WELCOME

New Online Masters Students for Summer 2015:
Jeanette Attia Hanna, MA; Cassi Bauch, CA; Sarah Bousquet, NV; Breeana Caldera, AZ; Michael Canfield, AL; Laetitia Compas, NY; Andrew Cook, VA; Amanda Fashano, OH; Aaron Foster, IL; Jessie Garcia, AZ; Andrew Guertler, VA; Terri Gulick, NE; Lisa Gulli Popkins, CA; Scott Hughes, MA; M Scott Johnson, NE; Nicole Kinzer, NE; Ryan Lindsay, MI; Jacqueline Martinez, TX; Christina Meadows, FL; Tiffanie Naive, GA; Brian Oliver, IL; Edward Paradise, TX; Erica Peterson, PA; Angela Priestley, IL; Jennifer Raith, MO; Aaron Rice, IL; Matthew Ridgway, NC; Amanda Thompson, NM; Kathryn Ann Tomelden, NV; Matthew Tyree, Canada; Melissa Weber, OH; Adeel Yousphi, NY

CONGRATULATIONS

Awards:
Dustin Casady, Fall 2013 on-campus graduate, received the University of Nebraska Kearney's award for honorable mention thesis in the College of Natural and Social Sciences for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Kellie Licking-Murray, Spring 2014 on-campus graduate, received the University of Nebraska Kearney’s Outstanding Thesis Award in the College of Natural and Social Sciences for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Matthew Perrion, current on-campus student, received the Best Professional Poster Award for the 2015 Nebraska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

May 2015 Graduates:
Kathleen Abraham, Peter Alden, Deron Anderson, Patrick Brommer, Jamie Carrero, Ashley Classen, Kevin Coffey, Allison Collins, Jeffrey Dawson, Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Jackeline Flansburg-Cruz, Viktor Frazier, Jennifer Frisch (Thesis), Jennifer Hadley, Erik Hauptman, Michelle Hayes, Adam Huebner, Hannah Jones, Sonya Marker, Kirsten Mycky, Rebecca Pawlak (Thesis), Sara Ray (Thesis), Beth Richmond, Jeff Shaw (Thesis), Corey Willicott (Thesis)
Five graduates were able to attend the UNK Spring Commencement ceremony on May 8th held in the Health and Sports Center. Over 30 guests, including graduates, family and Biology faculty, attended the Department breakfast before the ceremony to honor our graduates.

(pictured from left to right: Dr. Joe Springer, Department Chair; Dr. Julie Shaffer, Graduate Program Chair; Beth Richmond; Deron Anderson; Patrick Brommer; Jeffrey Fitzgerald; Jeffrey Dawson)

(pictured from left to right: Dr. Kimberly Carlson, Professor; Patrick Brommer; Deron Anderson; Jeffrey Dawson; Beth Richmond)
Publications, Meetings, Grants

Grants


Meetings


Publications


Continue to send us updates on any meetings, publications, grants, or awards that you have been involved with. Please email details to msbiology@unk.edu.
This fall will be a time of change for the Biology Department. Dr. Joseph Springer is retiring after teaching at Kearney State College / University of Nebraska at Kearney since 1979. For those of you who have not had an opportunity to take classes from Dr. Springer, his specialty is mammalogy and he taught courses such as BIOL 805P Range and Wildlife Management, BIOL 834 Conservation Biology, BIOL 862P Animal Behavior, and BIOL 869 Conservation of Birds and Mammals. I will be stepping into his shoes as department chair starting this August, which means I will no longer direct the online MS program. We are hoping to hire a graduate faculty member who has both administrative and teaching responsibilities to direct the program, but that will require the creation of a new kind of faculty position at UNK. Until that new type of position is approved, Dr. Julie Shaffer will direct both the thesis and non-thesis (online) MS programs for the 2015-2016 academic year. When I took over as director of the online MS program summer of 2010, one of the challenges was following student progress through in the BIOL 831 sequence. At the time students could enroll in 1, 2, or 3 credit hours of BIOL 831 each semester, but there was no real organization. That is, students enrolled in 2 credits of BIOL 831 could have been working on their hypotheses and methodology or their data analysis and manuscript, or any other combination of 2 sequential credits. It made the courses very difficult to manage. We created the BIOL 831A-F course sequence and standardized the expectations for each part of the research process. Later we developed the BIOL 831 grant to help support students in their research effort. Since the summer of 2010 our enrollment and graduation rates have been strong and I am confident the program will continue its record of success in the years to come.

Shevaun Adams (current distance student) and family welcomed the addition of Ryan Wayne on Dec. 22, 2014. He weighed 6 lbs 11½ oz and was 21½ inches long. His 2 older sisters are absolutely thrilled with him (pictured left).

Daniel Mauck (Fall 2012 graduate) will begin a PhD program in Public Health, concentration in epidemiology, at Florida International University this Fall.

Please let us know what is going on in your lives; email us your news at msbiology@unk.edu.
Still looking to register for a class this summer? The following courses are being offered during the 2nd and 3rd summer sessions:

**May 26-July 17 session:**
BIOL 820 – Intro to Graduate Study (3 hrs)

**June 8-July 31 session:**
BIOL 832 – Crane Ecology (1 hr)
BIOL 834 – Conservation Biology (3 hrs)
BIOL 846 – Cancer Biology (3 hrs)
BIOL 863 – Biological Perspectives (3 hrs)

Students can register for open classes through MyBlue up until the first day of the class.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning May 11th, students dropping a summer course receive a “W” on their transcript. The “W” does not calculate into GPA; it just indicates the course was dropped. Even if the class doesn’t begin until the 2nd or 3rd summer session, the student receives a “W” since the summer term has begun.

**Reminder:** If you haven’t registered yet for Fall 2015 classes, we encourage you to do so ASAP. Classes fill-up quickly so if there is a course you really want/need to take, you should register now. Fall 2015 classes begin August 24th.

Remember, if a class you are interested in taking is full, contact Brian or Robyn at msbiology@unk.edu to be put on a waitlist. Should a spot become available you would then be contacted via your lopers email account to register.

**Planning to graduate this Summer 2015?** You will need to log-on to MyBlue and apply for July 2015 graduation. All students are required to apply for graduation even if they do not plan to attend ceremony. The deadline to apply for graduation this summer is June 15th. There is a $25 application fee that can be paid on-line when you submit your application. Commencement ceremony will be held on July 31st at 10:00 am in the Nebraska Student Union. We hope you can make the trip to Kearney for the commencement ceremony! Since the summer semester is more condensed, graduates need to complete the comprehensive exam and have it returned to the Biology Department by June 26th. Please make arrangements with a proctor to complete your exam early in order to meet this deadline. The proctor form must be submitted to the Program Coordinators, msbiology@unk.edu, at least 2 weeks prior to taking the exam.