

Graduate Studies Newsletter

ISSUE 04 SPRING 2018



In This Issue:

Pg. 2 & 3 - Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Alison O'Dowd

Pg. 4 - Research in the HSU Biomechanics Lab

Pg. 5 - Important Dates and Deadlines

Pg. 6 - 2017-18 McConkey Award Recipients

Pg. 7 - Spring 2018 Thesis/Project Submission Process

Pg. 8 - Graduate Student & Alumni Profiles

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Dr. Alison O'Dowd

Professor of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Graduate Program
Coordinator



**How long have you been at HSU?
Can you tell us about your academic
history?**

- I've been at HSU since 2008, so this is my 10th year at HSU. Time flies! I earned a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Oregon and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy & Management from UC Berkeley with a focus in Aquatic Ecology and Ecological Restoration.

What is your favorite part of your job?

- It is very rewarding to see students get excited about rivers and science. I love spending time in the field working on rivers and it is fantastic when I see others discover that same fascination and excitement about the natural world.

**What kind of research are you involved with
on campus at HSU?**

- As Co-Director of HSU's River Institute, I currently manage and conduct several research projects that involve both graduate and undergraduate students. Recently my research has focused on the impacts of dams on downstream river ecosystems. My current graduate student, Lara Jansen, is comparing ecosystem attributes of a dammed and undammed reach of river in the Eel River watershed. My former grad student, Emily Cooper, quantified the habitat available for salmonid spawning and rearing upstream of an impassable dam on the Eel River. This dam is currently being relicensed, so her findings will help to inform that process. I use benthic macroinvertebrates to assess river health and have just started a new project on the Trinity River that will measure the daily and seasonal benthic macroinvertebrate drift downstream of Lewiston Dam as it relates to food resource availability for rearing juvenile Chinook salmon. Many of my graduate students have also explored research topics related to invasive species such as the invasive cordgrass *Spartina densiflora* and European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*).

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Are there any students involved in your research?

- I try to involve students in all of my research projects. Last summer, I worked with a field crew of four HSU graduate and undergraduate students to collect geomorphic data in the South Fork Eel River in order to build a river classification system. I also have a bustling lab full of graduate and undergraduate students working to process stream samples.

How do you spend your time outside of HSU?

- I have twin daughters who are seven years old, so most of my free time is spent with my family. We like to go for hikes in the forest and beach and swim at the local pool.

Do you have any advice for current or prospective graduate students?

- Believe in yourself and know that you can do it! Take advantage of your time at HSU and the resources (including faculty and other students) that can help you be successful. Build networks and connections with other graduate students and faculty because one day soon these people will be your professional colleagues.



Above: River Institute HSU students working on a stream assessment protocol on Jolly Giant Creek adjacent to the Humboldt State University campus.

Below: River Institute HSU students conducting stream sampling.



Dr. Alison O'Dowd

Professor in Natural Resources

Co-Director of HSU River Institute

Natural Resources Graduate Programs Coordinator

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Research in the HSU Biomechanics Lab

As described on the Biomechanics Lab website, "The Biomechanics Laboratory at Humboldt State University is a research AND learning laboratory affiliated with the Institute of Health and Human Performance. The mission of the HSU Biomechanics lab is to: (1) educate and train students in the performance of high-quality biomechanical research methods and techniques; (2) explore and document the mechanical and neuromuscular characteristics of human motion; (3) provide biomechanics and neurocognitive related assessment services to the HSU and surrounding communities; and (4) transfer acquired knowledge to advance the art in our field." The lab has opportunities for undergraduate students to work in the lab but mainly serves as a research facility for faculty and graduate students. This lab is a great resource for HSU graduate students studying Kinesiology to perform their research. Some of their current research includes: Mechanical Determinants of Walking Energetics in Older Adults, Mechanics and Energetics of Walking in Curved Soled Shoes, Effect of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury on Neurocognitive Function and Motor Control, and Effects of Age and Physical Activity on Mobility, Balance and Fall risk in Rural and Urban Dwelling Older Adults.

Below: Pictures taken of Humboldt State Kinesiology students working on research procedures in the HSU Biomechanics Laboratory.

The Masters Thesis or Project Submission Process

1. Advancement to Candidacy
2. Intent to Submit Form
3. Attend Formatting Workshop
4. Request a Courtesy Format Review
5. Committee & Coordinator Approval on Digital Commons @ HSU
6. Official Format Review through Digital Commons @ HSU

Follow us on social media
for even more updates
and information!

Facebook and Instagram:





Important Dates & Deadlines

April 3, 2018 - Last day to register to walk in the Spring 2018 Commencement ceremony. Visit the [HSU Commencement website](http://hsucommencement.com) for more information.

April 4, 2018 - Masters Thesis and Project Formatting workshop*, 12pm-1pm in Library room 121. To register go to: <http://humboldt.libcal.com>

April 5, 2018 - Masters Thesis and Project Formatting workshop*, 4pm-5pm in Library room 121. To register go to: <http://humboldt.libcal.com>

April 10, 2018 - Masters Thesis and Project Formatting workshop*, 5pm-6pm in Library room 121. To register go to: <http://humboldt.libcal.com>

May 7, 2018 - Deadline to submit your final Thesis/project to Digital Commons for committee approval.

May 7 - 11, 2018 - Spring 2018 Finals exams week

May 12, 2018 - Spring 2018 Commencement Ceremony!

May 16, 2018 - Final grades for Spring 2018 semester due to be posted

* If you are graduating in the Spring 2018 semester it is highly recommended that you attend a formatting workshop to answer any questions you may have about formatting your final thesis or project

Future Newsletter Editions:

If you have ideas for future stories, notable events, or student profiles, please contact the Office of Academic Programs and Graduate Studies at hsugrad@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-5194. We would love to hear from you!

Patricia O. McConkey Outstanding Graduate Student Awards

The Office of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the recipients of the Patricia O. McConkey and Graduation with Distinction Award for excellent performance in the 2017-2018 Academic Year. This award recognizes distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's degree level. These awards are given to outstanding graduating graduate students at Humboldt State who have been nominated by their department for excellence in their field and research. The recipients will graduate with distinction and will be recognized as such in the Spring 2018 commencement ceremony.

The 2017-2018 McConkey Award recipients and their respective disciplines are:

Alexander Bippus - Biological Sciences

Cassandra Curatolo - English

William Holley - Social Work: Distributed Learning

Ankita Mylatore - Social Work

Lara Jansen - Natural Resources: ENRS

Halle Kohn - Social Science: Environment & Community

Olivia Kuljian - Psychology: Academic Research

Boram Lim - Kinesiology

Lindsay Mixer - Sociology: Teaching Sociology

Natasha O'Loughlin - Sociology: Practicing Sociology

Diana Newberry - Applied Anthropology

Helpful Resources:

• Institutional Review Board

(707) 826-5165

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/irb/>

• Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

(707) 826-3256

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/iacuc/>

• Office of the Registrar

(707) 826-4101

<http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/students/>

• College of eLearning & Extended Education

(707) 826-3731

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/extended/>

• Academic & Career Advising Center

(707) 826-3341

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/acac/>

Contacting Us:

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Thesis and Project Spring 2018 Submission Process

Scholarly Communications Office
cfr@humboldt.edu
(707) 826-5602

1

Advancement to Candidacy

You can find the form Application for Advancement to Candidacy and Graduation with all other graduate forms here:

forms.humboldt.edu/graduate-application-advancement-candidacy-and-graduation

2

Formatting Workshop

Attend one of our thesis and project formatting workshops. Workshops are scheduled in Library 121 for March 27, 2-3pm; April 4, 12-1pm; April 5, 4-5pm; and April 10, 5-6pm. Register for a workshop at humboldt.libcal.com and/or enroll in the Canvas course at:

canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM

3

Courtesy Format Review (Deadline: April 23, 2018)

Submit a draft of your thesis or project for a courtesy format review to cfr@humboldt.edu. Formatting guidelines can be found here:

humboldt.edu/gradprograms/thesis-format-requirements

4

Committee Approval (Deadline: May 7, 2018)

Submit your final thesis or project to Digital Commons for committee approval. **SUBMIT EARLY** so they have time to approve before the deadline. Submit here:

digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/etd

5

Official Format Review

The Scholarly Communications Office will conduct a formal format review. Stay in contact as you will be instructed to make revisions and resubmit.

If you have any questions please call (707) 826-5602 or email cfr@humboldt.edu

Graduate Student & Alumni Profiles

College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences



Torisha Stone

Masters in Sociology: Teaching & Practicing Sociology

"I chose this program because I wanted my work to be supported by my faculty. I had previous knowledge of the faculty and could not imagine going anywhere else for an MA program. I also know that my research goals will be encouraged to help the community in some way rather than being shared with an exclusive club of academics. A lot of my initial work involved launching a Title IX campaign for student rights, creating consent centered sex education workshops, and my undergraduate research looked at sexualized violence education and prevention across the California State University system."

College of Natural Resources & Sciences



Ange Baker

Masters in Natural Resources: Wildlife

"My work is focused on the conservation of mammalian carnivores by researching their space use and behavior. I have been interested in understanding their response to the presence of other species and disturbances. I am most proud of my most recent research on the impacts of human recreation in protected areas. I have discovered that non-consumptive recreation activities have significant impacts on wildlife, and we must be aware of those impacts when trying to conserve and manage animals. My master's at HSU was invaluable to my future career. Working with Dr. Gunther and conducting research on carnivores in South Africa allowed me to obtain an excellent PhD fellowship after I finished my Masters. Additionally, my experience in the Wildlife Department and my impression of the students there was so positive that it made me want to return to teach here—which I have!"

College of Professional Studies



Julianne Lord

Masters in Business Administration, Class of 2017

"Humboldt State's Masters in Business Administration program has helped further my understanding of strategic management. I am an executive manager and co-owner of an international business with more than 70 employees. In my capacity with the company, I have a responsibility to create a long-term strategy for our clients. The MBA program gave me the tools and knowledge to craft successful strategic plans for my clients. Learning how a company can balance profit goals with social and environmental obligations has been an invaluable takeaway from my experience at HSU."