

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

18 September 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Apparently, the semester is in full swing. The leaves are changing and I don't have any ice cream socials, picnic lunches, barbeques or other socializing events to announce; however, you will find details on plenty of graduate student support groups and an etiquette dinner hosted by the University in this week's newsletter. There are many opportunities on campus to stay healthy—mentally, physically, and academically. Check out the St. Paul Gym where fitness classes officially start this week. In addition, there are several pick up games organized by CB students. Fridays at 4 pm, meet by the bulls on the main green by Coffey Hall for ultimate Frisbee games organized by Liz Johnson joh01717@umn.edu.

A couple of practical notes:

- I am having difficulties with the web and email links provided in the newsletter. You may need to copy and paste these into your web browser in order to use them. Sorry for the inconvenience.

- Anup is archiving the newsletters on the CB website. Take a look at <http://www.consbio.umn.edu/newsletter/>.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to thank Diane Lynch. She produced the newsletter before I took over this fall. Diane did a great job and passed on some much appreciated advice to me before she successfully defended her thesis last summer.

Anne Cooper

Course Notes

FW 8352

This week, the Intro to Conservation Biology course covered the quickly-changing field of conservation genetics. We explored the question of the causes of genetic variation, the factors that lead to the decline or extinction of a population, and why biodiversity is a good thing (not just preaching to the choir, but the practical reasons for biodiversity). We started off with overview of the history of the field of conservation genetics, and on Thursday our guest speaker, Dr. Jim Curtsinger from EEB, gave us a primer on genetics and how it has changed in recent years. We will be expecting a quiz next week. I can honestly say that I have thought more about tiger populations in Asia in the last two weeks than ever in my whole life, which is a good thing, overall.

Holly Owen

1st Year M.Sc. student advised by Dr. Anne R. Kapuscinski and Dr. Nick Jordan

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology

Date: 18 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 Folwell, head through those doors and take a right.

Presenter(s): Chris Burdett

Topic: "Space Use and Habitat Selection of the Canada Lynx in Minnesota"

Notes: The conterminous U.S. population of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in April 2000. Minnesota is one of 4-5 U.S. states with a consistent record of lynx presence. Since 2003 we have radio collared 33 lynx in northeastern Minnesota to study their ecology, space use, habitat selection, distribution, and persistence. Eleven of these animals wore global positioning system (GPS) collars, which is the first time this technology has been used to study Canada lynx. I will discuss the history and ecology of lynx in Minnesota and the application of GPS telemetry to study lynx space use and habitat selection.

Snacks: Snacks, tea, and Peace Coffee will be provided before the seminar begins.

See you then!

The CB Seminar Coordinators

Liz Johnson

Derric Pennington

Rachel Brummel

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 20 September 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Shinya Sugita

Topic: "Landscape Changes and Human Impacts in Southern Scandinavia"

Host: Joe McFadden

Snacks: Coffee/cookies served outside 100 Ecology at 3:30

Water Resources

Seminar and Fall Welcome Gathering

Date: 18 September 2006

Time: 3:00

Location: Room 415, Alderman Hall

Presenter(s): Patrick L. Brezonik, Program Director, Environmental Engineering,
National Science Foundation, Civil Engineering Faculty, UMN

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

Snacks: Food & Refreshments will follow seminar (4:00 p.m.) in 274 McNeal Hall,
St. Paul Campus

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

Prof. Gottfried is scheduled to appear on Minnesota Public Radio's Midmorning Show at 9am on Tuesday, September 19. Tune to FM 91.1 to hear his interview in the Twin Cities or go to <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/radio/> to listen online.

The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Lunches are provided to those who RSVP by September 15, 2006 to lawvalue@umn.edu or 612-625-0055 (please indicate if vegetarian/vegan). Registration is required if you wish to receive continuing education credits (CLE, CME, CNE). Those without reservations are welcome to attend, but should bring a lunch. Coffman Union parking is available in the East River Road Garage on Delaware Street behind Coffman Union. Maps may be found at <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/index.html>.

This lecture is intended for students, faculty, researchers, scientists, policymakers, and interested community members. Following this lecture,

participants should be able to: discuss current national controversies regarding the use of science in policymaking; explain how these controversies affect researchers, policymakers, and the public. Application for CME and CNE Credits filed with the University of Minnesota Office of Continuing Medical Education. Determination of credit is pending. Continuing legal education credit (CLE) for attorneys will be requested (1.5 hours).

This lecture is the first lecture in the 2006-07 Lunch Series. This year's Lunch Series focuses on "Sciences and Politics: Controversies in Regulation and National Security." For more information on upcoming events, visit <http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/>.

This talk is part of the series run by the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences.

Ph.D. Defense. Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Presenter: Colleen M. McLinn

Adviser: Dr. David Stephens

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2006

Time: 9:00

Location: 150 Ecology Building

Title: "The economic basis of animal information use and communication"

Abstract:

Animals need information in order to find food and mates, and to avoid predators. Information reduces uncertainty about the current state of the environment and the corresponding best action. Animals may obtain information via sampling, or from other individuals through signals and cues. Information gathering has typically been studied within a specific context (e.g., foraging, mate choice). I advocate a unified approach to studying animal communication and information use based upon statistical decision theory. My dissertation focuses on two important factors involved in decision-making: the extent of environmental uncertainty, and the reliability of signaled information. Through modeling, literature review, and experiments using captive blue jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), I assess the way in which these factors interact to determine an animal's response to a signal. I conclude from a review of published literature that animals often have significant information about the probable state of the environment, and that learning frequently plays a role in the assessment of signals. My experiments with blue jays support the prediction that a high level of signal reliability is required for animals to abandon their default strategy and attend to a signal. When information is costly to receive, I describe how a signal's reliability interacts with its cost and the extent of prior certainty to influence receiver behavior. These studies stress the importance of receiver psychology to understanding communication. More generally, my dissertation integrates ideas from psychology, behavioral ecology, statistics and economics in order to arrive at a more unified understanding of animal decision-making.

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

University Libraries:

On September 15th and September 22nd the University of Minnesota Libraries is sponsoring a series of workshops designed to enhance the research skills of graduate students.

Topics include: Seven Keys to Grad Student Success, Demystify Digital Dissertations, Electronic Full Text in Education, Humanities Go Digital, Copyright and Fair Use at the UMN, Organize Your Research with RefWorks, Searching for Images Using Artstor, Full-Text Resources for English Literary Studies, and Finding Statistics and Government Information. A detailed list of workshops for can be found at <http://wilson.lib.umn.edu/grad-workshop915.pdf> and wilson.lib.umn.edu/grad-workshop922.pdf.

Graduate students can register for one or more individual sessions at: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>.

Lynne

Orientation and Instruction Coordinator Coordinated Educational Services University of Minnesota Libraries

237 Walter Library

612-626-7698

Clubs and Groups

Restoration Ecology

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

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Counseling, Consulting, and Support Groups

University Counseling & Consulting Services' groups are open to graduate students and some are designed especially for you. For more details go to <http://www.uccs.umn.edu/counsel/currentgroups.html>.

Dissertation and Thesis Support Groups:

Provides support, focus, and problem-solving strategies for graduate students at the dissertation or thesis stage. Meet every other week Graduate and Professional Students of Color Support Group. Topics are open, with emphasis on managing stresses and increasing the rewards of being a graduate or professional student at the University.

Understanding Self and Others:

An opportunity for men and women to learn from each other while giving and receiving support. Will address the issues of greatest concern to group participants.

Women's Personal Issues Group:

An opportunity for self-exploration and growth in areas such as life goals, relationships, balancing demands, and self-esteem. Participants will help each other develop greater self-awareness.

Women Over 30:

For women with more life experience than many University students. See Women's Personal Issues above.

Men's Group:

Build supportive relationships with other men while increasing self-awareness. Topics are open and tend to include relationships, self-esteem, changing roles and norms for being a "man," and effective ways to deal with emotions.

Grief Support Group for Students who Have Lost Parents:

A place to acknowledge the significance of the parent who was lost, to take stock of how your life has been affected, and to honor the mix of strong feelings that are stirred by losing a parent.

Support Group for Students with Psychological Disabilities:

Limited to students with psychiatric disabilities who are registered with Disability Services. Topics will be open, with emphasis on exploring strategies for stress management, studying, and enhancing interpersonal skills. Facilitated jointly by UCCS and Disability Services counselor.

Dr. Jennifer Engler

engle009@umn.edu.

Conferences and other events

In collaboration with various units across campus, The Graduate School is pleased to offer a variety of workshops to enhance your personal and professional growth as you pursue your graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota. The workshops are free of charge and most are open to all U of MN graduate students (some are only for Humphrey students). To view a list of fall workshops and to register, please go to the link below.

Note that the location for some of the workshops has not been provided, as classroom management has a backlog of room requests. Registered students will be informed of the workshop venue as soon as it is identified. Some of the sessions also have a limit on the number of participants, so register early if you are interested in a particular workshop.

Registration site:

<http://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/default.asp?list=grad>

Noro Andriamanalina, Ph.D.

The Graduate School

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

andri002@umn.edu

News you can use

Where to Publish?

A Handbook of Journal Outlets for Contributors to Conservation Science
Peter Kareiva and Chris Yuan-Farrell Draft Version: June 2006

“Disclaimer: This handbook was prepared as a service to students and young scientists who are early in their career and wondering where to submit their manuscripts for publication. There may be errors in what we have prepared, and we would welcome corrections or additions. Please send these additions and corrections to pkareiva@tnc.org. If you think we have neglected possibly important outlets, then please e-mail us—in that e-mail include a link to the journal you are recommending as well as some indication as to why you think we should add it to our booklet. Our emphasis is on scientific outlets, heavily weighted towards biology; we hope to gradually build up a list of major social science or policy journals as well. The “Commentary” associated with each journal is the idiosyncratic and error-prone opinion of Peter Kareiva—there is a 30-50% probability his opinions are way off the mark.”

This document is pretty interesting. Check it out through the following link:

<http://www.scu.edu/envs/whoweare/docs/Where%20to%20Publish.pdf>

Treasure trove of new marine species found.

Variety of 'walking' shark among them; discoverers warn of threats.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/14834763/?GT1=8506>

Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures

America's Underwater Treasures. Part 1 of 2. Exploring U.S. marine sanctuaries. Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team of divers explore various underwater locales. Joining the oceanographer are his son, Fabien, and daughter, Celine.

Date and Time: 20 September 2006. 7:00pm

Channel 2 (TPT 2) <http://www.pbs.org/kqed/oceanadventures/>

Fellowships

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

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.

Social Events

Etiquette Dinner 2006

Date: 10 October 2006

Location: Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center 200 Oak Street SE,
Minneapolis, MN

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 (registration begins at 5:00)

Cost: \$14/student

Register: <http://alumni.umn.edu/etiquette>

Do you know which fork is for your salad? Where do you place your napkin when leaving the table? Should you tell someone if they have food in their teeth?

Get the answers to these questions and more at the 2006 Etiquette Dinner. Join fellow U of M students and learn how to professionally handle any dining situation. A 3-course meal by D'Amico catering will give you the chance to try out these new skills immediately.

Contact the UMAA office at 612-626-0425 or contact your career services office (<http://www.career.umn.edu>) with any questions.

Date Saver

ADA COMSTOCK DISTINGUISHED WOMEN SCHOLARS LECTURE

Date: 25 October 2006

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Cowles Auditorium, HHH Center

The Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, The Graduate School, The Office for University Women, and University of Minnesota Libraries invite you to attend the *Fall 2006 Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture* featuring */Professor Karlyn Kohrs Campbell/* in a lecture about Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Campbell is an outstanding scholar in the field of communication studies and a pioneer in feminist rhetorical discourse and theory. Please mark this date and join us for an informative lecture by an exceptional University scholar (more information will follow in print invitations).