



## **Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines**

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Marianthi Ioannidis (ioannidis.marianthi@gmail.com), before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter's business card.

- 1) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
- 2) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
- 3) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2020 to be added to the website.
- 4) Chapter that are not sending back a progress report will not be considered active anymore.



## Student Chapter Progress Report

### Chapter Name:

The University of Calgary WDA Student Chapter

### Established in (if known):

December 2015

### Mission:

The UCalgary WDA Student Chapter aims to work towards the following 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 advisors and guest lecturers.

### Number of chapter members:

36

### Number of chapter members that are WDA members:

~10

### Faculty Advisor

Name: Dr. Susan J Kutz

Position: Professor, Dept. Ecosystem & Public Health, University of Calgary

Email: skutz@ucalgary.ca

### Current board members

#### President:

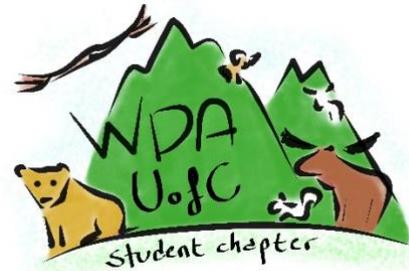
Name: Diana Jeong

Email: chanwoori.jeong1@ucalgary.ca

#### Vice President

Name: Emma Vaasjo

Email address: emma.vaasjo@ucalgary.ca





**Student**

**Representative:**

Name: Mason Stothart

Email address: [mason.stothart1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mason.stothart1@ucalgary.ca)

**Board members 2020-2021**

**President:**

Name: Emma Vaasjo

Email: [emma.vaasjo@ucalgary.ca](mailto:emma.vaasjo@ucalgary.ca)

**Vice President**

Name: Filip Rakic

Email address: [filip.rakic@ucalgary.ca](mailto:filip.rakic@ucalgary.ca)



## Description

### of Chapter Activities

#### PR & Fundraising

##### PR:

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable): <https://wdacalgary.wordpress.com/aboutus/>
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter): @ucalgary\_WHERG
- Does your chapter have a newsletter? no

#### Member recruitment & Club outreach

- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?
- *Our chapter contacts its membership listserv (inclusive of participating undergraduate, graduate, and DVM students, Post-Doctoral Fellows, and faculty) via email from [wdacalgary@gmail.com](mailto:wdacalgary@gmail.com). Public events hosted by the WDA are also advertised through the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine listserv and via poster materials placed around the relevant faculties. We also advertise our Chapter and its events via in-person announcements at events that might host interested participants (i.e. University Research Group meetings)*

#### Collaboration:

- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?  
*The UCalgary WDA Student Chapter has a strong collaborative relationship with the University of Calgary – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine’s Wildlife Health Ecology Research Group (WHERG). We are also connected closely with the Ecosystem Public Health Club through the UCVM – DVM program. This year we have had a great collaboration with the One Health Research Group, especially with the One Health Over Hops group for public outreach/science storytelling.*
- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization?  
*The UCalgary WDA Student Chapter has worked closely with the WHERG, organizing and advertising monthly seminars by researchers in wildlife-related fields, receiving funding for snacks and refreshments for monthly meetings, and organizing and attending an annual WHERG/WDA Student Chapter Retreat in Lake Louise, Alberta. We include the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) Ecosystem Public Health club’s listserv in all WDA communications. One Health Over Hops events are featured in WDA meetings.*



**WDA-representation:**

- How did your chapter promote the WDA? (i.e. hand-out WDA flyers, announced at meetings what WDA mission is and how to become a member, coordinated travel to the WDA conference)
- *In our initial group meetings each year, WDA membership is promoted to club members. In monthly emails and meetings, WDA Update emails are presented to the club membership. In meetings, the WDA Wildlife Update has been the focus of discussion. WDA membership, scholarships, and conference opportunities are promoted to our club's membership in email communications.*

**Fundraising:**

- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees? No
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)? No
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)? No, however we are planning to apply for WDA student chapter grants starting in 2020.
- Any other way the chapter's financial health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?
- *Financial support was provided to the WDA by the University of Calgary's Wildlife Health and Ecology Research Group (WHERG) until Fall 2019; changes in budget and format pending.*



## EVENTS

Please share the activities your chapter organized or co-organized between April 30th 2019 and May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. It is ok to overlap if you mentioned some of the events above. In addition, if you have exciting end of semester / summer plans please share those too. We love to know how you keep members engaged when school is not in session.

### **Weekly or monthly events (if applicable):**

Please provide a brief description of the activity, include at least the date(s), speaker/host/goal and approximate attendance. If you have pictures, please include them.

- Seminars

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 - 11AM

WHERG Seminar series. Speakers: Diana Jeong ('WHERG: A Year in Review'), Dr. Judit Smits ('Greater northern sage grouse - decline and recovery'), Emma Vaasjo ('Sage grouse captive breeding program, Calgary Zoo'). Discussions followed with lunch served in the TRW lounge.

Attendance: 12 members

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 12PM

Guest speaker Dr. Jillian Detwiler (University of Manitoba) presented 'Context is everything: the role of oxylipin signaling molecules in parasite-mediated host behaviour'. Hosted by WHERG and HPI.

Attendance: +20

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 2:30PM

Emma Vaasjo led a discussion on current events in wildlife disease research, and showed Jonna Mazet's keynote talk from the WDA 2019 conference. Discussions followed.

Attendance: 7 members

Monday, January 27, 2020 - 2PM

Diana Jeong presented '*Addressing the ongoing challenges of the US wild horse management system*' from her previous work and experience with the Pryor Mountain horses. Discussions followed.

Attendance: 5 members

-Paper discussions



Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - 2:30PM

Ken Mori led a discussion on his paper which is in the final phases of journal submission. Paper titled *Modeling the epidemiology of tropically transmitted parasites with complex life-cycle in a complex landscape: an agent-based modeling approach*.

Attendance: 8 members

Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 2PM

Mason Stothart led a discussion on a paper entitled: *Conservation biology needs a microbial renaissance: a call for the consideration of host-associated microbiota in wildlife management practices*.

Attendance: 8 members

Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 2PM

Dr. Fabien Mavrot led a discussion on a paper entitled: *Viral emergence in marine mammals in the North Pacific may be linked to Arctic sea ice reduction*.

Attendance: 7 members

Starting January 2020, WDA has hosted weekly writing group session for 2 hours every Monday (excluding seminars/paper discussions once a month). Sessions were halted March 2020 in light of COVID-19.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

All WHERG activities have been paused as of November 2019 as a result of budgetary changes and restrictions. All WDA Calgary events of 2020 have been led by Emma Vaasjo, Diana Jeong, and Mason Stothart, until June 2020, in which the coordinators are Emma Vaasjo and Filip Rakic. The format of WDA Calgary has been changed from monthly journal clubs to a weekly writing group and monthly discussions on up-to-date wildlife disease research, back to a monthly journal club in June 2020, joining a rotation of faculty-wide journal clubs at the UofC. All monthly journal clubs are hosted through Zoom/online platform until further notice. Annual retreat/workshop for WHERG and WDA pending.



**!!!Regarding the WDA conference in 2021, Wisconsin**

In order to organize the next student event prior the annual meeting we decided to ask the student chapter officers:

What would you like to have as a main topic/red line?

What would you like to see during this event in terms of lectures, workshops,...?

I think it would be beneficial to have a more structured meet and greet/mentorship evening. Perhaps those with experience in certain areas (research, academia, provincial/state labs, veterinarians in government, pathology, etc.) could be matched with a few students with the same interests.