



CMHD/EEO Graduate Student Society

Hello!

On behalf of the Biology Department Graduate Students, welcome to Baylor University! We are happy to have you here and invite you to learn more about our Department's Graduate Student Society (CEGSS).

Where did CEGSS come from?

Our department has two main branches: CMHD (cellular, molecular, health and disease) and EEO (ecology, evolution, organismal). The main difference (besides subject matter) being CMHD students do lab rotations while EEO students come in with a main advisor already selected. Both represent *amazing* work and even **more amazing** graduate students. CEGSS was founded by Dani Crain and Felicia Osburn in March 2018 and gets its name from both of these branches!

So, what is CEGSS?

We are totally graduate-student run and are supported by the CEGSS faculty sponsor Dr. Sarah Kienle, the GPD (Graduate Program Director) Dr. Joe Taube, and the department chair Dr. Dwayne Simmons. Our goal is to:

- Increase camaraderie among graduate students in the Biology department
- Provide members with an outlet to:
 - Practice presentations
 - Participate in community outreach
 - Increase communication between faculty and graduate students
 - Engage in professional development beyond what the Graduate School provides

Who's who for 2023-2024?

Charli Worth, President: charli_worth1@baylor.edu

Kayla Haberman, Vice President: kayla_haberman1@baylor.edu

Lizzy Kim, Secretary: lizzy_kim1@baylor.edu

Colin Scano, Treasurer: colin_scano1@baylor.edu

River Kaveney, Social Chair: river_kaveney@baylor.edu

Malcolm Macleod, Recruitment Co-Chair: malcolm_macleod1@baylor.edu

Jon Beard, Recruitment Co-Chair: jon_beard2@baylor.edu

Sarah Kienle, Professor and Faculty Sponsor: sarah_kienle@baylor.edu

How do you get involved?

Watch for emails from CEGSS@baylor.edu! Can't wait? Reach out to us to learn more!

Biology Department Graduate Guide (2023-2024)

Welcome to Baylor! This is a graduate student guide for the biology department, MADE by graduate students from the Biology department. It's meant to help introduce you to Waco as well as Baylor and we hope it is useful!

All the grad students are just an email or knock away; we want you to be able to hit the ground running your first year!

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Moving to Waco/About Waco

RECOMMENDED places to live in Waco

(Note: Robinson and Hewitt aren't too far away. Apartments in these areas tend to have more flexible lease schedules than apartments in the Baylor Bubble.)

Bearcribs.com	Quick resource to get a lay of the land near campus
Rivercrest	Close to the BSB, higher end price range, newly renovated
Baylor Plaza 3	Inexpensive, older, managed by Brother's Management, heavily grad-student populated
The Icon	Popular apartment complex in Hewitt

- Be wary of Brothers Management as some grad students have had bad experiences, especially with maintenance concerns.
- If you want to avoid areas heavily populated with undergraduates, it's best to avoid large apartment complexes/buildings (like The View and many of the complexes on the east side of La Salle on University Parks).
- Facebook Groups for housing:
 - Waco, TX Rentals, Apartments, Housing, Rooms, Sublets, Roommates
 - Waco Homes For Sale Or Rent In Mclennan County And Surrounding Areas

Places to have fun

(plus <https://actlocallywaco.org/events/> for local events monthly!)

Outdoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waco Surf (lazy river, huge slides, wakeboarding, and surf center)• Waco Farmer’s Market (Saturdays 9a-1p) https://wacodowntownfarmersmarket.org/• Bridge Street Farmer’s Market (Wednesdays 5-8p)• Cameron Park (hiking, disc golf, mountain biking, river)• Cameron Park Zoo (Brew at the Zoo is a yearly event)• Paddling the river (students get free canoe/kayak/paddle board rentals)																				
Educational / Historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waco Mammoth National Monument (Mammoths in Waco??!!)• Mayborn Museum (free for students!)• Hippodrome (historical theater - movie with dinner and drinks!)• Waco Suspension Bridge (Pedestrian-only bridge, toss some tortillas!)• Historic Waco http://www.historicwaco.org/• Dr. Pepper Museum https://drpeppermuseum.com/																				
Magnolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnolia Table (Breakfast and Brunch)• Magnolia’s Little Shop on Bosque: Discounted and Last-chance items• Magnolia Market at The Silos – Café, bakery, décor, and knick-knacks																				
Bars/ Breweries	<table><thead><tr><th>Downtown:</th><th>Around Waco:</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>• True Love</td><td>• Dancing Bear Pub</td></tr><tr><td>• Barnett’s Pub</td><td>• Bare Arms Brewery</td></tr><tr><td>• Dichotomy</td><td>• Balcones Distillery</td></tr><tr><td>• Stay Classy</td><td>• Brotherwell Brewing</td></tr><tr><td>• Cricket's</td><td>• Hemingway’s</td></tr><tr><td>• The Backyard</td><td>• Blue Dog/Salty Dog</td></tr><tr><td>• Waco Ale</td><td>• Pinewood Public House</td></tr><tr><td>• Southern Roots</td><td>• Freight Waco</td></tr><tr><td>• Waco Winery</td><td>• Sloane’s</td></tr></tbody></table>	Downtown:	Around Waco:	• True Love	• Dancing Bear Pub	• Barnett’s Pub	• Bare Arms Brewery	• Dichotomy	• Balcones Distillery	• Stay Classy	• Brotherwell Brewing	• Cricket's	• Hemingway’s	• The Backyard	• Blue Dog/Salty Dog	• Waco Ale	• Pinewood Public House	• Southern Roots	• Freight Waco	• Waco Winery	• Sloane’s
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Dancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Melody Ranch (relaxed & free to 21+ on Fridays, live music Saturdays)• True Love																				
Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spice Village• Central Texas Market Place• Richland Mall• Free and For Sale Facebook pages in the Waco area – there are at least three which are very helpful)																				
Outside Waco	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake Whitney – Cliff Jumping• Blue Hills Ranch – Swim with otters, dine with giraffes• Austin / Dallas																				

Foods/restaurants

Baked Goods	Shipley's Donuts, Daylight Donuts, Czech Stop (kolaches – West, TX), Nightlife Donuts, Collin Street Bakery, Tiff's Treats, Crumbl, Milk Bottle, Pivovar, Silo Baking CO., Nothing Bundt Cakes, Milk Bottle Cookies
Coffee	Dichotomy, Common Grounds, BRÛ Coffee House, Pinewood Coffee Roasters, Fabled Bookshop & Café, For Keeps, Magnolia Press, Lighthouse, THRST, Glory Bell, Bitty and Beaus, Cutch Bros
BBQ	Rudy's, Vitek's (great gut pack), Tony Demaria's Bar-B-Que, Guess Family BBQ (food truck)
Southern	Cajun Craft, Luby's, Sascees, Sam's Southern Eatery, Butter My Biscuit, Tejun (Robinson)
Tacos	Torchy's, Fuzzy's, Fuego, Taqueria Zacatecas
Mexican	Taqueria El Crucero, Lolitas, Taqueria #9, Chuy's, Ranchito, Ruffi's, Hencho En Waco, La Fiesta's, Ninfa's, Rosa's, Huaco Lounge
Asian/Asian-Inspired	Wako Roll, Cathay House, Clay Pot, Bangkok Royale, Blasian Asian, Club Sandwich, Kitok's, J Petal and Poke, Sugar Spice, Cha Community, 1102 Bubble Tea and Coffee, Kung fu tea, Hokkaido, Teriyaki Park
Mediterranean/Caribbean	D's Mediterranean Grill, Alpha Omega, Xristo's, Mr. Greek, Tru Jamaica
American	Milos All Day, George's, Twisted Root, Whataburger, Homestead Heritage
Pizza	Old Chicago, Shorty's, Marco's, Moroso's, Mod Pizza, Southern Roots
Food trucks	University Parks, La Salle Avenue, There is a food truck event sometimes

Physical fitness

Gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLC (Student Life Center, included in our student fees) • Gold's Gym • Planet Fitness • Underground Performance • Crunch • Lil Diesel Gym LLC • GymX Fitness • JR CrossFit • CrossFit Misfits • CrossFit Waco • Twin Bridges CrossFit
Clubs	Waco Striders Running Club, Waco Bicycle Club
Running/ Triathlon Events	Bearathon, TriWaco, Miracle Match Relay, Great Brazos Relay

Mental fitness

- Baylor has a counseling center that is **free** for all graduate students to access – first visit is walk-in during their office hours (http://www.baylor.edu/counseling_center/)
- Take breaks (whether 15 min or a week), communicate clearly with your advisor about expectations, find your people here (we are an amazing group of people!), and support and love one another.

Grocery stores

- HEB, Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, Brookshire Brothers, Aldi's, East Market, Waco Custom Meats, La Michoacana

Doctors

- Baylor On-Campus Clinic
- Baylor Scott White System
- US Dermatology Partners
- Waco Foot and Ankle

Dentists

- Fusion Dental
- Dental Gallery
- Premier Family Dental
- Central Texas Dental

Veterinarians

- Hewitt Veterinary Clinic, Animal Birth Control (ABC – cheap vaccinations and prescriptions), Animal Hospital of Waco (on La Salle), Ramsgate Veterinary Clinic, Banfield Animal Hospital (inside PetSmart), Barkley Animal Clinic
- ****Please be sure your dogs and cats are on a monthly **heartworm** preventative! Heartworm prevalence is very high in Texas and treatment is expensive. **Parvo virus** vaccination is also recommended, as it is prevalent here. Flea and tick preventative is also highly recommended****

Important points of contact within the Biology Department

Administration

- Graduate Program Coordinator, Post-Doctoral Fellow Coordinator, Social Media Director:
River Kaveney (THE main contact for graduate student needs) (river_kaveney@baylor.edu)
 - Class Registration Issues (If a class needs to have instructor approval, CC River and the instructor so he can clear it once you get the all clear!)
 - Tuition Waivers (If River needs information, he will let you know)
 - Stipend Entries (both TA and RA) and payroll submission
 - TA Schedules (Tip: if you can't teach for a particular summer session, let him or Dr. Taube know way ahead of time so that you can be accommodated if possible)
 - Smith Fellowship Application processing
 - Scheduling rooms for conferences, presentations, defenses (or anything else related to the graduate program)
 - Submitting forms to the graduate school (prelims, oral, candidacy, etc.)
 - Any questions about classes can go to River (that don't involve questions that are more appropriate for your adviser)
- Administrative Associate: **Sandy Tighe** (sandy_tighe@baylor.edu)
 - Reserves vehicles
 - Sends out departmental emails
 - Organizes Dr. Simmons's schedule (Biology chair)
- Undergraduate Academic Support Coordinator: **Maggie Meadows** (Maggie_meadows@baylor.edu)
 - As the name suggests, main point of contact for biology undergraduate students
- Research Administrative Associate: **Kathy Svrcek** (kathy_svrcek@baylor.edu)
 - Handles grant money from funded proposals
 - Occasionally will deal with reimbursements to graduate students
 - Administrative and research project coordination
- **Heidi Muller** EEO students: If involved with CRASR (Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research) you will mainly be working with their office manager Heidi Mueller (Heidi_Mueller@baylor.edu) as budget coordinator.
- Financial Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences: **Terri Hastings** (terri_hastings@baylor.edu)
 - She has a limited direct role with graduate students. Financial Manager for Biology, CRASR, PreHealth, and Medical Humanities. Kristie Curtright of CRASR is one of two financial administrators that report directly to her.

Biology Department Heads

- Graduate Program Directors, Biology: **Dr. Joe Taube** (joseph_taube@baylor.edu)
 - His responsibilities include serving as a direct link between the Graduate School and the department, managing stipend and tuition annual budgets, organizing annual recruiting events, assignment of teaching assistants to courses, reviewing and approving coursework transfers and other petitions, soliciting ideas, feedback, and approval about changes to the curriculum and graduate handbook, providing advice and guidance to students, and serving as a mediator between students or faculty in special cases of professional or personal conflict.
- Biology Department Chair: **Dr. Dwayne Simmons** (dwayne_simmons@baylor.edu)
 - Hired in 2016, he is intent on increasing diversity and is all around open to suggestions for how to improve the biology department.

Get Connected, Get Involved

Organizations/Groups

GSA (Baylor Graduate Student Association)	<p>The Baylor GSA is a recognized entity across all of campus. They put on great events for graduate students and it is a great way to meet other graduate students outside of our department.</p> <p>If you are interested in becoming involved, the Biology department has a representative and an alternate representative</p> <p>https://www.baylor.edu/gsa/</p>
CEGSS (CMHD/EEO Graduate Student Society)	<p>Society of all things graduate student in the Biology department</p> <p>http://blogs.baylor.edu/cegss/</p>
PyPhD (Present Your PhD)	<p>Outreach group with low time commitments and a strong track record of continuous community connections</p> <p>http://blogs.baylor.edu/presentyourphd/</p>
WITA (Women in the Academy)	<p>Campus-wide organization connecting graduate student women with female faculty mentors</p> <p>https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/currentstudents/index.php?id=98896</p>
WISE (Women in Science and Engineering)	<p>Seminar series promoting the work of women in STEM, especially at the graduate level</p> <p>https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/currentstudents/index.php?id=946410</p>
SACNAS	<p>Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in STEM. Sponsored by Dr. Karine Gil in the Biology Dept</p> <p>http://www.sacnas.org</p>

Social Media:

GSA	https://www.facebook.com/BaylorGSA/ https://twitter.com/Baylor_GSA
PyPhD	https://www.facebook.com/presentyourphd/
WITA	https://www.facebook.com/WomenintheAcademy/
WISE	https://www.facebook.com/BaylorWISE/
SACNAS	Twitter & Instagram: Sacnas_Baylor
	<i>Note: you must join this group first to access others within the BU community</i>
	https://www.facebook.com/groups/groupsatbaylor/
Baylor Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baylor Biology Graduate Students: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BaylorBiologyGradStudents/• Baylor Graduate Students: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1379367959049709/• Baylor Biology: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BaylorBiology/• Free & For Sale: https://www.facebook.com/groups/347969278595389/
Lost Pets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Texas Lost & Found Pets: https://www.facebook.com/groups/CTLAFP/

Other tips/tricks/points of interest

Graduate student resources

- Professional Development provided by the Graduate School:
<https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=958621>
- Graduate Writing Center: Need help with writing? Use this resource! They have actual science writers on their staff <https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=959316>
- 50 GB free online storage through Baylor Box <https://www.baylor.edu/its/index.php?id=94642>

Internal funding

- Cornelia Smith Fellowship – you have submitted your FAFSA form for this pays for travel for conferences, training, software, and society memberships
<https://biology.artsandsciences.baylor.edu/graduate/cornelia-m-smith-fellowship-application>
- University Research Council (URC – your adviser must submit this, but you can write it)
- C. Gus Glasscock, Jr. Endowed Fund of Excellence in Environmental Sciences (sometime in March they will require an intent to submit, and then the actual grant is due April sometime)
- Graduate School Travel Award Programs (for traveling to a conference you're presenting at, or to promote doctoral research):
 - <https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=959180>

Useful things

- STEM workshops (workshops related to the STEM field, subjects vary from women in science, how to handle stress, how to write grants, etc.)
- Preparing Our Future Faculty (PROFF) workshops
- Grant writing workshops
- Formatting workshops (to help with formatting your thesis)
- Opportunities to join one of the MANY groups organized by grad students both in and out of the biology department
- Three Minute Thesis – Annual competition hosted by the GSA. A national event, students are given three minutes to present their research to a non-specialized audience. Cash prizes are awarded to the top 3 presenters (<https://www.baylor.edu/gsa/index.php?id=68277>)

Interested in pursuing teaching or outreach?

- Academy of Teaching and Learning (ATL) workshops (<https://www.baylor.edu/atl/>)
- Seminars for Excellence in Teaching workshops (SET – offered by the ATL)
- Teaching Capstone in Higher Education (TeaCHE)
<https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=959390>
- Volunteer at the Mayborn Museum (<https://www.baylor.edu/mayborn/>)
- Skype a Scientist (<https://www.skypeascientist.com/>)
- Present Your PhD (PyPhD): Outreach to the public, oriented specifically towards grade-school students, focuses on discussing graduate school and your research specifically, good way to connect with community (<http://blogs.baylor.edu/presentyourphd/>)

First things to do to get functional on campus

- Much of this is covered by Graduate Student Orientation
 - Admitted students: <https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=959348>
 - New graduate student orientation:
<https://www.baylor.edu/graduate/index.php?id=961039>

Forms and Helpful Documents

- In the next several pages you will find:
 - [Key card form](#)
 - Access into the BSB on weekends and after hours, service elevators, access to MBC etc. These should be taken care of by your PI through Sandy Tighe.
 - [Physical key form](#)
 - Note: this can take up to 2 weeks, so plan accordingly. These should be taken care of by your PI through Sandy Tighe.
 - Time Table
 - Timetable for the doctor of philosophy degree, see following page.
 - Please check your year's handbook for specific course requirements

TIMETABLE FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE, GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

(#) = number of credit hours

