

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

11 December 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation  
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to [coop0162@umn.edu](mailto:coop0162@umn.edu)



## Editor's Corner

Can you believe that this is the last week of classes?! I love to learn and all, but I must say that this week is very welcome. The Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter will be taking a break over the University holiday. I'll send out the last newsletter of this semester a week from today, and look for the 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter of spring semester in your mailboxes on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. If you have anymore courses to publicize, dogs to be sat, or seminars to announce let me know by next Monday at 11am and I'll include them in the newsletter. I've included an excerpt from the UMN calendar below for easy reference.

*Anne Cooper*

Date	Day	Event
December 14-16	Th-Sat	<b>Finals</b>
December 17	Sunday	Study day
December 18-20	Mon-Wed	<b>Finals</b>
December 20	Wednesday	Last day of fall 2006 term
December 25	Monday	<b>University holiday - University closed</b>
December 26	Tuesday	<b>University holiday - University closed</b>
January 1	Monday	<b>University holiday - University closed</b>
January 15	Monday	<b>University holiday - University closed</b>
January 16	Tuesday	Spring 2007 classes begin
February 1	Thursday	Graduate School February graduation application deadline
March 1	Thursday	Graduate School March graduation application deadline

## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology

Date: 11 December 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Presenter: Michael Rentz

Titles: "The effect of logging slash removal on small mammals and amphibians" & "To Catch a Critter: Comparison of Trap Type and Methodology"

Location: Room 140 in the Plant Growth Facilities Building (At the corner of Gortner and Folwell. Go through the doors behind the Seed of Knowledge sculpture).

As always, coffee and snacks will be provided and all are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

---

## Announcements

### Would like to present in CB seminar next semester!?

Let me know by 13 December by E-mail. Include:

- 1) Your title
- 2) Two of your preferred presentation dates
- 3) Any dates that will absolutely not work for you.

Generally, student presenters get half of one seminar session, but if you are an advanced student or have a lot to present, we have been known to give you a full slot. So don't be shy! We have plenty of dates still open.

Rachel

### University of Minnesota's Office of Information Technology, Academic and Distributed Computing Services

Because of the University of Minnesota's relationship with Microsoft, currently enrolled students taking at least one course credit are eligible for special savings on Microsoft software. You can get the real thing at a fraction of the price. More information about this program is at <http://www.umn.edu/ucs>

You save up to 75 percent\* on:

- \* Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003 Estimated Retail Price: \$499\*\* Your Price: \$5.75 for cost of the CDs A FREE DOWNLOAD OPTION is also available!
  - \* Microsoft Office 2004 for Mac Professional Edition Estimated Retail Price: \$499\*\* Your Price: \$6.15 for cost of the CDs
  - \* Microsoft Windows XP Professional Upgrade Estimated Retail Price: \$199\*\* Your Price: \$4.60 for cost of the CDs
  - \* Microsoft Office OneNote 2003 Estimated Retail Price: \$99\*\* Your Price: \$16.71
  - \* Microsoft Office Visio Std. 2003 Estimated Retail Price: \$199\*\* Your Price: \$27.26
  - \* Microsoft Office Project Std. 2003 Estimated Retail Price: \$599\*\* Your Price: \$53.34
  - \* Microsoft Office FrontPage 2003 Estimated Retail Price: \$199\*\* Your Price: \$47.91
- You can also purchase Minitab Statistical Software license through the online order form for a discounted fee. Don't wait. Go to the following website for more information and the online order form at <http://www.umn.edu/ucs>

\*Stated savings compare estimated retail prices of Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003 full retail packaged product to Microsoft Office Professional Edition CD through a Student Select program. \*\*Reseller prices may vary.

### Welcome weekend

The time of year has come to begin our search for volunteers to help out with the 2007 Conservation Biology Welcome Weekend (January 18-21,2007). As in years past, there are three ways to volunteer:

1. provide housing by hosting a prospective students
2. provide transportation to and from the airport
3. drive the passenger vans for our tours and activities If you are willing to help please complete the questions below and email them to Becca Bronk ([hunt0448@umn.edu](mailto:hunt0448@umn.edu)). Please feel free to contact Becca Bronk, Lauren Brudney ([brud0041@umn.edu](mailto:brud0041@umn.edu)), Albert Carbo ([carbo017@umn.edu](mailto:carbo017@umn.edu)), Genya Dana ([dana0010@umn.edu](mailto:dana0010@umn.edu)), or Sarah Margoles ([Marg0058@umn.edu](mailto:Marg0058@umn.edu)) with any questions regarding volunteering.

---

## **Funding opportunities**

### Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

We are trying to identify potential nominees for dissertation fellowships for the 07/08 academic year. These are highly competitive, university wide and provide a stipend a little greater than most TAs or RAs for the academic year. Last year both of our nominees were awarded fellowships. Our program typically nominates 2-3 students but we are willing to nominate more if we are highly confident students can get the fellowships. We need to know which students would like to be considered.

Nominees need to meet most or all of the following criteria:

1. Done with everything except your dissertation
2. Will finish within 18 months of getting the award
3. Have not been here too long (enrolled fall 2002 or later with a BS or 2004 or later with MS - we can explain away an extra year, with special circumstances)
4. Have an excellent academic record
5. Have evidence of national recognition (i.e. recipient of national awards for your research or for fellowship)
6. Have publications

The nominations will not be made until March but we need this info to plan. Based on your responses, we will decide how many of our 10 fellowships are given to new applicants and how many are saved for people who are finishing.

I know some of you are very competitive for one of these so let me know if you are at the right stage to get one.

Susan Galatowitsch  
Professor, Restoration Ecology  
Director of Graduate Studies, Conservation Biology  
University of Minnesota Dept. of Horticultural Science  
305 Alderman Hall, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108  
email: [galat001@umn.edu](mailto:galat001@umn.edu)  
Tel: 612-624-3242  
Fax: 612-624-4941

### SUMMER JOBS IN GERMANY

Do you want to gather valuable hands-on training in your field? Do you have at least 2 years of university German or equivalent? Are you between 20 and 30 years of age? Our USA-Interns Program may be for you! This unique internship program places American undergraduates in German companies and organizations in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Over 100 German employers participate. Internships usually last 8-12 weeks; semester-long internships are also available. Applications from U of M students must be submitted to the Center for German & European Studies. Application deadline: January 6, 2007. For details: <http://www.cges.umn.edu/fellowships/internships.htm>

Center for German and European Studies

University of Minnesota

214 Social Sciences Building 267 - 19th Ave. S

Minneapolis, MN 55455

612-626-7705

fax: 612-625-0528

[www.cges.umn.edu](http://www.cges.umn.edu)

### Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Information Session

Applying for a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and not quite sure about the paperwork or how to explain your research to people in different disciplines?

- 1) what is the application process and timeline – overview by the director of the Graduate School Fellowship Office
- 2) what the selection committee is looking for - advice from a former selection committee member
- 3) how to write a research proposal that "makes sense" across disciplines - insight from a current fellow
- 4) question and answer period

Date and time: Monday December 4, 12:30, @ 110 St. Paul Campus Student Center (see map at <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps> <<http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/StCen/>> /StCen/ ) OR Wednesday December 6, 2:30, @ 2-101 Nils Hasselmo Hall (see map at <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps> <<http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/NHH/>> /NHH/ ) You can apply for this fellowship only after passing the oral prelims. For more details, visit the Graduate School website at <http://www.grad.umn.edu> <[http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/enrolled\\_students/fellowships/enrolled\\_students/](http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/enrolled_students/fellowships/enrolled_students/)>

### New Funding for International Scholarly Activities

The following are new funding programs to promote a global network of scholarship and engagement and encourage interdisciplinary and transnational partnerships. The programs are administered and funded by the Office of International Programs. Guidelines and application materials:

<http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html> Questions: Karen Brown, 612-624-0832 or [kbt@umn.edu](mailto:kbt@umn.edu)

### Funding for Faculty, Staff, and Colleges/Departments • Interdisciplinary

International Institutional Partnership Grants Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007

- Interdisciplinary International Research Circle Grants Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007
- Informational Sessions: are scheduled as follows: Tuesday, November 28, 9:00-10:30am, 620B Mayo Building Wednesday, November 29, 9:00-10:30am, 190F Coffey Hall Thursday, November 30, 9:00 - 10:30am, 110 Heller Hall Thursday, November 30, 11:30am-1:00pm, Nolte Library

#### Funding for Graduate and Professional Degree Students

- OIP Doctoral Fellowships for International Research and Writing Deadline noon on March 9, 2007
- OIP International Pre-Dissertation and Small Grants Competition Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007

OIP International Internship Awards Deadline **noon on Jan. 29, 2007**

More information on guidelines and application forms is available at:  
<http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html>

#### Torske Klubben (The Cod Club) Fellowship for Minnesota Residents

Students currently registered for credit in the University of Minnesota Graduate School who are official state-of-Minnesota residents may apply. The award is open to individuals who have an interest in or connection with Norway and/or its culture. Applicants should have a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field, with a sound research or study plan. Applicants must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and high academic achievement. Preference will be given to students who earned their undergraduate degrees from a Minnesota college or university, or from a college founded by or associated with Norwegian-Americans, such as Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A stipend of \$10,000 for the academic year. For recipients without another source of tuition support, such as an assistantship, the Graduate School Fellowship Office will provide a Tuition Scholarship for full-time study for the academic year. Torske Klubben is interested in supporting students of high academic achievement who show great promise of becoming leaders in their chosen profession and/or in the Norwegian- American community, who have a deep and abiding cultural and/or professional interest in Norway (in a historical or present-day context), and who convey a sensitivity to the future of Norway and Norway-America relationships. Need may be taken into account, all other factors being equal. Complete Fellowship description, application form, and instructions are available on the web at [http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk\\_mn\\_residents.pdf](http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk_mn_residents.pdf) or from the Graduate School Fellowship Office [gsfellow@tc.umn.edu](mailto:gsfellow@tc.umn.edu) Deadline: March 1, 2005

#### Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships Scholarship Funding

Opportunities for Graduate/Professional Students Funding available: Summer 2007 (\$2500 stipend + tuition and selected fees) and 2007-08 Academic Year (\$15,000 stipend + tuition and fees) FLAS fellowships promote the study of modern foreign languages within graduate and professional schools. The awards are available on either a 9-month academic year or summer term basis. The fellowships are primarily available to graduate and professional school students studying less commonly taught languages, but students of other languages are also welcome to apply. For more information, see <http://igs.cla.umn.edu/grad/>

#### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Boyle032@umn.edu) <http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>

#### AAUW Career Development Grants

The American Association of University Women will make 60 Career Development Grants of \$2,000-\$8,000 to women in the early stages of a master's degree program who have not received academic degrees in the last 4.5 years. Special consideration will be given to women of color. DEADLINE: December 15, 2006 [http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships\\_grants/career\\_development.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/career_development.cfm)

---

## **Short Courses**

### Cornell University summer short courses (4-days).

This will be our 13th continuous offering of this popular course. This year though there is quite an option in where you attend as we are fortunate to have the first week being co-sponsored by the Oceanic Institute (Dr. Shaun Moss and Dr. C.S. Lee) and will be held in Waimanalo, Hawaii. This location gives us tremendous opportunities in visiting local aquaculture facilities plus the whole experience of being in Hawaii (use the Honolulu Airport) is something that you should take advantage of. We then offer a 2nd week (repeat of course) that is offered on the Cornell University campus. The news is that we will be able to tour the Fingerlakes Aquaculture facility which is located 17 miles from the Cornell campus. Fingerlakes Aqua is a 500 ton/year tilapia facility selling into the live Asian markets. Ithaca and the Fingerlakes region is considered a vacation destination in the summer time with a variety of outdoor activities (fishing, hiking, etc) plus Cornell has the first Robert Trent Jones golf course in the USA (there is some argument whether it was first or second).

We look forward to seeing you at either the Hawaii location (week of July 23) or at Cornell (week of July 31).

Sincerely on behalf of our teaching team.

Dr. Michael B. Timmons, P.E.

J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise Cornell University Biological and Environmental Engineering Dept.

302 Riley-Robb Hall

Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: (607) 255-1630

Fax: (607) 255-4080

Aquaculture web site address: <http://www.bee.cornell.edu/extension/aquaculture>

#### SAS PROC Mixed—two day training session

Presented by Dr. Micheal Casler, USDA-ARS, US Dairy Forage and Research Center, Madison, WI and Professor of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Time and Date: Room 335 Borlaug Hall When: December 18, 2006 1:00-5:00 PM and December 19, 2006 8:00 AM-12:00 noon.

All interested faculty, staff, and graduate students are welcome to attend. There is no fee for this workshop, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER: reply to Jean Swanson: [swans008@umn.edu](mailto:swans008@umn.edu) Questions:

[joannlamb@umn.edu](mailto:joannlamb@umn.edu)

---

## **Spring Semester 2007 Courses**

### Water Resources: Individuals and Institutions WRS 5101/CE 5581

Instructor: Dr. Lawrence Baker Minnesota Water Resources Center

Time and Dates: Spring 2007 Semester Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 – 4:15 pm

This is a core course in the Water Resources Science program but we welcome students in Environmental Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning, Public Policy, Soil, Water and Climate, and other programs. The course requires only a basic technical background.

Goals of the course are:

- (1) Learn about major laws and policies affecting water quality and quantity at the federal, state and local levels, and the interactions among these policies;
- (2) Understand how policies are formed;
- (3) Develop an understanding of how policies evolve in the context of technological, cultural, economic and biophysical drivers;
- (4) Develop basic understanding of policy analysis;
- (5) Examine global water problems and policies.

Dr. Baker is a Senior Fellow in the Minnesota Water Resources Center and an independent environmental consultant. His research examines human ecosystems, at scales from households to urban regions, with the goal of developing novel approaches for reducing pollution that are more effective, cheaper and fairer than conventional approaches. He has also conducted dozens of studies on other aspects of water quality and has played a key role in science syntheses to inform policy. For more information about the instructor, go to <http://wrc.umn.edu/aboutwrc/staff/baker/index.html>

The course text is *Water Use, Management and Planning in the United States*, by Stephen Thompson, augmented by about 30 key papers, many written by the world's leading policy scholars and practitioners. Grading will be based on analyses of the

readings, two tests, and an independent research paper (with presentation). The course is intended primarily for graduate students but serious undergraduates are welcome to attend with permission of instructor.

#### RHET 3404: Environmental Communication

Instructor: Chris Russill

Time: M/W/F: 10:40-11:30

Place: Magrath 8

This course examines the emergence, development, and immense proliferation of communication on environmental issues with special attention to the globalization of environmental discourse over the last 30 years. We begin by discussing the problem of how best to conceptualize the pervasive conflicts between expert knowledge and public participation in the environmental realm from the perspective of communication theory. This problem has been addressed through a number of discursive frameworks and we will examine several of the more influential ones to investigate how these frameworks shape problem formulation and solutions. Our focus on this problem will be decidedly contemporary and pragmatic. It will be grounded in equal measures of theory, research, and practical application, with students focusing their efforts on the aspects of that mix interesting them most. In the second half of the course, we will examine the implications of different styles of environmental communication in multiple realms of social practice including politics, policy, journalism, mass media, indigenous knowledge, scientific knowledge, and popular culture. Students will gain practical experience through scenario exercises designed for applying principles of environmental communication to real world phenomena and engage in a public communication project.

For more information, contact Professor Russill at 612 625 7681 or [russill@umn.edu](mailto:russill@umn.edu) <<mailto:russill@umn.edu>>

#### Biology, Ecology, and Conservation of Large Mammals FW 8576 / Spring 2007

Credit: 2 credits, A-F Prerequisites: Graduate standing in a biological science; if space is available, undergrads may be accepted with instructor permission. Co-Instructors: Peter Jordan & Pete Cutter

Schedule / Time Requirements: One 2-hour session per week (time to be agreed among prospective students for maximum scheduling convenience), assigned readings, one class presentation, probably one weekend field-trip

Meeting Room: To be announced

Course Objective: To provide a critical overview of the biology, ecology, management, and conservation of large mammals, much in the form of case studies by experts with world-wide research experience.

Students are expected to become familiar with all of the large mammals of

North America. Overview: This is a graduate-level course providing a conceptual and practical framework for understanding large-mammal biology and ecology and how conservation of these species has been and is being addressed. Topics covered in readings and discussions include: •taxonomy

•ecological physiology •environmental ecology •predation •plant-animal interactions •parasites and diseases •social dynamics and other behavioral aspects •large mammal roles in ecosystem processes •management / conservation challenges and approaches •capture / immobilization •current research / monitoring techniques Meetings combine lecture and discussion.

Geographic scope of taxa considered is global, including terrestrial, marine, and freshwater biomes.

Taxonomic and topical emphases will reflect expertise and current research of both speakers and students. The co-instructors cover some subjects, but the majority of topics are addressed by guest speakers. The last time the course was offered (Spring 2005), invited speakers included Glenn DelGiudice, Dave Garshelis, Craig Packer, Dan MacNulty, Sam McNaughton, Dave Mech, Don Siniff, Dave Smith, and Tony Starfield. We anticipate that many of these guests will be with us again along with several new ones. Approximately one quarter of each student's effort is a review of the natural history, distribution, and conservation status of a taxonomic group of large mammals of his/her choice (within the constraints of having these selections represent a wide taxonomic and geographic sample). As in past years, the course may include a weekend field trip to northern Minnesota to visit one or more active research project(s).  
Requirements and Evaluation:

- Attendance at all meetings and active participation in class discussions
- 20-40 pages reading per week
- Natural history / status review of a large-mammal taxon with a class presentation and written summary
- In past years there has been a verbal, round-table final exam, emphasizing North American large mammals or other species discussed. This would not, however, count for any more than a small part of the final grade.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact either Peter Jordan (ph: 612-624-9281 / email: [pajordan@umn.edu](mailto:pajordan@umn.edu)) or Pete Cutter (ph: 612-626-1213 / email: [cutt0016@umn.edu](mailto:cutt0016@umn.edu)). We will also be able to direct you to students who have taken the course.

#### Analysis of Mark-recapture Data FW 8200 Seminar

Dr. Todd Arnold is teaching this seminar (Tuesday evenings, 5:00-8:00 pm, 20 Feb to 27 March). Mark-recapture (or mark-resighting) data can provide a powerful means of estimating population size and important vital rates like survival, natality, and immigration, but the statistical programs for analyzing these data can seem daunting at first. In this 6-week seminar, we'll take a whirlwind tour of Program MARK and use it to analyze various forms of mark-recapture data, examining everything from population size based on live-trapping data to adult survival based on telemetry data. Contact Todd Arnold for more information on this course ([arnol065@umn.edu](mailto:arnol065@umn.edu)).

#### Sustainable Aquaculture FW5455

How can we make the world's fastest growing food sector environmentally and socially responsible? Dr. Anne Kapuscinski is teaching this 3 credit course (MW 4:30-5:45, 490 Hodson Hall) this spring. There is also an optional hands-on lab section where you can learn to raise fish (FW4292, section1). <http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/courses/fw5455>. This course meets the Environment and International Perspectives Themes and it is now an elective for the new Sustainability Studies Minor [www.sustainability.umn.edu](http://www.sustainability.umn.edu).

#### Graduate Seminar in Climatology (GEOG 8270)

Spring 2007

Topic: Climate Models and Modeling

Date and Time: Wednesdays from 2:00-4:30 p.m. (West Bank)

Instructor: Katherine Klink

## Science and Policy of Global Environmental Change EEB/FR 5146

T, Th, 10:15- 11:30 am

Instructors: Sarah Hobbie, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, [shobbie@umn.edu](mailto:shobbie@umn.edu), Steve Polasky, Applied Economics and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, [spolasky@appec.umn.edu](mailto:spolasky@appec.umn.edu), Peter Reich, Forest Resources, [preich@umn.edu](mailto:preich@umn.edu) Course Description: Through readings, lectures, discussions, and presentations this course will introduce the critical issues underpinning global environmental change and its biological implications. The course will examine current scientific literature in exploring evidence for human-induced global change, including changes in biodiversity, land use/land cover, the global N cycle, the global C cycle and climate change. We will also discuss the potential effects of these global changes on a wide range of biological processes. In addition, we will examine some of the economic drivers, economic consequences, and political processes related to global change, including local, national and international laws and policies that impact global change. Please feel free to contact any of the instructors with questions about the course!

Sarah E. Hobbie, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Admissions Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior University of Minnesota

1987 Upper Buford Circle

St. Paul MN 55108

ph: 612-625-6269

FAX: 612-624-6777

Office: 502 Ecology, St. Paul Campus

Research Web Page: <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/labs/shobbie/>

EEB Graduate Program Web Page: <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/>

## Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFF)

PFF offers graduate students and post-doctoral fellows opportunities to develop teaching skills, understand ways in which students learn, explore faculty roles in higher education, and prepare teaching as well as job search materials with colleagues and mentors. Read on to discover how our Retreats and Classes might help you prepare for your future career--and increase effectiveness in your current teaching and learning roles on campus.

*January 2007 Retreat:* If you're interested in finding out more about Preparing for a Job Search, Using PowerPoint for Active Learning, Developing a Syllabus that Works for You and Your Students, or Finding an Academic Position that Fits, please join us on January 11, 2007, for the Preparing Future Faculty Retreat. As a participant, you'll be able to attend workshops that on these topics and ask faculty from local colleges and universities about finding an academic position that's right for you. A \$10 registration fee includes food and workshop materials. We hope to see you there if you want to know more about teaching in higher education and the job search process. Your early registration allows us to prepare materials for a smooth retreat -- and to assure you a seat at the retreat.

For Retreat Registration: <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/retreat/index.html>.

*Spring 2007 Courses:* Brief descriptions of the Spring 2007 PFF core courses (GRAD 8101 and GRAD 8102 are listed below. To find out more about PFF, begin at <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>. Please note, we also offer several one-credit special topics courses (GRAD 8200) for individuals with teaching experience or who have completed a PFF or departmental teaching course course. The Spring 2007 one-credit/8200 courses will be: Teaching With Technology, Job Search Strategies in Language and Literature Disciplines, and Multicultural Teaching and Learning Across the Disciplines. Registration information for all courses is listed at OneStop under the Graduate School's GRAD designator. \*\*GRAD 8101: Teaching in

Higher Education (3 credits)\*\* This course is designed to help graduate students and post-doctoral fellows become more effective teachers as they develop an understanding of teaching and learning in higher education. Participants practice teaching and draft the essential documents of a teaching portfolio. Courses are co-taught by a member of the PFF staff and a faculty member who is recognized for teaching excellence. Spring 2007 Mondays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis Thursdays 2:30-5:30 pm / St. Paul Fridays 9:05-12:05 / Minneapolis

\*\*GRAD 8102: Practicum for Future Faculty\*\* (3 credits, prerequisite GRAD 8101 or equivalent department teaching course; e-mail [pff@umn.edu](mailto:pff@umn.edu) for permission number) Under the guidance of the course instructor and a faculty mentor from a local university, participants will plan for their future careers and consider how best to structure the remainder of their graduate education or post-doctoral appointment for future success in the job market. Activities include examining a variety of institutional contexts in higher education, gaining valuable teaching experience at a host institution, exploring the faculty role beyond the classroom, and creating a job search portfolio. Spring 2007 Mondays 2:30-5:30 pm / St. Paul Thursdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

\*\*GRAD 8200: Teaching and Learning Topics in Higher Education\*\* (1 credit; may be repeated) Spring 2007 Fridays, 10:10 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets six times. Teaching With Technology - Practices, Problems and Promises Tuesdays, PACE Program for CSOM students. Contact Steven Huchendorf. Fridays, 9:05 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets five times. Language and Literature Job Search Strategies Mondays, 5 - 7:30 pm. Class meets five times. Multicultural Teaching and Learning Across the Disciplines

---

## Job postings

### St. Thomas Biology Department Instructor

The Biology Department at the University of St. Thomas is seeking an instructor to teach one section of a course entitled Global Ecology in spring 2007. This course is the capstone of our core curriculum for biology majors and is normally taken by sophomore-level students. The catalog description is as follows:

A study of ecological processes operating at the community, ecosystem and global level. Case studies will be used to integrate cellular, organismal, and ecological approaches to understanding these processes, and to explore the effects of human activities on the global environment. Classes will meet weekly and will combine lecture material with student presentations and discussion of reading assignments. Assessment will be based on the quality of these presentations, contributions to class discussions, and written assignments chosen by the faculty members teaching each section.

The class meets once weekly and each section will have a maximum size of 16 students. Instructors meet regularly to coordinate teaching across the different sections and to share materials. Thus, this should provide an excellent opportunity for a senior-level graduate student or postdoctoral associate to strengthen their teaching portfolio without an excessive time commitment.

I would be very grateful if you could distribute this information to anyone in your department whom you think would be interested. The search process will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled, so potential candidates should contact me - preferably by email - as soon as possible.

Landscape Ecologist, Nairobi/Kisumu, Kenya

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

The CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program is assisting ICRAF to mobilize applications from women scientists and professionals. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing this announcement to the attention of qualified candidates. If you or the candidate would like more information about the opportunity in question, please inquire directly to Human Resources Unit at [icrafhru@cgiar.org](mailto:icrafhru@cgiar.org)

Contact:

Human Resources Unit

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

P.O. Box 30677 00100

Nairobi, Kenya

Email: [icrafhru@cgiar.org](mailto:icrafhru@cgiar.org)

Website: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org>

<<http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/>>

Deadline for application: 2nd January 2007

Bioinformatics Post-doctoral Fellow, Mexico

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)

The CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program is assisting CIMMYT to mobilize applications from women scientists and professionals. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing this announcement to the attention of qualified candidates. If you or the candidate would like more information about the opportunity in question, please inquire directly to Dr Jonathan Crouch, Director, Genetic Resources Program at [j.crouch@cgiar.org](mailto:j.crouch@cgiar.org) <<mailto:j.crouch@cgiar.org>>

Contact:

Human Resources Manager

(Reference 2006/06)

CIMMYT

Email: [jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org](mailto:jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org) <<mailto:jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org>>

Website: [www.cimmyt.org](http://www.cimmyt.org)

Deadline for application: December 18, 2006

---

## News you can use

In Kansas, a Line Is Drawn Around a Prairie Dog Town

By [FELICITY BARRINGER](#) Published: December 11, 2006 [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Their absence, in a landscape whose contours are etched by absence — not many trees, not many hills, not many people — would have been unremarkable had it not been for the general expectation that the day would bring a climactic confrontation over the fate of the largest prairie dog colony in [Kansas](#).

The Logan County commissioners want the prairie dogs dead. But two ranchers, Larry Haverfield and Gordon Barnhardt, and their allies in two environmental groups want the 5,500-acre colony on their property to flourish, for the good of the land and for the eventual delectation of black-footed ferrets. The ferrets, an endangered mammal, thrive on a diet of prairie dogs.

The ranchers' defense of prairie dogs prompted bewilderment then anger in this county of about 3,100 people. Here in this red corner of a red state, where the sanctity of

property rights is seldom questioned and the sanity of the government is questioned all the time, the prairie dog debate has turned everything upside down.

Some people are demanding enforcement of a century-old state law allowing the county to send exterminators onto the Haverfield and Barnhardt ranches — against the owners' wishes but at their expense — to protect local property values.

This confrontation is one of several in recent years across the West that pit property owners trying to restore wildlife against local governments who see the actions as a threat to local economic interests. It also reflects the persistent belief in the Great Plains that the prairie dog is not a valued remnant of the short-grass prairie of the past, but a despised pest that eats grass needed to fatten cattle.

Alan Pollom, the director of the Kansas chapter of the [Nature Conservancy](#), called the question of conserving prairie dogs “one of the more vexing problems you can possibly come up with in the arena of wildlife management” because property lines tend to be incompatible with the prairie dogs' age-old practice of digging new holes and expanding their tunneled colonies across the landscape.

The anger at the large prairie dog town was sharpened when the federal [Fish and Wildlife Service](#) began to consider a proposal by the two ranchers to reintroduce the black-footed ferret on their lands. It is widely believed here that having an endangered species anywhere near one's land means nothing but trouble.

Mr. Haverfield, who is 70, and his wife, Betty, 71, are perfectly content to have neighbors and friends shoot some of the thousands of prairie dogs for sport. They just do not want them poisoned en masse. Neither does Mr. Barnhardt, who lives a few counties away and whose land Mr. Haverfield keeps an eye on.

The Haverfield way of ranching — rotation grazing, a rarity in this region — is designed to mimic the patterns of bison grazing. By moving the cows from pasture to pasture quickly, he said, he can accommodate both cattle and rodent, improve the soil and the grass and promote the return of those species drawn either to prairie dogs' abandoned holes (such as burrowing owls and badgers) or to their flesh (foxes, rattlesnakes, hawks and eagles).

In recent years, as the prairie dog town expanded, “We're seeing some species that we've never seen before,” Mr. Haverfield said, as his 1979 Ford pickup lumbered over some thoroughly munched grass and beneath a high-soaring golden eagle. “Other animals are affected,” he added. “The swift fox eats prairie dogs. So do the ferruginous hawks. And coyotes.”

A few miles north, Byron Sowers, a neighbor of Mr. Haverfield's, was busy with the wintertime weaning of this year's calves. Mr. Sowers's voice has been among the loudest of those demanding that the county do something about the prairie dogs, which he says are exporting their young to his land.

“It's devaluing my property,” Mr. Sowers said, raising his voice to be heard over the complaining calves.

He does not necessarily share the other widespread — and, environmentalists say, unproven — belief that cattle break their legs in prairie dog holes. But because the rodents compete for grass, renting out grassland with prairie dogs brings in less money, the county appraiser confirmed. In general, Mr. Sowers feels about ranching near a prairie dog town the way urban parents feel about living near a halfway house.

Mr. Sowers argues that his 900-acre property bordering Mr. Haverfield's had only 10 acres of prairie dog town when he bought it. Now, he said, despite annual poisonings costing \$2,500 or more, the colony covers 500 acres.

To read more go to:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/11/us/11prairiedogs.html?pagewanted=2&\\_r=1&adxnnl=0&adxnnlx=1165856860-Ai1Ts7Od8W+r8yUNvpAfVg](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/11/us/11prairiedogs.html?pagewanted=2&_r=1&adxnnl=0&adxnnlx=1165856860-Ai1Ts7Od8W+r8yUNvpAfVg)

---

## Date Saver

Looking for a way to unwind after finals? Love coots?

If so, please join Courtney Amundson for her upcoming M.S. defense seminar

Presenter: Courtney Amundson, advised by Dr. Todd Arnold

Title: The Impacts of Helminthic Parasites on Survival of American Coot (*Fulica americana*) Chicks

Date and time: Thursday, December 21st at 1pm

Location: Borlaug 335

Abstract: Parasitic infections can lead to decreased body condition, reduced nesting success, and lowered mating success in birds, but little research has been done on the effect of parasites on offspring survival. In 2004 and 2005, I examined the effect that helminthic parasites have on offspring survival in American Coots (*Fulica americana*) by experimentally dosing day-old chicks with the anthelmintic drug fenbendazole (treatment) or sterile water (controls) and measuring their survival to 40 days of age. In 2005, I overlaid the experimental treatment of chicks with an independent experiment providing medicated (anthelmintic) or plain (control) feed to incubating adults to determine if chick survival was further influenced by parasite burdens among parents. I marked hatching chicks using colored nape tags, reobserved them at 10-day intervals from 0 to 50 days of age, and then estimated their survival to 40-days of age using open-population mark-recapture analysis. In both years, offspring survival was a function of anthelmintic treatment. In 2004, chicks receiving fenbendazole had 49.9% (SE = 5.1%) survival to 40 days of age, versus 40.3% (SE = 7.1%) survival for untreated chicks ( $z = 1.84$ ,  $P = 0.065$ ). In 2005, offspring survival to 40 days post-hatch was an additive function of both offspring and parental treatment; cumulative 40-day survival was 54.5% (SE = 7.4) when both parents and chicks were treated, 47.1% (SE = 7.8%) when just chicks were treated, 45.8% (SE = 7.7%) when just adults were treated, and 37.5% (SE = 9.1%) when neither were treated with fenbendazole (chick treatment effect:  $z = 1.80$ ,  $P = 0.07$ ; parent treatment effect:  $z = 1.67$ ,  $P = 0.09$ ). My study provides compelling evidence that helminthic parasites lowered reproductive success in American Coots. Sweets and refreshments will be provided.

---