



## 2017 Department of Biology Awards

JOSEPH E. GREAVES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

*Geoffrey Smith, Doctoral Candidate*

Geoffrey Smith was born in Arkansas in 1985. He completed his Bachelor of Science at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, where he also earned his Master's degree. His thesis addressed habitat requirements of American alligators on the edge of their range. After working in the private sector for a year, Smith began a PhD program at Utah State University in 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Susannah French.

During his five years at Utah State University, Smith has published peer-reviewed articles and a book chapter, and has presented his research at national conferences. He has mentored more than 10 undergraduate researchers, publishing papers with them and helping to guide them to jobs or advanced training of their own.

As an instructor, Smith has taught the introductory biology and physiology labs, the herpetology lab, and led the lab for comparative animal physiology. He also began a collaboration with the English Department to create the Science Writing Center, a resource open five days a week for science students to get help in their writing. He also gives multiple guest lectures each semester.

Geoffrey Smith has been involved in numerous service activities at Utah State University. He has served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President of the Biology Graduate Student Association. He was also part of the Ecology Center Seminar Committee and the Biology Curriculum Committee. He currently serves as Representative for all graduate students in the College of Science, and sits on the Graduate Student Council. Along with these activities, he is also a Science Reporter for Utah Public Radio.

His short-term goal is to complete his PhD program with his health and sanity intact. His long-term goal is to continue his research program while still teaching and mentoring undergraduate students, and to expand his radio work to a podcast or other form of outreach. His hobbies include spending as much time outside as possible, playing with his daughter, and taking naps.

*Picture: Geoff Smith in the field in eastern Oregon with a long-nosed leopard lizard (Gambelia wislizenii) Photo by Marilize Van der Walt*