

Awards and Scholarships

Dr. Michael Conover receives USDA Special Recognition Award



Dr. Michael Kuhns, Department Head for Utah State University Wildland Resources (left) presents Dr. Michael R. Conover (right) with a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Special Recognition Award at a recent Department of Wildland Resources meeting at Utah State University. Dr. Conover was recognized by USDA for his lifelong commitment and contributions to the field of wildlife damage management. The award citation stated: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Commendation Awarded to Dr. Michael R. Conover—For your significant years of service and exemplary contributions in enhancing the professionalism and science of the field of wildlife damage management as Director of the Jack H. Berryman Institute at Utah State University and the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Human–Wildlife Interactions Journal*. Your vision, mentorship of students, and your leadership have greatly enhanced the capabilities of wildlife managers worldwide to resolve human–wildlife conflicts.

Apply for a 2018 Berryman Institute Scholarship

THE BERRYMAN INSTITUTE (BI) annually provides scholarships to undergraduate students nationwide who have demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in human–wildlife conflict management or wildlife damage management. Two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will again be awarded.

To apply for a 2018 scholarship, e-mail application materials to Terry Messmer (terry.messmer@usu.edu). Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2018 to May 1, 2018. The application e-mail must include: Name, Mailing Address, Telephone and Email, University Attending, and Major Advisor and their contact information. Materials to attach to the e-mail application include: 1) Current resume, including GPA and courses studied, and 2) A personal statement of your interests in Human–Wildlife Conflict Management or Wildlife Damage Management.

Scholarship awardees will be asked to provide a photo and a paragraph biography for the Berryman Institute website and publication in *Human–Wildlife Interactions*.

Students gain valuable experience interning with USDA Wildlife Services

Editor's Note: The training and recruitment of high quality career professionals are essential components of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Service Program (WS). The WS Program desires to recruit and develop undergraduate students to serve as future leaders and wildlife damage management specialists. Of particular interest is increasing the diversity of the WS potential work force. In 2017, WS entered into an agreement to support education opportunities for student(s) at Utah State University through mentoring and internship programs operated by the Jack H. Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management (BI). Under the agreement, they recruit student applicants to participate in 8- to 10-week paid internships provided at a WS field station or state office. Upon completing the internship, the student receives scholarship support to help fund their education. In 2017, 2 students were selected by a BI committee for this honor. Below is a letter we received from one of the interns about her experience.

Dear BI Director,

I am writing you to thank you for the internship opportunity and share a little about my experiences. I completed my internship at the WS Millville Predator Research Facility. All the staff at the Millville Predator Research Facility were very accommodating and willing to show me the ropes in the animal care of their captive coyotes. My duties on the facility included feeding coyotes, cleaning kennels, helping with coyote moves, black bear food preparation, and various other tasks having to do with animal care.

About midway through the internship, I was assigned to a work with a graduate student who was starting her first fieldwork season for her thesis. Her study was to test the coyotes to see if they can learn other mammals contrasting colors, in this case skunk patterns, after experiencing skunk spray. This was my first experience working on a research study such as this one. I helped by recording the coyote's interaction with skunk models, and then also placing the models in their pens.



Through this experience, some of what I have learned was about how an animal care facility works, how to interact with coyotes and interpret their behaviors, and a look into how a research project works. It has gotten the wheels turning in my mind on possible research projects in the future in finding ways to mitigate human and wildlife conflict by using a facility such as this one.

Once again, I would like to thank the Berryman Institute on this opportunity. Because of this internship, I do believe I will be trying to begin a career with USDA Wildlife Services after I graduate this coming spring.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Smith

Berryman Institute Professional and Program Recognitions: Nominations open through January 31, 2018

THE BERRYMAN INSTITUTE (BI) is a national organization based in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University. We are dedicated to improving human-wildlife relationships and resolving human-wildlife conflicts through teaching, research, and extension.

The BI seeks to recognize individuals or groups who have made notable contributions in the field of human-wildlife conflict management. Thus, the BI is pleased to announce its Professional and Program Recognition Program. Awards are given in the areas of research, education and outreach, and professionalism.

Awards include a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. Awardees will be asked to provide a photo and a paragraph summary for the Berryman Institute website and publication in *Human-Wildlife Interactions*.

Research Award

The research award is given annually to the author(s) of a research article published in the award year that has made a major contribution to the field of human-wildlife conflict management.

Education and Outreach Award

The Education and Outreach Award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding programs or communication in human-wildlife conflict management.

Professional Award

The Professional Award recognizes an individual for career achievement in human-wildlife conflict management who is employed by a federal, state, or private partner.

The nomination period is open through January 31, annually. Award recipients will be announced in February of each award year.

Nominations can be e-mailed to Terry Messmer, BI Director (terry.messmer@usu.edu). Nomination material should include the following information:

1. Name of nominee or program
2. A brief (500 words or less) description of nominee contribution to human-wildlife conflict or wildlife damage management (for research award, provide a copy of the article(s), and for professional award, provide the nominee CV)
3. Your name and contact information as the nominator.

Learn more about Berryman Institute award and scholarship opportunities at www.BerrymanInstitute.org.