



RUSVM WDA STUDENT CHAPTER 2017-2018 PROGRESS REPORT

Summary

The WDA Student Chapter at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine has seen a high commitment of the executive board officers this past year. WDA had a little difficulty in finding a focus area and drawing in members as we were almost competing with the much larger Z.E.W. (Zoo, Exotics, and Wildlife) Club for members and resources. Our goal is not to compete with other clubs, but to further establish the WDA as a separate niche where all clubs can benefit from each other. We are working to provide unique experiences and move in the direction of soft skills development, One Health involvement, increased Avian and Pathology Club collaborations, and increased research opportunities. We will putting our efforts into field research and wet labs going into the next semester.

Chapter Name: RUSVM WDA Student Chapter

Established in: 13 May 2014

Chapter website/ Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515805488535781/>

Chapter email: rusvmwda@rossu.edu

Number of chapter members: 36

Number of chapter members that are WDA members:

Faculty Advisor

Name: Dr. Luis Cruz

Email: LCruzMartinez@rossvet.edu.kn

Current Fall 2018 Semester Officers

President:

Name: Mickey Snead

Email: michaelasnead@students.rossu.edu

Secretary:

Name: Polly Weldon

Email: pollyweldon@students.rossu.edu

Vice President:

Name: Meredith Nugent

Email: meredithnugent@students.rossu.edu

Treasurer

Name: Felicia Brennan

Email:

feliciabrennan@students.rossu.edu

Fundraising Chair:

Name: Melina Rothert

Email: melinarothert@students.rossu.edu

Summer 2018 Officers

President: Ciara Peace

Vice President/Fundraising Chair: Taylor Tvede

Secretary: Mickey Snead

Treasurer: Victoria Vaughn

Spring 2017 Officers

Co-President: Taylor Tvede

Co-President: Ciara Peace

Secretary: Mickey Snead

Treasurer: Victoria Vaughn

Fundraising Chair: Laura Taylor

Fall 2017 Officers

Co-President: Taylor Tvede

Co-President: Ciara Peace

Secretary: Mickey Snead

Treasurer: Victoria Vaughn

Fundraising Chair: Laura Taylor

Summer 2017 Officers

President: Genelle Chapman

Vice President: Kelsey Von Lehmden

Secretary: Ciara Peace

Treasurer: Victoria Vaughn

Fundraising Chair: Laura Taylor

Spring 2017 Officers

President: Melinda Kitty

Vice President: Kelsey Von Lehmden

Secretary: Kate Huff

Treasurer: Alissa Heisel

Fundraising Chair: Jessica Kalinowski

Fall 2016 Officers

President: Melinda Kitty

Vice President: Emma Byers

Secretary: Renee Jones

Treasurer: Alissa Heisel

Fundraising Chair: Jessica Kalinowski

Spring 2016 Officers

President: Jennifer Liscinsky

Vice President: Melinda Kitty

Secretary: Renee Jones

Treasurer: N/A

Fundraising Chair: Jessica Kalinowski

Summer 2016 Officers

President: Jennifer Liscinsky

Vice President: Melinda Kitty

Secretary: Renee Jones

Treasurer: Alissa Heisel

Fundraising Chair: Jessica Kalinowski

The following is a list of activities for this student chapter over the past year that worked towards the WDA Student Chapter objectives:

- 1. Educate students about career opportunities, job qualifications and education, externships, volunteer, and research opportunities in wildlife health fields.*
- 2. Enhance skills of students through lectures, workshops, conferences, field trips.*
- 3. Connect students to mentors in WDA and wildlife health professions through the faculty advisor and guest lecturers.*

Guest Lecturers & Events

Summer 2018 (May – August)

- Dr. du Plessis “Wildlife Diagnostic Imaging” (29 May 2018)

- Dr. Ketzis “Metastrongyloidea in Wildlife & Importance in Domestic Animals” (6 Jun 2018)
- Dr. Becker “Captive vs Wild Cheetahs” (20 Jul 2018)
- Dr. Brighton “Large Herbivores and Hoof stock in Africa and Anesthesia (25 Jul 2018)
- Dr. Ghosh “Porcine and Rat Viruses” (27 Jul 2018)
- Dr. Brighton “Anesthesia in African Carnivores (1 Aug 2018)

Spring 2018 (January-April)

- Dr. Ketzis “Parasites and Wildlife” (14 Feb 2018)
- Dr. Ghosh “Rotavirus Zoonosis” (22 Feb 2018)
- Dr. Cruz “Experience of Being a One Health Advocate” (27 Feb 2018)
- Dr. Scott from the Carolina Raptor Center
 - “Avian Orthopedics (5 Mar 2018)
 - “Interesting Raptor Cases (5 Mar 2018)
 - “Neurologic Disease in Raptors (6 Mar 2018)

Fall 2017 (September- December)

- Dr. Ghosh “Viruses in Non- Human Primates” (10 Oct 2017)
- Dr. Ketzis “Avian and Mammalian Parasites in Our Pets” (18 Oct 2017)

Research:

During the Spring of 2018, PhD/DVM candidate Carolina Sauvé, from the University of Montreal began her study of Mongoose and Rabies in the Caribbean. WDA club members assisted in site location, set up and monitoring of the mongoose traps. Field work continued into the summer and WDA had several research volunteers and assistants help with data collection. This included, location preference, body morphology, blood work and PIIT tagging. We will continue to employ a few members to monitor camera traps at several sites into the Fall 2018 semester. This was a wonderful opportunity for WDA to become involved in field work and have a hands-on approach to research and veterinary medicine.

Fundraisers:

A portion of all RUSVM WDA Club merchandise fundraisers benefit various charities that support wildlife: Rhino Conservation through the Bead Coalition, Elephant Conservation the Elephant Pants Co., Anti-Poaching & Wildlife Conservation in Zambia through Dsenyo Fair Trade Gifts, and various charities with Animals Anonymous. The remaining /profits our chapter makes from our merchandise and other fundraisers such as our T-Shirt Decorating, and Shawarma sales go directly to the club to help bring guest speakers down to our island, provide food at lectures, purchase equipment for wet-labs, and purchase initial products for fundraisers. Our newest fundraising item are bracelets from Devocean Company, the sales contribute to Sea Turtle conservation and ocean health awareness.



Executive Board Member's at RUSVM Club Fair

From left, Melina Rothert, Felicia Brennan, Mickey Snead, Meredith Nugent and Polly Weldon