2026

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUM

2026

Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries

April 2nd - 3rd, 2026
Memorial Student Center Bethancourt Ballroom (MSC)
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

PROGRAM BOOK

BEYOND DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES

EIS EIS

2026

Welcome to the 26th annual Ecological Integration Symposium!

Texas A&M University's Ecological Integration Symposium (EIS) is an annual interdisciplinary event that brings together a diverse group of leading scientists and students from the fields of ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation. The symposium provides an excellent opportunity for both local and visiting students to showcase their work and engage in meaningful dialogue with the invited speakers.

Continuing the tradition of EIS since its inception in 2000, we are a graduate student-run event that is open to the public and free to attend.

The organizing committee is grateful to our sponsors for their support and to the large body of faculty, students and public who have made this event possible.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

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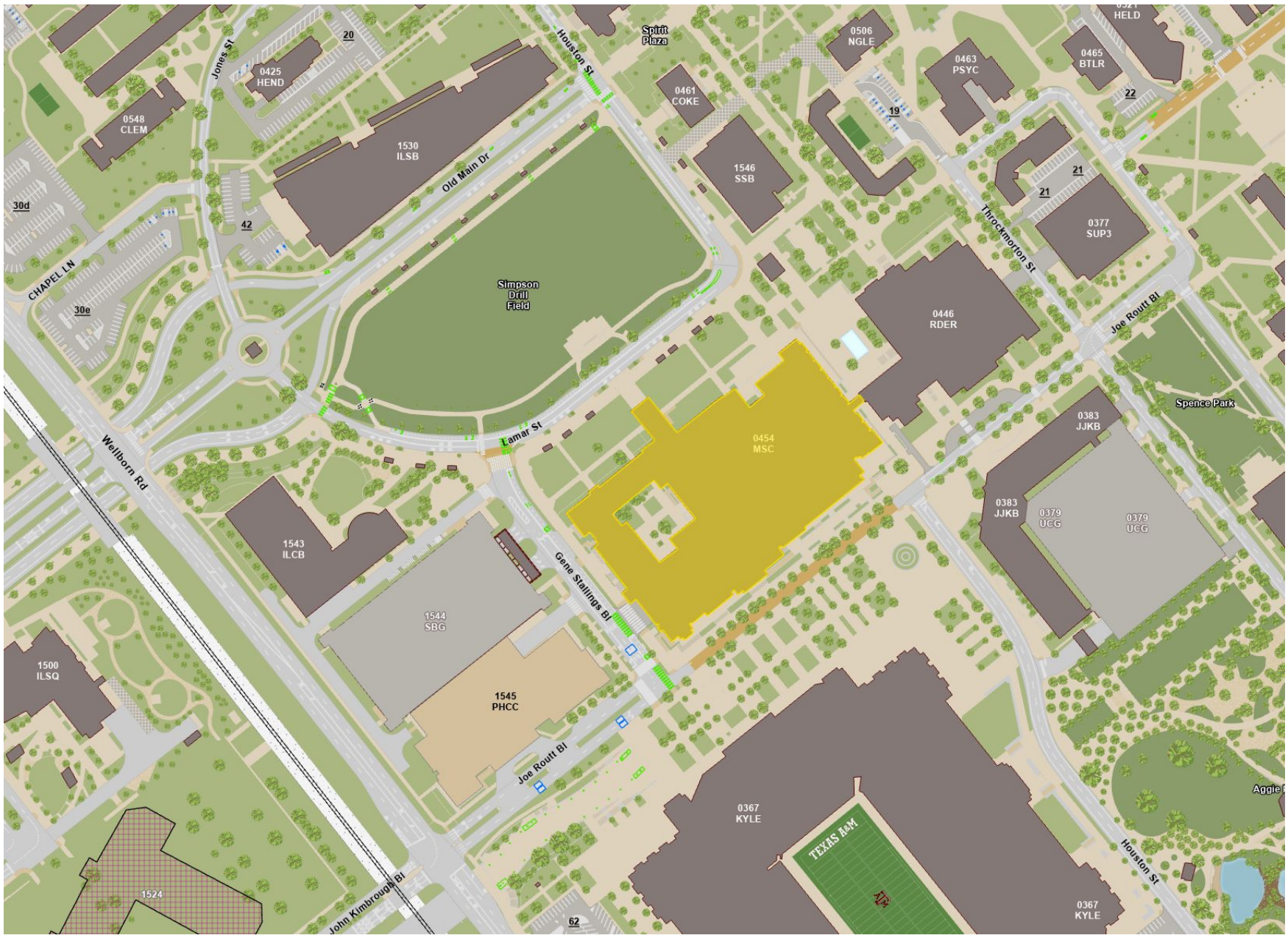
EIS 2026 Merchandise

Memorial Student Center Bethancourt Ballroom (MSC)



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Symposium Schedule

Day One - Thursday, April 2nd

Time	Event	Location
7:00 am	Registration & Breakfast	MSC 2300
8:00 am	Opening Remarks (Dr. Henry Fadamiro) (8:15 to 8:30)	MSC 2300
8:30 am	Dr Carla Staver (8:30 to 9:30) (Presenting through Zoom)	MSC 2300
9:30 am	Dr. Jason Rohr (9:40 to 10:40)	MSC 2300
10:30 am	Dr. Paul Gerber (10:50 to 11:50)	MSC 2300
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Catered - 1hr -	MSC 2300
1:00 pm	Dr. A. Marm Kilpatrick (1:00 to 2:00)	MSC 2300
2:10 pm	Dr. Craig Allen (2:10 to 3:10)	MSC 2300
3:20 pm	Dr. James Ehleringer (3:20 to 4:20)	MSC 2300
4:30 pm	Speaker Panel (4:30 to 5:20)	MSC 2300
5:20 pm	Closing Remarks (Dr. Greg Sword)	MSC 2300
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Happy Hour	Carney's Pub and Grill 3410 S College Ave, Bryan, TX 77801

Symposium Schedule

Day Two – Friday, April 3rd

Time	Event	Location
7:00 am	*Registration & Breakfast* *Poster Setup (MSC 2405)*	MSC 2300
8:00 am	Opening Remarks *(8:00 to 8:10) (Ben Lake)*	MSC 2300
8:15 am	Student Oral Presentations - Session 1 *(8:15 - 9:35)*	2300, 2406A, 2406B
9:40 am	Student Oral Presentations - Session 2 *(9:40 - 10:20)*	2300, 2406A, 2406B
10:30 am	Student Oral Presentations - Session 3 *(10:30 - 11:50)*	2300, 2406A, 2406B
12:00 pm 1:00 pm	Lunch - Off-Site -1hr -	Off Site
1:00 pm	Student Oral Presentations - Session 4 *(1:00- 2:20)*	2300, 2406A, 2406B
2:25 pm	Poster Session *(2:25 - 4:30)*	2405
4:35 pm	*Award Ceremony & Closing* *(4:35 - 5:00)* (AWE)	MSC 2300
6:00 pm	Closing Celebration	TBA

Welcoming Remarks from Dr. Henry Fadamiro

Associate Vice President for Research in the Division of Research, Strategic Initiatives

Thursday, April 2nd at 8:00 AM
Memorial Student Center Bethancourt Ballroom (MSC)

Dr. Henry Y. Fadamiro is a professor of entomology and associate vice president for research and strategic initiatives at Texas A&M University. He is internationally known for his research on insect behavior, chemical ecology, and integrated pest management (IPM). Fadamiro was born in Ondo, Nigeria. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from the Federal University of Technology Akure in Nigeria and taught at the same institution from 1990 to 1992. In 1992, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to attend Oxford University, UK, where he received his Ph.D. degree in entomology in 1995. Since then, he has worked at several institutions in the United States, including Iowa State University, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Auburn University, and Texas A&M University.

Dr. Fadamiro has received more than $20 million in research grants, published over 130 scientific publications and 100 Extension-related articles, and holds multiple patents. His research uses a multidisciplinary approach to address fundamental questions in mechanisms of olfaction and plant-insect interactions. The translational aspect of his research involves developing and implementing odor-based tools, biological control and other integrated pest management tactics in row and specialty crops. He has developed courses in entomology and mentored more than 40 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd

Dr. Carla Staver — 8:30 - 9:15 AM

Professor at Princeton University

Herbivory as an ecosystem process in savannas

Herbivory by large grazers, browsers, and mixed feeders is widely recognized as a dominant ecological process in many grassy ecosystems, but our understanding of what influences grazer impacts on ecosystems remains limited. Possible determinants most obviously include the intensity of herbivory but could also extend to factors influencing plant responses to herbivory, including climate and soil nutrition and hydrology. I discuss insights from ecosystem approaches to quantifying herbivory and what this could mean for our understanding of herbivory in savanna ecosystems.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Carla Staver is a professor of Ecology at Princeton University. She obtained her B.A in Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology in 2005 at Columbia University. She then pursued a Master of Science degree in Botany at the University of Cape Town. She went on to complete her doctoral studies at Princeton University where she was awarded a Ph.D. in Ecology and Environmental Biology in 2012. Following the completion of her doctoral studies, she became a Prize Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University before joining Yale University in 2014 where she was promoted to full professor in 2024. In 2020, she testified to the US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee. In July 2025 Dr. Staver became a professor at Princeton University.

Dr. Staver is a fire ecologist whose research expertise is focused in savanna ecosystems, especially at the boundary between savanna and forest. She uses a combination of empirical and modeling approaches to understand how local interactions of trees with their resource and disturbance environment (usually fire and herbivory) could predict regional and global patterns in tree cover and biome distribution. A portion of her work centers on the concept of tropical forest and savanna bi-stability, the idea that under the same climatic envelope, tropical savannas and forests could exist as alternative stable states maintained by fire-vegetation feedback.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd

Dr. Jason Rohr — 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Professor at University of Notre Dame

Planetary health innovations for disease, agriculture, water, energy, sustainability, and poverty challenges in Africa and beyond.

In this talk, Professor Jason Rohr will present innovative, nature-based solutions that address interconnected challenges among disease, agriculture, water, and poverty. His research shows that removing invasive aquatic vegetation in West African waterways can reduce schistosomiasis infections while improving water access and agricultural productivity. By converting this vegetation into low-cost livestock feed, compost, and fuel for biodigesters that produce fertilizer and off-grid energy, communities gain profitable incentives to sustain the nature-based solution. Building on these successes, Rohr's team will expand efforts using climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and remote sensing to enhance resilience and equity across Africa and beyond, offering scalable, win-win strategies for global planetary health.

BIOGRAPHY

Jason Rohr is the Ludmilla F., Stephen J., and Robert T. Galla Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame. He holds B.A. degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies, an M.A. in Teaching Biology, and a Ph.D. in Ecology, all from Binghamton University, followed by postdoctoral research at the University of Kentucky and Penn State University. His research program centers on planetary health, examining how natural and human-driven environmental changes—particularly climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss—affect wildlife populations, species interactions, and the transmission of infectious diseases in both humans and animals. Dr. Rohr's work is highly interdisciplinary, integrating ecology, health sciences, agriculture, toxicology, conservation biology, sociology, and economics to address multiple Sustainable Development Goals. The overarching goal of his laboratory is to understand and design science-based solutions that promote human health and foster a sustainable coexistence with the natural world.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd

Dr. Paul Garber 10:30 - 11:15 AM

Professor at University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

An urgent call-to-action to protect the nonhuman primates and Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon.

Nonhuman primates are facing an impending extinction crisis, with 69% of species listed as Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered. Here, I examine the set of conservation challenges faced by the 100 primate species that inhabit the Brazilian Amazon, the largest remaining area of primary tropical rainforest in the world. The vast majority (86%) of Brazil's Amazonian primate species have declining populations. No species has an increasing population. Primate population decline in Amazonia has been driven principally by deforestation related to the production of forest-risk commodities including soy and cattle ranching, illegal logging, the setting of fires, dam, road and rail construction, hunting, mining, and the confiscation and conversion of Indigenous Peoples' traditional lands. In a spatial analysis of the Brazilian Amazon, we found that 75% of Indigenous Peoples' lands (IPLs) remained forested compared with 64% of Conservation Units (CUs) and 56% of other lands (OLs). In addition, primate species richness is significantly higher on IPLs than on CUs and OLs. Thus, safeguarding Indigenous Peoples' land rights, systems of knowledge, and human rights is one of the most effective ways to protect Amazonian primates and the conservation value of the ecosystems they inhabit. Intense public and political pressure are required, and a global call-to-action is needed to encourage all Amazonian countries, especially Brazil, as well as citizens of consumer nations, scientists, educators, business leaders, and politicians to actively commit to changing business as usual, living more sustainably, and protecting the environment. I argue that we need to shift our priorities from being advocates for primate conservation to being scientific activists for primate conservation.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Paul A. Garber is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. Dr. Garber is also the Vice-Director of the International Centre of Biodiversity and Primate Conservation at Dali University, China and currently serves as the President of the American Society of Primatologists. He is the former Executive Editor of the American Journal of Primatology (2008-2017), and a current Associate Editor of the journal Science Advances. In 2017 Dr. Garber was named the American Society of Primatologists Distinguished Primatologist and in 2024 he received the Changlong Award for International Scholars from the Zoological Society of China in recognition of outstanding contributions to promoting primate research and young researcher training. Dr. Garber has conducted primate field research in 20 primate species across 8 countries throughout Mexico, Central and South America, as well as at across 6 field sites in China. He has published some 330 journal articles and book chapters (including 12 edited books) on the behavior, feeding ecology, cognition, decision-making, spatial memory, reproductive strategies, and conservation of nonhuman primates. This includes several recent papers on the impending extinction crisis faced by the world’s primates. Dr. Garber is the co-organizer of two recent workshops on scientific activism and environmental justice.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd

Dr. A. Marm Kilpatrick 1:00 - 1:45 PM

Professor at University of California Santa Cruz

Land use, community composition and the transmission of vector-borne diseases

Abstract: Anthropogenic land use and species introductions have altered much of earth's surface which has changed host and vector communities and altered climates. The impact of these changes on the transmission of vector borne pathogens is difficult to predict because of complex interactions among hosts, vectors, and pathogens. I'll describe our work on the role that land use and different species play in transmission of two vector borne diseases: West Nile virus and avian malaria. We found highly contrasting patterns. For avian malaria in Hawaii, there was broad overlap in the infectiousness of different species due to enormous within-species variation and a gradual relationship between pathogen load and vector infectiousness. As a result, avian malaria transmission was ubiquitous throughout most of Hawaii. For West Nile virus, we found a strong gradient in WNV transmission potential with viral transmission absent in intact forests and intense seasonal transmission in urban areas. This pattern was driven by a combination of changes in vector abundance and species composition, vector feeding patterns, and host community composition. These results highlight the key role of changes in the animal community in response to land use change and species introductions that play an ever increasing role in human health.

BIOGRAPHY

His research unites theory and empirical work to address basic and applied questions in infectious disease dynamics including aspects of population biology, evolution, climate, behavior, genetics, and conservation, and I would be excited to develop collaborations and advise graduate students on these topics. A key aim in our work is to understand the drivers of pathogen transmission and the impacts on host populations. We begin each project by developing a mathematical model of the system to generate hypotheses and then test these hypotheses by gathering empirical data. Here is a list of papers (with a few comments) that are emblematic of the research in our lab. Our current research in infectious disease dynamics can be divided into two general areas: 1) Local drivers of pathogen transmission, including host community composition, land use, and climate; 2) The impact of disease on populations, and host responses, including the evolution of resistance and tolerance. We work on several pathogen systems including COVID-19, West Nile virus, avian malaria in Hawaiian birds, Nipah virus in Bangladesh, Lyme disease, white-nose syndrome in bats, chytridiomycosis in amphibians, and avian influenza.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd

Dr. Craig Allen — 2:00 - 2:45 PM

Professor at University of Nebraska

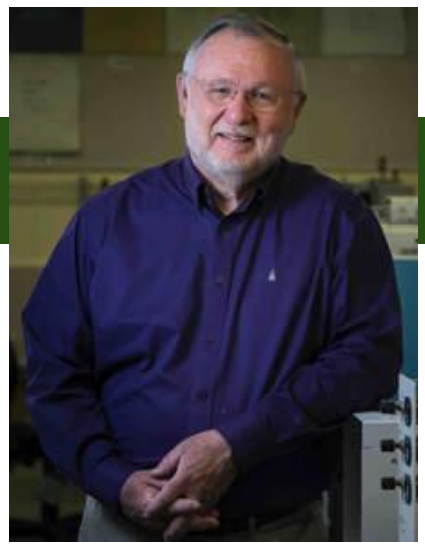
Resilience and Transformation in Social-ecological systems

Resilience is a theory and related sets of concepts that describe the dynamics of, and change in, complex adaptive systems. Resilience emerged in ecology and has since been applied to linked social-ecological systems as well, and in disciplines ranging from engineering to sociology. Complex systems of people and nature do not always respond to disturbances in a smooth and gradual way but frequently have abrupt nonlinear responses that fundamentally change their structure and function. These abrupt changes, or regime shifts, lead to the emergence of alternative states and fundamentally alter the social-ecological systems affected. Often these shifts are surprising and undesirable. Examples of surprising abrupt changes with consequences viewed as undesirable include the shift of grasslands to woodlands and the shift of coral reefs from coral to algal dominance. Regime change also provide windows of opportunity for positive transformation, the purposeful agent-driven decay of resilience to trigger a regime shift with the intention of guiding re-organization towards a more desired state. Such interventions are risky but may be the best option for positive change when the adaptive capacity of a system is exhausted. Resilience science, paired with closely related theories and concepts such as Panarchy, discontinuity and adaptive cycles has important implications for the management of the complex social-ecological systems we inhabit, especially in periods of rapid social and environmental change.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Craig Allen received his BS in Biology from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, MS from Texas Tech University and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology with CS Holling at the University of Florida. He was Director of both the South Carolina and Nebraska USGS – Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units before retiring from federal service and founding the Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes at the University of Nebraska. He retired from the University of Nebraska in January 2026, where he remains an Emeritus Professor. He is currently co-Editor in Chief of the journal Ecology and Society and is working with the University of Cordoba, Spain, in 2026. He is a lifetime Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for his contributions to resilience theory. Dr. Allen’s research has largely focused on resilience in complex adaptive systems, as well as the link between changing landscapes and biological invasions. His work on resilience has engaged both applied and theoretical aspects of resilience, including cross-scale resilience, spatial resilience, panarchy and transformation. He has authored or co-authored ~300 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 6 books.

Plenary Speaker Line-Up
Thursday April 2nd



Dr. James Ehleringer 3:00 - 3:45 PM

Professor at University of Utah Salt Lake City

What has the Megadrought done to my favorite desert plants?

Despite occasional wet years, much of the southwestern United States continues to be in the grip of the Megadrought, a regional multi-decadal drought not seen for the last several hundred years. While tree ring analyses may have served as a diagnostic indicator of the magnitude of this Megadrought, trees simply grow slower but have not reflected the ultimate impact - mortality. In this presentation, I explore establishment, ecophysiology, and mortality in six common Mojave Desert shrub species. Shrub populations have decreased, age structures have been altered, and natural selection has favored establishment of more water-use efficient genotypes. After three decades of drought, combined with an increasingly arid climate, these desert landscapes are changing, and we can forecast characteristics of shrubs that will persist in the near future.

BIOGRAPHY

Jim Ehleringer is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Utah, beginning a phased retirement in 2025. He founded and directed the Stable Isotope Ratio Facility for Environmental Research (1984–2024), served as Chair of Biology (1993–1996), directed Utah's Global Change and Sustainability Center (2009–2015), Utah's Sustainability leadership team (2013–2016), and the Entrada Field Station (now Rio Mesa) (2008–2010), and helped build the environmental sciences program across campus. Internationally, he ran the GCTE core project of the IGBP (1997–2003) and the BASIN network (1997–2006). He founded IsoForensics (2003–2020) to support forensic work for government and commercial agencies. His research spanned ecophysiology, ecology, atmospheric trace gases, and forensic sciences, resulting in 500+ publications, while also creating facilities and structures to advance interdisciplinary science. Recent projects melded stable isotope analyses with process studies of carbon and water cycles, climate change, urban air quality, human diets, and climate biomarkers. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Rosenblatt Prize winner, recipient of the Utah Governor's Medal, and a Fellow of AGU, ESA, and AAAS, and he received the University's Undergraduate Student's Choice Teaching Award. With Thure Cerling, he created IsoCamp, training 1,000+ graduate students and earning AGU's Outstanding Education Program Award; the course continues at the University of New Mexico. His senior class on Plant Ecology in a Changing World received the Student's Choice Award, and a textbook with that title was recently published by CRC Press. He also teaches freshmen the core biology class on Evolution and Diversity of Life.

Speaker Panel
4:30-5:20 PM

Memorial Student Center Bethancourt Ballroom (MSC)

To submit your questions for the panel, visit the website below or scan the QR code!

Closing Remarks from Dr. Greg Sword

Regents Professor
Charles R. Parencia Chair in Cotton Entomology

Friday, April 3rd at 4:45 PM
Memorial Student Center Bethancourt Ballroom (MSC)

Gregory Sword, PhD, is a Regents Professor and Charles R. Parencia Endowed Chair in Entomology in the Texas A&M University Department of Entomology. His interdisciplinary research and teaching interests have led to advances spanning, ecology, evolution, genomics, nutrition, microbiology,and pest management. To date, he has contributed to the receipt of nearly $22 million in research funding with over $9 million going directly to his research program. His 129 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters have been cited over 6600 times. His ground-breaking research into plant-microbe interactions has spawned five US patents with novel commercial agricultural products being sold around the world. The national and international impact of Sword's research has been recognized through the receipt of multiple awards for career achievement, innovation, environmental excellence, and integrated pest management.

Student Oral Presentations

Session 1 | 8:15 - 9:35 AM

Room: 2300D – Genomics & Evolution

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
8:15	Adekola Owoyemi	Genome-wide alignments reveal turnover and retention of de novo genes in Brassicaceae
8:30	Catherine Chaison	De Novo Gene Evolution and Retention in Mammals
8:45	Matthew Marano	Chromosome-Scale Recombination Landscapes Govern De Novo Gene Evolution in Humans
9:00	Sierra Sanders	Advancing the Detection of De Novo Genes through High-Accuracy Whole-Genome Alignments and Enabler Mutations Detection
9:15	Sope Adeniji	Epigenetic differences between two subspecies of a migratory songbird and their naturally occurring hybrids

Room: 2300E – Community / Functional Ecology

8:15	Adeyinka Aduragbemi	Unravelling the Origin and Dispersal of a Pantropical Sedge Genus Fimbristylis
8:30	Erin Westeen	Disentangling the contributions of geography, evolutionary history, and trait structure in Sceloporus community composition
8:45	Javier Alejandro Garcia Saldana	Cranial Morphology and Environmental Heterogeneity in Sceloporus Lizards
9:00	Maria Hurtado	Calcaneal gear ratio in small mammals is associated with vegetation cover and temperature
9:15	Otis Akrasi	Biome and anthrome classification topologies applied at an ecoregional scale to assess anthropogenic change

Student Oral Presentations

Session 1 | 8:15 - 9:35 AM

Room: 2406A – Restoration / Plant & Soil Ecology

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
8:15	Courtney Bartlett	Restoring Cyanobacterial Mats on Coastal Salt Flats: What environmental factors affect their growth?
8:30	Ryland J. Elliott	Fungi and Restoration - How microbial interactions shape restoration
8:45	Benju Baniya	Ecosystem-scale non-structural carbon dynamics in a shortleaf pine forest
9:00	Julieanne Montaquila	Host traits may drive parasitism by mistletoes in a biodiverse rainforest of Madagascar

Room: 2406B – Wildlife & Conservation

8:15	Abigail Dwelle	Using Helicopter Surveys to Assess Habitat Use of Collared Peccary in Southern Texas
8:30	Emily Masterton	Habitat Use and Movement of Collared Peccaries (Pecari tajacu) Associated with the Barrier Along the International Border
8:45	Samantha M. Dillon	Modeling functional habitat networks for Texas Indigo snakes along the U.S.-MX border in South Texas
9:00	Meredith Barney	Salinity, Depth, and Water Flow Predict the Abundances of Imperiled Fish Species in the Upper Red River, Texas
9:15	Breann Richey	Rapid Behavioral Shifts in a Replicated Lizard Invasion System

Student Oral Presentations

Session 2 | 9:40 - 10:20 AM

Room: 2300D — Modeling / Technology

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
9:40	Chih-Chuan Hsu	TaxaGen: Taxonomy-Aware Computer Vision Models for Fine-Grained Species Image Generation
9:55	Tatiana Velasquez-Roa	Development of an R package for ecological cyclical phenomena: example implementation for camera trap data
10:05	Xavier Medina-Rodriguez	The PiCoRNA Project | Picornavirus Collection Research for New Assemblies

Room: 2300E — Remote Sensing / Vegetation

9:40	Shanna Gleason	Classifying multiple vegetation cover types using very fine-scale imagery
9:55	Kelley Mundy	Comparing Publicly Available Data: Forage Productivity and Pastureland of Texas

Room: 2406A — Ecohydrology / Plant Responses

9:40	Jordan Anderson-Gignac	Thicketization by Yaupon Holly Increases Canopy Interception in the Texas Post Oak Savannah
9:55	Dohee Kim	Diurnal dynamics of Carbon allocation and respiratory costs under water stress using isotopic flux partitioning

Room: 2406B — Wildlife Health / Management

9:40	Mycha Van Allen	Neonicotinoid insecticide exposure and immune function in native free-ranging Texas lizards
9:55	Sarah M. Jeffery	The Significance of Operative Temperature, Microhabitat Selection, and Activity in Interspecific Chameleon Thermoregulation at Marojejy National Park
10:05	Nicole Stevens	Lizards vs. Aliens: Conservation of endangered lizards affected by introduced mammalian predators

Student Oral Presentations

Session 3 | 10:30 - 11:50 AM

Room: 2300D — Evolutionary Genetics & Animal Behavior

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
10:30	Chitrang Dani	Seasonal Cycles favor the selection of Self-Sustained Circadian Clocks
10:45	Kaya Harper	Distinct signatures of methylation associated with independently evolved populations of Mexican cavefish
11:00	Ilyas Ibrahim	Phylogenetics and prevalence of avian haemosporidian parasites in an afrotropical habitat
11:15	Austen Ehrie	Copulation rate does dot predict the per-cycle probability of conception in the Amboseli baboons
11:30	Asmita Basu	Fuel or Fate: Does Energetic State or Metabolic Genotype Shape Survival and Feeding Behavior in Apis mellifera?

Room: 2300E — Insects & Mutualism

10:30	Serena Farrell	Bugged by Bacteria: Factors Influencing Schistocerca Locust and Grasshopper Microbiome Composition
10:45	Kirsten Harden	Fluorescent Probe-Based Allelic Discrimination Assays Detect Central American Locust Genome Invasion at U.S-Mexico Border
11:00	Kavin Chengavarayan	Effects of Flagellin Activation on Aedes aegypti Cell Transcription
11:15	Skai Peterson	The effects of plant-mutualist mycorrhizal fungi and entomopathogenic nematodes on indirect chemical defenses of the squash plant Cucurbita pepo
11:30	Vivian A. Peralta Santana	Beyond locust color: disentangling behavior and color traits in desert locust hatchlings

Student Oral Presentations

Session 3 | 10:30 - 11:50 AM

Room: 2406A — Plant Restoration, Rangeland, Ecosystem

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
10:30	Mollie Kemp	Developing Multiple-Scale Validation Tools to Quantify Forage Mass and Forage Production in Rangeland Ecosystems
10:45	Kylie Perez	Capturing Pulse Responses: High-Resolution Monitoring of Rainfall-Driven Vegetation Structure in Rangelands
11:00	Amoi Campbell	"Context is Everything": How Belowground Traits Outperform Aboveground Traits in an Invaded Grassland Community
11:15	Andrea Huriega	Sourcing Carbon and Nitrogen in Blood Proteins of Fed and Fasted Bears
11:30	Edward Tomassetti	(Talk) Fifty Years in the Making: Revisiting Collared Peccary Demographics in Southern Texas

Room: 2406B — Aquatic/Bird/Ecotoxicology

10:30	Alexis Adams	A Little Vent Goes a Long Way: Protistan Community Composition in Hydrothermal Plumes
10:45	Kayla Nedd	It’s Getting Hot in Here: Vent-Exclusive Protists at Hydrothermal Vents of the Axial Seamount and Mid-Cayman Rise
11:00	Joseph Sheffield	Niche variation among Neotropical catfishes revealed by stable isotope analysis.
11:15	Makayla Guinn	Emerging contaminants in the blubber of South Texas dolphins
11:30	Presley Griffin	Patterns in migratory and wintering behavior of three Texas colonial waterbird species

Student Oral Presentations

Session 4 | 1:00 - 2:20 PM

Room: 2300D — Avian, Mammals & Behavioral Ecology

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
1:00	Adam Bower	Egg Turning and Incubation Trade-offs during Asynchronous Hatch in Wild Scarlet Macaws (Ara macao)
1:15	J. Saxon Hickman	Migration Stress and Physiological Tradeoffs: Seasonal Hematological Variation in Central Flyway Passerines
1:30	Jenna Turpin	Urban Ecology of Avian Anti-predator Behavior Using a Model Predator
1:45	Cecelia Giesen	A migratory herbivore responds to rapid changes in food supply: diet and body condition of arctic caribou at green-up
2:00	Audra Hicks	Shifts in Habitat Selection Between Transient and Native Populations of the Italian Wall Lizard (Podarcis siculus)

Room: 2300E — Human Dimensions, Wildlife Policy & Conservation

1:00	Danial Nayeri	Trust as a Missing Variable: What Invasive Species Management Research Has Been Overlooking?
1:15	Pourya Sardari	Understanding Wildlife Pet Keeping in Iran: Motivations and Views on Illegal Wildlife Trade
1:30	Rakibul Ahasan	Combined Impacts of Road Development and Urban Expansion on Biodiversity and Habitats: Insights from Brazil, Indonesia, and Nigeria
1:45	Asmau Titilope Shiyanbade	The Impact of Social Isolation on Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches
2:00	Karley Beadle	Increased abundance and seasonal occupancy of Permit (Trachinotus falcatus) in Texas estuaries

Student Oral Presentations

Session 4 | 1:00 - 2:20 PM

Room: 2406A — Restoration, Climate, Rangeland & Plant Community

Time	Speaker Name	Talk Title
1:00	Leonardo Collazos	Forage preferences of cattle in the understory of an old-growth Tropical dry forest
1:15	Eric Wuesthoff	Native frugivores link regenerating habitats with mature rainforest via invasive plant dispersal
1:30	Brooke Torjman	Differences in salt marsh plant cover do not alter infauna abundance and community composition
1:45	Akiem Gough	Climate Variability and Mutualism Interact to Influence Plant Host Demographic Outcomes
2:00	Chi Huang	Alterations in Eastern Oyster Crassostrea virginica Shell Formation by the Ocean Acidification Through Dysregulation of Calcium-related Signaling

Room: 2406B — Other

1:00	Luis Hurtado	Characterizing Green Plant (Viridiplantae) Assemblages in Two Texas Rivers by eDNA Metabarcoding
1:15	Sean Chien	From Fragmented Forests to Conservation Action: Environmental Genomics of Connectivity, Drought, and Adaptation
1:30	Namrata Bhandari	Does body mass shape time use? Intraspecific diel temporal niche conservatism in Asian ungulates
1:45	Kai Miller	Tidepool Tales: Ecological Insights from Yellow Island
2:00	Jorge Humberto Medina-Durán	Searching in the dark: The diversity and evolution of single-stranded DNA viruses of the of the monotypic family Bidnaviridae

Student Poster Session

Friday, April 3rd | 2:25 - 4:30 PM

No.	Presenter	Title
1	Allison Reimers	Internal systematics of the Ateleopodiformes, a deep-sea enigma
2	Jenna Henry	Monitoring the Prevalence of Avian Malaria in the Grasshopper Sparrow
3	Jiaojiao Dong	Evaluating Ecosystem Carbon Representation in CLM-FATES: Flux Comparisons and Storage Dynamics
4	Conner Ties	Mapping Vegetation Cover Change from the 2024 Texas Panhandle Fires
5	Jonah Smith	Framework for assessing fisheries-related injuries on inshore bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in the Texas Coastal Bend
6	William Koehler	Invasive Plant Effects on Habitat Use by Treefrogs for Calling Behavior
7	Michael Bliss	A Framework For Estimating The Biological Value Of Rainforest Fragments For Conservation Prioritization In Madagascar
8	Madeleine Lerma	The Ecology of Early Microbial Eukaryotic Settlers at Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents
9	Daniel Winstead	Organizational challenges for managing weeds, pests, and invasive species in the Great Plains
10	Lauren Duncan	What's on the Menu? GPS-Video Collars Provide Insight into the Diet of Desert Bighorn Sheep
11	Kaelyn Dobson	Rhesus macaques as a model of MSI-high colorectal cancer and Lynch Syndrome
12	Holden Carey	Validating Aquatic Environmental DNA for Mammal Detection Using Camera Traps in Guyana
13	Kendall Kinsey	Impact of urbanization on territory size in the Carolina wrens
14	MD INJA MAMUN HAQUE	Lessons to Landscapes: Experiential Learning in Pond Stewardship
15	Ashley Belknap	Isotopic assessment of diet and forage quality for Collared Peccary (Pecari tejacu)

Student Poster Session

Friday, April 3rd | 2:25 - 4:30 PM

No.	Presenter	Title
16	Heidi Williamson	Seasonal and landscape-driven variation in the nutritional composition of stored pollen (bee bread) collected by honey bee (Apis mellifera) colonies
17	Hailey Woodward	Microbial Metazoa in the Northern Gulf and Their Prey
18	Finnegan Tankersley	Quantifying Thermal Variation Following Woody Cover Treatment in a Semi-Arid Rangeland
19	Liliana Rogers	Is the Federally Endangered Sharpnose shiner (Notropis oxyrhynchus) truly monomorphic?
20	Zoe Soltero	Propithecus edwardsi Lemurs Alter Foraging Patterns in Disturbed Forest Ecosystems
21	Nikita Naredla	Abiotic conditions and host traits jointly shape helminth parasite infections in Hemidactylus turcicus.
22	Kiedon Bryant	Divergence in Female Mate Choice of Wild & Domestic Lineages
23	Sarah Schmalz	A fixation-weighted null model for the proportion of sex chromosome-autosome fusions
24	Michael Musal	Multiscale Habitat Analysis Predicts the Abundance of two Imperiled Fish Species in East Texas Streams.
25	Seren Helms	Adding a new dimension to the characterization and analysis of yellow baboon estrous swellings
26	Briana Sebastian	Effects of restoration state and elevation on benthic microalgae and soil organic content in Port Arthur, TX
27	Travis Moon	Linking Water Quality to Angler Success in Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Neighborhood Fishing Program Lakes
28	Theresa Cai	Cassiopea xamachana Polyps Exhibit Population Specific Tolerance to Ammonia Pollution
29	Ruby Mustill	Sources of variance in the adolescence duration of female baboons: a preliminary analysis
30	Madison Bergeron	Tails Tell A Tale in Peromyscus Mice

Student Poster Session

Friday, April 3rd | 2:25 - 4:30 PM

No.	Presenter	Title
31	Autumn Patterson	Transboundary Movement Patterns of Giraffe: Preliminary Insights from GPS Tracking in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
32	Wanvimol Juneau	Identifying potential drivers of Orthohantavirus prevalence in sylvan rodent assemblages of North America
33	Anna Sotiriades	Temporal Niche Conservatism in Gray foxes (Urocyon cinereoargenteus)
34	Rohan Mahesh	Development and Testing Primers for Amplifying Microsatellites in Streptanthus bracteatus to Track Genetic Flow for Conservation
35	Meagan Sonsel	Interactive Data Portal for Microbes in the Northern Gulf
36	Daniel Zhang	Texas Weather Data Analysis over 40 years
37	HoWan Chan	Integration promotes morphological innovation in deep-sea anglerfishes (Eupercaria: Lophiiformes)
38	Jasmine Wong	Wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides: development of a hunter submission surveillance network
39	Morgan Gardner	Expression of epigenetic regulators during early development
40	Amanda Yee	Comparing seed rain beneath wind- and animal-dispersed tree species in a Malagasy rainforest
41	Will Kotas	Environmental conditions alter the developmental rate and morphology of purple sea urchin larvae
42	Robin Yarman	Road–Stream Crossings as Barriers to Aquatic Organism Passage: Benthic Macroinvertebrate Responses Across Culvert Reach Positions
43	Anna Klein	Acclimation Dynamics in Invasive and Native Mud Crab Populations
44	Shelbie Cast	Salinity Tolerance and Osmoregulatory Strategies in the Harris Mud Crab
45	Auguste Harris	Sensory Architecture: Evolution of Parietal Foramen Morphology in Spiny Lizards (Sceloporus)

Student Poster Session

Friday, April 3rd | 2:25 - 4:30 PM

No.	Presenter	Title
46	Wesley Arend	Systematics of the Gumbo darter Etheostoma thompsoni and Mud darter Etheostoma asprigene (Teleostei: Percidae).
47	Loris Di Vozzo	Are subspecies really different? Testing morphological divergence in the Tuscan Archipelago's Podarcis lizards
48	Kaleigh Arnold	Conserved Patterns of Skull Integration and Modularity in Damselfish and Anemonefish (Pomacentridae)
49	Martin Carrasco	Depth Induces Symbiont Plasticity in Upside-Down Jellyfish
50	Andres Barboza	Genomes of Jewels: Genome Assemblies for Three Jewel Beetle Species
51	Emma Kaiser	Exploring the effects of Mistletoe on seed dispersal patterns in a diverse rainforest of Madagascar
52	David Leal Ochoa	Assessing data source reliability: A comparison of iNaturalist and Wildlife Insights for Colombian mammalian diversity
53	Catarina Miranda	How does a forest sustain itself? The role of microhabitat and succession on recruitment in Tamaulipan thornscrub
54	Amara Freedson	Herpetofaunal Monitoring Program Evaluation at the Chaparral WMA
55	Vanessa Saenz	Are thorn forests too crowded and stressed? Optimizing planting density & quantifying drought tolerance
56	Safa Warsi	Building a Bird-Friendly Aggieland: A Case Study of the AgriLife Center
57	Abigail Day	Surviving Ocean Shifts: Diatom Responses to Light and Temperature Stress
58	Edward Tomassetti	(Poster) Optimizing Chemical Immobilization in Collared Peccary: Recovery Patterns and the Value of Supplemental Oxygen
59	Sarah Jeffery	The Significance of Operative Temperature, Microhabitat Selection, and Activity in Interspecific Chameleon Thermoregulation at Marojejy National Park
60	Xavier Medina-Rodriguez	The PiCoRNA Project | Picornavirus Collection Research for New Assemblies
61	Kai Miller	Tidepool Tales: Ecological Insights from Yellow Island

Thank you to all who have helped us organize EIS 2026!

- Greg Sword, Academic Advisor
- Heather Baldi, Academic Advisor

A special thank you to our 2026 EIS Planning Committee

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