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CLASS OF 2015 MEETS IN WINNIPEG

Last month, the Class of 2015 finally met in person during the Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The members of this year class are:

- Shawn Crimmins, University of Wisconsin
- Sarah Fritts, Texas Tech University
- Ashley Gramza, Colorado State University
- Tyler M. Harms, Iowa State University
- Jerod Merkle, University of Wyoming
- Lindsey Messinger, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- Bridget Sousa, H. T. Harvey and Associates, California
- Emily Thomas, The Pennsylvania State University - DuBois
- Andrew Tri, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Kelly VanBeek, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

They had a busy week in Winnipeg. One highlight was a panel discussion on leadership in the wildlife profession, moderated by Erin McCance (LI Class of 2014). Jon Haufler (TWS Past President), Wini Kessler (TWS Past President), and Selma Glasscock (Welder Wildlife Foundation) were on the panel and discussed their leadership experiences throughout their careers. The LI participants and alumni gathered Saturday night of the conference at the LI Alumni and Friends Reception, providing an opportunity to network, meet new colleagues in the profession, and catch up with old friends.

COUNCIL APPROVES CHANGES IN CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In March, the Society held a 2-day Council meeting in Omaha, at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Many issues of importance to members were discussed.

One in particular that might be of interest to young professional such as LI alumni has to do with certification.

Recently, an Ad Hoc Certification Change Committee has been discussing possible changes to certification requirements that would provide a path to certification for individuals with long and exceptional records of service in the wildlife profession, but who otherwise did not meet the certification requirements.

During its March meeting, Council considered a recommendation from Certification Change Committee, which would allow certification to be awarded to those who met certification requirements that included a minimum of 20 years of professional experience in the wildlife profession; a recognition by peers in The Wildlife Society and throughout the profession of exceptional skills in the wildlife areas emphasized in the certification procedure; and demonstrable achievements through research, management, education, and/or administration that clearly identifies the applicant as an exceptional leader. The Committee indicated its intent to set the approval bar very high for such individuals. After a considerable amount of discussion about how to recognize exceptional performance, the Council voted to approve the Committee's recommendation. For more about the Council's March meeting, click [here](#).

ALUMNI NEWS

Kelly Douglass [2008] Kelly recently started a term as the President of the NC Chapter of TWS. She got involved on the executive board as Secretary shortly after graduating from the LI (She had been actively involved in the chapter, but mostly through serving on committees up until that point). Then was elected as President-elect last year. She has also chaired 2 committees in the SETWS a few years back, and chaired several committees in NCTWS since graduating LI. She is also very involved in planning/hosting the TWS Conference in Raleigh, NC in 2016 as part of the Arrangements Committee and is chair of the Local Information Subcommittee.

Kent Fricke [2010] In May, Kent was named "Captain" of the Center for Great Plains Studies Graduate Fellows Program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (<http://www.unl.edu/plains/graduate-fellows-program>). In this capacity, Kent leads the program by organizing events, increasing cross-disciplinary collaborations, and editing a bi-monthly newsletter. Kent has been a Graduate Fellow in the Center since 2013.

Rachael Urbanek [2013] Rachel has changed jobs and has left Arkansas Tech University and now works at the University of North Carolina Wilmington as an Assistant Professor in the Environmental Studies department. Her new work email is urbanekr@uncw.edu.

Erin McCance [2014] Erin was a plenary speaker at the 2015 TWS Annual Conference on the topic of Why Wildlife Matters and was a member of the coordinating committee for the 2015 TWS Annual conference. She was chair of the Local Engagement and Networking Committee, organizing the chemical immobilization course held prior to the conference, and leading a

portion of the urban wildlife field tour on the Saturday of the conference. She also assisted with the planning of activities for the 2015 TWS LI participants.

Matt Bahm [2013] Matt is the Conservation Research Program Director for the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis, OR. He manages research for rare, threatened, and endangered species in the Pacific Northwest with a concentration on OR.

Have an update you want shared in the chronicles? Email Val Titus (valorie.titus@greenmtn.edu) with your news! Please include your LI year. Thanks!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The [Institute for Conservation Leadership](#) is currently accepting applications for their 2016 leadership development programs, including [Leading from Within](#), a five-month intensive leadership program designed to sharpen participants' skills for leading productive teams, addressing conflicts, and building trusting relationships.

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!

That's right! The LI have our own group and our own page to share information and updates with each other. Please find us at <https://www.facebook.com/LITWS/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TWSLIAlums/>!