, water sciences, and conservation social science); communications; curriculum and academic programs; extension, outreach, and engagement; diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); and the graduate program committees. The graduate students are serving an active role in this undertaking, with one or more graduate student representatives serving on every subcommittee involved in this process.

To better understand the governance within the FW department and the committees that are contributing to this strategic planning initiative, please see the conceptual diagram, developed by our SP committee grad student representative Jackie Beck, below.

### Graduate Student Representatives



**Jackie Beck**  
FW Strategic Planning Committee



Wildlife Research Subcommittee:  
Jonathan Trudeau



Water Sciences Subcommittee:  
Emily Dean (L), Matt Flood (R)



Fisheries Research Subcommittee:  
**NEEDED!**



Extension Subcommittee:  
Claire Hoffmann



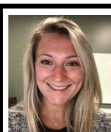
Conservation Social Science Subcommittee: Chris Henderson (L), Amber Goguen (R)



Communications Subcommittee:  
Jonathan Trudeau



Curriculum/Academic Programs Subcommittee: Ashley Huinker (L), Alex Walus (R)



Graduate Program Subcommittee:  
Nick Jaffe



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee: So-Jung Youn (L), Sam Betances, (C) Tessaliz Quiles-Delgado (R)



**“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality”**

**Warren Bennis**





# GSO Newsletter (Continued)

## 2019 FW Graduates

### Masters

Joel Betts  
Sarah Burton  
Paige Filice  
Elizabeth Gulotty  
Symon Masiaine  
Erin Tracy  
Shea Volkel  
Julia Whyte

### Doctoral

Andrew Carlson  
Thomas Connor  
Steven Gray  
Corrine Higley  
Randy Knapik  
Sarah Mayhew  
Tutilo Mudumba  
Genevieve Pang  
Betsy Riley  
Zhenci Xu

**Congratulations!**

## Join the GEU!

### Know Your Rights!

#### *What can the GEU do for you?*

The GEU advocates for pay increases, healthcare, and other working rights as a graduate student.

#### *Where can I find the current GEU contract?*

Click [here](#) for a plain-speak version\*  
or [here](#) for the full contract

*\*Courtesy of the GEU Publicity and Member Defense committees, 2019*

#### *What are the annual membership fees?*

TAs pay 1.6% of their stipend  
RA fee \$40

#### *Where can I sign up?*

You may sign up at <http://geuatmsu.org/> or contact our GEU rep (see below)!

**Contact: Connor Buckley (buckl123@msu.edu)**

## Spotlight Magazine

Are you looking forward to reading the new issue of MSU Fisheries and Wildlife's Spotlight? This year, we have six authors, three editors, and three designers working diligently on the magazine. The 2020 edition features articles on student experiences working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, experiences with being awarded the Fenske Fellowship, the use of science to protect indigenous people and animals, research on how deforestation is facilitating the use of pesticides for fisheries, and so much more. In addition, this issue will catch up you up with an alumnus from our department, Chris Jordan, and will provide you with an inside look into the Jianguo (Jack) Liu lab. Please be sure to check out the wide array of articles published in the spring edition of Spotlight!

Looking ahead, the Spotlight committee is looking for volunteers to assist with editing and design next year and to assist with distribution of the 2020 magazine. Participating in Spotlight is a great way to practice your science communication and outreach skills! If you are interested in learning more about Spotlight, editing future editions, or contributing an article next year, please contact me (gongmimi@msu.edu). It is only with eager and willing graduate students that Spotlight can continue to be successful!

**- Mimi Gong, Editor**





# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## Professional Development Workshops

### **Feb 26 2020, 3-5 PM – Project Management**

**Topics:** Goal setting, project life cycles, identifying and validating requirements, tasks, risks, and adaption strategies.

**Hosted by:** FW GSO Professional Development Committee

**Location:** TBD

### **March 18 2020, 3-5 PM – Conflict Resolution in Natural Resources**

**Topics:** Conflict scenarios, dialogue concepts, active listening, positions vs. interests

**Hosted by:** Dr. Georgia Peterson

**Location:** TBD

### **April 8 2020, 3-5 PM – Online Presence**

**Topics:** How to create, develop, and maintain online personas using social media, keywords, and personal websites

**Hosted by:** Dr. Jo Latimore

**Location:** TBD

## **A Note from Your GSO President**

As our spring semester begins to fly by, looking through the great newsletter put together by VP Noelle Thompson serves as a perfect reminder to stop and look back through all we've accomplished so far this year. We kicked off the fall semester with a welcome barbeque, where we had a chance to catch up with old friends and establish new friendships with the amazing crop of student who joined us this year. In October, the annual Tour of Terror Halloween bar crawl was well-represented and filled with creative costumes (as always!). A few of the stand outs this year were Nick Jaffe's "Fat Thor" and Katie Kierczynski and Nathaniel Yost's eerily accurate Cards Against Humanity set. Thank you to this year's social chair Courtney Harrison for making events like this come together! Another big thank you is in order for the fundraising super duo of Nan Nourn and Mikaela Hanson who have done an amazing job raising money for the GSO through the fall sale, photo contest, and many other efforts that often go uncelebrated but never unappreciated! The photo contest was particularly fun this year, with winning photos all the way from Antarctica and India (see some of the photos on the next page!). There was also wonderful representation of the beauty of our own state of Michigan. The department's strategic planning effort also kicked off in the fall semester, and we are grateful for the administration's inclusion of graduate students in this process. (Continued)

# GSO Newsletter (Continued)



## A Note from Your GSO President

I am also incredibly proud of all of the graduate students who seized the opportunity to be involved in all of the stages of this process. Your time and efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are all so grateful to you for helping to ensure that our department continues to grow and become a more supportive and inclusive place for the graduate students who will come after us. It is that kind of selfless leadership that makes me so proud to call this department my home.

In the spring semester we have many more exciting events coming up, including the spring picnic, a series of professional development events, and outreach opportunities like the Fenner Nature Center Earth Day Extravaganza. We are also looking forward to the 2020 Symposium to help us all get more insight into the varied academic efforts we are all working away on in our different corners of campus. Last, but not least, we will be continuing to build the opportunities for discussion and graduate student participation in the department through GSO meetings and town hall meetings with the department administration. Your voices are so important, and I am very grateful for your unending participation and investment in those meetings. As always, I am blown away by the work ethic and determination of the graduate students in FW. I'm so proud to be part of this community and I can't wait to see what you all accomplish for the rest of the year!

Sincerely,

Claire Hoffmann



### Just a few of our 2020 FW GSO Photo Contest Winners

1. Grizzly bear family in Katmai NP by Nick Jaffe
2. Camera trap image of a wolf in the Upper Peninsula by Melissa Starking
3. Costa's Hummingbird in the Arizona Desert by Amber Goguen
4. Saguaro NP in Arizona by Parker Banas

