

# GENERATIONS

Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences

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Generations is a biannual newsletter designed to connect the past, present, and future generations of our program while celebrating our accomplishments and our impact in fisheries, wildlife, and conservation sciences.



Editor: Bruce Dugger  
Designer: Amanda Polley

Generations is a project organized by the Alumni Committee. The 2022-23 members are:

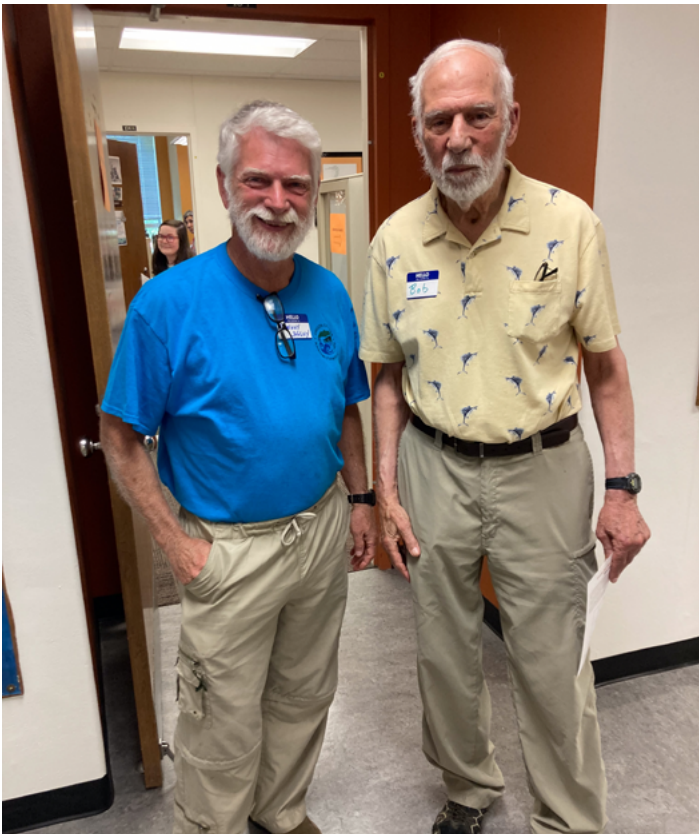
- Bruce Dugger
- Liz Kelly
- Bob Lackey
- Amanda Polley

Front Cover: Palau taken during FW 391 by **Scott Heppell**

Left: **Selina Heppell** teaches Benny about the FW Club; Alumnus **Denny Lassuy** and retired faculty member **Bob Jarvis** at the FWCS Open House event in May

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## Message from the Department Head

Welcome to summer! It was so great to celebrate the achievements of our graduates and scholarship winners at our spring gathering at Willamette Park. It’s my favorite time of year, and a wonderful opportunity to bring folks together.

We held a fantastic open house event in May, showcasing our fabulous research, outreach, and teaching. Several alums and supporters stopped by, even the Provost! We were sad to cancel our other reunion events due to low registration numbers, but stay tuned for events this fall and more opportunities to connect, including a seminar series next spring.

It was a great year for research, with \$8.3M in research expenditures, 230 journal articles, 20 book chapters, 19 tech reports, and 2 extension publications reported by faculty. Some exciting projects are underway!

We graduated 17 MSc and 6 PhD students, and a whopping 20 Professional Science Master’s students – a record! And 59 students completed a Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Management or Wildlife Management. For Bachelor of Science, 128 students graduated this academic year – the most in our College! This was the first year for undergraduate students to graduate with their BSc in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. Congratulations to all of our graduates, and many thanks to their advisors and mentors.

Big academic changes are underway at OSU and in our department. Oregon’s colleges and universities are working towards common course numbering for freshman and sophomore-level courses to assist students with transfer credits, and our general education (“Bacc Core”) requirements are getting their first overhaul in 30 years. Seems like a good time to update our undergraduate degree! So, Associate Department Head Bruce Dugger and our fabulous faculty are working on updates to our core requirements and developing transcript-visible options for our bachelor’s degree.

Our Strategic Plan draft will be the focus of our faculty retreat this fall. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on our programs – please drop us a line! [fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu](mailto:fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu)

Have a great summer –  
Selina





# Faculty Spotlights



Megan Jones

I am an Assistant Professor and Assistant Unit Leader in the USGS Oregon Coop Unit, housed in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences. As a conservation social scientist, I study how people and organizations communicate about fish and wildlife issues. I use theories and methods from behavioral science, especially psychology and communication science, to understand why people do (or don't!) take conservation action, and how interventions can empower them to do more to protect ecosystems.

I come to OSU from Colorado State University, where I did my masters, PhD and postdoc. I'm from Oregon originally, though, so I'm happy to be back in the land of rain and monster trees.

Of my current research, I'm particularly excited about work that falls into two themes:

Climate Conversations: There is widespread consensus that climate change is making life increasingly challenging for people and non-human animals alike. But it's hard for all of us to make the leap from "it's here and it's harmful" to actually changing our habits. Two of my current projects look at how to encourage people to talk more about climate change with what's called 'close others' – friends, family, colleagues, etc. My lab is testing the effects of a variety of psychologically wise messages on people's climate conversations, and ultimately their climate actions, in the context of (a) dietary shifts and (b) ocean change. Upcoming work here will also look at human-beaver conflict and coexistence.

Science Facilitation: How do you go from a group to a team? How do you engage marginalized voices, manage power dynamics, and sustain participation? Because fish and wildlife management occurs in a complex social-ecological system, practitioners need to engage the public in participatory decision-making, and scientists need to work in strong interdisciplinary teams. Unfortunately, conservation professionals are rarely trained in these skills. I recently taught a graduate seminar on natural resource facilitation, and I'm working with colleagues to study how facilitation expertise can be developed in scientific teams.



Josh Stewart

I'm a new Assistant Professor at OSU's Marine Mammal Institute (MMI) with an academic home in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences (FWCS), and I lead the Ocean Ecology Lab. Our goal at the Ocean Ecology

Lab is to use science to support the effective management of marine mammals and other threatened species. We do this in a lot of different ways. We study where animals go and why—which is most often related to what they're eating or where they're reproducing—and use this information to identify where and when they are most vulnerable to human impacts. We use a wide range of tools (drones, Crittercams, satellite and acoustic tags) to evaluate the health of individuals and populations, and to understand how natural variation in the environment, climate change, and a growing human footprint in the oceans all collide to drive population trends of vulnerable species. We then work closely with stakeholders, communities, and management agencies to support and develop science-based management and conservation strategies that will effectively protect and recover these species.

Our team is working closely with colleagues from NOAA to study the habitat use and feeding ecology of Southern Resident killer whales on the outer coast of Washington; the extent and impact of seal and sea lion predation on salmon populations; and the population dynamics of gray whales, including the drivers of recent unusual mortality events. In addition to these local projects, I work on a wide range of species around the world, from Central and South America to the Indian Ocean. I'm ecstatic to have the opportunity to work with the incredible faculty, postdocs, and students at the MMI, FWCS, and OSU.

## College Awards & Promotions

### Promotions

- 2022-2023**  
Holly Campbell, Senior Instructor I  
Craig Hayslip, Senior Faculty Research Assistant I
- 2021-2022**  
Scarlett Arbuckle, Senior Instructor I  
Jonny Armstrong, Associate Professor with tenure  
Susanne Brander, Associate Professor with tenure  
Rachel Crowhurst, Senior Faculty Research Assistant II  
Ken Diebel, Senior Instructor I  
Debbie Dietrich, Senior Faculty Research Assistant II  
Lisa Ellsworth, Associate Professor, Senior Research  
Amanda Gladics, Associate Professor of Practice  
Scott Heppell, Professor  
Rebecca Hutchinson, Associate Professor with tenure  
Brian Sidlauskas, Professor

### College of Agricultural Sciences Awards

- Savery Outstanding Doctoral Student**  
Marie Tosa  
Sponsored by the Agricultural Research Foundation
- Savery Outstanding Master's Student**  
Olivia Boisen  
Sponsored by the Agricultural Research Foundation
- Distinguished New Professor of the Year**  
Shalynn Pack
- College of Agricultural Sciences Classified Employee and Professional Faculty Award**  
Amber Ahlgren





The official OSU Commencement took place on Saturday June 17, and Selina led the College of Agricultural Sciences during the procession. On the Friday before the big event we hosted a gathering for our students to thank them for their hard work, and to celebrate their successes with us before we sent them off to save the world! We will publish the list of names in our Fall/Winter edition of Generations, but if you can't wait until then you can view the graduating student posters on our website. [beav.es/Tp2](https://beav.es/Tp2)

**Shanti Lindberg**  
**B.S. Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences**  
**Oregon State University Class of '23**

This winter I graduated from OSU with my BS in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. My experiences in the department were extremely rewarding. In particular, the guidance, advice, and support from Dr. Tiffany Garcia (my advisor), Dr. Peter Konstantinidis, and Dr. Brian Sidlauskas was crucial in helping me develop as a budding biologist by allowing me to explore my interests, sit in on lab meetings, learn different methodologies in science, and generally have conversations about life outside of academia. Most importantly, I was given an amazing opportunity to spend three wonderful years working in the mammal and fish collections, which allowed me to gain indispensable knowledge regarding collection management. This resulted in my extreme passion for scientific research in a natural history setting and given me the confidence to further my education and achieve my goals of becoming a museum curator. This fall I will be heading off to UCLA as an M.S. candidate focusing on the evolutionary and developmental biology of mammals. I hope to then go on to a Ph.D. and become a curator in a natural history museum. In that position I hope to ignite in others the same passion and excitement that I experienced when I first learned about this type of career path. This department and all of its faculty are amazing and they truly helped shape who I am today.



# Congratulations to Our Class of '23!



Clockwise from top left: Undergraduate attendees; **Bruce Dugger** with Outstanding Senior Award winner **Caleb Centanni**; Graduate attendees





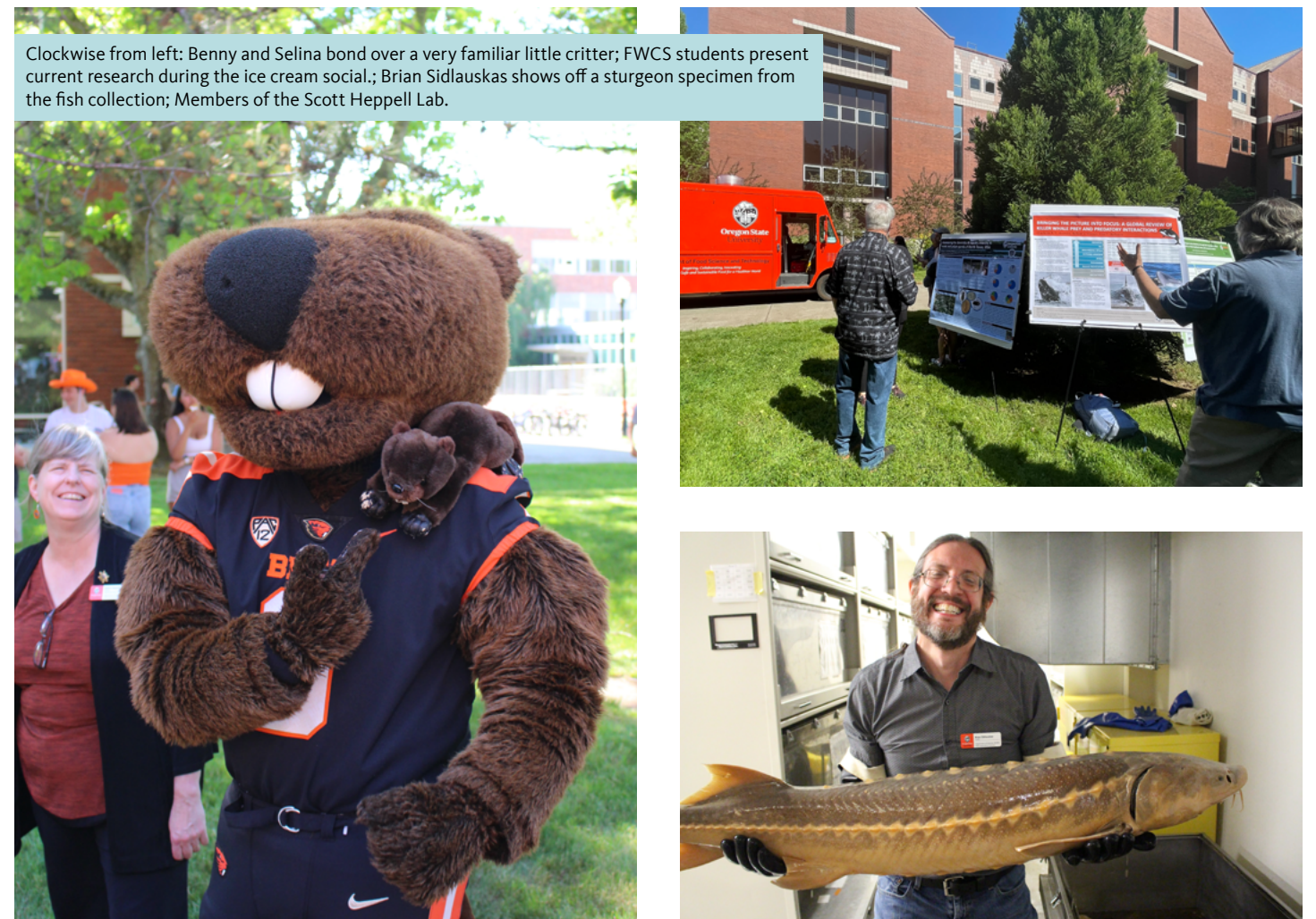


## FWCS Open House

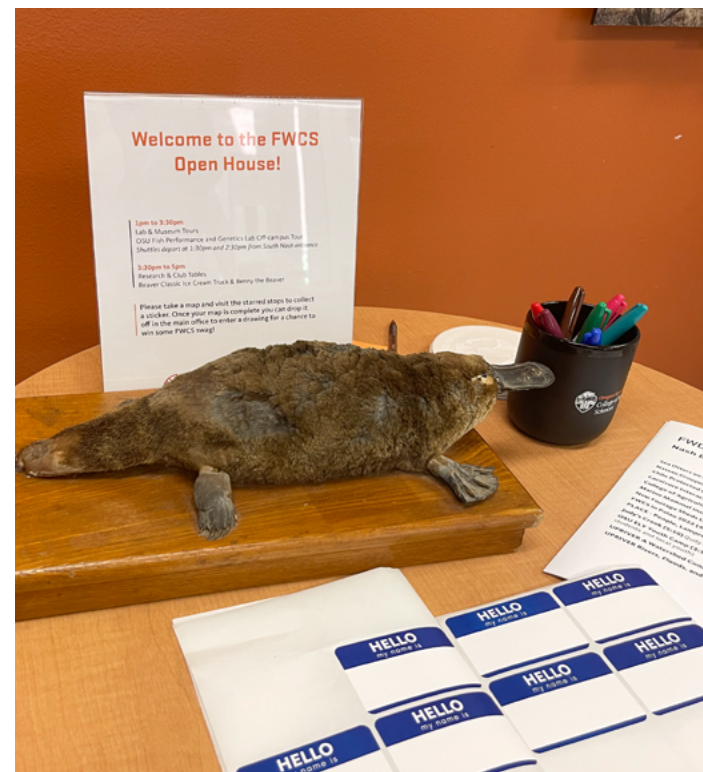
Our first open house as the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences was a huge success! Our halls and labs were filled with alumni, emeritus faculty, friends of the department, and students from across the university. Teaching and research faculty were alongside student workers and interns as they guided guests through a day in the life in FWCS. This included giving lab tours, showcasing live demos, and even a quiz or two. As the day heated up, we moved the party outside for an ice cream social and poster/info session.

We invited other student groups from the College of Agricultural Sciences to set up tables and also featured the Beaver Classic truck to serve delicious OSU made ice cream to all of our guests. It was a busy and rewarding day, and we can't wait to open up our doors for another event in the future.

Want to hear about FWCS events like our open house? Sign up for our mailing list! [beav.es/fwcs-stay-connected](http://beav.es/fwcs-stay-connected)



Clockwise from left: Benny and Selina bond over a very familiar little critter; FWCS students present current research during the ice cream social; Brian Sidlauskas shows off a sturgeon specimen from the fish collection; Members of the Scott Heppell Lab.



Clockwise from left: Check in table, featuring our long lost platypus that was recently returned to our collection; The Big Fish Lab came in from the coast with technology demos, shark facts, and amazing head gear; We had birds, mammals, and fishes from our museum collections on display for guests to identify.







## Our classrooms are everywhere

Our year was full of opportunities for students to get out of the traditional classroom and experience habitats, field techniques, and research firsthand. **Scott Heppell** and **Bryan Endress** took a group of OSU students to Palau for FW 391 Ridge to Reef: Sustainable Management in Palau, a study abroad course.

Our graduate students also organized community outreach events through a BioBlitz in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest and a three day summer camp program for students grades 6-8. Both of the engagement events hosted a range of activities related to biology, conservation, and natural resource management.

This summer we have seven VIEW fellows in labs and at field sites all over the state, working with marine species, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, and population genetics. Other projects will be conducting fish species surveys in southern Oregon, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) research from the Yakama Indian Reservation.

We can't wait to see what our students do this summer with the warm weather and their endless curiosity. We hope you all get out there and discover!



Top: Students standing around fish weir in Palau.

Bottom: Grad student **Courtney Hendrickson** and VIEW fellow **Heather Thomas** identifying species during the BioBlitz at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest

## Our VIEW Fellowship is receiving a national award!



VIEW has been selected to receive The Wildlife Society's Diversity Award for 2023! This award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in promoting diversity in the natural resource professions, especially wildlife conservation and education. We will be at the TWS Annual Conference in Louisville this fall to accept the award. You can learn more about the fellowship at [fwcs.oregonstate.edu/VIEW](https://fwcs.oregonstate.edu/VIEW)



Clockwise from left: A middle school student from our Wild About Wildlife summer camp explores the tidepools at the Oregon coast; **Mauricio Cantor** with students in the field for FW 599 Socioecology of Marine Megafauna; students learning how to sample transects in FW 255 Field Sampling with **Doug Reese**.





Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences  
104 Nash Hall  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331

## Stay Connected with FWCS

Our goal is to stay in contact with our alumni and friends and encourage you to stay involved with the department.

Sign up for the FWCS mailing list and follow us on social media for updates from our labs, classrooms, and research sites all over the world.

We will share information about workshops, seminars, job opportunities, social events, and more.



[beav.es/fwcs-stay-connected](mailto:beav.es/fwcs-stay-connected)



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Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences  
Oregon State University

## Support Our Students

Your support provides our students access to opportunities that give them valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom. From conference attendance to Palau and everything in between you are helping to get our students out into the world to experience fisheries, wildlife, and conservation sciences in new and exciting ways.

- » Make a donation [beav.es/Zma](https://beav.es/Zma)
- » Get involved with student organizations and clubs
- » Volunteer to give a seminar or host a workshop
- » Email [fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu](mailto:fw.alumni@oregonstate.edu) and learn more or to organize something with us!



**Oregon State University**  
College of Agricultural  
Sciences