

Smith Fellows

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program seeks to develop future world leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application. Smith Fellowships provide two years of postdoctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists.



2006-2007



Myra Finkelstein

Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz



Project

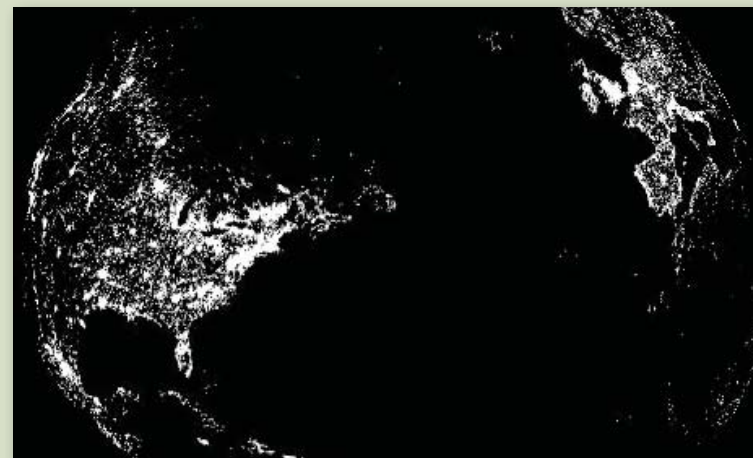
Understanding the effects of interacting threats on the survival of long-lived species

Mentors

Dr. Daniel Doak, University of Wyoming; Dr. Paul Sievert, University of Massachusetts Amherst and USGS; Dr. Michael Fry, American Bird Conservancy

Year highlights

- Provided review and management recommendations for the black-footed albatross status assessment: Black-footed albatrosses are currently petitioned to be listed as endangered in the USA.
- NPR radio show interview, "Midway, a Protected Area, Is Also Underfunded" All Things Considered, December 29, 2006.
- News article, "Pollutant Levels Rising in Open Water" by Amy Coombs in the ScienceNOW Daily News, April 4th 2006.



Robert McDonald

Ph.D. Duke University



Project

Urbanization and conservation priority setting: scaling from global patterns to local processes

Mentors

Dr. Richard Forman, Harvard University
Dr. Peter Kareiva, The Nature Conservancy

Year highlights

- Conducted a global analysis of the effect of urban growth on biodiversity and protected areas, utilizing a database of more than 50,000 towns and more than 30,000 protected areas.
- Organized a research project in the San Francisco Bay Area: the effect of previous and future urban growth on ecosystem services.
- Taught a graduate-level seminar focusing on techniques for applying landscape ecology principles to the design of more sustainable cities and urban regions.



Tania Schoennagel

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Madison



Project

Fire risk and forest restoration in the wildland-urban interface of the Colorado Front Range

Mentors

Dr. Thomas Veblen, University of Colorado; Dr. Gregory Aplet, The Wilderness Society

Year highlights

- Provided congressional testimony in the US House of Representatives on HR 4200, The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, a post-disturbance logging bill. The bill, which was based on weak scientific grounds and a poor understanding of the ecological role of natural disturbances, was defeated in December.
- In collaboration with Smith Fellows Alumnus Cara Nelson, received a grant (\$54K) from the Wilburforce Foundation Conservation Science Program.



Katherine Smith

Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara



Project

Forecasting infectious disease emergence resulting from the global trade in wildlife

Mentors

Dr. Dov Sax, University of Georgia; Dr. Sonia Altizer, University of Georgia; Dr. Peter Daszak, Consortium for Conservation Medicine

Year highlights

- Presented a statement, on behalf of herself and the Consortium for Conservation Medicine, at the CDC public hearing on wildlife trade and the risk of emerging infectious diseases.
- Elected as an Explorer's Club Fellow for wildlife trade research.
- Presented invited talks on wildlife trade: American Association of University Women, Santa Barbara Branch, Santa Barbara, CA (March 2006), Pacific Lutheran University, Biology Department, Tacoma WA (February 2007).



Victoria Bakker

Ph.D. University of California, Davis



Project

Connecting monitoring data to conservation action: development of population viability management strategies for rare and endangered carnivores

Mentors

Dr. Daniel Doak, University of Wyoming; Dr. Kevin Crooks, Colorado State University; Dr. Scott Morrison, The Nature Conservancy

Background

Vickie's dissertation research investigated the movement behavior and habitat relations of forest-associated squirrels in response to logging in southeastern Alaska. Vickie is currently assisting The Nature Conservancy and a land manager consortium by conducting demographic analyses to guide management and recovery of the endangered island fox on the California Channel Islands.



Julia Baum

Ph.D. Dalhousie University



Project

Sharks on coral reefs: estimating baseline abundances & ecosystem consequences of their elimination

Mentors

Dr. Fiorenza Micheli, Stanford University; Dr. Enric Sala, Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Drs. Rod Salm and Pamela Weiant, The Nature Conservancy

Background

Julia is a Canadian marine ecologist examining the direct and indirect impacts of exploitation on marine fishes, with emphasis on large pelagic sharks of the U.S. Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Her dissertation research on shark declines in the northwest Atlantic Ocean has contributed to shark conservation efforts through both the IUCN and CITES.



Jedediah Brodie

Ph.D. University of Montana



Project

Understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change on the elk-aspen interaction in the northern Rocky Mountains, USA

Mentors

Dr. Eric Post, Pennsylvania State University; Dr. Joel Berger, Wildlife Conservation Society

Background

Jedediah's interests span a variety of issues in conservation, population ecology, and community ecology, though he is particularly interested in anthropogenic disruption of species interactions, promoting sustainable hunting in tropical forests, and the effects of climate change on natural communities.



Peter McIntyre

Ph.D. Cornell University



Project

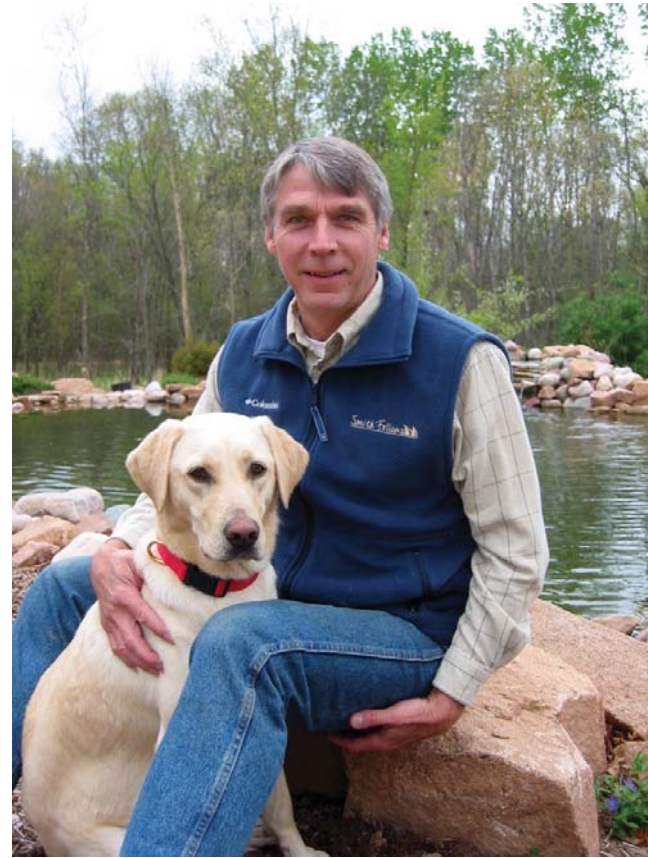
Connecting fish management to ecosystem functioning: a nutrient-based approach

Mentors

Dr. David Allan, University of Michigan; Dr. Robin Abell, World Wildlife Fund; Dr. Patrick Doran, The Nature Conservancy

Background

Pete has a particular affinity for freshwater fish. He has studied the ecology of fish, amphibians, snails, and insects in North and South America, East and Central Africa, and Madagascar. Pete's observations of the impacts of fishing pressure and habitat degradation on aquatic biodiversity motivated him to use ecological research to address pressing issues in aquatic conservation.



Executive Director

Dr. Michael Dombeck is one of the most renowned and respected contemporary conservationists. He dedicated a quarter of a century to managing federal lands and natural resources in the long-term public interest. His leadership in the Bureau of Land Management and as former chief of the Forest Service impacted nearly 500 million acres. His legacy is one of steadfast stewardship for the land, and he is most noted for significant efforts toward watershed health and restoration, sustainable forest ecosystem management, sound forest roads and roadless area protection. Dr. Dombeck now serves as GEM Pioneer Professor and University of Wisconsin System Fellow of Global Conservation.

Science Advisory Board



Dr. Helen Fox is the Marine Conservation Biologist for the Conservation Science Program of World Wildlife Fund-US. Helen works on seascape planning and the links between marine protected areas, sustainable fishing, and livelihoods. She was a Smith Fellow at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.



Dr. Deborah B. Jensen is President and Chief Executive Officer of Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo. A conservation biologist, Deborah has more than 20 years of experience leading conservation and environmental science programs. She is immediate past-president of the Society for Conservation Biology.



Dr. Louis Provencher is the Director of Conservation Ecology of The Nature Conservancy of Nevada. His training was in predator-prey theory, foraging theory, community ecology, fire ecology, individual-based modeling, and arachnology. Louis has interviewed every Smith Fellows finalist since the inception of the program.

The role of the Science Advisory Board is to provide overall guidance for science, research, and training aspects of the program.



Dr. Jake Vander Zanden is an assistant professor at the Center for Limnology and the Department of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Jake is an aquatic ecologist with research interests that include the study of food webs, invasive species, salmonid ecology and conservation biology. He was a Smith Fellow at the University of California, Davis.



Dr. David Wilcove is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and public affairs at Princeton University. He is author of *The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America* (1999), as well as numerous technical and popular articles in the fields of conservation biology, ornithology, and endangered species protection.



Dr. Erika Zavaleta is an assistant professor of Environmental Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz and has spent the last year on sabbatical with The Christensen Fund. Erika is interested foremost in narrowing the divide between conservation science and environmental problem-solving. She was a Smith Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley.



Program Coordinator

Shonda Gilliland Foster is a graduate of the Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology Master's program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Social Relations and Political Theory Constitutional Democracy, and afterwards worked in the congressional office of U.S. Senator Carl Levin. She also has experience with the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland where she assisted in the development of a web-based method to test volunteers' ability to accurately identify frog calls. She also volunteers with Greyhound Welfare, an organization that places retired racing greyhounds in adoptive homes.

Smith Fellows

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship
Smith Fellowships provide two years of postdoctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists (of any nationality) affiliated with a United States institution. Research approaches may include comparative studies, synthetic analyses across sites, experimental or observational studies, applied modeling, or any combination of these. Applications are due in late September of each year. The Smith Fellowship Program is a partnership between the Cedar Tree Foundation and the Society for Conservation Biology. For information about these organizations, visit: www.cedartreefound.org and www.conservationbiology.org

Contact

For questions, email info@smithfellows.org. For detailed proposal guidelines and current deadlines, please visit www.smithfellows.org

Photography

Pg. 3: Scalloped hammerhead, Ian Scott/istock. Smith Fellows submitted all other photographs.

Design

Autumn-Lynn Harrison, SCB