

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

06 November 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

<http://www.consbio.umn.edu/newsletter/>

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Wow! Take a look at this week's events below—there are so many seminars, announcements, job and funding opportunities in this week's newsletter. Thanks for sending in your newsletter worthy items to me.

Don't forget to get out and vote tomorrow. Voters can register at the polls in Minnesota and there's plenty of helpful information on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp>.

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology

Date: 07 November 2006

Just a reminder that CB ethics training is today from 4:05-5:30 in 140 B Growth Facility (New Greenhouse). Ethics training is required for all grad students before graduating. This is part 2 of the 2 part training for this year. Everyone should attend who has not yet completed their training. It will not be offered again until next academic year.

Sue Galatowitsch

Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar Series

Presenter: Clarence L. Lehman

Date: Monday, November 6, 2006

Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Location: Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Title: Ecology, Economics, and Greenhouse Gases

Notes: The world may not be running out of fossil fuels any time soon, especially coal, but a full-scale transformation to renewable fuels is nonetheless imperative in our future. Mass burning of fossil fuels has overpowered the planet's ancient natural forces for carbon sequestration, concentrating greenhouse gases in the atmosphere beyond levels yet experienced by us or our human ancestors. Notable future economic difficulties can accrue, including migration of the world's agricultural regions and

flooding of coastal cities. In this presentation I will highlight several projects I am pursuing in collaboration with others that are aimed at understanding the greenhouse situation and ultimately helping to ameliorate it. For example, what is the economic-ecological capacity for native biofuels to offset fossil fuel increases in the U.S., and how might this interact with future climate change? The presentation will include nearly finished work as well as projects in the development stage--areas where I can benefit from discussion and critical examination.

H.W.S. Cleveland Lecture

Date: Monday, November 6, 2006

Time: 5:45 PM, 100 Rapson Hall

Presenter: Professor David Pijawka

Title: The Missing Dimension: The Social Component of Sustainability

Notes: Dr. David Pijawka received his Ph.D. from Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, in Geography specializing in Environmental Resources Management, Hazards and Risk Assessment and Societal Perception and Behavior. He is a member of the Arizona State University faculty and has had leadership positions in various capacities including Professor of Planning in the College of Design, Director of the college-wide Ph.D. program in Environmental Design and Planning, Director of the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy, and Assistant Director, Center for Environmental Studies. He is a partner in a highly-specialized research firm, Encanto Global Consulting that conducts studies on environmental perceptions and behavior, visualization modeling, and sustainability practices.

David's principal areas of research include sustainable design measures, socioeconomic impacts of hazardous technologies, environmental justice, and disaster preparedness and response assessments. His principal areas of teaching interest include Sustainable Cities, Environmental Planning, Disaster Management, Interdisciplinary Research Methods, and Urban Planning. He is recognized in developing interdisciplinary education programs for sustainability.

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 08 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Tony Dean

Topic: "The Selective Calls of an Ancient Adaptation"

Snacks: Good coffee and store bought cookies served outside 100 Ecology at 3:30

The Missing Dimension: The Social Component of Sustainability

Date: Monday, November 6, 2006

Time: 5:45 PM

Location: 100 Rapson Hall

Presenter: Dr. David Pijawka, Arizona State University, Tempe School of Planning and Global Institute of Sustainability

The Globalization of Higher Education

The Freeman Center for International Economic Policy, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, presents a Workshop on Global Policy

Presenter: Professor Evan Schofer, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota <http://www.soc.umn.edu/faculty/schofer.html>

Time: 12:45 - 2:00 pm

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Place: 170 HHCtr-Stassen Room U of M - West Bank Campus

Notes: Professor Schofer's talk will examine the origins, expansion, and global diffusion of modern educational systems as well as the consequences of educational expansion for economic growth, economic inequality, and political participation. His work on the global expansion of higher education highlights the central role of transnational organizations and institutions such as the World Bank and UNESCO, which shape educational policies and discourses on a global scale. Educational expansion is not just the result of increasing labor force demands, but rather reflects new ideologies and policy models that emerged in the post-War period, became institutionalized within international organizations, and propagated around the world.

All are welcome! Beverages will be served.

Announcements

Annual Sloppy Joe Lunch - Nov 7

Come one, come all! To the annual Applied Plant Sciences Graduate Club Sloppy Joe Lunch and Turkey Raffle

On Tuesday November 7th (yes, election day) come and enjoy sloppy joes (veggie option available) prepared by your very own graduate students. Purchase raffle tickets from APS students to be eligible to win one of two turkeys (12 lbs each from Hampden Park Co-op), and other prizes related to Minnesota agriculture, such as gardening calendars, granola bars, and a dogwood shrub. The action will start at 11:30 am in Borlaug 306, Tuesday Nov. 7th.

Tickets for lunch at the door, \$3 or \$2 if you bring a dessert to share.

Raffle tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5, available now from APS graduate students, or at the door. The raffle will be at ~12:15pm, need not be present to win.

Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, or would like to make a donation to the raffle, contact Carol Powers at power134@umn.edu

SUCCESSFUL JOB HUNTING BEGINS ON DAY ONE

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Moos Tower 1-45. Map: <http://www.onestop.umn.edu/Maps/MoosT/MoosT-map.html>

Presenter: Dr. Esam El-Fakahany, Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Founding Director of the U of MN Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Notes: The workshop emphasizes the need to embark on preparing for future job-hunting once you start your graduate program or postdoctoral training. The following will be discussed: types of jobs, your ideal job, and developing skills required for your chosen career path.

Click to register: <http://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=121>

Funding opportunities

The Udall Foundation

Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Environmental Public Policy & Conflict Resolution Dissertation Fellowship for qualified Ph.D. students. The Udall Foundation awards two one-year fellowships of up to \$24,000 to doctoral candidates whose research concerns U.S. environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who are entering their final year of writing the dissertation. Dissertation Fellowships are intended to cover both academic and living expenses from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Please see the brochure for program details. Applications are available at www.udall.gov

While scholarly excellence is of prime importance in selection of fellows, the Foundation is also seeking to identify individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who have the potential to make a significant impact in the real world.

The Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences (<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>)

There are 3 funding opportunities for faculty; graduate and professional students; and departments, programs, or centers. This funding initiative aims to encourage work on the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences.

The Requests for Proposals (RFPs) may be found at:

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/> :

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) from GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS to Provide Support for Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/19/07);
2. Request for Proposals (RFP) to Support DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM, or CENTER Colloquia in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07); and
3. Request for Proposals (RFP) from FACULTY to Fund Interdisciplinary Research, Projects, or Curricular Innovation on Health, Environment, or the Life Sciences in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07).

The Consortium currently links 18 University programs and centers to examine the legal, ethical, and policy questions raised by the life sciences.

If you have questions concerning these RFPs, please contact Audrey Boyle at boyle032@umn.edu or 612.626.5624.

Audrey Boyle, Project Manager
Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences University of Minnesota Law School
(612) 626-5624
(612) 624-9143 fax
Boyle032@umn.edu
<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>

Volunteer opportunities

Lake seining in Lake Susan

Monday Nov 13 my lab will be seining a small lake (Lake Susan) located about 10 mile west of the TC for carp and other fish. We have hired a commercial seiner and he will pull about 3000 ft of net through the lake so that we can get a decent sample. All fish are

counted and release, the carp are weighed and measured. It take about 12 people 4 hours+ to do this. It's a fascinating experience to see first hand exactly what fish are found in a lake!

We welcome/need help. We will provide plenty of warm drink and food. Please let us (email Prezmeck Bajer [bajer003@umn.edu] and cc me) know if you might help. We need a few more people from about 10AM - 4PM.

Thanks very much!

Peter W. Sorensen
Professor, Dept. Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology* University of Minnesota
1980 Folwell Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108

* Graduate Appointments in Ecology, Evolution & Behavior, Neuroscience, Conservation Biology

612-624-4997 (office)
612-625-5299 (FAX)
pSorensen@umn.edu
www.cnr.umn.edu/fwcb/sorensen/

Want to get involved in an activity on campus?

Would you like to discuss issues with faculty and administrators? The University Senate is looking for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to serve on a variety of campus committees dealing with issues such as educational policy, honors and awards, classrooms, research, and student affairs.

The University Senate is the internal governance body for the University. It has over 15 committees and subcommittees that need student members. Most committees meet one to two times per month for approximately 1.5 hours. The University Senate is accepting applications for committees, with a deadline of 12 noon on Friday, November 10, 2006.

If you are interested in having a voice on campus, complete the on-line application at: <http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/conc/stuapplication2.html>. For any questions, please contact Becky Hippert at conc@umn.edu

Job opportunities

Tenure Track Fisheries Biologist

The Biology Department at Central Michigan University seeks exemplary candidates for a tenure track Fisheries Biologist position. We are looking for someone whose research addresses applied and overarching questions relating to fisheries in the Great Lakes. Candidates must be able to establish and maintain a research program utilizing the resources available at the Beaver Island Biological Station as well as those on the main campus. We expect this person to collaborate with current faculty and to potentially form an interdisciplinary research team.

The new Fisheries Biologist will be joining a vibrant and diverse department. In the last 5 years we have recruited 12 new Biology faculty and recently opened four new tenure track positions for the Fall of 2007. Candidates wishing to join our growing Biology

Department should be strongly committed to maintaining both high quality teaching and an active research program (undergraduates and MS). In the application, candidates should detail areas of research strength and future research plans. A record of peer-reviewed publications and evidence of grantsmanship is highly regarded.

A research laboratory and competitive start-up funds will be provided to incoming faculty. CMU has outstanding opportunities for internal funding (some recent internal awards have been in excess of \$120,000; <http://www.orsp.cmich.edu/orspinternal.htm>) to jump-start a research program and provide seed for external proposals. The Department of Biology supports teaching and research activities with excellent multi-user resources including the CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island (<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/centers/cmubs/>), a greenhouse, an herbarium, 3 ABI PRISM 310 Genetic Analyzers, an ABI 7500 real-time PCR instrument, an automated Biolog microbial identification system (Omnilog ID), and a microscopy facility with confocal, transmission electron and scanning electron microscopes (<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/centers/microscopy/>). Additional information regarding facilities, the department and position can be found on the Department of Biology's web site (<http://www.cst.cmich.edu/units/bio/index.htm>).

Please forward this information to outstanding pre- or post-docs. Please feel free to contact me directly for clarification or additional information.

Thank you,

Bradley J. Swanson
Search Committee Chair
Associate Professor of Biology
Director of ATCG Laboratory
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
989.774.3377
brad.swanson@cmich.edu

MCEA has an opening for an Advocacy Director

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, the state's leading legal and scientific voice protecting and defending Minnesota's environment, seeks an Advocacy Director to direct and manage all of MCEA's advocacy work, including program planning, strategic direction, management and implementation of advocacy work, and advocacy leadership. The Advocacy Director works with the Executive Director in staff supervision, fundraising, financial management, and communications. The Advocacy Director may also assume direct program/policy responsibilities. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and competitive within the non-profit sector. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, contact information for three references and salary requirements via email to mcea@mncenter.org. Application deadline is Nov. 30, 2006.

Allison Wolf, Legislative Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
651-223-5969

Part-Time Teaching Position, Spring 2007, Macalester College

The Biology Department at Macalester College is seeking an individual to teach its Evolution course for Spring 2007 (January 22 – May 7). This is primarily an introductory course to evolution, although most students will have had been introduced to various aspects of evolution in their ecology and molecular biology classes, both of which are prerequisites for the Evolution class. The instructor has considerable autonomy over the class's curriculum, which can range from molecular phylogeny to behavioral ecology. It is anticipated that lectures will be a prominent part of the course and that a textbook will be used, however it is recommended that the instructor also incorporate readings from the literature and class discussions as well. Class sizes in the past have ranged from 7-15 students. The Department plans to fill this position as soon as it can. Interested persons should contact Mark Davis (davis@macalester.edu), Acting-Chair, at the earliest convenience.

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Agricultural Policy Specialist, Aleppo, Syria

Deadline: 15 November 2006

ICARDA has an immediate vacancy for the position of an Agricultural Policy Specialist (P-level) under its MegaProject on Poverty-Livelihoods Analysis and Impact Assessment. The post holder will be based at ICARDA's headquarters in Aleppo, Syria. He/she will be involved in planning and implementing research programs, and assessing agricultural and natural resources policies in dry areas. The specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Initiating, implementing, and coordinating research programs to analyze agricultural and natural resources policies related to ICARDA's research programs and the regional and global policy environments
- Analyzing the uptake of improved technologies and practices, including the effectiveness of existing and alternative agricultural and natural resources policies in enhancing rural livelihoods, improving food security, and optimizing and sustaining natural resources use. This will involve welfare analyses and rigorous quantitative modeling.
- Identifying, testing, and validating policy and institutional options for improved water use efficiency and irrigation water demand management.
- Analyzing the role of land tenure and property rights and agricultural policies in land degradation and developing improved policy options for sustainable management of land resources.
- Assessing the competitiveness of agriculture in the dry areas and its implications for trade.
- Identifying, testing, and validating improved policy and institutional options for developing enabling environment to enhance public and private investments in dry areas to improve rural livelihoods.
- Enhancing collaborative linkages with various partners, including the advanced research institutions, other CG centers, national programs, etc.
- Contributing to capacity building programs in policy research for collaborating NARS.
- Effectively communicating research outputs to the stakeholders, including policymakers.
- Contributing to fundraising for research projects.
- Producing high quality scientific research publications.

For more information visit: <http://www.cgiar.org>

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program is hosted at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya. For more information, visit <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org>

If you would like more information about the opportunity in question, please inquire directly to **Personnel Services** at ICARDA-JOBS@CGIAR.ORG

Contact:

Personnel Services

ICARDA, P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria

Telephone: (963-21) 2213477, 2225112, or 2225012

Fax: (963-21) 2213490, 2225105, or 5744622

E-mail: ICARDA-JOBS@CGIAR.ORG

Website: <http://www.icarda.org/index.htm>

Assistantships

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in conjunction with the Illinois Natural History Survey. M.S. or Ph.D. beginning June-August 2007.

Research topics are varied and flexible, but individuals with interests related to three projects (1) recruitment, behavior, reproductive strategies and management of largemouth bass, (2) population ecology of muskellunge and (3) stream and river ecology and restoration are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary: Graduate research assistantships will be \$17,000/yr and include waiver of tuition.

Application Date: January 1, 2007.

Contact: Send a cover letter, resume, copies of transcripts, GRE scores, and three letters of reference to: Dr. David H. Wahl, University of Illinois, 1816 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 728 4400, d-wahl@uiuc.edu.

Conferences

New Strategies for Urban Natural Resources: Integrating Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry and Planning

Submit your paper today for the conference, taking place May 15-16, 2007 at the Lindner Conference Center in Lombard, IL.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to address the challenges and opportunities related to management of natural resources in urban landscapes and to extend and integrate your knowledge of urban ecology with the esteemed [Estella B. Leopold](#) » [For Submission Guidelines & Template](#)

Submissions Deadline: November 17, 2006

Acceptance Notification: December 8, 2006

» [Get more information on New Strategies for Urban Natural Resources: Integrating Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry and Planning](#)

We're here to help

Confused by all the paperwork you need to get done to get your degree?

Can't remember who needs to sign that degree program form and when it has to be turned in? Planning your defense and want to know what you have to turn in before the big day?

Come to the Forms and Formalities workshop presented by COGS and the Graduate School Student Services Office. Learn what forms you need to submit, when you need to submit them and where you can find them.

Masters students November 9th at 2:30 in 102 Fraser Hall

PhD students November 14th at 2:30 in 102 Fraser Hall

Please RSVP to cogs@umn.edu so we can know how many people to expect.

Will Cremer

COGS Administrator

Council of Graduate Students (COGS) (612) 626-1612 cogs@tc.umn.edu 405 Johnston Hall 101 Pleasant Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455 Webpage: <http://www.cogs.umn.edu/>

News you can use

Evidence of Political Interference (from Union of Concerned Scientists)

Systematic interference with science at interior department exposed mails and edited documents show evidence of manipulation.

Recently obtained documents demonstrate that Deputy Assistant Secretary Julie MacDonald and other high-ranking political appointees within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the Department of the Interior have systematically distorted, manipulated, and misused the scientific process prescribed by the Endangered Species Act. In several notable cases, this interference resulted in changing a "positive" finding--in favor of protecting species under the Endangered Species Act--to a "negative" finding. In making these changes, MacDonald, whose training is in engineering, overrode the recommendations of the agency's own biologists.

These examples of the manipulation and distortion of scientific information at the Interior Department are the tip of the iceberg. A Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) survey of scientists at the FWS, released in February 2005, demonstrated pervasive political interference in science at the agency. Unfortunately, the significant editing of scientific documents described below shows that the misuse of science at the FWS has continued.

Read on at http://www.ucsusa.org/scientific_integrity/interference/endangered-species-act-interference.html?log-event=sp2f-view-item&nid=30961710

Date Saver

Second annual Cochrane Lecture

The Minnesota Lectures on Applied Economics and Policy presents the Willard W. Cochrane Lecture in Public Policy

Date: Wednesday, November 15th at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics on the St. Paul Campus.

Presenter: Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC.

Topic: "Globalization of the Agri-Food System."

Notes: Since 2004, Dr. von Braun has been Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute based in Washington, D.C. Before joining IFPRI he was Director of the Center for Development Research and Head of the Center's Department of Economics and Technological Change at University of Bonn, Germany. He received his doctoral (1978) and professional title (1983) in agricultural economics from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He held the Chair for Food Economics, Food Policy and World Food Issues at the University of Kiel, Germany. His association with IFPRI includes seven years as a research fellow and three years as director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division. He has worked in developing countries for many years and is known for his work on food security and mitigating and preventing famines. His research addresses international development economics topics: policy issues of trade, aid, health, agriculture, and nutrition.

There is no charge for this event. If you are interested in attending, please go to our department website at <http://www.apec.umn.edu/cochranelecture06.html> and follow the online registration instructions.

Economic Opportunities of Climate Change



[Join the Forum](#)

[Register for the event](#)

Is there a positive side to climate change? We think so. Join us for an engaging discussion about carbon credits, energy efficiency, environmental policy, ethanol, wind energy and other economic opportunities of climate change solutions. Our panel features professionals from the agricultural, business, government and nonprofit sectors.

Panelists:

J Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy (formally Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy)

Amanda Bilek, The Minnesota Project

Anne Hunt, City of Saint Paul

Elizabeth McGeeveran, F&C Investments

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Cargill Building University of Minnesota , St Paul Campus

Are you interested in Landscape Ecology, Disturbance Ecology, Urban Ecology, and/or the interface between social and ecological studies?

If so, Dr. Steward Pickett might be of interest to you. Dr Pickett will be on campus the 27 and 28th of November to give a public lecture and to meet with students and faculty.

Dr. Pickett is from the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (http://www.ecostudies.org/people_sci_pickett.html). His research relates to a wide variety of topics in community and landscape ecology, and to broader issues of biocomplexity and sustainability. He is currently broadening the context of his earlier pioneering work on patch dynamics of natural systems to now evaluate social systems.

Dr. Pickett is giving a talk as part of the Conservation Biology Program seminar mini-series "Integrating Theory & Application in Conservation". His talk entitled "*Using a patch dynamics framework to promote integration of ecological and social studies*" will be on the 27th of Nov. at 4 pm in RM 105 in the Cargill Building.

Please email us as soon as possible if you are interested in meeting with Dr. Pickett for a 30 min session. We would like to finalize his schedule by the end of this week.

Sincerely,

The CB Seminar Coordinators