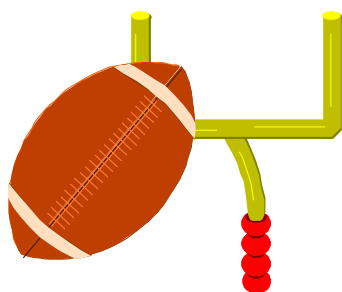


26th Annual Newsletter
Department of Biological
Sciences
2002-2003

HOMECOMING!

Celebrate Homecoming with us on Saturday, November 8, 2003



Homecoming Activities

Friday, November 7

11:00 a.m.	Golden Circle Luncheon	LSC Ballroom
2:00 p.m.	Dedication of Garden	Alumni Garden
6:00 p.m.	Distinguished Alumni Gala Reception, LSC Ballroom	
7:00 p.m.	Distinguished Alumni Dinner, LSC Ballroom	

Saturday, November 8

8:00 a.m.	Alumni Coffee, Austin Hall
10:00 a.m.	Homecoming Parade Sam Houston Ave.
Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Tailgate Party, Bowers Stadium
2:00 p.m.	Bearkat Football – SHSU vs. Northwestern State



5:00 p.m. **Department of Biological Sciences Homecoming Barbecue, rain or shine, at the home of Dr. Jimmie Long, 3352 Winter Way, Spring Lake Subdivision (located one mile west of I-45 on FM 1374). Sponsored by Department faculty and staff. No charge.**

Notes From The Chair

The 2002-2003 academic year has been a rather interesting one in light of an uncertain budget and a rather sad one with the untimely death of Joey Harrison. Joey was working as a graduate student under Jerry Cook's supervision when he was critically injured in a car accident. Many recent graduates and attendees of our homecoming bar-b-cues will probably remember Joey, who had also received his BS degree in 2000.

Once again, this has been an active year for students and faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences. Numerous papers and posters were presented by our faculty and graduate and undergraduate students at meetings of professional societies, with Phillip Laughlin presenting his undergraduate research in Nova Scotia completed under the direction of Dr. Tami Cook. Students, supervised by Drs. Hudson, Neudorf, Sailer and myself, presented their research at the spring meetings of the Texas Academy of Sciences. We were also represented at the regional Tri-Beta meetings at Lake Texoma by several students, Andy Dewees, Everett Wilson, and Ken Wunch, who took over as faculty sponsor of Tri-Beta this year. Undergraduate and graduate students supervised by Drs. Tami Cook, Bill Lutterschmidt, Everett Wilson, and myself presented papers at the annual meetings of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists held at the University of Oklahoma.

Over \$16,000 in academic scholarships was awarded by the department to entering freshmen and undergraduate students during the past year from money generated by departmental endowments and the sale of laboratory manuals. Due to recent declines in interest rates, we were not able to give as many scholarships as we had in past years, but hope that the number of scholarships and amounts will increase with improving interest rates and increased giving to our endowment accounts. One high point was the establishment of a new scholarship endowment by Roy Turner (MA 1964) that will be used to support international or transfer students coming into our BIO program.

Drs. Neudorf and Lutterschmidt received an SHSU faculty research grant that provided support for mentoring three undergraduate students in independent summer research projects. We also continue activities at the Department's Center for Biological Field Studies with partial completion of renovations of research and dormitory space. Funding was also made available to construct a greenhouse that will be used to raise native butterflies for Moody Gardens' Rain Forest Pyramid. Various sources of funding are still being pursued to construct an Education Complex and outdoor learning center on the property. If you are interested in helping out, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Monte L. Thies
Chair

News of Graduates

(We are pleased with all the responses from our graduates. We enjoy hearing from you and sharing your current activities with others through the newsletter. Please continue to send in your news.)

Following completion of her degree under Dr. Neudorf's direction, **Kelly D'Orazio** (BIO M.S. 2003) entered Veterinary school this fall at Texas A&M University. She reports that her lab partner in vet school is fellow new student **Brad Bennett** (BIO M.S. 2000).

Rebecca Bodily (BIO M.S. 2002) has accepted a position to teach Biology at Pike's Peak Community College in Colorado Springs for this semester. Why would she want to leave Texas?

Hope McGaha (BIO M.S. 2000) continues to work on her PhD at University of Manitoba and reports that she was married in August.

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of **Toney M. Keeney** (BIO BS 1965, MS 1967). Toney taught for 32 years at Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde and served as head of the Science and Math Department as well. He developed an extensive herbarium recognized around the state and nation for its complete collection of plants from southwest Texas. Toney was truly an outstanding plant taxonomist and made significant professional contributions to his field.

Linda Voswinkel Boehm (BIO BS 1966) enjoyed last year's newsletter and reports in her email to Dr. Everett Wilson that "I am very much impressed with all the activities of the department", and "I congratulate you on your 41 years at SHSU!!"

William C. Severn (ESC BS 1994) in his response to last year's newsletter reports that his current position is Environmental, Transportation and Health and Safety Trainer at Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.

Holly Anderson Hanson (ESC BS 1993) reports that she is Senior Environmental Specialist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. She resides in Harlan, Iowa.

Kurt Volkmer (ESC BS 1981) lives in Willis "on 2 acres, 2 cats, a 3 acre pond in my backyard-nature at its best!". Kurt works with The Environmental Quality Co. in hazardous waste management with responsibilities in packaging, transportation, treatment and disposal of RCRA waste.

In a lengthy email to Dr. James DeShaw, **Lisa Bekman** (BIO, ESC 1992) reports that she lives in Montreal, Canada, with her French husband and has been working in a French-speaking hospital for the past three years. After her husband's graduation from engineering school, they plan a "good long vacation of five months in Eastern Europe." She hopes to start a Master's degree program in Canada upon her return.

Chimene Jackson Mark (BIO BA 1994) reports that she is an Account Manager for W. Silver Recycling in El Paso, TX. Her ESC minor was good preparation for her work as the company's liaison with state and federal regulatory agencies. She and her husband Kevin are expecting their first child.

Sunday Crider (BIO BA 1993, MA 1994) writes to Dr. Wilson that she, her husband Larry and daughter Abby live in Massachusetts where she is "makin' babies everyday (other peoples' of course)". Sunday works at New England Hospital as an "invitro" fertilization specialist.

Cox R. (Bob) Crider (BIO MA 1973), Sunday's daddy, sent a copy of the family annual newsletter reporting events of the year. Both Cox and wife Pam are recently retired from the Mexia school system after many years of teaching. Although Pam is still recovering from a serious illness, both have "found that retirement is a busy time". Cox spends a lot of time at the family ranch near Mexia and has recently participated in excavating mammoth bones in the area. For a look at the ranch, his hobbies, the children and grandchildren, visit Cox's website: www.sealpresscollector.com.

Nancy E. Ward (BIO BS 1987) responds to last year's newsletter that she has received an MS degree in Biological Sciences from U of Houston and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston. She is currently a Scientist at NASA-Johnson Space Center in Houston. In her spare time she trains and shows dogs.

Maurice Gilliam Wilkinson (BIO BS 1972) has been a practicing family physician for 25 years and currently practices in Shiner, TX. In recognition of her dedication as a family physician, Maurice has received several state and national awards. Most recently (2002) she was recognized by Texas Tech Health Science Center as a Distinguished Alumna. During President Clinton's administration she received the National Family Physician Award, and in 2001 she was recognized as a Distinguished SHSU Alumna. Congratulations, Maurice.

Jennifer Revelle Butler (BIO BS 1995) reports that she was married last March and now works with Glacier Clear Bottle Water Co. She and her husband reside in Keller, TX.

Craig Wall (BIO BS 1999) and **Tammy Lange Wall** (BIO BS 2000) reside in Corpus Christi, TX. Craig is Safety Coordinator with the City of Corpus Christi. Tammy recently graduated ("I graduate in August 2003!") from Physician's Assistant School at UTMB in Galveston after spending a year doing clinical rotations in Victoria, TX.

Marie Carman Carlisle (ESC BS 1996) reports that she was married in October, 2002, and now works at the Johnson Space Center in the toxicology department doing GCMS analyses of air samples taken from the shuttles and the space station. She says "Thanks for the hard work that you put into organizing all of the information (in the newsletter)".

Thomas L. Edwards (BIO BAT 1975, MS CJ 1982) is a sergeant in the Houston Police Department (22 years) and is a Retired Commander in the US Naval Reserves. His three sons have been influenced by their father in their career choices: son #1 is with Houston Police Dept, son #2 is a recent graduate of US Naval Academy and son #3 is an enlistee in the US Air Force. Nice work!

In an email to Drs. DeShaw and Dewees, **Larry Smith** (BIO BS 1978) reports that "I always read the annual newsletter with great interest... and ...I primarily hung out in Dr. Hoage's lab ... and ... also taught Botany 101 for several years for Dr. Thomas". Yes, Larry, we remember. After a number of career moves, Larry is now a partner in the firm of Deloitte and Touch LLP and spends most of his time "managing the tax software business in the western and southwestern US which requires a great deal of travel". Larry and wife Linda Holmes Smith (SHSU '77) have two teenage children.

Ken W. Cook (ESC BS 1974) writes in his email to Dr. DeShaw that he now lives and works with Dupont in Nashville, TN, but spends 60-80% of his time on business traveling. He has three children now in college, and reports his favorite pastime is road bicycling.

Lori Oxley Burton (BIO BS 1987) lives in Spring, TX, and is a mom to three sons, Callum (11/2), Cannon (5) and John (9). She reports "I love being a stay-at-home mom and not missing a moment of their early years. Life is good".

Paul Kaushik (ESC BS 1998) reports that after a period of time in the safety department with Target Stores, he moved into management and currently is Store Team Leader over three Target stores. Target is looking for some good science graduates to work into their safety program.

Jennifer (Mahlmann) Jeffery (BIO & ESC BS 1992) teaches biology at Wharton County Junior College.

Jennifer Palmer (ESC BS 1996) is Safety Specialist at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Courtney Alexander (BIO BS 2000) is doing well in her third year of dental school at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She passed the National Boards Exam with flying colors in July. Currently, she is “in the clinic 80% of the time treating patients, so it is just like being a dentist”. She has been heavily involved in the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) during her time in dental school. She is currently president of the local chapter of ASDA at UTHSCSA and serves on the national Board of Trustees, representing all three Texas dental schools as well as schools in Oklahoma and Colorado.

David Billinger (ESC BS 1999) reports that he is keeping very busy in his job with Zephyr in their Houston location. He has recently moved to the Houston area from xxx.

Debbie Armendariz (ESC BS, 1996) reports that she and husband Joe are currently living and working in Bloomington, Illinois.

Following receipt of an MA degree under Dr. Everett Wilson’s direction, **Frank Talamantes** (BIO MA 1970) earned his PhD at University of California at Berkeley. Since that time he has advanced through the academic ranks at University of California Santa Cruz and was recently promoted to Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at that institution. He has had a long productive career as an endocrinologist and has over 167 manuscripts and 13 book chapters on endocrine function of the placenta, hormonal control of mammary carcinogenesis and growth hormone receptors.

Leslie (Scherbel) Hughes (BIO BS 1998) and **Phillip Hughes** (BIO MS 2000) recently relocated from California to the Florida Keys. Leslie is Assistant Researcher with the University of Florida Tropical Research Center, Department of Plant Genetics in Homestead, Florida. Phillip is a Recovery Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Ecological Services in Big Pine Key, Florida, working on the Florida Key deer population. They have two sons, Phillip R. Hughes age 4, “future herpetologist” and Avery Hughes age 2, “future entomologist”.

Matthew S. Brain (BIO BS, MS 2000, 2002), who completed his MS degree under Dr. Tami Cook, is employed as a customer service associate at BD Biosciences in his native Ontario, Canada.

Karli Rowe (BIO BS 2002), who worked as a student research assistant in Dr. Tami Cook’s lab as an undergrad, is a staff biologist for SWCA Environmental Consultants in Houston, TX.

Tiffany Frey (BIO BS 2003), who also worked as a student research assistant for Dr. Tami Cook, lives in Burlington Vermont and works for an ophthalmologist and does volunteer work for nonprofit science organization at Lake Champlain.

Michelle Martinez (BIO BS 1998) reports that she is still with Lexicon Genetics in The Woodlands where she is a research associate. Michelle indicates that Lexicon Genetics has several open positions for biologists. She has recently become active, as a VP, in the Association of Women In Science <<http://www.sahs.uth.tmc.edu/awis/>>, an organization that promotes the role of women in various scientific disciplines.

Dr. Andrew Dewees, Newsletter Editor

Joey Harrison

Joey Harrison (BIO BS, 2000, MS 2003) passed away early last summer following an automobile accident in Huntsville. Joey received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Department of Biological Sciences in December 2000. He remained at Sam Houston State University to pursue a Master of Science degree and was near completion of that degree at the time of his death. His graduate project was *A Phylogenetic Investigation of Cuticular Hydrocarbons in Texas Harvester Ants* (*Pogonomyrmex spp.*) under the direction of Jerry Cook. Sam Houston State University conferred a Master of Science degree to Joey posthumously in August 2003. Joey was successful as a student and a friend to all. His absence is felt by family, fellow students, faculty and all who knew him. Joey is survived by his wife Ashley and son Maxwell. Our sincerest condolences are extended to his family.

Sam Students at UTMB

The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston is the current home of several recent SHSU graduates. Three 2003 BIO graduates were accepted and entered Physical Therapy school at UTMB this fall. **Tiffany Moore** (BIO BS 2003), **Kimberley Rasmussen** (BIO BS 2003) and **Danielle Ayalla** (BIO BA 2003) represent the largest entering class of SHSU graduates into the PT program at UTMB in recent history. They are all excellent students and will do well there. In addition, three recent BIO graduates are in various stages of completing their MD degrees at Galveston: **Kendall Roehl** (BIO BS 1999), **Stacey Black** (BIO BS 2000), and **Nathan Liles** (BIO BS 2001). The high quality of SHSU graduates at UTMB enhances the university's ability to place students there in the future. UTMB continues to build its reputation as a first class medical facility. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (a branch of the National Institutes of Health) announced recently that UTMB is one of eight institutions nationwide receiving grants to establish a Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (RCE).

News of Tri-Beta

The past year has been busy, yet rewarding for the Delta Tau Chapter of Tri-Beta at SHSU. During the 2002/2003 academic year, the students of Tri-Beta made important contributions to both the University and to the scientific communities. They are to be commended for their hard work and determination. The membership of Tri-Beta grew during the past year. Our initiation ceremony was held April, during which 14 regular and 13 associate members were inducted. Five faculty and three student members of Tri-Beta attended the Southcentral Regional Tri-Beta convention at Lake Texoma. The convention, held at the University of Oklahoma Biological Field station on Lake Texoma, hosted a total of 225 participants from Oklahoma, Texas and Nebraska. Donna Bush gave an oral presentation entitled "Low-Dose Toxicity of Novel Organotellurium Compounds" and Jenny Copeland presented a poster entitled "Detection for Capillary Electrophoresis Using A Laser Pointer to Provide Excitation for Laser-Induced Fluorescence." Furthermore, Tri-Beta established weekly tutoring sessions and donated \$500 to the Biology Department's Research Fund. The spring ended with a picnic at Dr. Sailer's humble abode. Tri-Beta provided food and refreshments for faculty, staff and students. Overall, I spent the year "learning the ropes" from Dr. Sailer and I hope to apply his wisdom to the upcoming year.

Dr. Kenneth Wunch, Faculty Sponsor

News of SHAMOS

Sam Houston Association of Medically Oriented Students (SHAMOS) also known, as the Meds Club, is an organization offered to students interested in the healthcare field. It offers many services to SHSU students, faculty, and Huntsville residents. SHAMOS has been very active in the past year on and off campus. Guest Speakers have included Surgeons, Nurse Practitioners, Registered dietitians and Occupational therapist. Trips taken by club members included tours of the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office, Medical / Nursing Schools, Physician Assistant Schools, Shriner's Hospital and Hermann Hospital. Club members participated in several community service events including the Bi-annual Canned Food Drive for the Good Shepard Mission, the Bi-annual Blood Drive, Bearkat Attack, Bingo Night at Local Nursing Homes and various Departmental homecoming events such as set-up and clean-up. Each year the club hosts the Bi-annual Picnic for SHSU students, faculty, and staff at the home of Dr. Bagdonas, faculty sponsor of SHAMOS. Student officers this year are Brad Golden (President) and Diana Hook (Secretary).

Dr. Karölis Bagdonas, Faculty Sponsor

New Spring Recognition Ceremony for Departmental Graduates

In April of 2003, the faculty of the Department of Biological sponsored their first Annual Spring Recognition Ceremony honoring all prospective graduates in Biology and Environmental Science. The ceremony was held at the University's Gibbs Ranch north of town in honor of Departmental majors anticipating their degrees at the Spring, Summer and Fall graduations. Over 120 students, their friends and relatives and departmental faculty enjoyed a BBQ buffet on the lawn of the Ranch. This was followed by a brief recognition ceremony during which each graduate were presented with a SHSU "keepsake coffee cup" by Department Chair, Monte Thies. Drs Hudson, Dewees and DeShaw played key roles in organizing the activities. Funding for the event was arranged by Dr. DeShaw.



Graduates



Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Experimental Field Biology

Drs. Diane Neudorf and **Bill Lutterschmidt** developed and coordinated a successful pilot program, funded by the University, to stimulate undergraduate research in field biology this past summer. The major objective of the program was to provide opportunities for three undergraduate

students to gain valuable research experience over an eight-week period in the summer. This experience was designed to foster an interest and enthusiasm for pursuing graduate studies in biology and a career in scientific research. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase interest in research careers in science and promote ethnic diversity in science by providing positive, high-quality research experiences for undergraduate students. A formal proposal has also been submitted to the National Science Foundation to bring in six students each summer for the next three years.

Three students (from Shorter College in Rome, GA, University of Houston Downtown, and Northern Kentucky University) were paid a stipend of \$1280.00 per month for the two-month period. They were provided with dormitory accommodations on campus and a weekly food stipend. Each student participated in all components of conducting a research project, including: the development of a proposal, collection and analyses of data, and presentation of results in both written and oral form. The three student projects were conducted at SHSU's Center for Biological Field Studies. The students worked closely with their mentors to develop a project and collect and analyze data, and each prepared a final report. In addition to conducting research students, attended a weekly seminar given by Drs. Lutterschmidt and Neudorf. Topics included: how to write a research proposal, animal care issues, ethics in science, data management, statistical analyses, how to present a scientific paper, and a book discussion "The Scientific Endeavor". The three students prepared posters and papers based on their individual research projects. They plan to present their findings at conferences during the 2003/2004 academic year.

The students had ample opportunity to interact with faculty and students in the Department of Biological Sciences through weekly meetings, field trips and social gatherings. Field trips included a cultural outing to the Festival Institute in Roundtop Texas to see a chamber music performance, a visit to the Houston Zoo, the Houston Museum of Natural Science and a weekend trip to Galveston where we visited Moody Gardens.

The summer program was considered a success. When asked to comment on their experiences, the three participating students provided the following comments: "I have learned so much in 8 weeks that I feel this program should be a requirement to do before going to graduate school"; "I am very thankful that I was able to participate in this program...I feel more prepared to go on to the next level and I was able to narrow down my field of study...." and "...now I am more convinced that I want to attend graduate school".

Environmental Science and Biology Internships for 2003

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>	<u>INTERN SPONSOR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Ayala, Daniella	Huntsville, Tx	Huntsville Memorial Hospital	Huntsville, Tx
Cobb, James R.	Ringold, La	Univ of Texas	Houston, Tx
David, Clint	Danbury, Tx	MacDermid	Pasadena, Tx
Grawey, Lauren M.	Spring, Tx	Dupont Chemical	LaPorte, Tx
Howard, Clayton J.	Victoria, Tx	B-Environmental	Victoria, Tx
Parker, Justine R.	Conroe, Tx	Johnson Space Center	Clear Lake, Tx

Perez, Magda E.	Port Lavaca, Tx	Centerpoint Energy	Houston, Tx
Remmert, Amy R.	Houston, Tx.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Houston, Tx
Sticker, Shelli L.	Houston, Tx.	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Houston, Tx

Dr. James R. DeShaw, Faculty Intern Advisor

News of Faculty

(Year of Employment at SHSU)

Dr. Karōlis Bagdonas (1990) continues his summer research program at his field station on the MacKenzie Highland Ranch in Northwestern Wyoming. He presented reports of recent work in Wyoming, “The changes in grizzly bear feeding strategies with the 2002 return of El Niño in the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem”, at the annual meetings of the Texas Academy of Science in Nacogdoches and at the 54th annual meeting of the International Lepidopterists Society, sponsored by the University of Alberta, in Edmonton and Olds College in Olds, Alberta, in July. On the return trip to Wyoming, Dr. Bagdonas, his wife and children toured Banff National Park in Alberta and the adjacent Kootenay National Park in British Columbia. Summer visitors to Dr. Bagdonas’ field station included **Dr. Darrell Hall**, retired professor of Biology at SHSU (he enjoys the Wyoming trout fishing) and his wife Gay. Former research student at the field station, **Sheena Humbird** (BIO BS 2003), and **Philip Hughes** (BIO MS 2000) and his two sons also visited this summer.

Former Chairman of the Biology Department, **Dr. William Clark**, passed away in July of this year. Dr. Clark was a member of the faculty from 1953-1966 and served as chair from 1954-1962. He lived in retirement on Houston County Lake near Crockett, TX.

Dr. Jerry Cook (2000) has had a busy and productive year. Currently, six graduate students are in various stages of their MS degrees under his supervision in some phase of entomology. Last fall, Dr. Cook and two of his students, Joey Harrison and Robert Puckett, each presented reports of their research at the national meetings of the Entomological Society of America in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Dr. Cook serves in various capacities as consulting entomologist with several institutions in the Houston area. He is on the steering committee for the Cockrell Butterfly Center and is Associate Curator of the entomology collection at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He also advised Moody Gardens in Galveston on methods of biological control of pest insects in their rainforest exhibit. Under Dr. Cook’s direction, Moody Gardens is funding a butterfly rearing facility at the Department’s Center for Biological Field Studies (the old Huntsville State Fish Hatchery). The Department will provide many of the live butterflies to be exhibited at that facility’s 10-story Rainforest Pyramid. As lead investigator, Dr. Cook was responsible during the past year in obtaining over \$60,000 in research funding for various projects, including major studies on harvester and fire ants supported by the Texas Army National Guard. Dr. Cook and wife Tami Cook completed a two-year project, with heavy student involvement, funded by the Texas Excellence Fund (\$40,000): Aquatic Insects and their Cephaline Gregarine (Protista: Apicomplexa) Parasites in the Big Thicket Region of East Texas.

Dr. Tamara Cook (2000) continues as mentor to undergraduates and graduate students who she supports under a number of outside grants. Five undergrads completed research projects under her direction this past year:

Christina Fennell(BIO BS 2003): Behavior of larval damselflies under stressed conditions

Heather Elfman: Parasitic effects on behavior of damselflies

Cindy Ness (BIO BS 2003): Survey of Dragonflies (Insecta: Odonata) in Walker Co. TX

Phillip Laughlin: Host range of three eugregarine parasites of damselflies

Ellen Bellinger (BIO BS 2003): Prevalence of *Thelohania solenopsae* in Walker County

Currently, Dr. Cook is directing three MS students as well. She published two articles in peer-reviewed journals:

Cook, T. J. 2002. *Thelohania solenopsae* (Microsporida: Thelohaniidae) impact on red imported fire ants, *Solenopsis invicta* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in natural, unmanaged systems. *Environmental Entomology*: 31(6): 1091-1096.

Cook, T. J., Lowery, M. B., Frey, T. N., Rowe, K. E. and Lynch L. R. 2003. Effect of *Thelohania solenopsae* (Microsporida: Thelohaniidae) on weight and reproductive status of female alates of the red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* 82: 201-203 and was co-author on two other papers accepted for publication in the *Journal of Parasitology* and the *Southwestern Entomologist*.

Dr. Cook and husband Jerry Cook completed a two-year project, with heavy student involvement, funded by the Texas Excellence Fund (\$40,000): Aquatic Insects and their Cephaline Gregarine (Protista: Apicomplexa) Parasites in the Big Thicket Region of East Texas. During the past year she has received support (\$15,000) from the Texas Army National Guard, Environmental Resources Management Branch for a study of Continued Application and Assessment of Microsporidia in the Management of *Solenopsis invicta* at Texas Army National Guard Training Sites. Dr. Cook was co-presenter with her students and/or presenter of seven talks at scientific meetings during the past year (*Texas Academy of Sciences*, Nacadoches, TX, *Southwestern Association of Naturalists*, Norman, OK, *Entomological Society of America*, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, *Sigma Xi Student Research Conference*, Galveston, TX, *American Society of Parasitologists*, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and *Big Thicket Science Conference*, Beaumont, TX). She also finds time to teach courses in Introductory Zoology, Parasitology, Invertebrate Zoology, Ecology and a graduate ecology course.

Dr. Andrew Dewees (1967) is completing his final year with the Department of Biological Sciences at SHSU. During his teaching career he has taught over 2500 students in BIO 345 Introductory Genetics, which he taught every fall and spring semester for 35 years ("Mendel was a personal friend of mine"). Very few biology majors and minors managed to escape taking this class. Dewees also introduced the field of applied statistics to several hundred students in his Biostatistics course, which he taught every fall semester. He supervised numerous Masters theses over the years as well. From 1982 to 1999 Dewees served as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. After stepping down as Chair, he has been teaching half-time. Prior to his years as Chair, Dewees published several articles dealing with the genetic control of recombination in *Tribolium castaneum*, the flour beetle, and in *Drosophila*. During his retirement Dewees looks forward to travel with his wife, Carolyn, woodworking, trout fishing, grandchildren and anything else that strikes his fancy.

Dr. Harold Foerster (1964)

"Another year means another newsletter. For me this year has special meaning and I welcome the opportunity to indulge in a bit of nostalgia. This fall semester completes my fortieth (40th) year as a member of the "Sam" biology faculty. During those forty years I have had 9,232 students in my classes, one of which is my dear wife Charlene of 47 years, who earned her master's degree in 1972, my daughter Melissa, Fall 83, who went on to earn her degree in nursing at UTHSC San Antonio,

my daughter Cindi who earned her bachelor's degree in 1997, and many of you reading these trivia. In addition, I now have two grandsons who are students working on their degrees. So, would you agree, I have a "tidy" investment in this honorable institution. Hope to see you at homecoming or at any time you have an opportunity to visit our campus."

Dr. William Lutterschmidt (1998) and his students continue to be active researchers. During 2003, he was coauthor on two significant publications. He and his former graduate student, Laurieanne Dent published her MS thesis project:

Dent, L. and W.I. Lutterschmidt . 2003. Comparative thermal physiology of two sympatric sunfishes (Centrarchidae: Perciformes) with a discussion of microhabitat utilization. *Journal of Thermal Biology* 28(1):67-74.

He was also coauthor with his sister and former major professor at University of Oklahoma :

Lutterschmidt, D.I., W.I. Lutterschmidt, and V.H. Hutchison. 2003. Melatonin and thermoregulation in ectothermic vertebrates: A review. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, Vol. 81(1):1-13.

Dr. Lutterschmidt was co-presenter with his MS students on five presentations at state and national scientific meetings of Southwestern Association of Naturalists (Norman, OK), Southwestern Association of Parasitologists and (Lake Texoma, OK) and the American Association of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (Manaus, Brazil). His two-year study of "Modeling the effects of physiological stressors and habitat fragmentation on ecosystem dynamics in two ectothermic species" was funded by the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in the amount of \$227,406. This past summer he participated with Dr. Diane Neudorf on a two month project with undergraduates involved in research in experimental field biology (see note elsewhere in this newsletter). Dr. Lutterschmidt teaches a variety of Biology courses, including two new preparations this fall- BIO 474 Biostatistics and BIO 571 Evolution. He developed and teaches the new two hour course required of all graduate students, BIO 520 Professional Aspects of Science, which discusses professional ethics, publication, grants, and scientific literature.

Dr. Diane Neudorf (1999) mentored two students to completion of their MS theses during the past year. She served as co-presenter with them at national meetings:

Bodily, Rebecca.A. & Neudorf , Diane L. Mate guarding and paternity in the Northern Mockingbird. 49th meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, Cuernavaca, México. April 25-27, 2002.

D'Orazio, Kelly A. & Neudorf, Diane L. Nest defense in the Carolina Wren (*Throthorus ludovicianus*). Third North American Ornithological Conference, New Orleans, LA September 24-28, 2002.

In addition to these presentations, Dr. Neudorf was lead author of two significant publications:

Neudorf, Diane L., Ziolkowski, David J., Nolan, Val., Ketterson, Ellen D. 2000 Testosterone manipulation of male attractiveness has no detectable effect on female home-range size and behavior during the fertile period. *Ethology* 108: 713-726.

Neudorf, Diane L. & Sealy, Spencer G. 2002. Distress calls in birds of a Neotropical cloud forest. *Biotropica* 34:129-137.

Dr. Neudorf and her student, Rebecca Bodily, had their work on the Northern Mockingbird featured on a segment of the PBS television show "Roy Bedichek's Vanishing Frontier". Dr. Neudorf teaches courses in Introductory Zoology, Animal Behavior, and Ornithology.

Dr Everett Wilson (1962) continues his support of foreign students from Belize, Mexico and (Alaska). Over the past decade he has provided his full support at the "Wilson ranch" of over a

dozen students as they have pursued their degrees at SHSU. During the past two years Dr. Wilson served as supervising professor of Sarah Turk, who completed her MS degree this past summer. He was co-presenter with Ms. Turk and Dr. Bill Lutterschmidt of the thesis report, "Seasonal reproduction and natural history of the mud snake, *Farancia abacura*" at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists in Norman, Oklahoma (17-19 April 2003). Dr. Wilson enjoys teaching scores of non-major students every year in BIO 134 Contemporary Biology. His upper level courses include Embryology, Endocrinology and a graduate course in Reproductive Physiology. His latest interests as a life-long learner are spiders and fungi.

Dr. Ken Wunch (2002) is settling into his second year on the faculty. At this time his teaching areas include Microbiology and Introductory Environmental Science. Dr. Wunch is heavily involved with research work sponsored through The Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies (TRIES). He is a co-investigator on a contract headed by campus TRIES Director **Gavin Jones** (BIO MS 1999): "Development and Evaluation of Environmental Technologies" Brooks Air Force Base-Air Force Institute for Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis (\$2,500,000 funding over two years). Dr. Wunch's specialization is in environmental remediation through the use of fungi.

Scenes from the 2002 Biology Homecoming BBQ at home of Dr. Jimmie Long





RECIPIENTS OF 2003-2004 SCHOLARSHIPS DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Biology/Environmental Science Academic Scholarship (High School Recipients)

Candace Wise, Houston
Karl Krailo, Houston
Hayley Wallace, Groves

SHSU Recipient

Sara Leatherman, Houston

Claude McLeod Academic Scholarship

Lauren Pickle, Conroe

Emma Normand Academic Scholarship

Kristi Chock, Flower Mound

Patrick Neal O'Bryant Academic Scholarship

Lauren Grawey, Spring

James D. Long Biology Academic Scholarship

Phillip Laughlin, Huntsville

James Patrick Weber Environmental Science Scholarship

Lauren M. Grawey, Spring

S.C. Wilson, Sr., Logan Wilson, S.R. Warner Endowed Academic Scholarship

Tiffany Montegut, Plano
Heather E. Elfman, Spring
Sian Escobar, Belize
Jessica Brown, Huntsville
Lauren Smith, Harker Heights
Derrica Walker, Round Rock
Donna Bush, Channelview
Megan Becker, New Waverly
Allison Orosco, Seguin

Department Scholarships

Each year the Department awards approximately 20 academic scholarships to academically competitive BIO and ESC majors. The monetary awards, ranging from \$300 to \$2000 per year, come from several sources: sales of faculty-produced lab manuals, interest on Endowed Scholarship Programs, and donations from former students, faculty and corporations. As educational expenses for students increase, these awards become of even greater importance for the deserving student. If you would like to contribute to the Department's scholarship program, your participation would be greatly appreciated. You may earmark your contribution toward one of the specific scholarships listed in the above section or apply it to the general Biology/Environmental Science Endowment Fund.

To contribute to the Department's scholarship program, send check made out to Department of Biological Sciences/ SHSU, and indicated to which scholarship you wish your funds applied. If you have questions about the scholarship program, please contact Dr. Monte Thies, Department Chair (936) 294-1538 or bio_mlt@shsu.edu

Send contributions to:
Dr. Monte Thies, Chair
Department of Biological Sciences
BOX 2116
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX 77341-2116

Distinguished Lecture Series

For the past six years the Department of Biological Sciences has sponsored distinguished speakers in the field of Biology under its Distinguished Lecture Series. Funding for this program was provided by an anonymous donor. The program has been well received by students and faculty alike. During their visit, speakers meet with faculty and students for discussions during the day and present a formal seminar in the evening, followed by a reception. The evening lectures have been well received and usually attract between 120 and 150 people, mainly students. The funds for this lecture series have been reduced, as planned, down to near zero. If you, your family, friends or company would like to donate toward this popular lecture series, the Department would be very grateful. Please contact Department Chair Dr. Monte Thies about contributing to this program.

Distinguished Lecturers

2003 Dr. Larry Gilbert, University of Texas-Austin "Coevolution in Tropical Food Webs"

2002 Col. Ted Cieslak, M.D. U. S. Army, Ft. Detrick, Md "A Primer on Bioterrorism"

2001 Dr. Robert Baker, Texas Tech University "The Biological Significance of Chornobyl"

2000. Donald Baxter, M.D. Houston private practice and Baylor College of Medicine "Sports Medicine"

1999 Dr. Douglas Cook, Texas A&M University "Plant-Microbe Symbiosis"

1998 Dr. Bill Brinkley, Baylor College of Medicine "Cell Biology"



Dr. J. D. Long and 2003 Distinguished
Lecturer Dr. Larry Gilbert



The Reception

Retired Faculty from Department of Biological Sciences and Years Served (Current Location)

Dr. Ruth Thomas 1964-91 (Huntsville)	Dr. Robert Stewart 1959-60, 1967-92 (Nacogdoches, TX)
Dr. Terrell Hoage 1968-97 (Huntsville)	Dr. Ralph Moldenhauer 1968-98 (Dubois, WY)
Dr. Darrell Hall 1965-98 (Huntsville)	Dr. Thomas Meade 1965-99 (Tucson, AZ)
Dr. Jimmie Long 1959-99 (Huntsville)	Dr. John Hilliard 1968-95 (Huntsville)
Dr. Maynard Yoes 1961-1985 (Mimbres, NM)	

Current Faculty in Department of Biological Sciences

Monte L. Thies, Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University), Associate Professor and Chair. Ecological and Systematic Studies of Mammals. bio_mlt@shsu.edu

Karölis R. Bagdonas, Ph.D. (Colorado State University), Associate Professor. Human Anatomy, Ecology and Entomology. bio_krb@shsu.edu

Jerry L. Cook, Ph.D. (Texas A&M University), Assistant Professor. Entomology, Anatomy and Physiology. bio_jlc@shsu.edu

Tamara J. Cook, Ph.D. (Texas A&M University), Assistant Professor. Entomology, Invertebrate Zoology, Parasitology and Ecology. bio_tjc@shsu.edu

James R. DeShaw, Ph.D. (Texas A&M University), Professor. Environmental Science. bio_jrd@shsu.edu

Andrew A. Dewees, Ph.D. (Purdue University), Professor. Genetics and Biostatistics. bio_aad@shsu.edu

Harold F. Foerster, Ph.D. (University of Texas), Professor. Microbiology and Virology.

Joan E. Hudson, Ph.D. (Iowa State University), Associate Professor. Plant Morphology and Plant Physiology. bio_jxn@shsu.edu

James D. Long, Ph.D. (University of Texas), Professor Emeritus. Medical Entomology. bio_jdl@shsu.edu

William Lutterschmidt, Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma), Assistant Professor. Comparative physiology, Physiological ecology, Herpetology. bio_wil@shsu.edu

Diane Neudorf, Ph.D. (York University), Assistant Professor. Avian Biology and Animal Behavior. bio_dln@shsu.edu

Brian L. Sailer, Ph.D. (South Dakota State University), Assistant Professor. Cell and Molecular Biology. bio_bls@shsu.edu

Jack C. Turner, Ph.D. (University of California-Riverside), Associate Professor. Physiological Animal Ecology. bio_jct@shsu.edu

Justin K. Williams, Ph.D. (University of Texas at Austin), Assistant Professor. Plant Taxonomy and Systematics. bio_jkw@shsu.edu

Everett D. Wilson, Ph.D. (Purdue University), Professor. Mammalian Reproduction and Endocrinology. bio_edw@shsu.edu

Keneth Wunch, Ph.D. (Tulane University), Assistant Professor. Applied Environmental Microbiology bio_kjw@shsu.edu

Alumni News and Address Correction

Notice of The Biological Sciences Newsletter is mailed annually to former students of our Department. Be sure we have your correct address. Print this page and return alumni news items soon so that we can include them in the next newsletter. Or, simply email this information to Departmental Secretary, Karen Whitney, at whitney@shsu.edu. **We want to hear from you!**

Name: _____
First M.I. Last (Maiden)

Degree: _____ Year: _____ Major: _____

Current Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Current Employment, news of your family and activities:

Please Return by US Mail To:
Dr. M. L. Thies, Chair
Department of Biological Sciences
P.O. Box 2116
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX 77341-2116
Or Email: whitney@shsu.edu
Or FAX 936-294-3940

This Newsletter is also posted on the Department's website: www.shsu.edu/~bio_www/

