

MASTERS DISTANCE MONITOR

May 2022

Issue 42

WELCOME

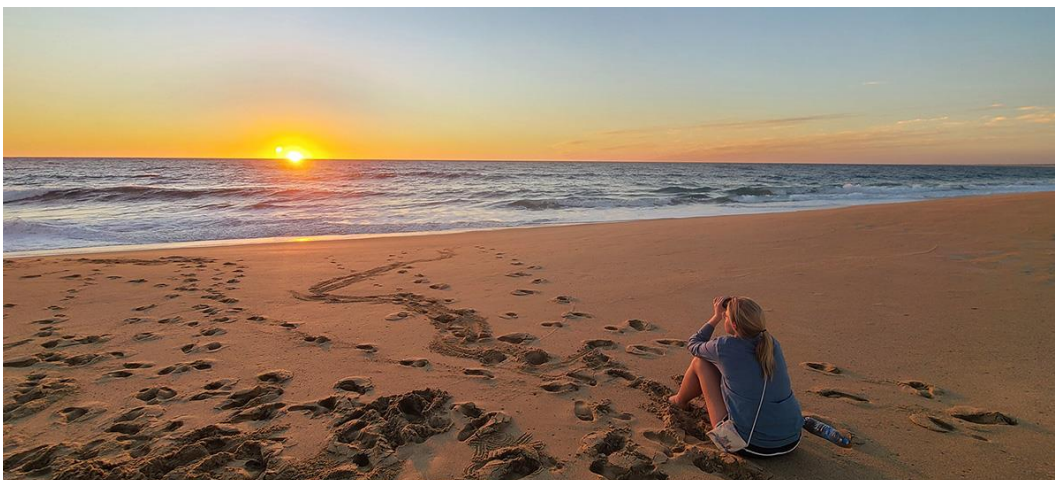
New Online Masters Students for Summer 2022:

Grace Bishop, MI; Timothy Bridges, TX; Cameron Cassavaugh, NH; Andrew Domman, CO; Brittany Duman, MO; Kaylee Espinoza, CA; Melanie Essink, NE; Gavin Fitzgerald, CO; Taylor Hastings, SD; Sierra Joyner, WA; Kyle Kujala, IL; Allison Lowman, WI; Ashley Martwick, ID; Cassidy McGurk, DE; Kaitlyn McSweeney, NH; Brandee Meyer, MN; Marvin Miller, CA; Nathan Ortiz, CA; Amanda Schultz, NV; Katie Steecker, NE; Christina Wilhoit, SC; Anthony Yates, NE

NEWSFEED

The University of Nebraska Kearney news highlighted Dr. Bryan Drew's, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair, trip to Baja California Sur during the January 3-week session. Below is an excerpt from the article, entitled "UNK students soak up sun, knowledge during biology trip to Baja Peninsula". For the full article click on the link: <https://unknews.unk.edu/2022/02/01/unk-students-soak-up-sun-knowledge-during-biology-trip-to-baja-peninsula/>

UNK students soak up sun, knowledge during biology trip to Baja Peninsula



UNK associate biology professor Bryan Drew recently led a field class trip to Baja California Sur, Mexico, where students explored the diverse ecosystem and took in the spectacular views. (Courtesy photos)

By TYLER ELLYSON
UNK Communications

KEARNEY – Bryan Drew brings a “wow factor” to his biology classes.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney faculty member wants students to get excited about nature and all the potential careers they can pursue in this field.

As a botanist and ecologist, he travels the world to study plants and animals – something they can do, too.

The associate professor has led several research and field class trips since joining UNK in 2015, including a recent adventure that took Drew and a group of students to Baja California Sur. They spent 10 days in the Mexican state – part of the Baja California Peninsula – where they soaked up the sun and soaked in knowledge about the region’s diverse ecosystem.

“The whole idea of these trips is to expose people from Nebraska to something different – culturally different and ecologically different,” Drew said. “I want to open up their world and show them this is something that can be accessible.”

From left, UNK graduate student Adam Sullivan, junior Kaylee Gibson, senior Charlotte Okraska and associate biology professor Bryan Drew are pictured during their recent trip to Baja California Sur, Mexico.



Although Drew is a globetrotter, many of the students who sign up for his trips have never been outside the U.S. That was the case for UNK senior Charlotte Okraska of Clay Center.

An English major with a biology minor, Okraska has conducted research with Drew in the Desert Southwest, but this was a completely different experience.

“I’ve never left the country before, so I was really excited to get out of the States and experience not only the biological aspects of another part of the world, but also the culture,” she said. “It was all so new to me.”

Drew, who’s been to the Baja Peninsula numerous times, definitely hit all the high points.

They hiked in the Sierra de la Laguna mountain range, a UNESCO biosphere reserve that’s home to numerous plant and animal species that can only be found there. With its tallest peak around 7,000 feet,

the mountain range offers dramatic views of the surrounding landscape, which transitions from sandy beaches to arid desert to lush forest.

The UNK group also visited cultural sites, including a mission built in the late 1600s, and traveled to both sides of the peninsula. They snorkeled in the Gulf of California to the east, where they saw sea lions, tropical fish and other marine life, and spent time whale watching along the Pacific coastline to the west.

CONGRATULATIONS

May 2022 Graduates:

Babylon Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Pam Baker, Lauren Beane, Devin Brown, Iszac Burton, Sarah Canavero, Ashley Forrester (THESIS), Lindsay Fugleberg, Deanna-Marie Gonzales Reedy, Sarah Gordon, Abigail Grothe, Ryan Harris, Theresa Honeycutt, Kesha Hudson, Danielle Jafer, Aviana King, Chelsea Kraniak, Jesse Mata, Thomas Murray, Kevin Ostaszewski, Bethany Ostrom (THESIS), Shanna Reed, Lauren Roberts, Jeff Rue, Jordana Runck, Morgan Weitzel, Erica Woytcke, Ashley Yount

Nine graduates were able to attend the commencement ceremony on May 13th at 10:00 am in the Health and Sports Center.



Pictured from left to right: (front row) Dr. Letty Reichart, Lindsay Fugleberg, Danielle Jafer, Babylon Anderson; (middle row) Ashley Yount, Jordana Runck, Dr. Janet Steele; (back row) Dr. Joe Dolence, Dr. Mary Harner, Theresa Honeycutt, Thomas Murray, Dr. Nick Hobbs, Jeff Rue, Dr. Paul Twigg



Spring graduates (from left to right):
Babylon Anderson, Danielle Jafer,
Lindsay Fugleberg

UNK Online also hosted a graduation reception the evening before ceremony at the G.W. Frank House of History and Culture. Online graduates, along with their guests, and biology faculty were in attendance for the event. Some pictures from the reception are below.



Grants, Meetings, Publications

Meetings

- Dietrich, L., M. R. Wuellner, K. Koupal,** and M. Pegg. January 2022. Trials and tribulations of Georgia cube use in central Nebraska borrow pit impoundments. Great Plains Fishery Workers Association Annual Meeting. Gering, NE. Oral Presentation.
- Gravenhof, D., M. Wuellner,** M. Finsel, and C. Goble. February 2022. Estimating predation on newly stocked Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) using acoustic telemetry. Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Sioux Falls, SD. Oral Presentation.
- Kessler, A., **L. Dietrich, M. Wuellner, and K. Koupal.** February 2022. An evaluation of fish use of habitat structures in Sandy Channel State Recreation Area, Pond #2. Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Sioux Falls, SD. Poster Presentation.
- Logan, B., M. R. Wuellner, and K. Koupal.** January 2022. A reassessment of the distribution of predator fishes in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska. Great Plains Fishery Workers Association Annual Meeting. Gering, NE. Oral Presentation.
- Ranta, M., M. Wuellner, and K. Koupal.** February 2022. Modeling potential harvest regulation changes for Walleye, White Bass, and Hybrid Striped Bass in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Des Moines, IA. Poster Presentation.
- Wuellner, M. R.,** J. Ruoss, **B. Mason, and K. Koupal.** February 2022. Reversing what time has taken away: Mother Nature's experiment with cove connection in Harlan County Reservoir. Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. Sioux Falls, SD. Oral Presentation.
- Wuellner, M. R.,** M. Bowne, J. Hendricks, and J. Howard. March 2022. Perceptions of students and instructors regarding rapid shifts to online learning: Preparing for the future. 14th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources. Virtual. Oral Presentation.

Publications

- Bowne, M., **M. Wuellner,** J. H. Hendricks, and J. Howard. 2022. Student and instructor perceptions of online teaching related to COVID-19: The need for reflective practices. *Journal on Empowering Teaching Excellence*, 5(3):27 – 41.
- Chen, Y.P., Turdimatovich, T.O., Nuraliev, M.S., Lazarević, P., **Drew, B.T.,** and Xiang, C.L. 2022. Phylogeny and biogeography of the northern temperate genus *Dracocephalum* s.l. (Lamiaceae). *Cladistics*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12502>
- Crossley, M., Cohen, Z., **Pélissié, B.,** Rondon, S.I., Alyokhin, A., Chen, Y.C., Hawthorne, D., Schoville, S.D. 2022. Limiting a superpest: Ecological and evolutionary factors mitigating Colorado potato beetle adaptation to insecticides. Pg 463-479 in: *Insect Pests of Potato: Global Perspectives on Biology and Management*, 2nd edition. Academic Press. (book chapter)
<https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-821237-0.00023-8>
- Dembkowski, D. J., D. T. Nelson, **M. R. Wuellner,** B. G. Blackwell, and D. O. Lucchesi. 2022. Limited utility of early life-history indices for predicting yellow perch-class strength in eastern South Dakota glacial lakes. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, 42(2): 343-351.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/nafm.10746>.

- Dirmenci, T., Arabacı, T., Özcan, T., **Drew, B.T.**, Yazıcı, T., Martin, E. and Celep F. 2021. Taxonomy of the genus *Origanum*. Pg. 1–48 in: *Oregano – The genus Origanum (Lamiaceae): Taxonomy, Cultivation, Chemistry, and Uses*. Dirmenci, T, editor. Balıkesir University, Balıkesir, Turkey. (book chapter)
- Gibson, K. L., **Peterson, B.C.**, and **Geluso, K.** 2022. Geographic distribution: *Lithobates catesbeianus* (American Bullfrog). *Herpetological Review*, 53:72-73.
- Pélissié, B.**, Chen, Y.H., Cohen, Z.P., Crossley, M.S., Hawthorne, D.J., Izzo, V., Schoville, S.D. 2022. Genome resequencing reveals rapid, repeated evolution in the Colorado potato beetle. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msac016>
- Rose, J.P., Xiang, C.L., Sytsma, K.J. and **Drew, B.T.** 2022. A timeframe for mint evolution: Towards a better understanding of trait evolution and historical biogeography in Lamiaceae. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, doi.org/10.1093/botlinnean/boab104
- Spalink, D., Karimi, N., Richards, J.H., Eifler, E., DiNicola, A., Thein, T., Schomaker, L., **Drew, B.T.**, Mcculloh, K.A. and Givnish, T.J. 2022. Passive seed dispersal, genetic structure at small spatial scales, and short-distance gene flow associated with morphological divergence within *Eschscholtzia parishii* (Papaveraceae): implications for rapid speciation in desert winter annuals. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/botlinnean/boac010>
- Turdiboev, O.A., Shormanova, A.A., Sheludyakova, M.B., Akbarov, F., **Drew, B.T.** and Celep, F. 2022. Synopsis of the Central Asian *Salvia* species with identification key. *Phytotaxa*, <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.543.1.1>
- Wasyliw, J., Fellrath, E.G., **Pec, G. J.**, Cale, J.A., Franklin, J., Thomasson, C., Erbilgin, N., and Karst, J. 2022. Soil inoculation of lodgepole pine seedlings alters root-associated fungal communities but does not improve seedling performance in beetle-killed pine stands. *Restoration Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.13663>

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.

Director's Desk from Dr. Austin Nuxoll

Greetings!

I hope you had a great spring semester! For the first time since the pandemic started, we were able to hold a Graduation Reception, hosted by UNK Online. We appreciated seeing our graduates making the trip out here



for the reception and graduation. We had nine students attend from eight different states (AZ, IN, KS, MI, MN, ND, NE, OK: see pictures within this issue). The Biology Department will have a new faculty member joining us. Dr. Todd Bartee was a professor in the Kinesiology and Sport Sciences Department here at UNK and will be teaching courses in public health moving forward. Dr. Bartee will primarily teach undergraduate courses, but you can look for graduate offerings in public health in future summer sessions!

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, there will be reduced course offerings in the summer semesters moving forward. There are also strict enrollment requirements, so be sure to register for classes early to ensure classes aren't cut due to low enrollment. If you have not already, please complete the alumni and/or student survey sent to you on May 4th, results will be compiled at the end of the month.

Enjoy the summer semester and please let me know if I can assist with anything. You can contact me at nuxollas@unk.edu or 308-865-8602.

Faculty News

Drs. Kim Carlson, Julie Shaffer, and Melissa Wuellner were recently selected as Fellows to the Nebraska Strategic Research Institute (NSRI). The NSRI Fellows program was launched back in May 2021 and includes faculty from across the University of Nebraska System. More information can be found at the following link: <https://nsri.nebraska.edu/news/news-releases/2022/05/49-nu-researchers-newly-appointed-as-nsri-fellows>



Dr. Surabhi Chandra, Associate Professor, won the faculty mentor award for the College of Arts and Sciences at UNK Graduate Research Day held on March 31, 2022. (pictured left)

Student News

Douglas Ayega (May 2018 graduate) graduated in March with his PhD in Learning Technologies from University of North Texas. His dissertation was on “High School Teaching and Learning experiences Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Focus on Biology instruction.”



Stephanie Barnes (December 2011 graduate) welcomed her 1st child, Rebecca Emerald, on March 21st. (pictured top left)

Deanna-Marie Gonzalez Reedy (May 2022 graduate) welcomed her 2nd son, Keallua Steele-Gemn Reedy, on January 17th. He weighed 7lbs 7oz and was 19 inches long at birth. (pictured right)



Dylan Gravenhof (current thesis student) was awarded the David W. Willis Outstanding Young Professional Award at the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Brian Mason (current thesis student) won the Best Thesis Award during UNK Graduate Research Day held in March 2022.

Kylee McCord (current online student) and her husband welcomed their daughter, Josie, on January 25th. She weighed 7 lbs 7 oz and was 20 inches long at birth. (pictured bottom left)

Blasé Rokusek (current thesis student) won first place for poster presentation during UNK Graduate Research Day held in March 2022.

Jordana Runck (May 2022 graduate) recently accepted a faculty position in the Biology Department at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, MN. She begins teaching this fall.

Nousha Sabet (December 2021 graduate) began teaching online Biology courses for two colleges in Iowa this past December.

KT Thompson (May 2020 graduate) has accepted a full-time faculty position at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado beginning next Fall. She extended her research done while she was at UNK and has been working with the Colorado Master Beekeeper Program with colony level studies this spring.

Please let us know what is going on in your lives; email us your news at msbiology@unk.edu.

Office Space

Still looking to register for a class this summer? The following courses are being offered during the 2nd & 3rd summer session and have a few spots left:

May 31-July 22 session:

BIOL 805P – Range and Wildlife Management (3 hrs)

BIOL 837 – Reproductive Physiology (3 hrs)

BIOL 842P – Wildlife and Fisheries Laws and Policies (3 hrs)

BIOL 876 – Natural Science Curriculum (3 hrs)

June 13-August 5 session:

BIOL 830P-01 – Vaccines: Concepts & Controversies (3 hrs)

BIOL 863 – Biological Perspectives (3 hrs)

BIOL 881-04 – Current Issues (1 hr)

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

Students planning to graduate this August 2022 must apply for graduation on MyBlue. Even if you do not plan to attend ceremony you must apply in order to receive your degree. The deadline to apply for summer graduation is June 15th. There is a \$25 application fee which can be paid on-line during the application process. Commencement ceremony will take place at 10:00 am on August 5th in the Health and Sports Center. Please consider making the trip to Kearney to walk in graduation and if you do, please let the Biology Department know.

Reminder: If you haven't registered yet for Fall 2022 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 2022 classes begin August 22nd.

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.