

## **Winter 2021**

### **President's Message from Tayler LaSharr**

As we begin the New Year, I hope that you all entered 2021 safe, healthy, and happy. The past year was difficult for many, and all of our lives were altered in some way or another. Yet, even as we faced unprecedented circumstances in many aspects of our lives and jobs, we also accomplished many great things over the past year.

Thanks to the hard work of our now president-elect, Aly Courtemanch, we increased our scholarship funds to provide six scholarships to graduate students to help them navigate these uncertain times. Despite having to forgo meeting in person for the annual conference, we had incredible engagement at the virtual conference by members both old and new. And, donations from members during that event were incredibly generous, and will allow us to fund even more student scholarships, travel grants, and chapter activities during the coming year. Finally, our board expanded with the addition of several new members, including Don Delong (Board Member-at-Large), Megan Smith (Treasurer), and Courtney Larson (Secretary), and the diversity of backgrounds they bring to the board will be invaluable.

As we continue to move forward, I encourage you to get involved. The society is only as strong as its members are—your input, voice, and thoughts can be invaluable in shaping our chapter. I highly encourage you to join a committee and make your voice heard. To get involved with any of the committees, please see the [contact page](#) for the committee chairs. Further, the chair position for the Nominations & Awards committee is currently open. This position would be a great way for you to get involved, and help to elevate and promote many of the great researchers, managers, and citizens who work incredibly hard for the wildlife in our great state. If you have interest in this position, please see the announcement in the newsletter.

I am proud and excited to serve as your president during this time, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Tayler LaSharr