

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

16 April 2007

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation  
Biology Graduate Program

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

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



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## Editor's Corner

Good morning!

Welcome to one of the final weeks of the semester. Just in time for summer TV viewing (and EarthDay) several cable TV companies are announcing new "green channels". The company that brings us the Discovery Channel is launching the channel, "Planet Green". It will debut sometime next year and will focus on "green living" and leading an ecologically conscious life. Programming topics will likely include eco-design, organic food and green architecture, Discovery said. The channel says it will make its headquarters carbon-neutral, host a conference to showcase ecological innovations and start an advisory board of scientists and researchers to support the program. "Five years ago, people would have said, 'Who are those lefties talking about green?' Today, green means responsible," Chief Executive David Zaslav told The New York Times.<sup>i</sup>

The Sundance channel is also launching "The Green", a night of programming dedicated to ecological issues and environmentally sustainable approaches to modern living every Tuesday starting tomorrow at 9pm ET. This programming block "aims to do Earth justice at a moment of particular urgency". The Green will address such problems as global warming, pollution and energy depletion. But emerging solutions will be highlighted, too. "It won't be all gloom-and-doom," Aidem promises.<sup>ii</sup> It should be interesting to see how these channels *play* 'green'.

*Anne Cooper*

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<sup>i</sup> Discovery to start 'green' cable channel. Science Daily.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/upi/?feed=Business&article=UPI-1-20070405-13201200-bc-us-discovery-green.xml>

<sup>ii</sup> Cable channel plants seeds for 'The Green' New weekly program will examine problems and potential solutions. MSNBC. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18078524/>

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 16 April 4-5pm

Location: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

Title 1: Incorporating Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Conservation into Landscape-Level Planning

Presenter: Dr. Steve Polasky, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

Notes: Landscapes produce multiple outputs of value to society, ranging from marketable commodities to (mostly) non-marketed ecosystem services (e.g. habitat for species, carbon sequestration, water purification). The provision of ecosystem services depends on the amount and spatial pattern of land uses. In this paper we develop a spatially explicit landscape-level model for analyzing the biological and economic consequences of alternative land-use patterns. The spatially-explicit biological model incorporates habitat preferences, area requirements and dispersal ability between habitat patches for terrestrial vertebrate species to predict the likely number of species that will be sustained on the landscape. The spatially explicit economic model incorporates site characteristics and location to predict economic returns in a variety of potential land uses. Preliminary work on incorporating other ecosystem service such as carbon sequestration and water provision will also be discussed.

#### Environmental Resources Weekly Seminar

Date, time, and location: Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Presenter: Jim Sanchirico, Resources for the Future

Title: " Optimal rebuilding of a metapopulation "

Notes: Recent notable declines in marine resource stocks have prompted debate over how to restore ocean ecosystems. At the same time, marine scientists are moving away from the assumptions that marine populations are evenly distributed toward notions of patchy habitats with population abundances varying across space. We develop a 3-patch spatially explicit ecological-economic model to investigate economically optimal recovery plans in a metapopulation. Preliminary results illustrate how taking a system-wide vs. single patch perspective can have dramatic yet economically intuitive changes on the qualitative nature of the optimal recovery paths.

We hope to see you there.

\*\*\*There are a few open slots if you are interested in meeting with Jim either before the seminar or late afternoon. If you would like to go to lunch or dinner with him, please let me know.\*\*\*

*Elaine Reber*

*Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota*

#### Candidate for Boundary Layer Atmospheric Chemistry Position

Date, time and location: Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 2:00-3:00 pm Borlaug Hall Room 365

Presenter: Dr. Gunnar Schade, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University

Title: Biospheric Trace Gas Fluxes – Key Contributors to Boundary Layer Photochemistry

Notes: Trace gas exchanges at the biosphere-atmosphere interface are now recognized as key processes of not only carbon transfer but also of chemical potential. Most trace gases known to be emitted or taken up by the terrestrial biosphere contribute to atmospheric chemistry, from local to global scales. While the biosphere-atmosphere exchange of chemically active species such as NO<sub>x</sub> or CO is well-understood, our knowledge of the exchange of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) is more limited. Comparatively few VOC exchange processes are well-characterized, such as that of isoprene. Isoprene along with other VOC emissions not only represents a significant loss of carbon to plants. These biogenic VOCs can dominate regional boundary layer chemistry in terms of its oxidative capacity and photochemical ozone formation. Outside the boundary layer, the biosphere influences atmospheric chemistry for instance through direct emissions of acetone and methanol. I will review these selected influences of the terrestrial biosphere on atmospheric chemistry as well as possible feedbacks through examples from my own research, with a focus on biosphere-atmosphere fluxes and boundary layer chemistry. I will further highlight some unknowns, and outline current and future research objectives concerning biosphere-atmosphere interactions.

\*Visit with Dr. Schade at coffee hour following the Seminar in Borlaug Hall Room 213 from 3:00-4:00 pm

#### FR 8107 Seminar Series

Date, time, and location: **April 16**, 2007, 2:30 p.m., 203 Green Hall, St. Paul Campus

Title: River Pigs, and Elephant Ears and Monkey Faces: Using St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Resources to Increase Awareness and Knowledge

Presenter: Nikki Hinds, Graduate Student, Forest Resources Department

Notes: Natural resource protection depends on visitor awareness and knowledge about the resource and why it should be protected. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway serves as an important natural and recreation resource. However, its status as a National Scenic Riverway managed by the National Park Service is largely unknown. A roving interpreter's toolbox was developed to increase visitor awareness and knowledge about the River and its importance. Incorporating essential interpretive elements, the toolbox includes scripts, talking points and Q&A guidebooks for two Riverway resources: freshwater mussels and logging. The toolbox serves as a foundation from which the Riverway managers can build this season and beyond to increase awareness and knowledge about the Riverway.

Title 2: Spatial Data Services: The key to unlocking FIA's potential in your research

Presenter 2: Mark Hatfield, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service

Date, time and location: Monday, **April 16**, 2007, 3:00 p.m., 203 Green Hall, St. Paul Campus

Notes 2: Whenever you see a statistic describing our national forest resources there is a good chance that it came from FIA (Forest Inventory and Analysis). Perhaps you've read an article where FIA data were used as training or testing data. Maybe you've seen one of FIA's reports on state forest resources. Now you're wondering what FIA is and how you can use it in your own research. The answer is simple: Spatial Data Services (SDS).

SDS is a group of FIA employees whose role is to advise people on the use of FIA data and to assist with acquiring the right data. We provide five levels of service to researchers from many different fields. Services range from advice to creating an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). To find out why SDS exists and what we can do for you, you must attend my seminar.

#### Kolshorn Lecture

Date, time and location: Tuesday **17 April**, 4-5 PM, 110 Green Hall

Presenter: \*Dr. Anthony Sinclair, University of British Columbia

Title: "Understanding Ecosystems for Conservation of Biodiversity: Lessons from the Serengeti"

Social hour/cookies/coffee 3:30-4:00

Notes: \* Dr. Sinclair is a world renowned expert on ecology and conservation in Africa . See his website (<http://www.zoology.ubc.ca/zoology/z/sinclair/>) for more information. Tony will be here all day Tuesday (17th) and Wednesday (18th) and is available to meet during both mornings and afternoons. Please email me if you would like an appointment to speak with him.

#### The James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy

Date, time and location: Tuesday, **April 17th**, 2007, 3pm, Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics

Host: The Food Industry Center will host

Title: "A Houckian's Perspective on Several Contemporary Issues"

Presenter: Dr. Michael V. Martin, President, New Mexico State University

<http://www.onestop.umn.edu/Maps/CargillB/>

Notes: James P. Houck was known for applying wit and wisdom to his teaching of economics and to his writing. He believed that "everything should be made as simple as possible, but no

simpler." He was fond of quoting Shakespeare, Frost, and Tennyson and interjecting their thoughts into the lessons of economics trade theory. Houck was adamant about clear communication often using metaphors such as the University being like a Feudal Society. President Michael Martin, a former student of Dr. Houck's, will be honoring James P. Houck by injecting some "Houckian" wit into his lecture on current affairs.

To register for this free lecture sponsored by The Food Industry Center and the Department of Applied Economics, please visit the Applied Economics web site at: [http://www.apec.umn.edu/houck\\_lecture07\\_registration.html](http://www.apec.umn.edu/houck_lecture07_registration.html)

#### Candidates for Adjunct Assistant Professor, FWCB

Date, time and location: 17 April (Tues) 4-5 PM 110 Green Hall

Presenter: Dr. Tony Sinclair, (Centre for Biodiversity Research, University of British Columbia)

Title: "Understanding ecosystems for the conservation of biodiversity: lessons from the Serengeti"

#### What's for Dinner?' features author Michael Pollan

Date and location: Thursday, April 19, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: MacMillan Auditorium

Keynote: Michael Pollan, author and journalist

Conference: \$100 member / non-member (conference includes keynote, panel and special luncheon discussion)

Morning Session only: \$35 member / non-member

Co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Program on Agricultural, Food and Environmental Ethics and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)

Notes: The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum presents What's for Dinner? The Ethics and Aesthetics of Eating, featuring Michael Pollan, author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Pollan will present the keynote address, followed by a panel discussion including Allen Levine, CFANS dean, as well as regional experts, growers and distributors. The event is presented by the arboretum's Public Policy Program and sponsored by the [University of Minnesota's Program on Agriculture, Food and Environmental Ethics](#) and the [Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture](#). For more information and to register, call the Arboretum's Education Office at 952-443-1422 or go to <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/education/adult/publicpolicy.htm>.

#### EEB Lindeman Seminar

Date, time and location: Thursday, April 19, 4 p.m., 335 Borlaug

Presenter: Dr. Carlos Duarte, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Instituto Mediterraneo de Estudios Avanzado

Title: "Plumbing the global C cycle: The role of freshwater ecosystems in the Earth's C cycle"

Host: Bob Sterner [stern007@umn.edu](mailto:stern007@umn.edu)

Treats: Coffee/cookies served @ 3:30 in EEB lobby

#### Sustainability Studies Minor

*Seminar by David Tillman*

Title: "The food-fuel-environment conflict: a path towards sustainability"

Date, time and location: APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-1:45, Rapson Hall Room 100

Notes: This timely discussion will be held in RM 100 Rapson Hall. RSVP by April 16 to reserve a sustainable box lunch from Trotter's Cafe!!!

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## Courses

### Risk Analysis for Science and Technology Policy Fall 2007 PA 8790

1.5 credits

12:45 p.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, HHH 20 (West Bank)

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Kuzma

Contact: 612-625-6337, or [kuzma007@umn.edu](mailto:kuzma007@umn.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 p.m. (it will be announced in class if there is a cancellation)

SCOPE: This class will focus on the interplay between risk analysis, government decision making, and policy for societal issues involving human, environmental, and ecological health and well-being. The role of S&T in risk analysis, either as the subjects or the tools, will be explored. A mix of readings, discussions, and group projects will be used to facilitate understanding of technical risk assessment methods, risk management, role of uncertainty, risk communication, and risk perception. The embedded scientific, technical, social, political, and ethical issues for select case studies will be discussed. The class will also touch upon how to formulate questions for policy research in this and other areas. Please note, however, that this is not a class to learn "how to do" public policy research or risk assessments. We will discuss the methods and techniques only at a general level.

### 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 job search plans and documents with supportive colleagues and mentors.

Read on to discover how our Retreats and Courses might help you prepare for your future career -- and increase effectiveness in your current teaching and learning roles on campus.

Retreat: May 16, 2007

Workshops focus on The Academic Job Search, Using PowerPoint for Active Learning, Active Learning in Lecture Settings, with a lunch time panel addressing the process of Finding an Academic Position that Fits.

A \$10 registration fee includes food and workshop materials. 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>.

Fall 2007 Courses:

You'll find a time schedule for each of the PFF courses below. For fuller descriptions of the courses, see

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>.

**\*\*GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education (3 credits)\*\***

Participants discuss engaged learning theories, link strategies to their own teaching philosophy, practice teaching and draft the essential documents of a teaching portfolio -- CV, teaching philosophy and course syllabus.

Fall 2007

Mondays 2:30-5:30 / Minneapolis

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

Fridays 9:05-12:05 / St. Paul

**\*\*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 equivalent courses and/or permission number) As future faculty and

administrators, participants will examine a variety of institutional contexts in higher education and work also with a faculty mentor they select. In this course, students gain valuable teaching experience at a host institution, explore faculty life beyond the classroom, analyze contemporary academic issues, and create a targeted job search portfolio.

Fall 2007

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

**\*\*GRAD 8200: Teaching and Learning Topics in Higher Education\*\*** (1 credit; may be repeated).

These course can be taken independent of other PFF courses, in conjunction with them.

Also, completing 3 sections of GRAD 8200 is an equivalent of taking the GRAD 8101 course.

Fall 2007

On Line. Teaching For Learning: A Course for New TAs.

Mondays Beyond the Academy: Practical Job Search Strategies for Ph.Ds. / 2:30-5:30 pm.

Course meets five times.

Wednesdays. Active Learning & Course Design in the Sciences. / 2:30-4:30 pm. Course meets six times.

Best,

*Ilene D. Alexander, PhD*

*PFF Program Coordinator*

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>

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## Announcements

### GAPSA

Monday, **April 16** through Friday, **April 20** 11:30am - 1:30pm

Massage Chair for Graduate and Professional Students in GAPSA Lounge (room 234, Coffman Union). Lucky draw in GAPSA Lounge (you can enter the lucky draw only by visiting the lounge in room 234 Coffman Union) prize: iPods

Varsity Theater, (on 4th Street and 14th Avenue, SE, near Loring Pasta Bar) (Food from Loring Pasta Bar Includes: Chicken Pasta Meditteranian Style, CousCous Vegetarian, House Salad, Artichoke Ramekin chicken & vegetable Potstickers, Fresh Fruit, Assorted cookies)

Entertainment: Stand - Up - Comedian Willi Myles

Lucky Draw: GPS car navigation system, Sony portable DVD Player, I Pod (30 gb), 3 \$100 international travel vouchers from STA, and 3 \$50 gift cards. The drawing will take place during GAPSA Social on April 20th. Friday, April 20

5:30-8:30pm

### Grad Student Computer Fees

Each semester, graduate students pay a college technology fee that is intended to be used to provide computer technology to us. Some of this becomes a contribution towards the overall computer infrastructure we depend on at the U, but some of these fees have also been used for graduate-student specific needs (e.g., one year they bought everyone network cards). This year, they had planned to disperse some of the fees to grad programs to spend on student technology. As of now, the money is unspent and not dispersed. Since it's a fee that each of you paid, deferring the use of the funds to another year (when some of you will have graduated or not be in residency) doesn't seem logical. If you have comments or questions, direct them to Mike Balak ([mbalak@umn.edu](mailto:mbalak@umn.edu)), the IT director for CFANS.

### Sustainability Film Contest

**MAY 3rd** AT THE BELL!! <http://www.sustainability.umn.edu/greenshorts/index.html> The new Sustainability Studies Minor invites you to create a short (< 5 min) film expressing your thoughts on a sustainable and environmentally friendly world. This contest is open to all undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota. Top films will be screened and judged at the Bell Museum on Thursday, May 3, 2007. Winning filmmakers will receive prizes including an Apple iPod. Check out our website to see our own Green Short!!!

### Weekly Happy Hour for FWCB and neighboring departments!!!

When: Wednesdays

Where: Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina (1754 Lexington Ave N.)

What Time: Happy Hour!

Who: Anybody who would like to come. We would like to use this to meet more people in the department, and in other departments. Spouses, friends, and significant others welcome.

\*\*\*Happy hour at Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina is from 4-6:30 and includes a \*complimentary taco bar\* and \*reduced prices on tap beers\*!

### COGS

The final General Assembly Meeting of the year will take place this coming Wednesday, **April 18th** at 5pm in Cowles Auditorium in the Hubert H Humphrey center on the West Bank of the Minneapolis Campus. The meeting will be followed by a reception for graduate students catered by Kafe 421 in the Atrium in observance of Graduate Student Appreciation week. We hope to see you there!

*Will Cremer*

Council of Graduate Students

405 Johnston Hall

101 Pleasant Ave SE

Minneapolis, MN 55455

(612) 626-1612

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

Graduate Student Appreciation Week Reception to Follow, Humphrey Center Atrium

### It is time to clean up your department!

The Campus Cleanup will take place on: Beautiful U Day, Thursday, **April 19**, 2007. Hampers for old computer equipment, books and magazines, and office paper and files will be delivered to your office. In conjunction with Beautiful U Day, Facilities Management will provide additional cleaning products that will be available upon request on the 19th. In order to participate and for more information on the Campus Cleanup you must RSVP to Sara or Carrie at 4-8553 by Thursday, **April 12!**

### GAPSA

As you may have heard, the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly will be chosen this year through an election of all graduate and professional students, held online, **April 16-18**. To let you learn about the candidates, you can find brief statements by each on the homepage of our website, [www.gapsa.umn.edu](http://www.gapsa.umn.edu).

There will also be a candidate forum this Thursday, April 5, from 7-8 p.m. in the West Bank Auditorium. The audience will be allowed to ask questions, so come prepared with your most pressing issues for graduate and professional students!

Finally, if you are interested in serving on the GAPSA executive board for the coming year, elections will take place at the **April 25th** Assembly meeting. The following positions are open:

-Executive Vice President (manages internal affairs, assists the President)

-VP for Finance (treasurer of GAPSA)

-VP for Administrative Affairs (Grad/Prof Student representative to the Board of Regents)

- VP for Programming (plans GAPSA social events and promotions)
- VP for Public Affairs (handles legislative and neighborhood affairs)
- VP for Grants (administers our grants programs)
- VP for Student Affairs (represents GAPSA on the Student and University Senates)

More detailed descriptions of the responsibilities of the executive board positions are available at: <http://www.gapsa.umn.edu/elections/index.htm>. If you have any questions, please e-mail [gapsa@umn.edu](mailto:gapsa@umn.edu).

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## Jobs

### Princeton Review

The Princeton Review of Minnesota is currently in search of Biology and Organic Chemistry instructors for our MCAT prep courses in Minneapolis and St Paul. All training is provided, and the starting pay is \$20 an hour. Many MCAT instructors teach one or two days a week.

Please let us know if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity further, and we would be more than happy to discuss it with you.

Thank you!

The Princeton Review Minnesota  
1501 University Ave SE Suite 301  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Ph (612) 676-1447  
Fax (612) 676-1492

### Social Indicators Position at WRC

We are looking for a 50% person to assist on the social indicators project at the Water Resources Center. The person should ideally be a late-stage grad student or post-doc who can contribute about 20 hours/week. Please let me know if you are aware of a good person who might be interested. We'd like to bring the person on as soon as possible.

Thanks and all the best,

*Karlyn Eckman*

### Ecoagriculture Partners seeking Program Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa

Ecoagriculture Partners ([www.ecoagriculturepartners.org](http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org)) is a small, rapidly-growing international non-profit organization working to facilitate landscape management approaches that simultaneously enhance agricultural production, support rural livelihoods and conserve ecosystem services. EP seeks a Coordinator for our program activities in Eastern and Southern Africa, to join our committed team by July 1, 2007 or earliest available.

The Program Coordinator will:

- Provide support to partners in ecoagriculture landscape planning and action in selected landscapes;
- Assist in organizing Ecoagriculture Leadership Courses and other capacity-building activities;
- Support and engage with the regional and national Ecoagriculture Working Groups;
- Provide input to national ecoagriculture 'hotspot' mapping;
- Participate in and help to organize regional dialogues with regional partners on ecoagriculture-related policy and planning issues;
- Support the adaptation and development of ecoagriculture landscape assessment and planning methods in the Eastern and Southern African context;
- Ensure effective coordination among the various elements of EP's program in the region;
- Manage grants, grant proposals, reporting, budgeting and planning for regional projects;

- Manage contracts with regional consultants and grantees for all Ecoagriculture Partners programs;
- Develop and maintain excellent collaborative relationships with key partners in private, public and community sectors.

Required:

- At least five years of relevant experience in land use planning and policy, particularly in developing countries;
- Experience working with the private sector and with farmer or community conservation organizations;
- At least three years of experience working in related topics in East and Southern Africa,
- Experience with multi-stakeholder processes and policy discourse
- Demonstrated commitment to, and achievements in, promoting market initiatives that achieve both conservation and agricultural livelihood benefits;
- Masters' degree in relevant field;
- Strong skills in team-building and participatory processes;
- Expertise in land use, regional or landscape planning and policy analysis.
- Highly organized
- Excellent English writing and communication skills.

Desirable:

- Experience and competence in working in diverse, cross-cultural teams;
- Experience in project planning, budgeting and management,
- Competency to read and speak French.

Salary and benefits:

- Competitive salary, depending upon experience;
- Health and retirement benefits, life and disability insurance, 20 days vacation, holidays;
- Initial 2-year position, renewable;
- Posting in Nairobi or Kampala negotiable;
- Staff will be hosted in the offices of a regional partner institution.

Please send your C.V., a cover letter indicating your background and experience, and names and contact information for three references in an email with subject line 'Program Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa' by April 30, 2007 to Seth Shames, [sshames@ecoagriculture.org](mailto:sshames@ecoagriculture.org)

## We're here to help

### Workshops at Magrath Library – Spring 2007

Attend a hands-on session to enhance your information-gathering skills Register at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

*Featured classes:* Journal impact factors, who is citing whom, and how often – 4/3, How do I know I found everything? - 4/18

*Regular offerings:* RefWorks Basics –4/24, 5/3, 5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences – Searching:14 Habits of Highly Effective Searchers – 4/10, Create your Poster in PowerPoint – 4/17, Grant resources: Locating Grants in your Field –5/15, SciFinder: Web Access to Chemical Abstracts – 4/18. For times and registration see <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

### Effective interviewing skills for jobs in academia for non-native speakers of English

Date, time, and location: Thursday, April 19, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m., 209 Akerman Hall

Map: <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/AkerH/AkerH-map.html>

Presentation will cover effective strategies to prepare before an interview and tips for during and after the interview. Special focus will be on non-verbal communication, as well as key terms

and phrases in the interview process that may assist non-Native speakers of English. Students will work in small groups for mock interviews and will receive feedback from facilitators and peers. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. LIMITED TO 60 PEOPLE.

Presenters: Dr. Deborah Wingert, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning, Colleen Meyers, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning

Click below to register: <https://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=143>

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## Date Saver

### Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards ceremony on Monday, **April 23**, 2007. This event will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall. All members of the University community are invited to this special ceremony and reception to honor 12 distinguished teachers for their contributions to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education.

Award recipients are inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, in recognition of the significance of their teaching excellence. Recipients join their Academy colleagues from all four campuses to provide important leadership to the University community, serving as mentors, advisers, and spokespersons for the University's teaching mission.

I hope you will join me for this important occasion, as we celebrate the University's teaching mission and recognize the contributions made by 12 of our colleagues. To register for this event, go to [www.alumni.umn.edu/distinguishedteaching](http://www.alumni.umn.edu/distinguishedteaching) or call 612-625-9174.

### The Kermit A. Olson Memorial Lecture

Date, time, and location: Wednesday, **April 25**, 2007 at 4:00, 110 Green Hall, Saint Paul Campus

Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

### Hello Students

The GradSEHD Graduate Student Appreciation Party will be Friday, **April 27<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-11:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the St. Paul Student Center (2017 Buford Ave St. Paul, MN 55108). Start to spread the word!

### 2007 Phillip C. Hamm Memorial Lecture

Title: "Steroid Signaling in Plants: The First Decade"

Presenter: Dr. Joanne Chory, Professor and Director, Plant Biology Laboratory, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Date, time and location: Monday, **April 30**, 2007, 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Awards, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lecture, 105 Cargill Building, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Reception Atrium, Cargill Building

St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota

EVERYONE WELCOME

### Continuing Education Course

The Continuing Education Committee of the MN Chapter of AFS is giving a "head's up" on a 4-day workshop entitled: "Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes" to be held at Cabelas in Owatonna and Waseca during **Aug. 20 - 23 2007** (see below). This is a "save the date" memo for those of you who might be interested and need to work this into their field schedule. We are not taking any reservations yet and will formally announce the workshop later in May.

This year we will focus on lake and watershed issues in agricultural landscapes. In 2008, we are planning a similar workshop focused on Urban/Forest landscapes.

The CE committee looks forward to putting on this timely (if not overdue) workshop and are thankful for the experienced instructors we were able enroll.

*Cheers,*

*Ray*

*Continuing Education Co-chair*

*MN Chapter of The American Fisheries Society*

*Course Title: Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes*

Date and location: Aug 20th-23rd 2007, Owatonna, MN

Day 1: Watershed assessment and diagnosis of condition (Joe Magner, Greg Johnson, Pat Baskfield PCA)

- Hydrology 101

- Effects of tiles and ditches on distribution of water and water quality

- Field trip

Day 2: Strategies for Protection and Restoration – Identifying the battle front and identifying all resources available to win battles

- Collaborative and Educational Strategies for mitigation or restoration: Community involvement & essential relationships – From Regional coordination to sitting at the kitchen table with Farmer Brown (Beth Knudsen - DNR)

- State and Federal strategies for mitigation or restoration

- Federal Farm Bill and the CRP program (Wayne Edgerton – DNR)

- Emerging issue – Ethanol and biofuels

- Land Acquisition and Easements (Mike Halverson - DNR) – AMA's, WMA's, WPA's, RIM

- TMDL process (Tim Larson - PCA)

- Local Strategies

- Goings on with the Brown Nicollet Water Quality Board (Kevin Kuehner)

- Goings on with the Fairbault Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (Michele Stindman)

- Wrap-up: Are things getting better or worse in the Western Corn Belt and Plains? Challenges Ahead (Tim Larson - PCA).

Days 3&4: Shoreline restoration, Clear Lake, Waseca – John Hiebert (DNR Shoreland Habitat Mgr) and Leilani Peterson (DNR Shoreline Habitat Spec.).

*Ray Valley*

*Fisheries Research Biologist*

*MN Dept. Natural Resources*

*1200 Warner Road*

*St. Paul, MN, 55106*

*Email: [ray.valley@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:ray.valley@dnr.state.mn.us)*

*Phone: 651-793-6539*

*Fax: 651-772-7974*

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## Conferences and Meetings

The American Society of Naturalists (ASN)

The annual meetings of The American Society of Naturalists (ASN) <http://www.amnat.org/>, Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) <http://systbiol.org/>, and the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE) <http://www.evolutionarysociety.org> are scheduled to be held June 16-20, 2007 at

the Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand. Saturday June 16 is the arrival day (pre-conference tours, council meetings and opening reception), Sunday June 17 through Wednesday June 20 (scientific sessions) with closing awards banquet scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, June 20. Thursday June 21 is departure day. Full details on this combined meeting are available at the Evolution 2007 web site, [www.evolution2007.com](http://www.evolution2007.com) On line conference registration and talk/poster registration is now available at this site. Delegates intending to present a talk or display a poster at Evolution 2007, must first register through the on line registration process.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES For submission of talk/poster titles-April 15, 2007. Delegates can register early and submit titles no later than the deadline above. Information on travel to New Zealand and accommodation options for the conference can be found on the conference web site.

#### Managing Incidental Findings in Human Subjects Research: From Imaging to Genomics

This full-day conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota in partnership with the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. This conference is supported in part by a grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, grant #1R01HG003178-01A1.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center . University of Minnesota. Register at [www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php](http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php) or email [lawvalue@umn.edu](mailto:lawvalue@umn.edu).

This conference will present the recommendations from an NIH-funded project developing standards for the management of incidental findings identified during research with human subjects. Incidental findings are defined as unexpected findings beyond the domain of key interest in the research that have potential clinical significance. Presentations will focus on obtaining feedback from the public, researchers, research subjects, and regulatory bodies such as IRBs on a position paper outlining consent form language and IRB protocols.

For more information, visit our conference website:

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php> Or contact the Consortium office at:  
Email: [lawvalue@umn.edu](mailto:lawvalue@umn.edu), Telephone: 612-625-0055

#### North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

The North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology will be meeting jointly with the International Conference on Ecology & Transportation for their 2007 meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-25. This meeting offers a wonderful opportunity for SCB members and Chapter members in North America to get together. The topic of road ecology, which dominates the conference, is very pertinent to conservation biology.

We invite NA Section members - and all members of SCB and SCB Chapters in North America - to attend this conference. We view this joint meeting as a way to "phase in" meetings of the North American Section in years when the SCB Global annual meeting is held outside the United States (i.e., as this year, in South Africa). The 2007 ICOET meeting will feature a half-day SCB-organized symposium, on May 24, on key topics in conservation biology that relate to roads, as well as a membership/business meeting of the North American Section and Chapters.

Among other items of business, we plan to discuss policy priorities for SCB in North America with SCB's new Policy Director, John Fitzgerald. The symposium program can be found at <http://www.conbio.org/Sections/NAmerica/AgendaforICOET.pdf>

For more information, and to register for the conference, see the ICOET website: <http://www.icoet.net/ICOET2007.asp>

I look forward to seeing many of you there! Best regards,  
*Reed Noss, President, North American Section*

## Funding and award opportunities

### Distinguished Diversity and Inclusion Award

The Distinguished Diversity and Inclusion Award is an annual award that recognizes outstanding effort on the part of members of the College to deepen our commitment to the land grant mission while building upon and sustaining access to the richness of our community. See *attached document for more information*.

Enhancing our capacity to fully embrace diversity and excellence as core values of the College is essential. We are best served and most effective when all voices are represented as we work to realize the President's goal of becoming one of the top three research institutions. This is well stated in the CFANS diversity plan:

Knowledge and understanding are at the core of the public research university mission. Diversity in *what* is known, *how* we know and those *who* know serve as powerful catalysts for innovation in research, educational programs and outreach. In this way, an increased commitment to diversity ties directly to institutional quality, and a lack of diversity to institutional costs.

Embracing diversity enhances the performance of all University work. Committing to greater cross-cultural competency must be undertaken by acknowledging that diversity fosters excellence and abundance--offering all a chance for personal growth and CFANS an occasion to pursue increased innovation. A multicultural environment encourages innovation and fosters creativity. ([http://www.cfans.umn.edu/Statement\\_on\\_Diversity.html](http://www.cfans.umn.edu/Statement_on_Diversity.html))

Please assist us in recognizing the work of our faculty, and staff supporting diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism and cultural pluralism for this inaugural year. **The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30.** If you have any questions concerning the award or nomination process, please contact Karl Lorenz ([klorenz@umn.edu](mailto:klorenz@umn.edu), 624-9299).

### Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship Funds for 2007-08

These are one-time awards of \$1,000-4,000 designed to provide financial support for non-traditional aged women returning to higher education after a break of 5 or more consecutive years in their pursuit of higher education. See eligibility requirements below and download application materials at <http://www.umn.edu/women/scholar.htm> Deadline: **April 30**, 2007

SUBMIT TO:

OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY WOMEN

185 Klaeber Court

320 16th Avenue SE Mpls. MN 55455

(Campus Delivery Code 3013) Phone: 612.625.9837

Eligibility Requirements:

- \* Women students (28 years or older) who have had five-year or longer consecutive break in their post-secondary education
- \* Demonstrated Financial Need
- \* Admission or pending admission to undergraduate or graduate/professional degree or credit certificate program at any U of M campus
- \* Meet half-time enrollment status minimum
- \* Provide academic transcripts of all college/post-secondary enrollment
- \* Complete 2007-08 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit the Student Aid Report with your scholarship application
- \* Good academic standing at the University of Minnesota
- \* Submit support letters from 2 references who have known student & her educational goals

Additionally, applicant selection is "weighted" by the following characteristics:

- \* First generation in family to attend college

\* First undergraduate degree (though graduate students are still eligible to apply)

Review Criteria:

Evidence of academic achievement, strength of applicant's personal statement, reference letters indicating educational goals and academic promise, financial need, and special circumstances. Completed application and ALL required materials must be submitted by the April 30, 2007 deadline.

2007 John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former Chapter and Western Division American Fisheries Society President. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the American Fisheries Society (AFS) annual meeting. The 2007 meeting will be held in San Francisco, California from September 2 to 6.

Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, and reasons for attending the meeting. Travel support (up to \$800 per award) will be made available to successful applicants. Award winners will also receive a one year paid membership to the American Fisheries Society.

Completed applications must be received no later than **May 11, 2007**. Limit all answers to the space provided. Additional material will not be considered in evaluating applicants.

The application form can be found at:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards/skinner2007.rtf>

Link to award announcement (click on John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award):

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html>

Izaak Walton League of America

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America will award a scholarship(s) of not more than \$1000.00 to assist a person(s) who enter or continue in an education program in Environmental Education, Environmental Law, Wildlife Management, or some other conservation-oriented program. The application form is attached. The deadline for applications is **May 15, 2007**.

*Thank you and please call or email if you have questions.*

*Noreen Tyler*

*Office Administrator Minnesota Division*

*Izaak Walton League of America*

*161 St. Anthony Ave., Ste. 910*

*St. Paul, MN 55103*

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