

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

13 November 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

Once again there is more to do than there are days in the week. I've been swamped with work as I'm sure everyone is this time of year. I can't believe that it is mid-November. Yikes! Well, I need to get back to work. Tilapia wait for no one!

*Anne Cooper*

---

## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology

Date: 13 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Presenter: Dr. Helene Muller-Landau, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Behavior

Title: "Predicting the long-term effects of hunting on plant species composition and diversity in tropical forests"

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).

Notes: Changes in vertebrate seed dispersal, seed predation, and herbivory due to human hunting of tropical forest vertebrates have led to species-specific changes in seed and seedling survival, and thereby to altered seedling community composition. However, the ultimate effects of hunting on the adult plant community in the next generation and beyond remain unknown. Here I argue that prediction of these long-term effects requires integrating ecological theory and empirical evidence regarding the forces structuring tropical plant communities, and present a first attempt at such a synthesis.

This promises to be a really interesting talk, so please come and join us!

### Global Capitalism's Greatest Challenge

Presenter: Raymond Baker\*

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Time: 11:15 – 12:30pm

Location: Hubert Humphrey Center Room 180

Notes: Raymond Baker is a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy, an internationally respected authority on corruption, money laundering, growth and foreign policy issues, particularly as they concern developing and transitional economies and impact upon western economic and foreign interests. He has written and spoken extensively, testified often before Senate and House committees, been quoted worldwide, and has commented frequently on television and radio in the United States, Europe and Asia on legislative matters and policy questions, including appearances on Nightline, CNN, BBC, NPR and Four Corners, among others. He was educated at the Harvard Business School and Georgia Institute of Technology and is the author of "The Biggest Loophole in the Free-Market System," "Illegal Flight Capital; Dangers for Global Stability," and "Capitalism's Achilles Heel: Dirty Money," to name a few.

### Wilderness and the Human Spirit: A Secular Approach for Resource Management Agencies

Date & Time: Tuesday November 14th 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Presenter: Roger Kaye, Wilderness Specialist and Pilot, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Place: 415 Alderman Hall, St. Paul Campus

Notes: Historically, spirituality was a core underpinning of the wilderness concept. It has been, and continues to be a powerful motivation of wilderness preservation and for many, an element of the wilderness experience. Yet the spiritual dimension is seldom recognized by the agencies charged with its stewardship. It's even avoided by many wilderness advocates who, because of associations with religious doctrine and supernaturalism, are squeamish about this component of our humanity. This presentation draws upon the research literature in the fields of history, psychology, neurophysiology, symbolism and wildlands recreation to provide a secular understanding of spirituality for what it ultimately is: an inherited aspect of our humanity with biological roots in our evolutionary past. It provides empirical understanding for what the early wilderness visionaries knew intuitively--the great importance of wilderness as a medium for opening people to something within themselves that seeks connection and relatedness to an ultimate reality beyond themselves.

### Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 15 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Michael Pace

Host: Jim Cotner and Ted Stets

Topic: "Subsidies of Aquatic Food Webs by Terrestrial Organic Carbon"

Notes: Aquatic ecosystems receive inputs of dissolved and particulate organic carbon derived from terrestrial primary production. In addition, terrestrial animals are episodically important prey to aquatic predators. We tested for the importance of these subsidies by adding inorganic carbon-13 to lakes to trace internal primary production. The carbon-13 of microbes and animals was substantially enriched during the addition and declined once the addition ceased. Allochthony (% carbon derived from external inputs) was assessed by fitting models to time series of carbon-13 from the addition. Allochothony was a major source of support to animal and microbial plankton consumers in small lakes but not in nutrient-enriched or clear-water lakes.

The results of these addition studies indicate that the impacts of subsidies on food webs are related to the types, amounts, and regularity of inputs as well as their point of entry into the food web.

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

### Forest Resources

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Times: 3:00pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Zha Ma, Graduate Student, Forest Resources Department

Title: Integrating Cumulative Impact Assessment into State Environmental Review Programs

### 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

---

## **Announcements**

### Welcome weekend

It's again time to get together to plan for welcome weekend Jan 19-21, 2007. It's Consbio tradition for first year students to choose 2-3 leaders to coordinate welcome weekend. Sue and I would like to meet with first year students after the Monday seminar on Nov 14 for about 30 minutes to begin this process.

Anup

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

### Cafe Scientifique: Genetically Modified Organisms

Tuesday, November 14th, 6p.m.

Varsity Theater, Dinkytown

\$5 Suggested Donation

Cafe Scientifique is the Bell Museum's happy hour forum featuring experts in cutting-edge science and research. Information at [www.bellmuseum.org](http://www.bellmuseum.org) . This month's event explores the science and politics of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. What is a GMO? How and why have researchers been modifying the genetic makeup of plants and animals, and what are the possible risks and benefits of this type of research? Speakers from the University of Minnesota will discuss the science as well as the policy concerns of genetically modified organisms.

### Guest Speakers:

Professor Anne R. Kapuscinski, Ph.D., University of Minnesota Department of Fisheries and Conservation Biology, Sea Grant Extension Specialist in Biotechnology and Aquaculture.

Jennifer Kuzma, Ph.D., Interim Director and Assistant Professor at the Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota.

### 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).

### 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](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>

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Budweiser Conservation Scholarship.

I wanted to touch base with you all to let you know the current status of this scholarship, as well as to announce another scholarship opportunity. For the Budweiser Conservation Scholarship, I know I told many of you that we would have the information up on our website this fall, and well, it seems that fall has crept up on us awfully fast! Our program directors are still in talks with Anheuser-Busch about this scholarship and I am told we will have information to post on our website sometime this month. I will do my best to keep you informed as I know more.

In other news, some of you may be eligible for our National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Scholarship which we have just posted on our website. You can check out the specifics at: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/centennialscholarship/>. Thank you all for your interest, and if you have any questions, you know where to find me!

Regards,

Alison Bolz  
Project Administrator  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
PH: 202-857-0166  
FX: 202-857-0162  
E-mail: [Alison.Bolz@nfwf.org](mailto:Alison.Bolz@nfwf.org)

#### 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/fqa/fellowships\\_grants/career\\_development.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fqa/fellowships_grants/career_development.cfm)

---

## Courses

### PFF

The Preparing Future Faculty Program (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 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

---

## Conferences

### 67th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

December 3-6, 2006 in Omaha, Nebraska <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/midwest2006/>

Two centuries ago Lewis & Clark had just returned from their "Voyage of Discovery" and were embarking on their new task of sharing the experiences and knowledge gathered along this historic journey. Join us in Omaha on December 3-6th, 2006 to explore "The Economic and Social Values of our Natural Resources" and share with the nations leading natural resource professionals your experiences, while gathering invaluable insight from others in the field.

If people are attending this conference and need a ride down to Omaha, please let Ozge Goktepe [gokt0002@umn.edu] know. Although space is limited, there may be a national park service van available to give people a ride.

### 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.

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

Please RSVP to [cogs@umn.edu](mailto: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](mailto:cogs@tc.umn.edu) 405 Johnston Hall 101 Pleasant Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455 Webpage: <http://www.cogs.umn.edu/>

---

## **News you can use**

Here's a new wikipedia-type website for posting tips on environmentally responsible behavior. Check it out! [www.tiptheplanet.com](http://www.tiptheplanet.com)

At present no one resource exists that allows people to conclusively determine how best to act in their day-to-day lives. Tips are scattered across various media and often differ in opinion or contain bias or inaccuracy. The aim is to create a website that brings this advice together for wider discussion and dissemination.

Anyone can edit the site and we would like to ask you to contribute to the development of this resource at this early stage. Could you send this to anyone you think might be interested, link to the site or add a couple of tips? You can also add the link of any organisation you feel should be mentioned onto the site. As the site develops, this will help showcase the work you do to a wider audience.

### MEXICO SHUTS THE DOOR ON GM MAIZE

Inter Press Service News Agency, 28.10.2006

(<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=35280>)

MEXICO CITY, Oct 28 (Tierramérica) - Ending the reason for protests by environmental activists, and much to the frustration of some scientists and multinational corporations, Mexico has moved to ban experimental fields of genetically modified (GM) maize. But the gateway into Mexico of transgenic maize, in the form of unlabeled grain imports, remains ajar.

Mexico, the birthplace of maize, buys some six million tonnes of maize from the United States -- and one-third of that is transgenic. The grain eventually reaches farmers, and, in past years, the altered genes contaminated the traditionally developed native corn varieties, as studies revealed in 2001. No one knows for certain if that genetic contamination persists, but the possibility of it continuing to occur has not been eliminated, which worries environmental groups and some farmers who fiercely oppose GM crops. However, some scientists support the development of transgenic varieties, and argue that cross-pollination of GM corn with traditional varieties causes no harm and should be no reason for alarm.

On Oct. 16, Mexico's National Service for Agro-Food Safety and Quality refused--for the third time since 2005--seven requests from the multinational agribusiness giants Monsanto, Dow Agrosciences and Pioneer for conducting experimental cultivation of GM maize seeds. The refusal was based on the fact that the 2003 law on biosafety has not been regulated, there is no agreement on which areas of Mexico are the birthplaces of historic maize varieties, and that the definition of the so-called Special Regimen for the Protection of Maize remains pending.

To read more check out <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=35280>.

---

## Date Saver

### Concerts with a Cause--Mila Vocal Ensemble

A concert benefiting the Center for Victims of Torture

Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. 7 pm (approximately 1 hr)

Unity Church – Unitarian, 732 Holly Avenue, St Paul

The entrance for Unity Church–Unitarian's Sanctuary is located on the corner of Portland Avenue and Grotto Street in Saint Paul, one block north of Summit and two blocks west of Dale. <http://www.unityunitarian.org/ConcertswithaCause.htm>

Donations welcome.

This will be an hour-long a capella concert, featuring music from around a dozen different languages and cultures.

A summary of our group:

Mila is a professional women's vocal ensemble committed to the authentic reproduction of vocal traditions from over 30 countries in over a dozen distinct vocal styles. Its nine singers all hail from unique musical backgrounds and have studied with renowned vocalists from Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. While grounded in the harmonic traditions of Eastern Europe, Mila's repertoire also includes music from Central and Western Europe, Asia and the Americas. Mila has performed to international acclaim, always pushing the boundaries of rhythm, harmony and styling. The name "Mila" has beautiful connotations, including 'dear one,' 'love' and 'celebration' in many of the languages represented by its repertoire. Through the integrity of its music, Mila celebrates the beauty of the world's cultures.

For more information or sound clips, please visit our website:  
[www.milavocalensemble.com](http://www.milavocalensemble.com)\*\*

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](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.

Twin Cities Agricultural Issues Round Table this academic year with two sessions featuring faculty from the Department of Applied Economics:

- Vernon Eidman will speak on Thursday, December 7. His topic will be "Biofuels: Implications for Grain and Livestock Production."
- Kent Olson will speak on Thursday, February 15. His topic will be "The New Farm Bill: Impacts on Minnesota Farms."

Both sessions will be at the Four Points Sheraton Minneapolis. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for lunch served promptly at noon. The program and discussion follow lunch, and we conclude by 1:30 p.m.

Professor Vernon Eidman, our speaker on December 7, is internationally recognized for his work on biofuels and renewable energy. In his Round Table presentation he will discuss the current status and economics of ethanol and biodiesel production in the U.S., speculate on the rate of growth for these two biofuels over the next five years, and explore some of the likely implications of biofuels growth for farms in the Midwest.

Vernon is former Head of the Department of Applied Economics. In that capacity he coordinated the Agricultural Issues Round Table, so those who do not know him well will remember him as organizer and host of past Round Table sessions. Vernon is a Past President and Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association. He is an award-winning teacher and is the author of numerous articles and reports on farm management, risk analysis, and renewable energy. Vernon will be retiring from the University on January 2, 2007, though he plans to continue some of his current work on biofuels and renewable energy. Our session on December 7 will also be a great opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

The session will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Minneapolis, 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, (Hwy. 36 & Industrial Blvd. — phone: 612-331-1900). Advance reservations are necessary because we need to make a guarantee on luncheon numbers 72 hours prior to event. Please contact Sue Pohlod at 612-625-8779 or [spohlod@umn.edu](mailto:spohlod@umn.edu) to reserve space. Luncheon cost is \$30.00 with checks payable to the University of Minnesota. "No shows" and "late cancellations" will be billed for the full luncheon fee.

If you have any questions or suggestions about future speakers or the topics, call me at 612-625-0231. For registration and logistics information, call Sue Pohlod at 612-625-8779. We look forward to seeing you there.