

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SECTION

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY ■ STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

Summer 2008 News and Announcements From EOS!

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Join Us in Ottawa to Celebrate Diversity in the Fisheries Profession!

We look forward to celebrating the expansion of diversity in the fisheries profession at the 2008 AFS Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The Equal Opportunities Section supports the goals of the AFS Strategic Plan to "create a climate in which diversity is welcomed, acknowledged and appreciated."

We look forward to meeting you at the joint luncheon of the Equal Opportunities Section and Fish History Section on Monday, August 18, at 12:30pm-2:30pm, in the Quebec Suite at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier hotel.



The Fairmont Chateau Laurier hotel.

Our guest speakers, Dr. Ambrose Jearld and Dr. Christine Moffitt, will be presenting on the history of women and minorities in the fisheries profession. This will be an exciting opportunity to meet mentors and students from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives on the fisheries profession!



Important business agenda items include elections of new officers (see section below for details) and planning for the 2009 Symposium 'Diversity in the Fisheries Profession', hosted by the Equal Opportunities Section in Nashville, TN. A proposal for the symposium must be submitted in December, so bring your ideas and consider serving on the planning committee.

There is no fee for students at the luncheon, due to generous contributions by mentors in the Society. However, all participants must **RSVP by August 1** due to limited space and menu planning needs. Please RSVP to Robin DeBruyne (rld87@cornell.edu). We hope to see you there and bring a friend!

EOS Congratulates 2008 Travel Award Recipients

Out of 13 applicants, we were able to provide awards to 8 students this year, focusing primarily on students who have been involved in leadership positions in AFS subunits or sections and who are presenting a paper or poster at the meeting.

2008 EOS Travel Award recipients

Julie Harris, North Carolina State University (PhD)

Beth Holbrook, University of Minnesota-Duluth (PhD)

Heidi Lewis, Southern Illinois University (PhD)

Ashlee Paver, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (MS)

Kristen Pitts, Kansas State University (MS)

Elizabeth Romero Hernandez, Universidad Autónoma de
Baja California (MS)

Sara Seidel, Utah State University (MS)

Caitlin O'Brien, Oberlin College, Ohio (BS)

Kristen Homel, Montana State University (PhD; unable to attend)



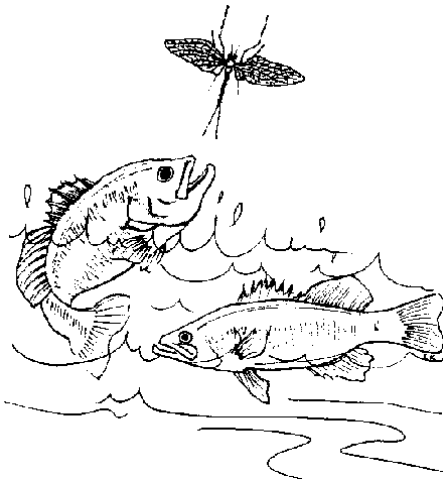
2007 EOS Travel Award Recipients

Total (2001-2008):

\$25,000 over 8 years to assist 48 students from 34 institutions in 6 countries!

EOS Grateful to 2008 Travel Award Contributors

The EOS Travel Award is entirely dependent on annual solicitations for funds from units across the American Fisheries Society and to external organizations. We are very grateful to two divisions, four sections, and five chapters for their contributions.



2008 EOS Travel Award contributors

Education Section (\$1,000)

Fisheries Management Section (\$500) – annual line item

North Central Division (\$500) – annual line item

Southern Division (\$500)

Alaska Chapter (\$300)

Ontario Chapter (\$250)

Fish Health Section (\$250)

Michigan Chapter (\$250)

Estuaries Section (\$175)

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter (\$100)

Indiana Chapter (\$100) – annual line item

It's not too late for additional contributions. Annual line items in unit budgets are especially appreciated! Please contact Gwen White (gwhite@dnr.in.gov) with contributions or leads.

J. Frances Allen Scholarship Recipients Announced!



J. Frances Allen Scholarship Recipient

The J. Frances Allen Scholarship Recipient for 2008 is Melissa Wuellner from South Dakota State University (pictured left). Melissa received a B.S. in aquatic biology and fisheries management from Ball State University in May 2002 and her M.S. in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University – Bozeman in August 2007. She has worked as a lake management intern for Aquatic Control in Seymour, Indiana, an aquaculture intern at Archers Daniels Midland Company in Decatur, Illinois, and a naturalist aide for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Presently, Melissa is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University and is advised by Dr. David Willis. Melissa has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1998 and has served as an officer of three student subunits. She currently serves as vice president of the Dakota Chapter of AFS and president of the Student Subsection of the Education Section. Melissa's research interests include stream and riverine ecology, conservation of non-game fishes, predator-prey interactions, and reservoir management. Her dissertation research uses basic and applied approaches in assessing competition between walleye *Sander vitreus* and smallmouth bass *Micropterus dolomieu* and how the dynamics of gizzard shad *Dorosoma cepedianum*, a common prey source for both predators in Missouri River reservoirs, potentially influence competition.

Honorable Mentions

Karen Murchie (pictured right) is an NSERC Ph.D. student in the Department of Biology at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. She is also a member of the Flats Ecology and Conservation Program at the Cape Eleuthera Institute in The Bahamas where she conducts her field studies under the co-supervision of Dr. Steven Cooke and Dr. Andy Danylchuk. Karen's dissertation research is focused on linking organismal biology with environmental variability and ecosystem processes in tropical tidal flats systems. Specifically she is using bonefish as a model to determine how animals make a living in such dynamic environments and how energy flows through the interconnected habitats that make up the tidal flats system. Karen's interest in fisheries began when she took a tropical ecology field course at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab in Jamaica in her third year at the University of Waterloo. From there she completed her undergraduate thesis project through the Waterloo Biotelemetry Institute, and then began her MSc. studying YOY yellow perch ecology in Northern Alberta with Dr. Michael Power. It was during her MSc. that she became aware of AFS and joined as a student representative for the Ontario Chapter. Upon completion of her degree, Karen left southern Ontario and headed to Sault Ste. Marie for a position with Fisheries & Oceans Canada. During her tenure at DFO she conducted research on the response of aquatic ecosystems to fluctuating flows on hydro-rivers under the guidance of Dr. Karen Smokorowski. Drawn to the far north, Karen headed to the sub-arctic to work for Golder Associates, where she was involved in a myriad of projects. Returning to graduate school for her PhD was always in the plans and the timing was right in September 2006. Karen



is happy to be serving as a student representative for the AFS-OC again, and to have been a part of planning for this year's 138th Annual AFS conference.



Michelle Staudinger (pictured left) is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Marine Science / Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, Massachusetts). Her dissertation work which is directed by Dr. Francis Juanes is entitled *Quantifying size-dependent predation and selectivity on squid: implications for fishery management* and evaluates how factors of size and behavior influence predator-prey interactions between squid and their predators in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. Michelle completed a M.S. in Marine and Atmospheric Science at Stony Brook University (Stony Brook, New York) in 2004. Her thesis work, *The importance of squid to the diets of bluefish, goosefish, silver hake, and summer flounder in the southern New England region*, sought to improve descriptions of seasonal and ontogenetic feeding patterns of four major squid predators. Additionally, she studied at Columbia University (New York, New York) earning a Certificate of Graduate Study in Conservation Biology (2000), and a B.S. in Marine Biology and Environmental Science from Boston University (Boston, Massachusetts) in 1997. Most recently, Michelle spearheaded a project investigating the trophic ecology of large pelagic predators found seasonally in coastal waters off of the eastern United States. This project endeavors to expand information on the foraging habits and trophic interactions of tunas, billfishes, and sharks. Michelle hopes to continue this research as part of a post-doctoral position after she completes her Ph.D. next year.

The **American Fisheries Society** is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the **J. Frances Allen Scholarship**, to encourage women's involvement in AFS and in the field of fisheries. The applicant must be a female doctoral student conducting aquatic research in line with society objectives, which include all branches of fisheries science, including but not limited to aquatic biology, engineering, fish culture, limnology, oceanography, and sociology. Qualified applicants must be AFS members as of December 31, 2008. The deadline for applications is March 6, 2009. A complete description of this opportunity may be found on the AFS website: <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/index.html#awards>.

Additional information can be obtained from:

Shannon Brewer
Chair, J. Frances Allen Scholarship Committee
US Fish and Wildlife Service
4001 North Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 946-6400 x343
shannon_brewer@fws.gov



Changing Leadership in EOS and New Opportunities

Taconya Piper (Ph.D. student at Auburn University) has graciously served the EOS as president for the past two years and this year we will be welcoming a new president, Larry Alade (picture below).



Larry Alade works for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, as a fishery biologist. He attended the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences and earned a Masters of Science in Computer Science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). He recently received his PhD in Marine Estuary and Environmental Sciences (MEES) from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in May 2008 and was a former graduate scientist and scholar under the NOAA Educational Partnership Program. His dissertation work focused primarily on using simulation modeling to support the application of mark-recapture analyses for the cooperative yellowtail flounder tagging study in the Northeast United States. His current responsibilities include coordinating tagging studies for candidate species in the northwest Atlantic and conducting yellowtail flounder stock assessments.

As a member of AFS since 2003, Larry has been an active presenter in several fisheries modeling forums and was nominated to present his work at the Student Best Paper Award Symposium in 2007. He has also served as a judge for various student presentations, as well as serving as a coordinator in developing scientific and social forums. Larry has been a member of the Equal opportunity section since 2005 and is scheduled to be inducted as President in August 2008. He looks forward to further engaging with the members of EOS and continuing to support the diversity initiatives of the section.

Interested in becoming more involved in EOS? Consider running for office! Nominations will be accepted for the positions of president-elect (2 year position as president-elect then 2 years as president), secretary-treasurer, newsletter editor, and webmaster. Nominations and voting will take place at the EOS Business Meeting in Ottawa. If you are unable to attend the business meeting but would like to serve, contact Larry Alade (lalade@mercury.wh.who.edu) to submit your name for consideration.

EOS Seeking to 2009 Travel Award Contributions

Due to contributions from a number of units in AFS and a very generous grant from the Education Section (see below), we are able to provide \$500 awards to **eight** students who will attend the 2008 meeting in Ottawa, Canada. With your help next year, we hope to exceed our 2007 peak of 11 student awards at the San Francisco meeting.

As an example of student response to receiving an award, we received the following from Lonnie Gonsalves, a student at University of Maryland Eastern Shore:

Not only am I thankful for this award because of its financial value; I also appreciate your recognition of my potential as a student, a scientist, and as a future colleague. I want to assure you and the section that with your continued support, whether it be financial or perhaps more importantly the moral support, that I as well as the students and faculty of the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center will continue to perform quality research and provide valuable assistance in the recruiting and training of talented scientists from all demographics.

It's not too early to start considering your unit's contribution for student travel to the 2009 AFS Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN!

This support would enable us to continue ensuring that **minority and female students** will be able to participate in annual conferences and develop professionally through associations with AFS. Checks may be written to the "Equal Opportunities Section" designated for the *EOS Travel Award Fund*. Units have typically sent \$100 to \$500, although any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Contributions may be sent to:

Julie Claussen
AFS-EOS Treasurer
IL Natural History Survey
1816 S. Oak St.
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 244-5113
juliec@uiuc.edu

For more information about section activities, visit the EOS webpage at www.fisheries.org/units/eos. If you have information you would like to get to EOS members, through the website or list-serve, submit your announcement to Larry Alade, EOS President at lalade@mercury.wh.who.edu.

DO NOT FORGET... continue signing up for the EOS (only \$5 annually) when renewing your Parent Society membership. The membership numbers are important to maintain a section vote on the Governing Board and the funds help with luncheon expenses.

