

This wildlife ecologist helps students decide their career paths

William Kuvlesky (M.S. Wildlife Ecology 1982) is in an ideal position to help students reach their academic and career goals. As Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Human Sciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, he has many opportunities to work with students. “I enjoy making a difference in young people’s lives,” he says. “Being an Assistant Dean allows me to bring young people into academic programs that will help them fulfill their career interests and develop as productive members of society.”

As Assistant Dean, Prof. Kuvlesky is responsible for recruiting activities, student advising, and coordinating graduate programs at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. In addition, as a Research Scientist at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, he conducts research on wild turkeys, raptors, quail and grassland birds.

Although Prof. Kuvlesky has many demands on his time, his ability to manage his various duties has roots that go back to his graduate school days at the UW-Madison when he was conducting his Master’s research on snowshoe hare under the tutelage of Prof. Lloyd Keith (now retired). Prof. Kuvlesky describes Prof. Keith as a “stern task-master” who expected you to work hard, work independently, and produce a high quality research product. “He certainly tested our persistence and dedication to our work, but if we persevered and did our work, he was in our



Prof. William Kuvlesky holds a white-tailed hawk fledgling awaiting banding on the King Ranch in south Texas.

corner when we defended our research.”

To students still currently attending the UW-Madison, he advises, “Do the best you can academically, get involved as a professional (e.g., The Wildlife Society), get as much practical experience as you can, and enjoy your time at the UW and living in Madison. Work hard, but don’t forget to enjoy life as well as the friends you make. You will make friends that will last a lifetime.”

In addition, Prof. Kuvlesky recommends students attend as many professional meetings as they can, including presenting papers or posters and building a professional network. “These things will help immeasurably towards having the wildlife career that you want.”