

# A message from the department head

Well, it's been a hell of a year – a phrase I hear a lot in my frequent Zoom meetings. COVID shutdowns and impacts, Black Lives Matter and social justice protests, Oregon's wildfires, an intense election season, and difficult personal losses – all of these have affected us in so many ways. But some of what we have experienced will lead to positive change, and time and time again I have seen our F&W Family come together to support one another and our students. It reminds me daily of how lucky I feel to be in this department and how thankful I am to work with dedicated people who care about each other and the important work that we do!

We have many positive notes for the year – increasing enrollments, successful graduates, and awards and recognition for our outstanding programs, faculty and staff. We pivoted to all-remote learning amazingly fast and with great success, thanks largely to our outstanding online program and flexible instructors, faculty, and graduate student teaching assistants. With Amanda Polley's help, we've stayed in touch via Zoom gatherings, and our grad students and their professors learned how to conduct their defenses online. Research has slowed, largely due to travel restrictions, but many labs have found ways to conduct field and lab work safely with social distancing. Our COVID Response Team – Bruce Dugger, Pete Loschl, Amber Ahlgren, Susie Dunham, and Misty Donaghy Cannon – have done a fantastic job keeping the department informed, reviewing safety protocols, and creatively meeting our many challenges since March. The Team was recognized by the College for their efforts, and I am very grateful for their assistance and support.

As we say goodbye to 2020 – with hopes of a brighter, safer, and calmer year to come – I want to say thank you to all of our staff, faculty and students, our collaborators, and our supporters.

Happy New Year, Selina

Cover photo: Faculty Research Associate Jennifer Allen works with water samples testing for COVID-19 in the Corvallis City Watershed. Photo by Amanda Polley

# Thank you to our 2020 donors

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# Our Pledge to Fisheries and Wildlife M.Sc and Ph.D. Students

Many of our thesis research graduate students have suffered delays in their programs due to COVID-19. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife will ensure that support is available to ensure that these students are able to finish their degrees, providing stipend and tuition support through teaching and research assistantships for one or more terms, as needed. This pledge is supported, in part, by a generous anonymous donation to our Unrestricted Fund with OSU Foundation

# 2020 Scholarship Recipients

### **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

### Lindsay Ball Scholarship Endowment

Charles Hengemihle Matthew Radin

#### Carl and Lenora Bond

Maria Harvey Ameyalli Manon-Ferguson

### Mike and Kay Brown Scholarship

Chelsea Clark Morgan Dally

### Chairman's Leadership Awards

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### Izma Bailey Conser Memorial Scholarship

Asher Grilli Robert Hardy Kathryne Herold-Daniels Emily Holty Madelyn Webb

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### Eric Fritzell Diversity Award

Andrew Chione Mahima White

### Jim and Bonnie Hall F&W Diversity Scholarship

Michelle Westcoat Christopher Young

### Howard Horton Fisheries Management

Elena Eberhardt Shirley Ann Taitano

### Lee Wallace Kuhn Memorial Scholarship

Maizy Kesterson

### Bob and Phyllis Mace Watchable Wildlife

Julia Dang Marie Heuberger

### **Mentors Scholarship**

Stephanie Ashley Sarah Busmire Vanessa Ramirez

### William B. & Jean Morse Scholarship

Lee Lynn Thompson Carrie Trew

#### Multnomah Anglers and Hunters Club Scholarships

# Milt Guymon Memorial Scholarship

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# Philip W. Schneider Scholarship

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# Southern Oregon Flyfishers Association

Brent Cardenas

### Vivian Shriver Thompson Scholarship

Nolan Clements Jose Torres

### William Q. Wick Memorial Scholarship

Gisell Anderson

# **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

M.A. Ali Graduate Chair Award in Fisheries Biology Alexandra Avila

Briggs Scholarship in Biogeography Alexandra Avila

Chairman's Leadership Award

Whitney Fleming Victoria Quennessen

Charles E. Warren Award for Ecology & Sustainable Societies

Whitney Fleming

Coombs-Simpson Memorial Fellowship Mee-ya Monnin

David Ashkenas Memorial Fellowship

Dawn Barlow Eric Wade

H. Richard Carlson Memorial Scholarship Anna Bolm

James Sedell Graduate Award in F&W

Michael Manning J. Andres Olivos

Munson Wildlife Graduate Scholarship

Samara Haver Jeremy Rockweit

Neil Armantrout Graduate Fellowship

Stanley Piotrowski David Roon

Robert Anthony Scholarship in Population Ecology

Charlotte Erickson Joel Ruprecht

Stan Gregory Stream Team Scholarship

Alvaro Cortes David Roon

Ted Thorgaard Student Research Fund

Montana McLeod

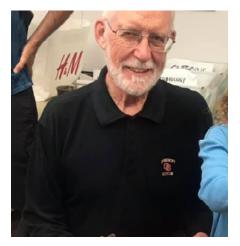
Thomas G. Scott Achievement Award

M.S., Cailin Mackenzie Ph.D, Brittany King Ph.D, Alexander Jenson Ph.D, Claire Rosemond



# In Remembrance

### David Noakes, written by Scott Heppell



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of one of our great voices in fisheries, Dr. David Noakes. David passed away in early December while in hospice. While David's professional legacy will endure, most important to the many of us who were touched by him, his legacy will live in who he was as a person. It is easy to do David by the numbers and be awed by his incredible career -internationally acclaimed scientist, Professor at Oregon State University, Director of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, visiting professor at a dozen different international universities, Editor-in-Chief of Environmental Biology of Fishes, Fellow of The American Fisheries Society, recipient of the AFS Award of Excellence, author on over 200 publications, etc., etc. But those incredible professional accolades pale in comparison to the David Noakes we knew as person the dry-witted, kind, compassionate person who would just as easily stop by your office to give you the original vinyl of How to Roast a Pig (it's still in my office, David) as to share the latest wisdom on the ecology and evolution of fishes.

We all have memories of David that make us smile, if not outright laugh. He had a way of taking the serious and making us at ease when we needed it. When I was officially hired as a tenure-track assistant professor at OSU, David was assigned as my faculty mentor. This is a professionally stressful period of one's life (for me, not for David), filled with angst and hard work. But I was lucky to have the vast experience and insight of the Dr. David Noakes to help guide me through the process, right? During our first annual review, I asked David, in all seriousness, what's the biggest key to tenure success? Is it publications? Grants? Mentored students? Teaching? University service? All of that? None of that? What is it? In that gruff, baritone voice David boomed "Be Canadian, obviously!". He said he was Canadian, and he got tenure, so that must be the trick. David will be remembered for the marvelous person he was, not just what he did. We will miss you David. The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has posted a longer remembrance to David that includes thoughts from several additional colleagues

### https://orafs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/A-remembrance-for-Dr.-David-Noakes.pdf



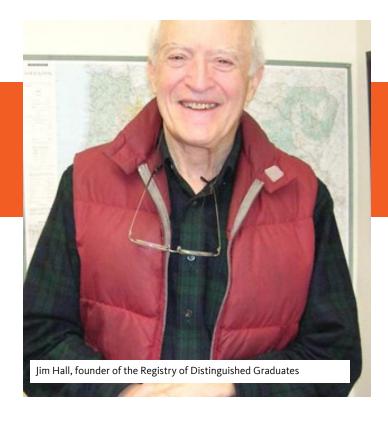


# Alexa Kownacki, written by Leigh Torres

Alexa Kownacki joined the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the Fall of 2017 with a goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology. Heartbreakingly, Alexa's life and thesis research on the comparative health of bottlenose dolphin ecotypes off California was suddenly cut short when she passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Alexa was a bright light in everyone's life that was privileged to know her. Her ability to give support, joy, humor, and understanding was limitless, as was her passion for marine conservation and education. Our sorrow is profound, and we will strive to carry her brilliance, kindness, and wit forward into our work and world, as Alexa would have done.

Memories and stories of her amazing life can be found here: www.forevermissed.com/alexa-kownacki/





# Registry of Distinguished Graduates

Since 1939, over 4,600 students have graduated from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Many have gone on to influential careers. In 1995 the department created the Registry of Distinguished Graduates to recognize sustained professional accomplishment. The Registry was started by Dr. Jim Hall who recounted:

"I was planning to go to BC to see Dave Narver. I had done some work with him and knew that he had done excellent work. So, I got up a citation and took it to the Dean of the College and convinced him to sign it. Thus, was begun the Registry of Distinguished Graduates"

Narver was one of 12 individuals inducted onto the inaugural list in 1995, and since that year we've added a total of 92 names to the Registry. This year we're honoring nine additional graduates by adding their names to our list as examples of accomplished careers. Several of this year's nominees have hung up their hip boats and are enjoying retirement, while several others will continue to influence fisheries and wildlife conservation and management for years to come. Please join us in congratulating this year's awardees.

With this year's inductees there are 101 names on our list of Distinguished Graduates. Maybe you know of someone deserving recognition? If so, please email us at <a href="mailto:fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu">fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu</a> with your recommendations. You can find our list of Distinguished Graduates at <a href="mailto:fw.alumni">fw.oregonstate.edu/fwalumni</a>

# Meet the newest inductees!



# Nancy Allen, B.S. 1985

After completing her degree in Wildlife Science, Nancy went on to earn her M.S. in Science Education from Oregon State University in 2001. Nancy's career included several years working on spotted owl and marbled murrelet research, educational programs, and consulting. She rejoined the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 2001 as the state Wildlife Extension Instructor before she transitioned into the position of Head Advisor in 2003. During her 17 year advising career she was very proud of the relationships she made with students and faculty. Being a good listener was the most important skill she learned and was key to making a difference in student's performance and wellbeing. Many of those students have gone on to successful careers, and some undoubtedly will join Nancy on our Registry of Distinguished Grads.

# **Dr. Gary Chapman, Ph.D. 1969**Dr. Gary Chapman attended Oregon State University

Dr. Gary Chapman attended Oregon State University from 1955-1969, earning the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees, all in fisheries. For most of his career, he was employed as a research scientist by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Corvallis national research laboratory. He is best known professionally for his research quantifying the toxicity of chemicals on aquatic organisms, notably salmon and other fish species. He co-authored many of the foundational EPA documents used to establish national water quality criteria.





# Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, B.S. 1983

After graduating Elizabeth started her career as a District Fishery Biologist with the US Forest Service with tenures on both the Siuslaw and Mt. Hood National Forests, but most of her career has been spent with NOAA. Early during her stint she took the time to complete her J.D. by attended Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College in 1990. In her 30 years with NOAA Fisheries, Ms Gaar served as the first Chief of Endangered Species in the Pacific Northwest when petitions to list Pacific salmon under the ESA emerged, and represented NOAA Fisheries in the development and implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. She then became Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, where she established the Northwest Region's ESA section 7 habitat and Magnuson Stevens Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation programs. Ms Gaar also served several years as the Chief of Salmon Recovery, and she is currently NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region Habitat Program Leader and Senior Policy Advisor for Protected Resources.

# Richard Hoyer, B.S. 1955

Richard served in a research capacity for USDA ARS, Entomology Group, and with OSU. He retired as a middle school teacher. During his career, Richard published several articles regarding insects that affect humans and livestock and as a naturalist, he published numerous observations regarding reptiles in Oregon including discovery of a new species. Richard was a regular advocate before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding the use of best available knowledge in policy decisions.



# Angela Sondenaa, B.S. 1990

After graduating from FW, where she received a scholarship from the Multnomah Anglers and Hunters Club, Angela went on to work for the US Forest Service as a District Wildlife Biologist in Idaho. She continued her education at the University of Idaho where she earned a Ph.D. in Botany in 2000. While finishing her dissertation, Angela landed her dream job as a wildlife area manager with the Nez Perce Tribe where she has remained ever since. During her tenure with the Nimiipuu she has managed the Precious Lands Wildlife Area, evaluated Palouse Prairie remnants, worked to recovery threatened plants, established a hunting stewardship program, and is currently leading an initiative to return California condors to the Hells Canyon ecoregion



# Ken Munson, B.S. 1974

After graduating from FW, Ken went on to complete his M.S. and Ph.D. in Soil Science and Forestry in 1979 and 1982. His career included industrial research, management and leadership roles in the US, Europe and Russia. Recently, he's returned to OSU to help prepare students for leadership positions through his involvement with the CAS Leadership Academy, and serving as academic director for developing young leaders in forestry at the Moscow School of Management in Russia in cooperation with OSU College of Forestry.

# Warren Aney, B.S. 1958

Warren Aney served as a career biologist for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He retired as the Northeast Regional Director. After retiring, Warren served as a wildlife consultant. He was an active member of the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society and served as Legislative Liaison and Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for many years and received the David B. Marshall Award from the chapter for his lifetime service to the society.

# Gonzalo Castillo, M.S./Ph.D. 2000

Since graduating from OSU under the tutelage of Hiram Li, Gonzalo has been a Fisheries Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in California actively engaged in research related to the biology and conservation of estuarine fish species, particularly Delta Smelt, in the California Bay-Delta ecosystem.

# Terry Roelofs, Ph.D. 1970

After graduation Terry joined the Fisheries Faculty at Humboldt State University Terry where he spent 36 years conducting research and educating and inspiring students in fisheries, many of whom went on to impactful careers of their own. He retired in 2007. His impact and accomplishments have been recognized by many. In 1988, he was the first recipient of the American Fisheries Society's excellence in Fisheries Education Award; he received the Award of Excellence from the CA/NV chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and he inspired a group of HSU alums to establish the Roelofs Humboldt Graduate Fisheries Fund, a graduate student scholarship, in his name.





# Fisheries and Wildlife in the Time of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic created considerable challenges to ongoing field research, and while the field seasons of some projects had to be cancelled, more carried on under new protocols and in at least one case the pandemic created an opportunity for FW faculty and staff to bring their unique talents to bear on informing our local community about the risks of COVID. Read about that effort below and see pictures of student and faculty research on the pages that follow.



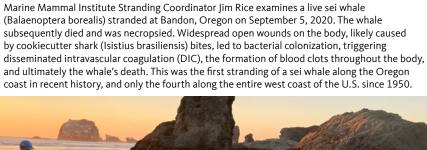
FW faculty and staff Tiffany Garcia, Taal Levi, and Jennifer Allen are using wastewater as a COVID-19 surveillance method within the City of Corvallis. This cooperative effort between Oregon State University and the City of Corvallis samples the sewer collection system at specific locations each week to track SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentrations across different areas of the city, identify seasonal trends in RNA concentrations, and monitor effectiveness of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Infected humans excrete SARS-CoV-2 RNA in their feces. This is useful because fecal shedding of SARS-Cov-2 RNA can be detected in asymptomatic as well as symptomatic individuals, and shedding can occur up to 7 weeks after symptom onset. Wastewater samples can therefore be an effective method for detecting COVID-19 prevalence in the population associated with specific sewer systems drainages. This disease monitoring tool is being used in cities

and towns around the world and can be paired with individual-based testing to corroborate results and expand monitoring coverage. The team collects wastewater at specific points within the sewer system over a 24-hr period each week at 7 locations within Corvallis. They have broken the city into specific districts, locations of interest (e.g., Good Samaritan Hospital, OSU campus), and composite samples that capture more than one area (e.g., Wastewater Treatment Plant). They have repeatedly detected the virus in every basin in Corvallis, but the dynamics are not necessarily synchronous in each region in Corvallis. The general prevalence of COVID-19 declined through summer followed by a substantial increase in late October. The team is working on a publication, but more about the project and preliminary results can be found online at https://beav.es/J3k















a hybrid learning model because of the pandemic.







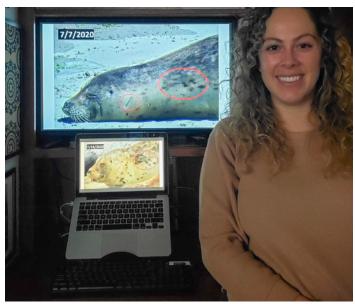


# Our students are still discovering and presenting their research in the middle of a global pandemic



# Shannon Lemieux

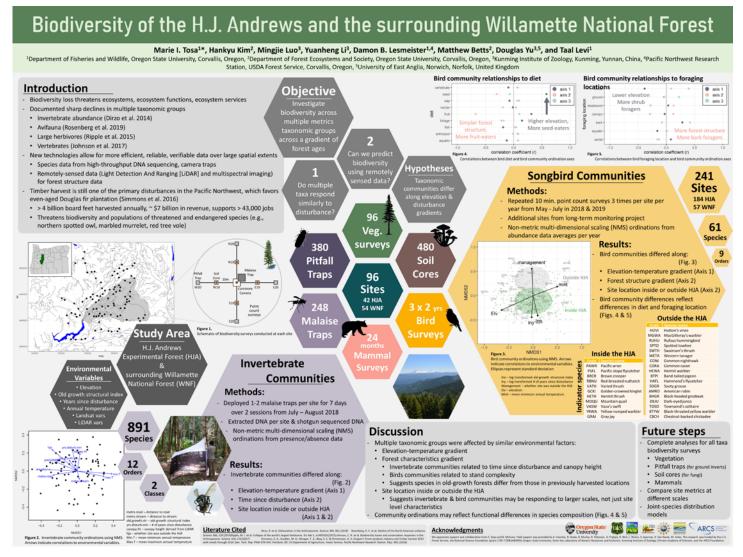
During the past fall quarter, I was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) internship at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS). At BIOS, I spent three months working with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reef systems ecologist Eric Hochberg on a long-term project studying the phenology, or yearly cycle of change, of chlorophyll pigments in Bermudian corals. Just as leaves on trees vary in their color over the seasons, coral chlorophyll pigments also vary with differing environmental conditions. My research project aimed at better understanding the natural variation in coral pigments during the fall, and what conditions drive this variation. Using a light measuring device called a spectrometer, I noninvasively collected daily light reflectance spectra—graphs of the light that the corals are reflecting—of two species of corals: Porites astreoides and Pseudodiploria strigosa. I used the spectra to calculate chlorophyll levels and these levels were not only tracked between species, but also between differing temperature treatments. With more complete knowledge of the normal responses and chlorophyll pigment variations of corals, we can better quantify and manage extreme and abnormal variations in coral pigments, such as coral bleaching.



# Aimee Aguilar

My research project is a continuation of another project performed by students and lead by Dr. Renee Albertson. It takes advantage of predictable harbor seal haulout behavior at low tide to identify individuals at Yaquina Head and Strawberry Hill on the Oregon coast. The distance between these two locations is approximately 33 miles. Previous students working on this project determined there were no resights between the two locations. Alsea Bay is another harbor seal haulout site that is located between the two original locations. Since resights of individuals did not occur between these locations, is it possible that resights might occur in Alsea Bay? There were two previous attempts to catalog these seals but it was not possible due to gear limitation.

I took photos of harbor seals from the Alsea Bay bridge in June and July 2020 and created a photographic catalog of individuals. I eliminated duplicates and counted resights based on unique markings. The seal in my photograph was sighted on two different days, but I was able to identify them because of a scar and a unique E-shaped marking. Out of 1381 photographs, I identified 179 individuals based on carefully selected images that I felt confident could be used to identify these seals again. I also compared my catalog to both the Yaquina Head and Strawberry Hill catalogs that were created in 2019. No resights were observed between the 2020 Alsea Bay catalog and the 2019 Yaquina Head and Strawberry Hill catalogs.



Marie Tosa's poster was chosen as the best grad student poster at the 2020 RAFWE event. The best undergrad poster went to Daniel Gillies, and the best mentor/mentee poster belonged to Kaylee Marshall and Kaitlyn Osborne, mentored by Hillary Thalmann. You can view all posters here: <a href="mailto:fw.oregonstate.edu/fw/rafwe-poster-session">fw.oregonstate.edu/fw/rafwe-poster-session</a>

# **RAFWE Goes Virtual**

By Scott Mitchell

The 17th Annual Research Advances in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecology Symposium (RAFWE for short) was our first virtual symposium and was a great success! While the COVID-19 Pandemic forced us to reschedule our originally planned (in-person) symposia, in a month and a half, a hard-working group of graduate students was able to reimagine the conference and create a successful virtual experience for 283 registered participants on May 28 – 29, 2020. The online medium allowed us to increase participation to a broader audience, and we had registrants from 16 departments or colleges from a total of 10 universities (including Oregon State) and 25 organizations or agencies.

Those who participated in the event were able to watch a variety of talks and poster presentations, attend a virtual workshop on spatial analysis in R, network with professionals from eight agencies and non-profits, watch a plenary talk by OSU's own Dr. Dave Lytle, and place bids in both a silent and live auction. Talks and posters highlighted the research and activities of 23 graduate students, 10 undergraduate students, and 1 recently graduated student. Our auction managed to raise \$1,749, which will help fund future RAFWE symposia, service projects, and workshops for students.

We are looking forward to our 18th Annual RAFWE symposium, which will be held in a mostly virtual format on May 13th and 14th, 2021. All are welcome to participate and registration is free! Registration information, schedules, and activities will be updated as it becomes available on our web page: fw.oregonstate.edu/RAFWE



# Ivan Arismendi Wins the Emmeline Moore Prize

Written by Guillermo Giannico

Dr. Ivan Arismendi, an Assistant Professor in Fisheries and Wildlife, received the "Emmeline Moore Prize" from the American Fisheries Society in recognition of his strong commitment to diversity issues and for promoting greater involvement of underrepresented groups in fisheries science, education, research and management. Growing up in southern Chile, Ivan became interested in the effects of introduced salmonids on his country's native fish communities. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Fisheries Engineering and a Doctoral degree in Forest Sciences from the Austral University in Chile. As an aquatic ecologist, Ivan conducts research that explores the role of natural variability and human-related disturbances on aquatic ecosystems and fish populations.

His interest has gradually expanded to include the people who use or manage those resources, and this led to his work and publications on diversity, equity, and inclusion in fisheries science (e.g., Arismendi and Penaluna 2016). But Ivan also "walks the talk" by mentoring both graduate and undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds and many international students (from Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, and Vietnam). His research lab includes members from a variety of identities and backgrounds including racial minorities, gender minorities, veterans, and international students. He plays a key role in several DEI initiatives, including a summer camp to engage high school students from underserved communities, which received the Oregon State University Outreach and Engagement Vice-Provost Team Award for Excellence in 2019. He self-identifies as a LatinX scientist with a strong commitment to serve as an example to students that science is available to everyone.

Arismendi, I., and B. E. Penaluna. 2016. Examining Diversity Inequities in Fisheries Science: A Call to Action. Bioscience 66:584-591. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biw041">https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biw041</a>

# 2020 College of Agricultural Sciences Faculty Awards

F.E. Price/Agricultural Research Foundation Award for Excellence in Student Advising and Counseling - Elizabeth Kelly

R. M. Wade Award for Excellence in Teaching/ Registry of Distinguished Teachers - Scott Heppell

Savery Outstanding Young Faculty Award - Ivan Arismendi







# **Survey of Grads**

Earlier this year, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife began surveying alumni who earned their undergraduate degree in Fisheries Sciences, Wildlife Sciences, or Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from 1935 to present. Currently 191 former students of the Department have completed the survey. Due to the pandemic, we have experienced delays in getting the survey results finalized.

Therefore, the survey is still open and it's not too late to participate! Please check out this webpage for the survey link: <a href="mailto:fw.oregonstate.edu/surveyofgrads">fw.oregonstate.edu/surveyofgrads</a>. The survey takes as little as 15 minutes to complete, but more time may be needed based on the amount of detail provided. We will complete the survey and have a report ready by Spring.

Here are a few fun facts about the survey and who has responded so far:

Alum with earliest graduation year: 1955 Number of Corvallis graduates: 109 Number of Ecampus graduates: 82

Number of countries represented: 3 (United States, Canada, UK)

Number of Territories: 1 (Nothern Marina Islands-Guam)

Number of states in USA represented: 38

# FW BY THE NUMBERS, 19-20

1242 Students Currently Enrolled

» 797 Undergrad

» **103** M.S./Ph.D.

» 32 Professional Science Masters

» 277 Grad Certificates

**208** Publications

\$9,349,774 Grant Dollars

\$200,000 Awarded Scholarships

174 Students Graduated This Year

» 77 Undergrad Degrees

» 32 Graduate Degrees

» 65 Grad Certificates

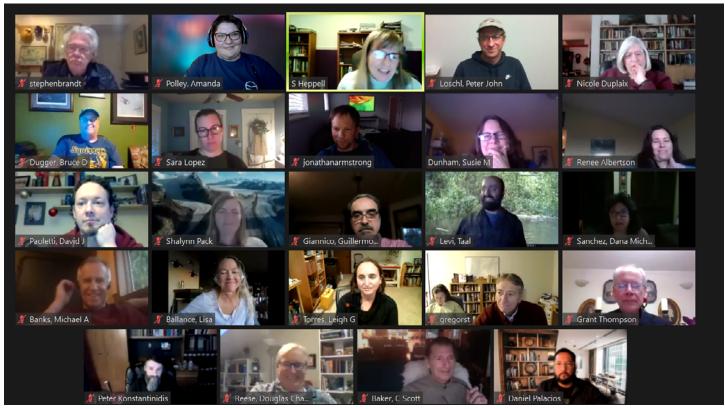


# **NEWS & REMINDERS**

- » FW Generations coming Summer 2021
- » Participate in our FW Survey of Grads
- » Register for RAFWE fw.oregonstate.edu/RAFWE
- Earlier this year we canceled the 85th reunion due to COVID. After discussions among faculty, students, and staff, we agreed that it was better to wait for a year when an in person gathering was possible, so watch out for spring of 2022. You can sign up for event updates here: beav.es/J4X

# **WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE**

- » Make a donation beav.es/Zma
- » Get involved with student organizations and clubs
- » Volunteer to give a seminar or host a workshop
- » Email fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu to learn more



Some of the faculty and staff who participated in our December faculty meeting. As many can relate, Zoom came to dominate our professional life over the past nine months. We had better participation in remote faculty meetings than we've ever had in person!



