Hello Everyone!

My name is Krysten Zummo, and I am very excited to be your 2016 Chair of the Student Development Working Group!

Before I get going, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, Matt Gould, and the outgoing Past-Chair, Andy Little, for all of their hard work over the past few years. Their dedication to the working group has been vital in getting us where we are today.

I would like to give you a brief introduction as to my background so you can become acquainted with me for the upcoming year. I received my bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill in NY in 2011. As an undergraduate I was very active with my student chapter, serving as President and coordinator of the 2011 Northeastern Conclave. I was elected to the SDWG board as secretary in 2011 and since then have served as Treasurer, newsletter editor, and awards committee chair. Being apart of the Student Development Working Group has provided me a pathway from being an active student member to being active at the state and national level. Since my membership with the SDWG began, I have been a part of TWS’s Leadership Institute and served as a board member for the New Mexico State Chapter. These past 5 year’s have been an amazing experience, and I look forward to serving as your Chair for the upcoming year.

The mission of the Student Development Working Group is to:

- Promote increased student awareness of TWS membership benefits.
- Expand knowledge and technical capabilities of student members.
- Prepare student members for professional wildlife careers.

It is my goal over the upcoming year to address these aspects of our mission by working with TWS Council and Staff to improve communication for students, both between student chapters and between students and their respective state chapters and sections. By doing so, it is our goal to make students more aware of the benefits that TWS and the SDWG provide, including:

Training for future jobs and preparation for publishing.

Opportunities to present research in a professional setting and obtain feedback from professionals.

The past few years’ annual conferences have seen record numbers of students in attendance, which has caught the attention of TWS as a whole. We are very excited to see what the next few years have in store and have a number of new initiatives that we are looking forward to organizing for the students of TWS.

If you should have any questions, ideas that you would like the SDWG to consider, or would like to become more involved with the working group, please feel free to email me at any time. Also, be sure to check out our Facebook and Twitter pages to keep up-to-date on any current issues and to find information relevant to opportunities for students.

Again, I am very excited and honored to serve as your Chair over the coming year and look forward to providing a student voice on TWS’s Council. Have a great spring semester!

Krysten Zummo, Chair
New Officers and Committee Members

**Krysten Zummo**, Chair and Student Liaison to Council; International Wildlife Management Working Group Liaison
(See page 1 for Letter from the Chair)

**Matt Gould**, Past Chair

In 2011, Matt obtained a B.S in wildlife biology from the University of Montana. He then worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grizzly Bear Recovery Program in northwest Montana where he helped collar bears to identify crossing routes along Interstate 90. He is now at New Mexico State University pursuing his Ph.D. in biology. His research is focused on utilizing genetic based methods to estimate density and investigate the landscape genetics of the American black bear in New Mexico and the Southwest. The Wildlife Society has always been a prominent fixture in his career, and he believes the opportunities and experiences that only TWS could provide has lead to where he is today. He was an officer for three years at the University of Montana, serving two years as president. After graduation, he still sought involvement with TWS and became more involved at the national level.

**Kristi Confortin**, Chair-Elect

Kristi Confortin is currently a graduate student at Ball State University researching the summer roosting ecology of the Eastern small-footed bat (*Myotis leibii*) in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. She is using radio telemetry to track Eastern small-footed bats to their roost rocks each day and will be examining roost characteristics and spatial distribution of roosts across the (bed-rock) landscape. In her undergraduate degree at the State University of New York at Cobleskill, she was heavily involved with her Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. She first started as an active member in the club and worked her way up and held multiple officers positions. She has traveled to three National Wildlife Society meetings. At these meetings she wanted to continue to be a part of this wonderful and powerful organization. The Student Development Working Group was a great way for her to transition at a national level. She is now currently the new chair elect. Kristi is very excited to work with this group and looks forward to helping many students continue to follow their passion and reach their goals.
New Officers and Committee Members

**Amanda Veals,** Treasurer & Newsletter Committee Chair

Amanda received her Bachelor’s in Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a minor in Wildlife Management in 2014. During her time as an undergrad, she worked as a college intern for the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona and also worked in Namibia, Africa for a conservation group studying wild cats. She accepted a Master’s position back at her alma mater under TWS Fellow, Dr. Koprowski, studying the spatial ecology of a mesocarnivore and how space use may influence a disease management plan. Amanda has been an active member of The Wildlife Society at multiple levels for many years. As an undergraduate she participated in the University of Arizona student chapter and continues to remain active as a graduate student. She became a member of the Arizona state chapter and has contributed to several past newsletters for the chapter since 2013. Amanda also joined the national chapter in 2013 before recently joining the Student Development Working Group. She volunteered to become the chair of this newsletter last year and is looking forward to remaining an active member of this working group as it’s new treasurer.

**Robert Lewis,** Secretary

Rob Lewis is a first year PhD student in Wildlife Biology at Utah State University where he is studying common raven predation of greater sage-grouse. He received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology, summa cum laude, from Murray State University in southwest KY in 2015. At Murray, he researched lead toxicology in eastern gray squirrels as well as wildlife damage management at general aviation airports. While at Murray he served as the secretary and two-term president of their student chapter of The Wildlife Society. He has worked in Maryland for the Department of the Navy as a contracted natural resources technician doing avian surveys as well as a Wildlife Specialist with the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Indiana program. When He’s not working, he enjoys hunting all species of game, fishing, winter sports, and flying. He is also a member of the county search and rescue team. Rob hopes to help give tools to all students to help them engage in their chosen profession.
2015 TWS Annual Conference Events: A Recap

The TWS 22nd Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba was a hit! Approximately 1,500 members attended the conference with students comprising 46% of the attendance. Twenty-three of these students received travel grants thanks to donations provided by the Arizona, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington state chapters and the Southeast Section. A big thanks to those chapters and section for their support! The Student Chapter of the Year was a highlight of the conference with the honor awarded to Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TAMUK). The TAMUK student chapter does an amazing job preparing students for the wildlife profession, hosting public education events, and promoting the values of TWS.

Our working group meeting was fantastic with many new faces and promising ideas. We focused our energy and discussion on how to provide valuable services to student members outside the annual conference. Unfortunately, not all student members are able to attend the annual conference, or if they are, not every year. Consequently, the SDWG officers would like to increase communication between student chapters, and provide both training and networking opportunities to our members who are not able to attend the conference.

Yet, we still hosted some great events for TWS students. The “Behind the Scenes of Scientific Publication and Critical Review” workshop provided students or other first-time publishers the ability to enhance and participate in the peer-review process of scientific publication. The workshop provided useful approaches to writing and submitting your own papers, particularly explaining how to address reviewers’ comments, and which journal to pick in the first place. The “Uncertainty of an Undergrad: Navigating the Maze of Employment and Career Opportunities” discussion panel was huge once again! Five individuals employed in various wildlife-related professions answered students’ questions about their career paths and offered advice to the audience (See page 10 for some of these tips).

Last, we hosted the student leaders’ breakfast for student chapter officers. The breakfast was extremely informative allowing the officers, representing student chapters from around the continent, to visit, swap fundraising ideas, and discuss future events such as conclave. All in all the TWS 22nd Annual Conference was one heck of a time, and we hope to see you at the conference next year in Raleigh, NC!
International collaboration is a major aspect of working in the wildlife field. Conservation and management of species is not simply a problem faced in the United States, but a truly global issue. International collaboration provides an opportunity for biologists to share ideas and gain a broader understanding of the wildlife field.

In this article we will be sharing experiences students have had while involved with international collaboration. We have gathered views from both American students who have worked abroad as well as international students who have participated in research efforts in the U.S. Below we have a list of questions we asked each student and have provided their answers for you. We want you to see how your fellow students have been involved in international collaboration and share their advice on how you can get engaged.

Meet Our Students!

**Matt Gould (MG):** I am originally from Montana, but I am now a graduate student at New Mexico State University.

**Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto (MVM):** I am a PhD candidate from the University of Insubria (Varese, Italy) and my PhD is in Biodiversity Analysis Protection and Management.

**Amanda Veals (AV):** I am an Arizona native and am currently a graduate student at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

**Hsiang-Ling Chen (HLC):** I am from Taiwan and got my BS in Biology and MS in Life Science there.

**Shimamoto Tatsuki (ST):** I am a PhD student at Iwate University, in Iwate, Japan.
International Collaboration: Student Perspectives (cont.)

1. How did you get involved with international collaboration?

**MG:** I became involved with international collaboration at the TWS Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI in 2013. While there, I attended my first International Wildlife Management Working Group meeting. Since then I have attended the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress in Sapporo, Japan.

**AV:** When I was an undergrad I worked for 2.5 months on an internship in Namibia, Africa studying human-wildlife conflict. Since then, with the help of my graduate advisor, I have helped to host multiple international students from countries including Japan, Italy, Poland, and Brazil while they visited our university.

**HLC:** I received a 3 year studying abroad fellowship from Taiwanese government in 2008 and came to US for PhD in School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA in August 2009. I currently work as a post-doc in Department of Biology and Department of Geography in San Diego State University for a NSF project “Sustainability of Payments for Ecosystem Services in Coupled Natural and Human Systems” with field work in Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve, China.

**ST:** Last year I had an internship at the University of Arizona. This led me to attend the TWS annual conference that year.

2. What kind of international collaboration do you participate in?

**MG:** While in Japan I worked with Japanese student members towards our goal of setting up a Japanese student chapter of TWS. I’ve had lots of ideas, but they’re hard to get off the ground in terms of student programs!

**AV:** I recently attend the Vth International Wildlife Congress in Sapporo, where I worked with Matt Gould and Shimamoto Tatsuki to work towards our shared goal of an international chapter for students. Currently I am working on facilitating programs for international student collaboration and travel including writing articles such as this to spread the word to other students on the importance of working with others especially those with new perspectives. I am also currently working with several international students in the field on my own thesis project as well as helping them with their own work.

**MVM:** I spent 3 months at the University of Arizona as a short-term scholar. I became involved since it was required for my PhD program that I spend time abroad with the aim of collecting data for my research project or for a training opportunity. Since my PhD project is strongly related to a specific geographical region, I decided to spend the 3 months as a training period to improve my skills especially on field projects related to wildlife management and research.

**ST:** This past summer I was given the opportunity to talk about my international internship at the Vth International Wildlife Management Congress. I also helped to organize the student mixer for all the international students at this congress due to previous connections with my fellow Japanese students as well as American students. During both of these I interacted with many of my fellow students from other countries, strengthening previous contacts and making new ones.
International Collaboration: Student Perspectives (cont.)

3. How have you benefited personally from international collaboration?

**MG:** First, I have formed incredible friendships and gained once-in-a-lifetime experiences from international collaboration. It has also provided me with new research opportunities along with a greater understanding of wildlife management and the issues people face around the globe.

**AV:** I have grown greatly as a young biologist through my time collaborating with international researchers. I think more broadly about topics and issues that affect wildlife. I have learned a great deal about new cultures and how they have similar wildlife issues. I have also grown my professional and personal contacts, allowing me to improve my project. Maria Vittoria Mazzamuto has been and continues to be a great help with my project, sharing experiences from her past work and working hard in the field all thanks to our time spent working together last spring. She and several other students remain close friends after our time working together.

**MVM:** The international program left me with a more open mind. When faced with a different university education system, you are provided new perspectives on your job and your project; allowing your mind to create new ideas, new solutions, and new directions. Working with other students, researchers and professors gave me the opportunity to learn new things, new approaches and new methods. Moreover my international experience became a bridge to create an official collaboration between my research group in Italy and the one where I was a guest that will last well into the future. This connection will help in the international exchange of other students and/or researchers among our two lab groups. But there was much more than the professional aspect of this experience. I met many new people and not just fellow students at the university. All of these people have been really friendly and welcoming and still today I can say that some of them are good friends. I have many memories of funny moments together and in a way, my international collaboration went beyond academia as a cultural exchange.

**HLC:** The most rewarding aspect personally and professionally is to expand my global social network for future collaboration. Learning experiences in wildlife conservation from different countries make me want to know more about my home country. For example, taking classes about the Endangered Species Act in the U.S. has made me want to learn more about conservation policy in Taiwan. International experience has helped me build my capacity to work with diverse groups of people in diverse environments. My research experience in Taiwan helped me be familiar with the culture and steep terrain in the reserve in China that I know work in more quickly to complete field work in time. By organizing a symposium at an international conference, I have made connections in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, and China. Additionally studying for a PhD in the U.S. has improved my English and made me think more broadly. For example, when I look for funding opportunities now, I not only look for funding in the U.S. and Taiwan but other international resources as well.

**ST:** Connections create new connections, which leads to the opportunity to improve my research and grow as a person through interacting with international students and researchers.
4. Why do you think international collaboration is important for your fellow students?

MG: I think international collaboration provides students with a larger perspective of the world. They’re provided new paradigms of wildlife management. They must consider different cultural norms, and learn how to form effective relationships that respect their collaborators’ culture. Collaboration also brings forth new ideas towards solving complex issues they may never have considered.

AV: International collaboration extends beyond idea sharing, to working directly on papers and projects that both parties can gain experience and perspective from. Wildlife conservation is a global issue that affects all of us. We need to work together and share ideas for a better future with international collaboration being a key factor in our future success. Without it, one remains focused on their small corner of the world and can’t true contribute to conservation as a whole, globally.

HLC: International collaboration is becoming more and more important. I don’t think the project I work for as a post doc could receive a NSF grant if it was not an international project with broad impacts. The Chinese government, the reserve I work on, and university near the reserve won’t have funding or ability to proceed with the project without collaboration with researchers in the U.S.

ST: My junior students have also gained contacts through my connections. Allowing them to broaden their views and improving their own research.
5. Do you have any suggestions for how to get involved with international researchers and projects?

MG: Of course, students should apply, apply, apply for international jobs across the globe. Students should also look into potential opportunities with professors at their university. Attend conferences and meet individuals who are leaders in the field you wish to pursue. Join a professional membership and join their internationally focused working group.

AV: Talk to your advisors or fellow grad students who have had international experience or have participated in some form of collaboration to see if they can introduce you to their contacts abroad. Go out of your way to meet and interact with international researchers at professional conferences, maybe even try to attend an international conference. These interactions are all opportunities to learn about a different culture and see unique perspectives on wildlife conservation. Even if you are an undergrad, it is not too early to start thinking about these connections. For students of any academic level there are short term study abroad courses, internships, and projects that are available in other countries, all available if you look hard enough.

MVM: In my case, searching the web was the first step. I used published papers to find research groups involved in the type of research I am interested in. Then I contacted the head of these groups by email in order to gain more information about their work and to know if they were interested in international collaboration. I also asked for the support of my university supervisors. I spent several months looking for interesting projects and opportunities, so I suggest to students interested in an international collaboration, to start looking ahead of time. International scientific congresses/conferences, such as this year’s annual TWS meeting in Canada, are another great opportunity to meet researchers and students of other universities.

HLC: International conferences. Help host international visiting scholars. Participate in exchange student program. Work as volunteer for international projects. Learn a second language, so you can work as a translator in international academic events, and increase chances to make international connections.

Over the next several years there are many upcoming opportunities for you to attend international conferences, including the International Conference on Rodent Biology Summer 2016 in Olomouc, Czech Republic and the International Mammalogy Congress 9-14 July 2017 in Perth, Western Australia. We highly encourage any students interested in international collaboration to talk to their advisors, look for study abroad programs, and attend scientific congresses both nationally and internationally.

If you have any questions or would like some advice on where to start, please feel free to email our Newsletter Committee Chair: Amanda Veals at amveals@email.arizona.edu
Uncertainty of an Undergrad: Navigating the Maze of Employment and Career Opportunities

During the 22nd Annual Conference, the SDWG hosted a discussion panel aimed at helping undergraduate students, which was successful once again. Five professionals employed in various wildlife-related professions answered students’ questions about their career paths and offered advice to the audience.

We have selected a few of our favorite tips from this discussion to share with you here in your newsletter. Over the next few installments of the newsletter, we will be sharing more tips from this great panel. We hope you enjoy and find them useful.

General Advice:
- Need a good quantitative background as well as GIS experience
- Take a statistics course
- Attend professional conferences
- Figure out your general end goal for your career and keep that in forefront of your mind, since you may not be able to take a direct path
- Remember some of the “bad” jobs or low paying jobs can lead you to where you want to go
- Communication is key! Technical skills such as writing & public speaking are needed in our field
- In an interview, employers are looking for that “special spark” of knowledge and passion that sets you apart from other candidates
- Be careful what you say early in your career, this is a small field, everyone knows everyone
- Learn the art of persuasion and negotiation
- It is very important to learn about your potential graduate advisor before going to work for them – talk to other graduate students in the program first
- Everything is negotiable in an interview setting – if something is really important, don’t be afraid to speak up and ask
- Utilize open access to the internet and literature, there is no excuse for not having good background knowledge before interview on topics of importance.
- Volunteer! If you are missing a skill, don’t be afraid to volunteer to bridge the gap. Contact local game agency & utilize your student chapter for connections.
- **Network, network, network, network!!**
Student Award Winners

Each year the Student Development Working Group organizes the judging of all student posters and presentations at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society. We would like to congratulate the winners of the 2015 Best Student Poster, Best Student Presentation, and the runner ups!

**Posters:**

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<th>Place</th>
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<td>Undergraduate First</td>
<td>Population genetics of North Dakota muskrats. Predation and parental care at blue-wing teal nests in North Dakota</td>
<td>Samuel Hervey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gone with the wind: a look at wind energy development and its impacts on wildlife</td>
<td>Nick Conrad</td>
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<td>Second</td>
<td>Modeling detection probability and survival of greater prairie-chicken broods using repeated flush counts</td>
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<td>Masters First</td>
<td>Effects of military training on Bachman's sparrow reproductive success and occupancy</td>
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<td>Second</td>
<td>Pigs on the wing: movement ecology of translocated wild pigs</td>
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<td>Third</td>
<td>Temporal features of tundra ecosystems influencing the abundance of barren-ground grizzly bears in the Canadian Central Arctic. Understanding ranchers’ perceptions of heterogeneity in the northern great plains. Mitochondrial haplotype diversity in Yellowstone National Park bison. Landscape genetics of white-tailed deer to assess population structure for surveillance of chronic wasting disease</td>
<td>Tyler Jessen, Maggi Sliwinski, David Forgacs, William Miller</td>
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<td>Ph.D First</td>
<td>Applied Epidemiology for Wildlife Disease Management: Bovine Tuberculosis in the Greater Riding Mountain Ecosystem in Manitoba, Canada</td>
<td>Todd Shurry</td>
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<td>Second</td>
<td>The Cascading Effects of Circannual Phenologies Across Trophic Levels - How Western Larch affect the Coat Color Molt in Snowshoe Hares</td>
<td>Alexander Kumar</td>
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<td>Second</td>
<td>Noninvasive Genetic Sampling and Mark-Recapture as a Method for Population Monitoring of Endangered Sonoran Pronghorn</td>
<td>Susannah Woodruff</td>
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Conclave Updates

Northeast Student Conclave

Juniata College, April 1-3, 2016

Southeastern Student Conclave

Eastern Kentucky University, March 17-20, 2016 on campus

North Central Student Conclave

University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point April 1-3, 2006 at Treehaven in Tomahawk, WI

Midwest Student Conclave

No conclave this year

Western Student Conclave

No conclave this year

Canadian Student Conclave

No conclave this year

If you have ideas for future newsletter articles or comments on this newsletter, please email Amanda Veals

Mexican Poppies, Peloncillo Mountains, NM (Photo Credit: Matt Gould).