Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name:
University of Calgary WDA Student Chapter
Established in:
December 2015

Chapter logo

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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: approximately 15 chapter members
Faculty Advisor
Susan J Kutz
Professor, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Email: skutz@ucalgary.ca

Current board members (2017-2018)
President
Matilde Tomaselli
PhD student, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Email: matilde.tomaselli@ucalgary.ca

Vice President
Naima Jutha
MSc student, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Email: naima.jutha@ucalgary.ca

How frequently does your chapter hold elections? Annually

Board members 2018-2019
For the upcoming year 2018-2019, the board of the ‘University of Calgary WDA Student Chapter’ will be updated as follows

President
Naima Jutha
MSc student, Department of Ecosystem and Public Health
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary
Email: naima.jutha@ucalgary.ca

Vice President & additional officers TBD
Description of Chapter Activities

PR & FUNDRAISING

Online presence
- Chapter website: https://wdacalgary.wordpress.com/aboutus/
- 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. 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.

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 UCVM – DVM program.
- 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 biweekly journal club meetings, and organizing and attending an annual WHERG Retreat in Lake Louise, Alberta.

WDA-representation
- How did your chapter promote the WDA?
  In our initial group meetings each year, WDA membership is promoted to club members. In biweekly emails and journal club meetings, WDA Update emails are presented to the club membership. In some journal club meetings, the WDA Wildlife Update has been the focus of
Discussion. WDA membership, scholarships, and conference opportunities are promoted to our club’s membership via bi-weekly emails.

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
- Any other way the chapter’s financially health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)? Financial support is provided to the WDA by the University of Calgary’s Wildlife Health and Ecology Research Group (WHERG).

EVENTS
Events organized or co-organized by the chapter between April 30, 2017 and April 30, 2018.

Annual events
- 2-day Introductory QGIS Mapping Methods Course by Dr. Fabien Mavrot
  Approximate attendance: 16 attendees
  Approximate attendance: 20 attendees

Weekly or monthly events
- Bi-weekly WDA Journal Club (November – April, 2017)
  Approximate attendance: 10 attendees
- Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine Seminar Series: Impact and control of ruminant pestiviruses in domestic and wildlife species, by Dr. Julia Ridpath – Friday, January 19, 2018; with WDA Student Chapter meeting/debrief following seminar
  Approximate attendance: 10 attendees
- One Health Global Health Seminar: One Health in the Arctic: The Role of Wildlife in Food Security by Dr. Susan Kutz – Friday, January 26, 2018; with WDA Student Chapter meeting/debrief following seminar
  Approximate attendance: 12 attendees
- WDA “Wild Evening”: ‘Cantabirian Bears: Tracking the Wilderness’, documentary viewing and discussion lead by Manuel Antonio Gonzalez – February 26, 2017 + dinner
  Approximate attendance: 15 attendees
- WDA “Wild Lunch” Seminar: ‘Discussing wildlife management in South Africa and the essential role played by the wildlife veterinarian’, by Dr. Wouter van Hoven, University of Pretoria – March 14, 2017 followed by lunch and WDA Student Chapter meet and greet + discussion
  Approximate attendance: 35 attendees
  Approximate attendance: 15 attendees
- Dept. of Ecosystem and Public Health department meeting + WDA Student Chapter seminar: ‘The Life and Career of a Wildlife Veterinarian’, by Dr. Helen Schwantje, Government of British Columbia – April 19, 2017
  Approximate attendance: 10 attendees