



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

OK AFS Officers:

President

Ashley Nealis

ODWC Northcentral
Regional Supervisor

ashley.nealis@odwc.ok.gov

Past-President

Matt Mauck

Southcentral Region
Supervisor

matt.mauck@odwc.ok.gov

President-Elect

Josh Johnston

Northeast Region Supervisor

josh.johnston@odwc.ok.gov

Secretary-Treasurer

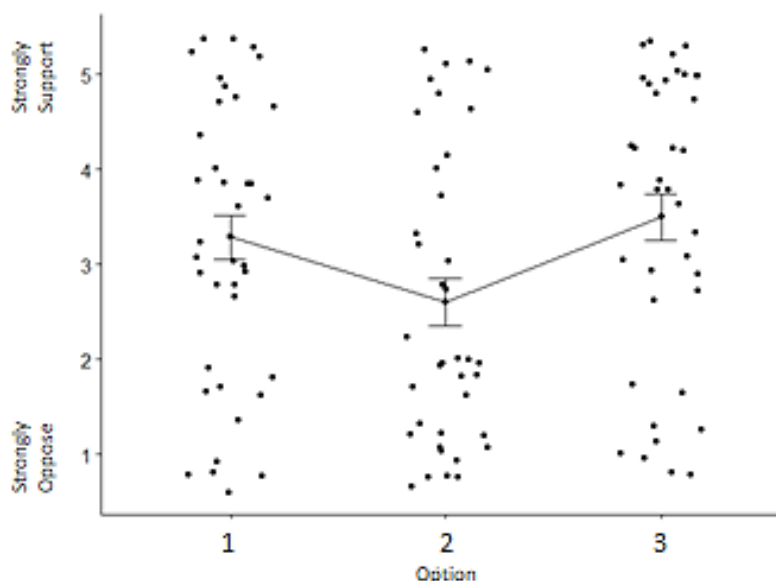
Jon West

Eastcentral Fisheries
Biologist

jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It truly seems like just yesterday I was preparing a presentation for our annual meeting and I'm realizing it is already upon us again. The year has flown by, as they tend to do. Our annual meeting is the top priority of what we do as a chapter, and over the last few years it has become apparent that some of you would like changes in the configuration of that meeting. My priority as president this year was to quantify the desires of the chapter so we can deliver what our members are seeking in their meeting experience. Your Executive Committee met in June and among the many agenda items was the development of a tool to assess meeting preferences. A survey was prepared with the assistance of a human dimensions specialist, and distributed to the membership in August. From that survey we have determined that many of you value the multi-societal configuration of the Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference (OKNRC), but also yearn for the intimacy of the smaller meetings of the past. There was less support for the idea of continuing to exclusively meet in the context of the OKNRC. I hope the presidents following me will take this information and mix things up a bit in the years to come!



- 1: Begin alternating between stand-alone meetings and meetings in conjunction with OKNRC.
(This option includes continued support of OKNRC in years where OKAFS plans a stand-alone meeting.)
- 2: Continue to hold OKAFS meetings at the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference each year.
- 3: Return to holding the OKAFS meeting as a stand-alone event each year.
(This option may include joint meetings with other state chapters.)



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

OK AFS Committee Chairs

Awards Committee

Eric Brennan

Northeast Region Fisheries
Technician

eric.brennan@odwc.ok.gov

Student Concerns

Trevor Starks

OWDC Fisheries Biologist

trevor.starks@odwc.ok.gov

Continuing Education

Dr. Dan Shoup

OSU Associate Professor of
Fisheries Ecology

daniel.shoup@okstate.edu

Environmental Concerns

Curtis Tackett

Aquatic Nuisance Species
Fisheries Biologist

curtis.tackett@odwc.ok.gov

Activities

Clayton Porter

Southwest Region Fisheries
Biologist

clayton.porter@odwc.ok.gov

Communications

Dr. Jim Long

OK Coop Fish and Wildlife
Research Unit Leader

longjim@okstate.edu

In 2020 we will be meeting in conjunction with the OKNRC. Members of your Executive Committee also sit on the planning committee for OKNRC and have been striving to make sure the meeting checks the boxes of our members' wants. There are some changes in 2020 that I think our membership will be happy with. The venue has changed and we will no longer be in a downtown setting. Parking will be a breeze and the logistics encourage on-site fellowship and networking. OKAFS is funding a hospitality suite and your Activities Committee Chair is hard at work on some fun new things.

It was also apparent from the survey comments that members place student involvement in high regard. I am glad to see this, because I do too! I would like to give a nod to Trevor Starks for planning a great student-mentor lunch at the 2019 meeting. The new format was well received and will be used again in 2020. I recently gave a presentation to our Student Subunit at OSU and encouraged all students to attend the meeting. We have heard from undergraduates that missing classes is a major reason for not attending the meeting. I challenged them to speak to their professors at the very beginning of the spring semester to facilitate attending the meeting without consequence. Registration and lodging reimbursement options for students without research funding is available through our Student Concerns Committee. I hope if we continue to remove barriers to attendance, we will see more students at the meetings. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting as well. Mark your calendars, if you haven't already, for February 10-12 in Norman.

Ashley



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

FINANCIAL UPDATE

This chapter continues to support its membership, especially the students. This year OKAFS donated or reimbursed \$4,035 to students in the form of scholarships/awards, meeting cost reimbursements, the student/mentor lunch and sub-unit support. Other projects supported in 2019 include the warm-water streams committee, Catfish 2020, ODWC Fisheries meeting and the Arkansas chapter of AFS. OKAFS current holdings are summarized in **Table 1**. Our total holdings are down from this time last year however, the registration profits from the 2019 OKNRC meeting have not yet been disbursed so I anticipate adding several thousand dollars to the Money Market balance. Thanks for your continued support and I hope to see you in Norman.

Jon

2019 OKAFS Accounts Summary*	
Money Market	\$ 21,832.95
Franklin Income A1	\$ 18,314.38
Franklin Total Return A	\$ 3,266.24
Mutual Fund Total	
Cash	\$ 154.00
Total Holdings	\$43,567.57

Table 1 *balance as of 9-27-2019

FREE Registration for Catfish 2020

STUDENTS! STUDENTS! STUDENTS!

OKAFS sponsored the Catfish 2020 meeting in Little Rock, Ark. Feb 18-20 2020 and we have received a free registration and would like to send a student. If you are interested, please email me a paragraph stating: Name, affiliated school, any current work you have regarding catfish, and why you would like to attend Catfish 2020. Submissions are due by NOV 22 2019.

Please Submit to:

Eric Brennan

NER Technician

(918) 640-3715



CONTINUING EDUCATION

The OK AFS Continuing Education Committee helped line up speakers for the 2019 OKNRC workshop on terrestrial and aquatic diseases in Oklahoma. As always, if you have ideas for continuing education topics, please let me or a committee member (Ashley Nealis, Jason Schooley, and Cliff Sager) know.

Additional questions regarding continuing education please contact:

Dr. Dan Shoup
405-744-9671
dshoup@okstate.edu

STUDENT CONCERNS

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (OKAFS) is reimbursing student OKAFS members who wish to attend the 2020 OKNRC meeting February 10-12 at the Norman Embassy Suites. This offer is extended to students who aren't supported by a grant that would otherwise pay the way for attendance at the meeting. Eligible students need to register by the early registration deadline of January 31, 2020 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-oklahoma-natural-resources-conference-registration-65134814985> to be eligible for reimbursement.

Hotel reimbursement is also available for students (while rooms last) with the expectation of double occupancy where practical. For reimbursement, please present proof of early registration and a hotel receipt (if applicable) to the secretary-treasurer Jon West at the registration booth during the meeting. Interested students must either be members of the OSU AFS subunit or members of the OKAFS state chapter. OKAFS dues (\$5.00 per year) can be paid to the secretary-treasurer at the meeting. I will be organizing the student mentor lunch for the upcoming OKNRC meeting.

Questions regarding reimbursement should be directed to the Student Concerns Chair:

Trevor Starks
918-683-1031
trevor.starks@odwc.ok.gov

For more information about OKNRC visit www.oknrc.com



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The committee is currently drafting a letter of support on behalf of the chapter for Restoring America's Wildlife Act also known as RAWA. The bill H.R. 3742 was introduced into the House on 7/12/2019 and will be an amendment to the Pittman-Robertson Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies. If passed at full funding, the act would dedicate \$1.3 billion to states for conservation efforts to prevent at-risk species from becoming endangered. It would also provide an additional \$97.5 million to tribal fish and wildlife managers.

The chapter is also financially assisting with an Advanced Fish Kill Training organized by members of the committee and the Oklahoma Kill Response Management Team (OKRMT). The training will be held on November 20-21 and will provide training to resource managers from various state and federal agencies as well as tribal staff on how to assess fish and mussel kills throughout the state.

If any chapter member has an environmental concern topic that they would like to see addressed through the committee we urge you to approach the committee chair with your ideas so we can work to assist you.

Thank you,
Curtis Tackett
Environmental Concerns Committee Chair

FUNDRAISING

Everyone is encouraged to collect items for the annual OKAFS Fundraising Auction which will be held during the upcoming Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference (ONRC). Any and all items are appreciated including (but not limited to) guided trips, hunting and fishing gear, outdoor artwork, and hand-made items. Proceeds go towards supporting Student Subunit endeavors, student scholarships, and other worthy causes. Items should be brought to the ONRC and delivered to Barry Bolton or another member of the OKAFS Fundraising Committee. Contact Barry Bolton with any questions (barry.bolton@odwc.ok.gov).



Activities Committee Announcement

The activities committee has nothing new to report. We are always interested in suggestions for activities that AFS members could participate in throughout the year and during our annual meetings. I will also encourage every member to solicit donations for our activities and fundraising events at our meetings.

Clayton Porter
Activities Chair

OKAFS Communications Committee

Committee purpose: To improve communication within the chapter membership, with the Southern Division and AFS and the public.

The committee has discussed 6 broad topics (listserv, newsletter, website, social media, updates to AFS and Southern Division, and 150th Anniversary) related to communication among members of the chapter and to the public. Below are summaries of the discussion related to each topic. Action items are bolded.

Listserv (Oklahoma@emaildodo.com):

- Some OKAFS members are not receiving news via the listserv, which is an important tool for transferring information.
- **OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer (currently Jon West) will be responsible for updating email dodo list using current OK chapter members (including sub-unit members) twice annually at a minimum (March/October) and otherwise as necessary.**
- **OSU Sub-unit will submit a spreadsheet of paid sub-unit members to OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer (currently Jon West) at a minimum twice annually (March 1/October 1) and otherwise as necessary. OSU Sub-unit president (currently Graham Montague) will coordinate with the sub-unit secretary/treasurer to make this a priority.**
 - Information collected for sub-unit spreadsheet should include Name, current email and expected graduation date to help facilitate removal of graduates/non-members from the list
- A discussion followed regarding keeping a list of lapsed members to let them know their membership expired, but no decision was reached.

Newsletter:



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

- The OKAFS newsletter, *The Lateral Line*, not only helps inform members of chapter activities, but it also serves as a record of events for the year.
- The newsletter is produced by the OSU Sub-unit, and the committee decided that one newsletter annually, in late fall, is adequate for its purpose.
- The format for the newsletter needs tweaking, though, to provide more information on the front (or cover) page, such as links to OKAFS media, mission statement, officers and contact info etc. Several items were discussed about format, including the potential for using R markdown to automate production of the newsletter.
 - R markdown is a stable & professional format such that a student editor only needs to input information for each section
 - Jacob Martin could potentially use this since he is a known R user
 - Nate Copeland sent the committee an email with a tutorial of R markdown
 - **OSU Sub-unit will need to be engaged regarding production of the newsletter and whether R markdown would be beneficial**
- Potential changes to the content of the newsletter were suggested
 - Chapter bylaws were consulted and there was no mention of the newsletter so the committee feels liberty to make change recommendations
 - Suggested format/sections
 - Contact info, officers list, and social media links on front page
 - President's message to summarize presidents goals and if/how they were met, overall meeting summary
 - Awards announcements/chapter highlights (awarded through OKAFS or through other entities that recognized a person as outstanding)
 - List of relevant fisheries publications to Oklahoma (noting that this is subjective)
 - Annual chapter financial update
 - Committee reports (discussion on how in-depth this should be)
 - Details on upcoming meeting
 - Student Sub-unit report
- **Jon West provided an update the OKAFS EXCOM at the June 12th meeting**

Website (<https://units.fisheries.org/okafs/>):

- Nate Copeland is the current webmaster and has full creative control and access to update
- **Jon West solicited photos from the 2019 meeting awards banquet from the membership to add to the website**
- **The Website requires consistent updates to maintain accurate information**
 - **At least 3 times a year (March, September and December) to update known annual changes (officers, upcoming meetings, newsletters)**
 - **Updates can be emailed to Nate Copeland (copeland@gaiagps.com) and usually occur within a day or two**
- We discussed adding more job board links to the site, but no specific action was identified



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

- We discussed adding a twitter crawl onto a few pages on the website, and Nate will look into that possibility

Social Media:

- Nate Copeland and Jason Schooley have set up an account on Twitter for OK AFS (@OK_AFS) and will continue to be administrators
 - Anyone who wants to “post” something on the account can send it to the administrators or send a tweet from their own account and include @OK_AFS in the message
- We discussed the potential for a Facebook, but felt it would be unnecessary
- Linking our twitter account to Facebook or other social media platforms is possible through a 3rd party, but it will not be free.
- The @OK_AFS twitter account had 47 followers as of today’s meeting
- Producing an annual summary of tweets from the twitter account would be a good item to include in the OKAFS newsletter

Updates to AFS and Southern Division:

- SDAFS sends out requests for content for their newsletter
 - **Jim has been the only committee member receiving these calls so he will contact SDAFS newsletter editors and ask how others can be added to that list serve**
- Fisheries magazine has designated areas for chapter news and highlights and these outlets should be considered when the chapter has news and updates to share
- **The OKAFS Communications Committee will coordinate with OKAFS EXCOM to discuss these updates to the SDAFS & AFS**

150th Anniversary Celebration Exhibit:

- AFS is celebrating 150 years in 2020 and is hosting a competition for chapters to exhibit their history, achievement, and impacts. Exhibits are showcased at the division meetings (SDAFS in Little Rock, AR Feb 20-23, 2020) and winners there are invited to attend the AFS Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH. Exhibit guidance document allows for a potentially elaborate display beyond a simple poster display, which OKAFS currently has exhibited in the past.
- OKAFS could participate in this event but would need additional, significant help from other professionals in the area of public displays
 - **The committee recommended that an official request from our EXCOM go to ODWC’s Information and Education Division**
 - **Jon West relayed this to the OKAFS EXCOM at the upcoming June meeting**
 - **Time and logistical constraints resulted in the Chapter not being able to participate**



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AFS
was chartered on September 8, 1968.

The mission of the chapter is:

- To promote conservation, development, and wise use of the aquatic and fishery resources of Oklahoma.
- To promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all aspects of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma.
- To gather and disseminate scientific, technical and other information about fisheries science and management to Chapter members and the general public through publications, meetings and other forms of communications.
- To encourage competent teaching of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma colleges and universities and promote the continuing education of Oklahoma fisheries workers.

OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____(Last) _____(First)

AFFILIATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____(Dept., Bldg., Office, Street, PO Box,
etc.) _____(City) _____(State) _____(Zip)

DAY PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: 1 Year (\$5)_____ 2 Years (\$10)_____ 3 Years (\$15)_____ Life
(\$50)_____

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Professional_____ Student_____

COMMITTEES (please choose at least one): Activities_____ Awards_____ Continuing
Ed._____ Environmental Concerns_____ Fundraising_____ Program_____

Detach, make check payable to OKAFS, and send to: Jon West, OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer,
ODWC Porter Office, 9097 N. 34th St. W., Porter, OK 74454-2743. Phone: 918-351-5143.
Email: jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov

SAVE THE DATE



2020 Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference

When: February 10-12, 2020

Where: Norman Embassy Suites

Please join us at the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference February 10-12, 2020 at the Norman Embassy Suites. The OKNRC is hosted by the Oklahoma Chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society, Society for Range Management, Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, Oklahoma Ornithological Society, Prescribed Fire Council, Oklahoma Division Society of American Foresters, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The conference will have presentation topics on range, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and environmental sciences.

Our conference goal is to bring together a wide range of natural resource professionals and students to educate each other and foster partnerships.

This conference increases interaction among the different professional natural resource entities in Oklahoma. The OKNRC also increases awareness of what the different natural resource societies, agencies and NGOs are doing across the state, as well as foster future partnerships. An additional benefit of this conference is to bring natural resource professionals from across Oklahoma to one location to share their experience, knowledge, and research, and to allow the opportunity to network with familiar peers and new ones.

SAVE THE DATE



LITTLE ROCK • 2020

The 2020 Southern Division of American Fisheries Society Meeting in Little Rock

When: February 20-23, 2020

Where: Little Rock Marriott-Downtown

The Arkansas Chapter is pleased to announce the 2020 Southern Division-American Fisheries Society meeting will be held February 20-23, 2020 at the Little Rock Marriott-Downtown.

Join over 500 fisheries professionals from the southeastern US and the Caribbean for four days of workshops, presentations, networking events, and fun. We are also pleased to announce the Third International Catfish Symposium (Catfish 2020), February 18-20, will overlap our annual meeting for two days at the same venue. We will be offering a reduced registration to anyone interested in attending both meetings.

To register please visit: <https://sd.fisheries.org/little-rock-2020/>

SAVE THE DATE



Catfish 2020-The Third International Catfish Symposium

When: February 18-20, 2020

Where: Little Rock Marriott, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mark your calendars! Catfish 2020 will be February 18-20, 2020 at the Little Rock Marriott in downtown. We will have a welcome social the evening of the 18th and then have presentations the 19th and 20th. Because we will be meeting right before the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society's (SD-AFS) annual meeting (February 20-23 at the same venue), February 20 will be an overlap day for the two conferences. Click [here](#) to see a video the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission's communications staff created for the joint meeting. Call for abstracts is below; be sure to check back periodically for updates, including information on lodging and registration.

Catfish 2020 will provide a forum for the exchange of information about the biology, ecology, management and conservation of worldwide populations of both game and non-game catfish species. Previous publications from the first and second symposia continue to sell and have been solid reference sources for managers and researchers alike. The theme for the third symposium is "Communicating Catfish Science" and will bring together the last decade's work on the conservation, ecology and management of worldwide catfish populations and their habitats. We encourage you to submit your research findings on any topic pertinent to management of catfishes, and are actively seeking presentations pertaining to conservation and management challenges. Individuals interested in developing topical review papers are encouraged to contact the Program Committee Co-Chairs to assist with topic coordination.

Registration is now open for Catfish 2020 and the SD-AFS annual meeting.

Please join us in Little Rock, Arkansas, for Catfish 2020: the 3rd International Symposium. We are offering a reduced registration to anyone interested in attending both Catfish 2020 and the 2020 South Division of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. Early registration ends December 1, 2019.



ODWC Internship Opportunities

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has established an Internship Program to help students that are majoring in wildlife related fields to gain work experience. The Department has a limited number of internship positions available. Positions are seasonal and vary by location and duration.

Internships are primarily in the spring and summer, with occasional fall positions. Locations are state-wide. Work schedules will be determined by the supervisor. Positions will be limited to 2 terms not to exceed 975 hours per term. (a term is a 12month period starting with the hire date). A 3rd term may be worked only if the Intern is continuing their education. Verification must be submitted, if rehired for a 3rd term. Lodging is not provided.

Intern applicants must be actively pursuing a degree, or have obtained a degree, in the following college majors:

- Wildlife Conservation Science
- Wildlife Ecology Education
- Biology
- Zoology
- Other related wildlife degrees

Graduate degree candidates, seniors, juniors, and sophomores with majors in wildlife conservation and those with previous related work experience in fisheries or wildlife will receive preference. To find the application or more information about other job requirements go to the ODWC's website at <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/odwc-careers>. Also, the ODWC has created a promotional video about the Internship Program that can be found on their website.



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

AFS Student Subunit Officers:

President:

Graham Montague

graham.montague@okstate.edu

Vice President:

Cale Corley

cale.corley@okstate.edu

Secretary/ Treasurer:

Tegan Crum

tcrum@okstate.edu

Student Council

Representative

Logan Dickinson

logan.a.dickinson@okstate.edu

Student Council

Representative

Dillon Bowers

dillon.bowers@okstate.edu

Social Media

Will Hurney

will.hurney@okstate.edu

STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

The Oklahoma State University American Fisheries Society Student Subunit had a very productive fall semester. Our goals were to improve the conservation of fishery and aquatic ecosystems in Oklahoma and promote the development of fisheries professionals at OSU by providing our members with fisheries related opportunities.

We had many activities to improve the conservation of fishery and aquatic ecosystems in Oklahoma. We assisted the Applied Ecology Lab by demonstrating proper sampling technique for backpack electrofishing and seining. We helped the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Blue Thumb program with their annual fish sampling in Stillwater Creek. Finally, we collaborated with the OSU Forestry Club and Friends of Lake McMurry to cut and sink Eastern Red Cedars at Lake McMurry to improve terrestrial habitat and create fish attractors.

We hosted many guest speakers this fall. OSU graduate students Desiree Moore, Skylar Wolf, and Ryan Gary spoke about their ongoing fisheries research in Oklahoma. MaryKate Higginbotham, OSU AFS subunit past President, spoke about fisheries career opportunities. Ashley Nealis, ODWC North-Central Regional Supervisor and President of the Oklahoma AFS State Chapter, spoke to us about her journey to becoming a fisheries supervisor and opportunities to get involved with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

We volunteered at many educational outreach events to educate the public on fisheries. We helped at the ODWC Cops and Bobbers youth fishing program. We helped young anglers at the Friends of Sanborn Nature Camp at Sanborn Lake catch fish and educated them on native fishes in Oklahoma. We helped the ODWC Stream Team at the ODWC Wildlife Expo with the stream erosion exhibit and educated the public on the impacts of anthropogenic modifications to streams. We also set up an aquarium in the NREM computer lab that can be used to educate NREM students on fish for years to come.

To promote our club through the College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (CASNR), we had a booth at CASNR Round up, helped with the Career Fair set up, and created a homecoming window painting and lawn sign.



THE LATERAL LINE

Volume 39(1)

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

November 2019

To wrap up a productive fall semester, our final fall meeting is being held at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Tulsa where we have a behind-the-scenes tour of the aquarium.

We look forward to the spring semester that will be highlighted with a fisheries techniques demo held at OSU. We hope to continue to improve the conservation of fishery and aquatic ecosystems, promote the development of fisheries professionals at OSU and have a great time while doing so!

Thank you,

Graham Montague



Pictured (Left to right): President:
Graham Montague, Vice President:
Cale Corley, Treasurer/Secretary:
Tegan Crum, Student Rep: Logan
Dickinson, Student Rep: Dillon
Bowers, Social Media: Will Hurney.
Advisor: Dr. Dan Shoup, Advisor: Dr.
Jim Long

Student Activities Pictures:







*For more pictures and updates on the OSU AFS subunit please follow our Instagram:

@oklahomastateafs