

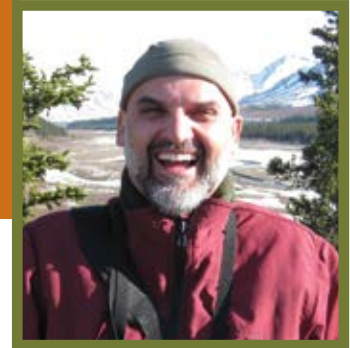
EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

The Boone and Crockett Club University Program is designed to provide science-based knowledge from seasoned wildlife professionals and educators to college graduates in the wildlife field to better prepare the graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife in the future.

FROM:
Texas A&M University



Dr. Perry Barboza

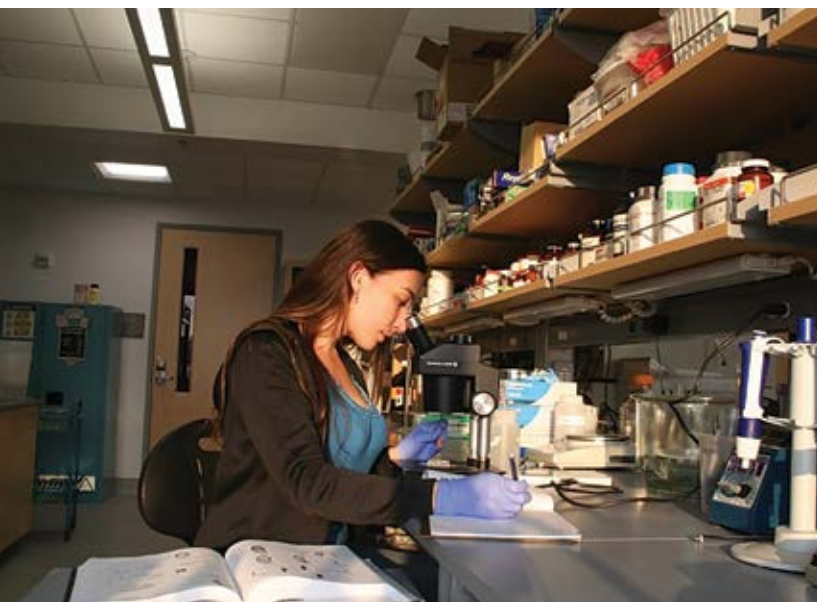


TEXAS A&M'S WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University (TAMU) uses the latest in the ecological and management disciplines to provide the most varied and innovative education available in the conservation of the earth's biodiversity. Students in this department conduct research and learn problem-solving skills, focusing on areas that include species extinction, aquaculture food production, environmental education, and wildlife and fisheries recreational activities. Curricula in wildlife and fisheries sciences are designed to provide both the traditional and contemporary dimensions of academic instruction necessary to transform motivated and intellectually capable students into competent professionals. The program offers a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, with three concentration areas: (1) Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, (2) Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, or (3) Vertebrate Zoology, as well as M.S. and Ph.D. options.

TEXAS A&M'S BOONE AND CROCKETT PROFESSORSHIP PROGRAM

TAMU welcomed Dr. Perry Barboza in 2015 as the new Boone and Crockett Chair in Wildlife Conservation and Policy. Perry was educated in Australia at University of New South Wales (B.Sc. (Hon) in Zoology) and the University of New England (Ph.D. in Nutrition). He has lived in the United States since 1989, when he joined the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as a postdoctoral fellow. Perry served on the faculty at University of Alaska, Fairbanks for 18 years before joining TAMU. He works with students and colleagues to study how animals use the supply of food and water to meet the demands of living in an area. The laboratory group measures what foods animals use, how much food they use and how well they are able to survive and reproduce in an area. Perry's research program attempts to better inform decisions about sustainably managing the landscape for wildlife and to help formulate policies to meet those management goals. The laboratory continues research with moose and caribou in Alaska, while initiating new projects on deer and bison in Texas and other "lower 48" states. They have also begun collaborative studies on state laws and policies for managing wildlife and their habitats.



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TEXAS A&M'S CURRENT CHALLENGES

ENERGY. There is currently no comprehensive education, research and outreach effort in any single institution focused on how best to conserve wildlife and its habitat while developing much needed energy sources. Our series of studies on caribou herds on the North Slope of Alaska concerns the tolerance of these populations to natural disturbances as well as those produced by roads and infrastructure for mines and oil-fields.

LAND MANAGEMENT. There needs to be a strong and consistent voice for the meaningful role that our public lands play in the economic and social wellbeing of people and communities through shared, sustainable and ethical uses of wildlife and its habitat. Our work on moose in Alaska is directly related to management of forest fires and the competing demands of serving a growing population of people with a sustainable harvest of moose.

PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION. The task of restoring wildlife to large, connected natural areas (i.e., landscape conservation) in partnership with private landowners, agencies and industry is needed. Our group has begun working with private landowners to study ways of using animal populations to monitor changes in productivity and biodiversity associated with changes in land use in central Texas where wildlife habitat is being lost to exurban development.

Dr. Barboza discusses these and other challenges for North American wildlife in his undergraduate course Fish and Wildlife Law and Administration. Some of the material in that course is included in a chapter authored with one of our students (Daniel Tihanyi) in the forthcoming B&C textbook *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*.



BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW PROFILE

Dan Thompson is a Ph.D. student at Texas A&M University and a full time wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Dan grew up in western Colorado and obtained a B.Sc. in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. He went to work as a wildlife biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado, writing wildlife habitat plans, before moving to Alaska. Once in Alaska, Dan received a M.Sc. degree in wildlife biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, researching caribou and reindeer nutrition. Currently, Dan works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and conducts research on captive moose at the Kenai Moose Research Center, and on wild moose on the Kenai Peninsula. His Ph.D. research evaluates how moose respond, both physiologically and behaviorally, to daily and seasonal fluctuations in environmental temperature on the Kenai Peninsula. Thermoregulation and heat stress of moose have become a growing concern for southern populations of moose where summers are hot and populations are declining precipitously. Using internal temperature sensors in moose, Dan is looking at daily and seasonal moose body temperature to determine when moose become stressed from warm temperatures. Using captive moose, he is evaluating how individual moose respond to warm temperature using novel techniques such as heart rate belts, salivary stress hormone levels, and forward-looking infrared thermal images. Dan will use these physiological parameters to evaluate behavioral response of wild moose to temperature, using GPS collars to determine habitat selection. This research will define suitable habitat to sustain moose production, while managing for fire, forestry, and harvest.