Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Catharina Vendl (Catharinavendl@gmail.com), before April 30th 2018. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter’s business card.

For the first time, we will have a drawing of cash prizes for Progress Reports!

To be entered in the drawing for cash prices (3 x $100 prices will be given out):

1) Send your report in on time: deadline April 30th 2018
2) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
3) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
4) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2018 to be added to the website.
5) Be aware that the quality of your report will be considered as one of the criteria for the student chapter grant.
Student Chapter Progress Report

Chapter Name:
Southern Africa Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter (University of Pretoria)

Established in (if known):
December 2017, previously started as the AME-SC in April 2017 which was dissolved to focus on a smaller geographical area.

Vision:
Provide topical and demand driven education to Southern African students interested in wildlife diseases and provide a platform created by the Southern African WDA SC (UP) where they can transfer their knowledge and connect with mentors within the WDA

Mission:
Growing the interest and participation of Southern African Wildlife Disease students within the WDA that will allow for human capital development institutes of higher education.

Number of chapter members:
75

Number of chapter members that are WDA members:
20

Faculty Advisor
Name: Prof. Michele A. Miller, DVM, MS, PhD, MPH, Dipl ECZM (ZHM)
Position: South African National Research Foundation Chair in Animal TB at Stellenbosch University
Email: miller@sun.ac.za
Current board members

President:
Name: Eduard Roos, BSc (Zoology), BSc Hons (Zoology) PhD Candidate
Email: eoroos@sun.ac.za
Country: South Africa

Vice President
Name: Friederike Pohlin, MRCVS, MSc, PhD Candidate, Resident ECVAA
Email address: friederike.pohlin@gmail.com
Country: South Africa

Treasurer
Name: Jessica Briner, BSc, MSc, Oxon, BVM&S, MRCVS, PhD Candidate
Email address: jessbriner@gmail.com
Country: South Africa

Secretary
Name: Thembeka Mtewa, BSc, BSc (Hons), MSc Candidate
Email address: themburger@gmail.com
Country: South Africa

Communication officer
Name: Lara Nicholson, BSc, BVSc Candidate
Email address: lara.nicholson@gmail.com
Country: Zimbabwe

Country representatives:
Student ambassadors:
South Africa: Famuyide Ibukun Michael, PhD Candidate @ University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
Zimbabwe: Lara Nicholson, BVSc Candidate @ University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
Algeria: Khayr-eddine Choual, PhD Candidate @ Université Mohamed Chérif Messaadia, Souk-Ahras, Algeria
How frequently does your chapter hold elections?
Once every two years.

Board members 2018-2019
The board will change during 2018, as this SC’s timeline stretches from 2017-2018 and then 2019-2020. We are planning to have our election before the AME-WDA annual congress.

Description of Chapter Activities
PR & Fundraising
PR:

Online presence:
- Chapter website (if applicable): [https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southernafircaup](https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southernafircaup)
- Chapter facebook page (if applicable): [https://www.facebook.com/SAWDASC/](https://www.facebook.com/SAWDASC/)
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter):
  [https://twitter.com/SAWDASC_UP](https://twitter.com/SAWDASC_UP)
- Does your chapter have a newsletter: We send out monthly or bi-monthly newsletters to our students, depending on what is planned for each month.

Member recruitment & Club outreach
- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?
  We send out flyers on campuses where we have active members. We advertise our events on our website as well as via Facebook and by word of mouth.

Collaboration:
- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with?
  1. Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine Study Group
  2. Wildlife group of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA)
- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization?
  1. We have a monthly co-hosted online journal club, which is open to our members to actively participate. Participation includes chapter members presenting these journal club topics.
  2. Wildlife Pathology Workshop and Student Mentor Mixer during the annual conference of the Wildlife Group of the SAVA.
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)
  Presentation of the Student chapter as well as the parent WDA at the various wildlife and zoo conferences in South Africa (ZSSA conference 2017, NRF Zoological gardens conference 2017 and Wildlife management conference 2018) and activities organized by the student chapter.

Fundraising:
- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees?
  We do not have a membership fee as many of our members are from countries on the low-income country lists of the world bank.
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)?
  We held an initial fundraiser through the Parent WDA body. We received sponsorships for 10 students to be full WDA student members for this year.
  Names and country of students that received sponsorship;
  South Africa: Keri-Lee Dobbie, Hatyoka, Marion Leiberich, Yusuf B Ngoshe, Calvin Smith
  Democratic Republic of the Congo: Mushagalusa ciza
  Zambia: Frank Banda
  Zimbabwe: Leon K Manomano, Charmaine Mutswiri, Lara Nicholson, Melissa Wilde
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)?
  Not yet as we were only established in December 2017. Planning to apply to University of Pretoria as a society at the University for the Pretoria branch of the chapter. Also planning to apply to the WDA student chapter grants this year.
- Any other way the chapter's financially health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?
  Planning to get some branded items to sell as an income to the chapter.

EVENTS
(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):
Completed:
Short report:
By Friederike Pohlin

The Southern Africa WDA Student Chapter (SA-WDA SC) was approved by the WDA council in December 2017. With this exciting news, we started the New Year with a kick-off event at the Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) annual congress 2018 (http://vets4wildlife.co.za/events/). Wednesday, February 28th, was the pre-congress day where all the workshops took place. We organized a free WORKSHOP in WILDLIFE PATHOLOGY for all students interested in wildlife health and disease. The workshop took place at the University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort and was sponsored by the wildlife group of the SAVA. The wildlife professionals attending the congress were so jealous!

We started the day with lectures in the morning, followed by a lunch break and practicals in the afternoon. For the evening, we organized a student-mentor mixer. Forty students, who registered beforehand, attended the workshop and included local undergraduate veterinary students and national and international postgraduate students form several wildlife-related fields of study.

The event started with a brief introduction to the WDA and the newly founded SA-WDA SC followed by an interactive discussion on ONE HEALTH and the interaction between wildlife, humans, the environment and emerging diseases, led by Dr. Katja Koeppel. After a short tea break, Dr. Emily Mitchel explained the importance of performing wildlife pathology and showed us what to look for when performing post mortem examinations in different species. Lastly, Dr. Michele Miller, our faculty advisor and Chair in Animal Tuberculosis at Stellenbosch University, gave valuable insight in the role of PATHOLOGY in wildlife research and encouraged students to cooperate and collaborate.

After a quick lunch with pizza & juice, Dr. Emily Mitchel together with Dr. Alfredo Guiot from Mexico, demonstrated comparative post mortem examinations in reptiles, birds and fish. First, we performed necropsy in a Hadida (and in a chicken) with a history of leg paralysis. Then, we learned about pathologies in fish and dissected a pet-snake that had not been eating voluntarily for 4 months before being euthanised.

We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and active participation of the students in the workshop. Thank you very much to all our speakers for their support and motivation in making this possible.

In the evening, we held out first-ever mentor mixer. “La fiamma” sponsored five bottles of champagne for this event. The student-mentor mixer provided students a chance to meet and talk to wildlife professionals and ask them about their career. In order to get the chance to talk to all mentors, the students rotated through five tables, for fifteen minutes each, with two mentors on each table.

We were very touched by the motivation and passion of our mentors: Michele Miller, Emily Mitchel, Katja Koeppel, Michael Kock, Richard Burroughs, Leith Meyer, Gareth Zeiler, Angela Bruns, Greg Simpson and Silke Pfitzer.
Planned:
Science communication workshop, Zoology and Entomology Department, Stellenbosch University, 14th of July 2018 with Prof Valerie Corfield. The goal of this workshop would be to increase students’ popular science communication skills. We are expecting 10-15 attendees.

Weekly or monthly events (if applicable):
Monthly online journal club:
- Online paper discussions, led by student members of the SAWDASC (UP) or members of the Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine Study Group
- Past journal clubs:
  - May 2017: Translocation stress in wildlife by Friederike Pohlin
  - July 2017: Oxygen transport in mammals and other species by Thembeka Mtewa
  - August 2017: Avian Cardiology by Dr. Ernesto Dominguez
  - October 2017: Epidemiological analysis in African species by Eduard O. Roos
  - January 2018: Translocation stress in wildlife (repeated) by Friederike Pohlin
  - February 2018: Internship and Residency Programs in North America, by Dr. Carlos Sanchez
  - March 2018: Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV) by Sonia J. Fontes
- Future journal clubs:
  - We are using the following sign-up form for members who are interested in presenting at the journal club: https://doodle.com/poll/u3kp6twiu8gh4ie4
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1 Southern Africa WDA Student Chapter board