



## **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**

**Main Logo:**



**Wildlife Disease Association**  

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**University of Georgia®**  
**Student Chapter**

**Logo Variations:**

**Wildlife Disease Association**  

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**University of Georgia®**  
**Student Chapter**

**Wildlife Disease Association**  

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**UGA® Student Chapter**



**Wildlife Disease Association**  

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**UGA® Student Chapter**





**Chapter Name:** UGA Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association (UGAscWDA)

**Established in (if known):** This chapter was established in 2010.

**Mission:** The mission of this chapter is to provide students with opportunities for involvement in wildlife health research and conservation medicine and to facilitate an understanding of the complex relationship among ecosystem health, animal health, and human health. We strive to take advantage of the WDA's extensive student networks, conference and workshop opportunities, faculty mentorship, and externship database.

**Number of chapter members:**

We have 137 active chapter members.

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

25 chapter members are WDA members, 15 of these are student members.

**Faculty Advisor**

Name: Dr. Sonia Hernandez

Position: Professor

Email: [shernz@uga.edu](mailto:shernz@uga.edu)

**Past Board Members 2019-2020**

**President**

Name: Rachel Amato

Email: [ra45957@uga.edu](mailto:ra45957@uga.edu)

**Vice President**

Name: Amanda Wonn

Email address: [amwonn@uga.edu](mailto:amwonn@uga.edu)

**Other Officers**

Treasurer: Fred Torpy

Secretary: Liandrie Swanepoel

Vet Student Representative: Jenny Bloodgood

Graduate Student Representative: Andrea Ayala

Undergraduate Representative: Jamal Belk and Isabel Ott

- How frequently does your chapter hold elections?



- Every two years

### **Current Board Members 2020 - 2021**

#### **President**

Name: Raquel Francisco

Email: [raquel.francisco@uga.edu](mailto:raquel.francisco@uga.edu)

#### **Vice President**

Name: Jorge Rojas Jimenez

Email address: [jorge.rojas@uga.edu](mailto:jorge.rojas@uga.edu)

#### **Other Officers**

Treasurer: Victoria Morris

Email: [victoria.morris@uga.edu](mailto:victoria.morris@uga.edu)

Secretary: Julia Silva Seixas

Email: [julia.silvaseixas@uga.edu](mailto:julia.silvaseixas@uga.edu)

Vet Student Representative: Liandrie Swanepoel

Email: [liandrie.swanepoel25@uga.edu](mailto:liandrie.swanepoel25@uga.edu)

Vet Student Representative: Kenzie Schwartz

Email: [kenzies@uga.edu](mailto:kenzies@uga.edu)

Vet Student Representative: Kenna Frierson

Email: [kenna.frierson25@uga.edu](mailto:kenna.frierson25@uga.edu)

Graduate Student Representative: Andrea Ayala

Email: [aayala1@uga.edu](mailto:aayala1@uga.edu)

### **Description of Chapter Activities**

#### **PR & Fundraising**

##### **PR:**

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable):
  - <https://uga.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scWDA>
  - <https://sites.google.com/site/ugawdasc/>
- Chapter facebook page (if applicable):
  - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/154394054593279/>
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter):
  - None



- Does your chapter have a newsletter?
  - o No

#### Member recruitment & Club outreach:

- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?
  - o We maintain a list serve to communicate events by email. We also sent emails to other list serves in other departments when large events are held. Occasionally flyers are made and hung up in various relevant buildings advertising events.

#### Collaboration:

- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?
- Regularly:
  - o UGA Pre-veterinary Club
  - o Warnell Pre-vet Club
  - o College of Vet Med PathHeads (Pathology Club)
  - o College of Vet Med Zoological Medicine Club
  - o UGA One Health Club
- Ocassionally:
  - o The SE Chapter of The Wildlife Society
  - o The Warnell Graduates Student Association
- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter get together with the other organizations?
  - o We co-host speakers and workshops, and also encourage our officers and members to volunteer at other organizations' events.

#### 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)
  - o Our chapter is active at external events where we recruit new members, including during club fairs at the beginning of the school year and an annual open house for the UGA veterinary school. At our first event every year, we encourage WDA membership and talk about WDA and its mission, how to join, and the benefits of membership.
  - o We then follow this up with an email to our lists serve that contains a summary and a direct link to the WDA membership page. We also repeat this information at other events through the year, including our public student symposium. We



host a symposium in the spring in which student presenters compete for travel awards. We encourage them to apply to these awards for financial help towards travel to the WDA conference, and we coordinate travel and lodging among those attending the conference every year

### **Fundraising:**

- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees?
  - o No, we do not have a membership fee.
  
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)?
  - o Yes, we have a percentage night at a local bar and restaurant (Blind Pig Tavern). We also co-host an event with UGA's Wildlife Treatment Crew called Creatures at Creature; it is an event at a local bar (Creature Comforts) that educates the public about wildlife and wildlife disease.
  
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)?
  - o Yes, we received a grant for \$500 this year that was put toward our large Student Workshop event in the Fall of 2020.
  
- Any other way the chapter's financial health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?
  - o We receive direct funding for some of our events including our annual symposium that go towards expenses for the event, as well as, travel awards. These funds usually come from different departments at UGA. We also sell merchandise and hold regular percentage nights at local businesses. We also accept small donations when they are provided.

### **Events**

#### **(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):**

- **One Health Workshop and Costa Rica Conservation Medicine Course Interest Talk with Dr. Sonia Hernandez**
  - o Date: 4/19
  - o Speaker: Dr. Hernandez
  - o Summary: Dr. Hernandez discussed the upcoming Student Workshop as well as her yearly conservation Medicine and Biology course over the summer in Costa Rica.
  - o Estimated Attendance: 50 students



- **Student Workshop: Conservation Medicine, One Health, Wildlife Diseases @ The University of Georgia**

- Tentative Date: 11/20
- Tentative Speakers:
  - Jonna Mazet
  - Robin Radcliffe
  - Joe Gaydos
  - Nadine Lamberski
- Summary: In November 2020, we plan to host our second Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) co-sponsored “Student Workshop on Conservation Medicine, One Health, and Wildlife Diseases.” In 2018 nearly 200 wildlife students and professionals gathered in Athens for three days of educational seminars, hands-on labs, and social and professional networking. The workshop participants were largely students, almost equally split between undergraduate, graduate, and veterinary students. Students represented 29 different institutions or organizations. Over half came from outside the state of Georgia and three from outside the United States. We held one full day of didactic lectures, a half day of 4 hands-on workshops and three social events, one of which included a career roundtable. In 2020, we plan to have a similar format as our inaugural workshop by recruiting speakers from around the country to both give seminars and workshops to students of all levels.

2018 Student Workshop One Health Description

The workshop was organized by Dr. Sonia Hernandez and combined laboratory and lecture-based content to provide students with knowledge and skills for future careers in wildlife health. The event was co-organized by Dr. Shannon Curry, Ethan Cooper, and three UGA student clubs, including UGA’s student chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association, Zoological Medicine Club, and Warnell Pre-Vet Club. Numerous students spent months helping to organize the workshop and provided support during the event. Sponsorship was provided by UGA’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine, and SCWDS.

The Dean of the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Lisa Nolan, provided the first of two keynote talks, followed by Dr. Mark Ruder. They discussed the history of the One Health framework, and challenged animal, human, and environmental health professionals to address the links between wildlife, domestic animal, human, and environmental health in their work. Following keynote talks, students enjoyed dinner and



a panel discussion, where they had the opportunity to ask career-related questions of six wildlife professionals.

Day two featured a full day of seminars about critical wildlife and public health issues. These seminars highlighted relationships between human activities (e.g., urban development, land use changes, pollution), zoonotic diseases (e.g., influenza, tuberculosis, and salmonellosis), and ecosystem health (e.g., diminished water quality). The seminars also discussed solutions in the One Health framework. These included bolstering our understanding of infectious disease dynamics in human-altered systems, and engaging both professionals and members of the public to implement solutions that benefit people, but also protect animal and ecosystem health. After the day of lectures, students, speakers, and volunteers gathered for a dinner and networking.

Day three consisted of several hands-on labs or workshops focused on multiple aspects of wildlife health. Participants practiced methods of capturing and monitoring wildlife, including darting, trapping, mist netting, and telemetry; worked together to investigate and solve disease scenarios based on current wildlife-related issues; learned techniques to administer emergency care to sick or injured wildlife; or discussed current wildlife health projects with UGA researchers. A full list of events, speakers, and topics from our previous workshop is available at the workshop website (<https://hernandezlabuga.wixsite.com/onehealthwkshp>).

Feedback after the workshop was excellent. Students expressed excitement that an event like this was available, as it presented a unique opportunity to broaden their education. The format allowed students to more easily network with fellow students and instructors than the typical large professional conferences. In keeping with SCWDS's mission to build capacity in this field, we still plan to hold this event on a biannual basis. Current ScWDA members are currently planning the next Student Workshop.

- **SCWDS: Dr. Michael Yabsley “Spooky Parasite Lecture” co-hosted with Vet Med Zoo Club**
  - o Date: 10/24/19
  - o Speaker: Dr. Michael Yabsley
  - o Summary: Dr. Yabsley with SCWDS discussed relevant zoonotic parasites in veterinary medicine especially *Baylisascaris* ssp., a particular research interest of his.
  - o Attendance: 30 - 40 students
  
- **The Importance of Bees Lecture**
  - o Date: 11/18/19
  - o Speaker: Dr. Lewis Barlett



- Summary: Dr. Barlett discussed importance of bees, bees impact on economy and the environment, as well as bee diseases. There were bee/honey related door prizes. This lecture was open to all graduate students.
- Attendance: 40 – 50 students
  
- **CDC: Importance of Salmonella and Non-Traditional Veterinary Careers in Public Health**
  - Date: 12/2/19
  - Speaker: Dr. Megin Nichols
  - Summary: Dr. Nichols from the CDC spoke briefly on the importance of Salmonella in Public Health. The lecture however shifted into an open discussion about how to pursue non-traditional careers in veterinary medicine, especially in public health. Overall it was an immersive and interactive presentation.
  - Attendance: 50 - 60 students

#### **Weekly or monthly events:**

Our chapter hosts events such as rounds, talks, yearly symposiums and monthly officer meetings were conducted to determine future events, collaborations, and fundraising.

#### **Spring 2020 & Summer 2020 Plans:**

Unfortunately, due to recent events in regards to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the University of Georgia, as well as, many universities around the country have closed their on-site facilities and transitioned to on-line education. This has hindered our ability to plan and host in-person events for the foreseeable future. We are distributing the virtual seminars presented by faculty position candidates on the scWDA website (4) to continue to promote energy around the topic of wildlife diseases. We expect that by the Fall of 2020, we will once again be able to host in-person events.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We are proud that our chapter includes a wide variety of students predominantly from the college of Forestry and Natural Resources and College of Veterinary Medicine. Our members are both graduate students and undergrads, and many faculty from multiple departments are actively involved in supporting our club.



**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?
  - Pandemic Response
  - Perceptions of Wildlife Disease and Spillover
  
- What would you like to see during this event in terms of lectures, workshops,...?
  - Career Development