

# DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

## FACULTY RESEARCH INTERESTS AND CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

**BECK, DAVID L.** Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2005)

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** Infectious diseases of humans.

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Currently finishing a project on tickborne diseases in Texas. We are developing a project on small colony variant *Staphylococcus aureus* which is commonly found in Cystic Fibrosis patients and other chronically infected patients.

**BROWN, CHRISTOPHER A.** Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Texas at Arlington, 1998)

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** Ecology, life history evolution, and behavior of terrestrial arthropods, primarily scorpions and spiders; understanding the effects of autotomy (limb loss) on ecology and behavior; arthropod food webs in riparian zones.

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Ecology of a riparian wolf spider community in southeastern Arizona; submersion tolerance in riparian wolf spiders; effects of leg loss on behavior and ecology in Arizona wolf spiders; life history evolution in the Sky Island species of *Vaejovis* scorpions from Arizona; behavioral ecology of the native Tennessee scorpion *Vaejovis carolinianus*.

**CARVER, BRIAN D.** Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Memphis, 2009)

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** Mammalian community dynamics, conservation of rare mammals, bat biology management.

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**. Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2014)**

**RESEARCH INTEREST:** Wildlife Ecology and management; animal physiology and behavior; predator-prey interactions; ecology and management of game animals.

**CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Delineation of white-tailed deer management units in Tennessee; reproductive ecology of eastern wild turkeys; direct and indirect effects of prescribed fire on wild turkeys; male wild turkey mating systems; effects of hunters, natural predators, and harvest management strategies on wild turkey gobbling activity, behavior, and population growth; the effect of baiting on harvest susceptibility of white-tailed deer; population estimation and range expansion of black-bellied whistling ducks; translocation ecology of eastern wild turkeys in Texas; movements, space use, and behavior of brooding eastern wild turkeys.

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COMBS, DANIEL L. Professor (Ph.D., University of Missouri, 1987)

RESEARCH INTEREST: Ecology and bi( b)5 (i4b)5 ( 7 (H))J 24.145 (c)9-e/m1 Do0 674.28 Tm2 0 61 Tr 2 Tm(N)6.1

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