Dr. Michael San Francisco, Ph.D., currently serves as the interim dean of the Texas Tech College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to this appointment, he also serves as a Professor in Biological Sciences and the Honors College, and as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Immunology and Molecular Microbiology at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and the Director of the Clark Scholars Program. Dr. San Francisco was officially appointed as interim dean of the Texas Tech College of Arts & Sciences on June 9, 2020, actively assuming the role on September 1, 2020.

Dr. San Francisco joined Texas Tech University as an Assistant Professor in Biology in 1990 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2004. He came to the United States for his graduate education from India where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. Dr. San Francisco earned his Master of Science in biochemical ecology from Boston University in 1980 and his Ph.D. in biology-microbiology in 1984. He completed post-doctoral research at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine in biochemistry and molecular biology (1984-1987) and subsequently at The Ohio State University (1987-1990), in biotechnology.

As a department, we are so excited and happy to see this hard-working Biology faculty member do so much for this university and look forward for what is to come!

Congratulations Dr. San Francisco!
Dr. Jorge Salazar-Bravo edited a volume in honor of Syd Anderson’s contributions to Neotropical and Bolivian Mammalogy in the journal Therya. The volume includes 15 papers, contributed by 42 authors from 25 institution. Dr. Salazar-Bravo also gave a virtual keynote address at the bi-annual meeting of the Ecuadorian Mammal Society on Saturday, October 24th.

Nancy McIntyre is co-PI on a grant from the TTU College of Visual and Performing Arts in a “STEAM collaboration” to develop place-based curriculum for two east Lubbock elementary schools. Dr. McIntyre also captured a photo recently of a striped bark scorpion (*Centruroides vittatus*) under a blacklight. Scorpions fluoresce under UV light for unknown purposes (many are speculated), but it makes them easy to spot if you’re out at night with a UV flashlight!

Kendra Phelps was a student in Dr. Tigga Kingston’s lab and is featured in an episode of Nat Geo on Sunday 8C called Virus Hunters. Kendra travels all over Europe chasing bats and viruses.

Noshin Mubtasim, (Ph.D. Student, Gollahon Lab) recently won a Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship (SACS) for Spring 2021.

In the lab of Dr. David Ray, Diana Moreno spoke on a panel related to the COVID-19 pandemic discussing Zoonotic Detective and how animals can be ground zero for infectious diseases.

Nicole Paulat (Ph.D. Student, Ray Lab) and Jenna Grimshaw (Ph.D. Student, Ray Lab) both presented their research at the Biodiversity Genomics 2020 meeting. While virtual, the meeting itself was hosted by the Welcome Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK. Ms. Paulat presented her research on mutation rates related to genomic change in Myotis bats and Mrs. Grimshaw discussed her work studying the genetic diversity of the Northern long-eared bat in the US.

Touseef Ahmed, (Ph.D. Candidate, Kingston Lab) attended the 6th World One Health Congress and the Global One Health Day 2020 Virtual Conferences where he presented his research over a cross sectional survey on Ecology and Epidemiology of Bat Rabies In Pakistan.

Evan Perkowski (Ph.D. Student, Smith Lab) participated in this year’s remote Graduate Climate Conference where he presented a poster titled “Plant carbon costs to acquire nitrogen are determined by interactions between plant nitrogen demand, soil nitrogen availability, and nitrogen acquisition strategy”. This is a conference put on by graduate students at the University of Washington for other graduate students conducting work relevant to climate science.
Karishma Bishit (Ph.D. Student, Wakeman Lab) was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship by the Texas Tech graduate school.

Sean Sutor (M.S. Student, McIntyre Lab) won a Best Presentation award in GIS in Wildlife Ecology at The Wildlife Society’s annual meeting.

Danielle Husband, another M.S. student in the McIntyre Lab, won a TTU Graduate School Graduate Student Research Support Award.

Dr. Rhonda Boros was recognized as a Volleyball Game Day Professor by Texas Tech Department of Athletics. The Game Day Professor program highlights individuals who are and have been valued partners and supporters of the athletics department and Texas Tech student-athletes. Dr. Boros was selected by a Texas Tech Volleyball student-athlete and was recognized along with other faculty during intermission at the Texas Tech vs Kansas State volleyball match Nov. 7.

Dr. Amanda Brown, Dr. Michael Dini, Dr. Breanna Harris, Dr. Lewis Held, Dr. Michael San Francisco, and Dr. Kai Zhang were awarded the Apple-Polishing Award from TTU Mortar Board.

Dr. Matthew Olson’s Lab was awarded $800 for their publication titled “A targeted sequence capture array for phylogenetic and population genomics in the Salicaceae” and has been selected for the Open Access Publication Initiative for Fall 2020 / Spring 2021.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Dr. Matt Olson’s Lab:**

**Dr. Breanna Harris’ Lab:**

**Dr. Nancy McIntyre’s Lab:**
Dr. Caleb Phillips’ Lab:

Dr. Lauren Gollahon’s Lab:

Dr. Jorge Salazar-Bravo’s Lab:

Congrats to all our hard-working students and faculty!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Texas Tech Association of Biologists is back online! We would love department faculty, staff, and alumni to follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Expect fresh content about what our members are researching, community service opportunities in Lubbock, and more. If anyone would like to contribute any photos or updates to our pages, send this content to our TTUAB Treasurer, Danielle Husband at Danielle.Husband@ttu.edu.

We hope that everyone had a Happy Halloween, and has plans for a safe Thanksgiving. Thanks to everyone for continuing to social distance, wear masks, and wash hands through this holiday season. As classes move fully online after Thanksgiving, we will miss seeing everyone on campus, but we know that it is the best way to stay healthy and safe, so that we can return to F2F classes and interactions in the spring.

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER