

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

11 September 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

<http://www.consbio.umn.edu/index.php>

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Well, it's that time of year again. The weather has turned chilly and the weekly CB seminar begins today. Enjoy fall while it's here because it could snow next week!

The format and content of the newsletter has changed. In addition to all of the good stuff such as seminar announcements, news you can use, and fellowship announcements I will include the following:

- Periodic interviews with new graduate students and faculty members in the program.
- Short weekly reports from students taking the core courses.
- Announcements for upcoming social events, jobs, fellowships, puppy sitting, etc., etc. are welcomed here. Feel free to send these to me coop0162@umn.edu before Monday morning and I'll include them in the newsletter in order to cut down on the volume of such emails to the list serve.

The intent of these changes is to increase connections between community members and the newsletter's relevancy. I welcome any other suggestions for change. Simply email me or drop by. My desk is located in room 130 Hodson Hall. In addition, newsletters will be achieved on the program's website.

Look for these changes starting next week. Thanks!

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology

Date: 11 September 2006

Time: 4:05-5:00

Location: Room 140, Plant Growth Facility.

Just go to the "Seed of Knowledge sculpture at the corner of Gortner and Fowell, head through those doors and take a right.

Presenter(s): Dr. Dennis Becker, Dr. Julia Frost Nerbonne, Kris Johnson, Dr. Nick Jordan, Michelle Wieland

Topic: Challenges in Multidisciplinary Scholarship

The multidisciplinary nature of Conservation Biology is one of its defining features, but it is often a challenge to design and carry out successful interdisciplinary scholarship and research. During the roundtable, our panelists will touch on some of the challenges, benefits and ethical dilemmas students and faculty encounter in the quest to be multidisciplinary. We have a great group of faculty, current students and staff, and CB alum joining us to share their experiences in pursuing multidisciplinary research and study as well as to answer questions from the audience.

Notes: Welcome (back) to all! We hope you all had wonderful summers and we encourage you all to come to the first Conservation Biology Seminar to catch up with each other and to meet our new incoming students. We will be kicking off the CB Seminar this year with an official welcome, some refreshments, a presentation of awards, and a roundtable discussion. This should be an awesome discussion and a great opportunity to ask our experienced panelists some important questions.

See you then!

The CB Seminar Coordinators

Liz Johnson

Derric Pennington

Rachel Brummel

Water Resources

Date: 11 September 2006.

No seminar

Date: 18 September 2006

Time: 3:00-4:5

Location: Room 415, Alderman Hall

Presenter(s): Pat Brezonik, NSF Environmental Engineering Program

Topic: The WATERS network and related NSF observatory initiatives: transformative facilities for environmental research, education, and outreach.

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences

Date: 19 September 2006

Time: 12:15-1:30

Location: Coffman Memorial Union Theater

Presenter: Kurt Gottfried, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Topic: Science and Politics: Problems and Solutions

This talk is part of the series run by the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences. You can contact Kathy Koska to sign up for small meetings with him (email: kostk005@umn.edu; phone 612-625-0055).

Women in Science: Journeys in Academia

Date: 27 September 2006

Time: 1:00-4:00 with reception to follow

Location: 125 Animal Science/Vet Medicine, St. Paul Campus

Presenters: Dr. Karen Plaut, Professor and Chair, Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University

Dr. Linda Saif, Distinguished University Professor, Food Animal Health Research Program, Ohio Agricultural & Research Development Center, The Ohio State University

Dr. Kathryn VandenBosch, Interim Dean, College of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences; Professor, Department of Plant Biology, University of Minnesota

Topic: Science and Politics: Problems and Solutions

The Department of Animal Science invites you to a special symposium co-sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences, the Office for University Women, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Women in Science: Journeys in Academia provides students with the opportunity to meet with and be inspired by successful female scientist role models. Our featured scientists were chosen based on the broad appeal of their areas of research (applied/translational and basic, multi-species), their prominence as internationally recognized experts in their fields, and their commitment to serve as mentors and role models for women scientists. They will be sharing the stories of their career paths as well as their contributions and achievements in research.

Course offerings

New Seminar | EEB 8990 | Fall 2006 The Earth's Great Temperature Cycles

Time: 2:30-3:30 p.m. Mondays

Where: 491 Borlaug Hall.

Students may register for: *EEB 8990, Sect. 4, Course 20565, 1 cr. EEB 8994 available for additional credits*

Topic: The Earth's Great Temperature Cycles --- What is known and what needs to be known about them and their relation to the carbon cycles and to human events.

Sponsors: Clarence Lehman, Jeannine Cavender--Bares, Eville Gorham, Sarah Hobbie, Richard McGehee, Robert Sterner, Shinya Sugita.

Notes: There is a good response to this seminar and with all attending we should have interesting and illuminating discussions. The first few, including today's, will be background lectures intended to help everyone start at the same place, so no particular preparation is needed for today (except by the speaker).

For further information call or write lehman@umn.edu, 612-625-5734, or any of the other participants. Contact Lisa Wiggins, wiggins@umn.edu.

Clubs and Groups

Interested in Restoration Ecology? So are we! Join the Restoration Ecology Graduate Group—an emerging network of restoration-inclined graduate students at the University of Minnesota.

This group was formed to provide connections between grad students (+ faculty, alumni, and others) that are interested in restoration but are scattered across numerous academic departments. It's primarily an email network—a way to communicate with other restoration folks at the U—but we're working on planning some meetings, discussions, and fun activities for the upcoming semester as well.

Interested? Send me an email and ask to be added to the list! And spread the word to anyone you know who might want to join as well.

p.s. You do not have to be actively working in restoration to be a member of our little group—anyone with interest is welcome.

Looking forward to meeting you soon!

Laura Phillips

Conservation Biology Graduate Program

University of Minnesota

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Conferences and other events

Becoming an Outdoor's Woman

A special opportunity directed at college women (Guys--the DNR can't legally exclude men if you want to attend).

The fall workshop is at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center near Lanesboro, MN, 125 mi. SE of the Twin Cities.

The special deal for college women is a reduced tuition (\$50 rather than \$170) for the entire weekend, including meals, lodging and supplies for the workshop. This is made possible by a grant from the Rock Mountain Elk Foundation. The agenda for the fall workshop is also attached. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be introduced to some outdoor activities that you may not have previously experienced. The poster says that the registration deadline is August 15, but the DNR has advised me that there are still some spaces available. BOW is a nationwide program that introduces women to the field sports. The MN DNR is our state coordinator. More information about the program is available at: <http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/courses/FW4105/BOW.html>. I hope that some of you will take advantage of this opportunity to attend.

—George Spangler

News you can use

Subscribe and listen to free weekly podcast's from the Journal of Nature. Check it out at: <http://www.nature.com/nature/podcast/index.html>.

This week's (07 September 2006) Nature Podcast considers cancer and unintelligent design, discovers Siberian methane emissions, and examines self-heating volcanoes, chiral-selective catalysts, a new take on fluid dynamics and don't miss the story of Atlantis.

Fellowships

Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program, Washington, D.C.

This Graduate Fellowship Program of the National Academies-consisting of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council-is designed to engage graduate and postdoctoral students in science and technology policy and to familiarize them with the interactions among science, technology, and government. As a result, students in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, business, and law develop essential skills different from those attained in academia, which will help them make the transition from being a graduate student to a professional.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 sessions. The program will comprise three 10-week sessions:

- **Winter:** January 8 through March 16
- **Summer:** June 4-August 10
- **Fall:** September 17 through November 21

Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars and those who have completed graduate studies or postdoctoral research within the last 5 years are eligible to apply. Candidates should submit an application and request that a mentor/adviser fill out a reference form. Both forms are available on the Web at <http://national-academies.org/policyfellows>.

The deadline for receipt of application material is November 1 for the winter program, March 1 for the summer program, and June 1 for the fall program. Candidates may apply to all three programs concurrently.

Additional details about the program and a link to join the mailing list are available on the Web site. Questions should be directed to: policyfellows@nas.edu.

Social Events

This Thursday, September 14, the new College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences will have a Back to School BBQ. This will be a great event for us to gather as a new, expanded community. Please come for lunch and stay to visit and connect. There will be free burgers, veggie burgers and brats and interesting displays. Students will learn about opportunities to get involved in student groups, internships, the mentor program and international study.

The event takes place on the St. Paul Campus Mall (by the bulls in front of Haecker Hall) and runs from 11:00am-1:30pm. Please contact Kathryn A. VandenBosch for further details.

Kathryn A. VandenBosch

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