

# B&C UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

The mission of the Boone and Crockett Club University Programs is the development of a diverse community of high-impact wildlife conservation leaders.

## B&C FELLOWS AT THE 88TH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

At Boone and Crockett Club's 2023 Spring meeting, in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute's 88th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, four of our B&C University Programs Fellows presented at the luncheon on Thursday, March 13.

Boone and Crockett Club Fellows are not only well-grounded in wildlife ecology and management but they understand the role of hunters in conservation, form strong professional networks, and have the skills needed to influence policy.

The young people we are attracting into these programs bring a passion for wildlife every bit as great as that of the members of the Boone and Crockett Club. We can be proud of our University Programs because we are kindling that passion with an education that one day will lead these people to be the 21st century's premier scientists and leaders in conservation. ■



A group photo of the presenting B&C Fellows along with their advisors. LEFT TO RIGHT: B&C Professional Member and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Director, David G. Hewitt; B&C Fellow Hayden Walkush; B&C Fellow Calvin Ellis; B&C Fellow Hunter Parker; B&C Fellow Erin Kavanagh; B&C Ex-Officio Member and Boone and Crockett Club Professor of Wildlife Conservation and Policy at Texas A&M University, Perry S. Barboza.

## MEET THE FELLOWS

### ERIN KAVANAGH

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – MPSA STUDENT  
Calls to Conservation

Erin is a second-year graduate student at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, completing coursework related to environmental policy and administration. She was raised with a passion for exploring our world's natural places, and works hard to pair that passion with the tools to try to protect them. She has had the opportunities to travel to new environments, work with endangered wildlife, and influence policy on Capitol Hill.

### HUNTER PARKER

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – MPSA STUDENT  
Calls to Conservation

Hunter grew up in East Texas and fell in love with wildlife and natural resources while traveling and fishing in Alaska and hunting in Texas. He serves as the project manager for a capstone group of 12 students.

Erin and Hunter's capstone project utilizes a peer-reviewed published framework to evaluate the values individuals assign to wildlife and conservation. They are extending this framework to attempt to understand how individual values impact willingness to contribute financially or participate in conservation programs themselves. This project is a continuation from previous capstone groups, providing access to additional data with which they can compare how prevalence of value orientations have changed over time. The team aspires to determine which groups are most likely to participate in conservation behaviors regarding pollinator conservation considering the proposed listing of Monarch butterflies through the ESA.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Perry Barboza answers questions with his students Hunter Parker and Erin Kavanagh after their presentation.



Hayden Walkush

**“Meeting people within the Club and University Programs, as well as completing the independent research has definitely prepared me for what the real world looks like. It's something that other students don't have the opportunity to experience. I am incredibly grateful for that.” - B&C Fellow Hayden Walkush**



**HAYDEN WALKUSH**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT – B.S. STUDENT**  
**Predicting Fall Harvest Demographics of Eastern Wild Turkeys Using Snapshot Wisconsin Images**

Hayden received an undergraduate degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Hayden’s undergraduate research focuses on Wisconsin’s Eastern wild turkey population, which has experienced a decline in spring and fall harvest. Using the citizen science program “Snapshot Wisconsin” and agency harvest data, Hayden studied whether yearly harvest demographics are reflected in Snapshot Wisconsin’s reported male-to-female ratios. If his predictions are supported, Snapshot Wisconsin’s estimation of population demographics could be used to predict population trajectories and help inform the state’s decisions on hunting season frameworks.



Calvin Ellis

**CALVIN ELLIS**  
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - KINGSVILLE – M.S. STUDENT**  
**Mule Deer Spatial Ecology in the Texas Panhandle: Implications for Chronic Wasting Disease**

Calvin grew up in a small town outside of Athens, Georgia. His love for the outdoors helped him decide to earn a bachelor’s in wildlife science from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia in 2020. At Texas A&M University-Kingsville his graduate research project focuses on mule deer spatial ecology in the Texas Panhandle, specifically understanding the movement of species susceptible to chronic wasting disease. His team GPS-collared 30 juvenile mule deer in Oldham County, located along the Canadian River, to study movement and dispersal patterns. Calvin will also use a previously collected five-year dataset of mule deer movement to examine site fidelity and fine-scale selection in crop fields in this region.



Learn more about each university and the B&C Fellows in the 2022 University Programs Annual Report.