

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

27 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)



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## Editor's Corner

Welcome back from the luxuriously long holiday weekend. Even though I was in the lab every day it still felt great to have a few days of holidays, feasting, and family. I hope that everyone in the Cons Bio Community took a break to visit with family and friends and to invest in a little retail therapy. I didn't go to any plays and I didn't leave town, so I don't have too much to share here in the editor's corner; however, I would like to thank everyone who has sent me items to place in the newsletter. I've had a great response to this request. Keep them coming—there's room in the CB newsletter for all announcements.

*Anne Cooper*

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology—please note change of location!!

Date: Monday 27 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Presenter: Dr. Stewart Pickett Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY  
([http://www.ecostudies.org/people\\_sci\\_pickett.html](http://www.ecostudies.org/people_sci_pickett.html))

Title: "Using a patch dynamics framework to promote integration of ecological and social studies"

Location: RM 105 in the Cargill Building

Notes: Dr. Pickett's 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.

Lunch with the candidate and seminar

Lunch: Graduate Students are all invited to 'lunch with the candidate'

Time and Location: Tuesday, November 28 12:00-1:30 in 150 Ecology.

Candidate: Dr. David Weisrock, interviewing for the amphibian and reptile curator position at the Bell Museum

Seminar Title: "The Systematics of a Model Organism and its Natural Relatives: Axolotls and North American Tiger Salamanders"

Time and Location: 4:00 PM Tuesday, November 28, 2006, 306 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus

Please reply by Tuesday at 10:00 AM so I know how much pizza to order.

Tony Gamble  
612-624-7225  
gambl007@umn.edu

#### IGERT

Date and Time: November 27, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory Auditorium

Presenter: Dr. Daniel R. Engstrom, Director of the St. Croix Watershed Research Station of the Science Museum of Minnesota and Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota

Title: "Mercury in the global environment: Fate, transport, and biogeochemical cycling"

#### Impacts of global warming on BWCAW

Date and Time: Monday, November 27, 2006. Pre-program special event 6:30-7:00 guided tour of Science-on-a-Sphere, the museum's new whole-Earth visualization system. Main program 7:00-9:00.

Location: Science Museum of Minnesota Discovery Hall 120 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Title: "The Late, Great Boundary Waters Forests? Addressing the risks of rapid forest decline"

Presenters: J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director, Fresh Energy -Paul Douglas, meteorologist, WCCO-TV -Dr. Lee Frelich, director, University of Minnesota Center for Hardwood Ecology

Notes: Join us to learn about the impacts of global warming on Minnesota's treasured Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Free And open To The public! Sponsored by Fresh Energy, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the Science Museum of Minnesota

For more information, contact J. Drake Hamilton at 651 726 7562 or hamilton@fresh-energy.org

#### Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: Tuesday, November 28 and Wednesday November 29, 2006

Time: 4:00PM and 9:30AM

Location: 306 Borlaug Hall and 375 Bell Museum

Presenter: Dr. David Weisrock Department of Biology Duke University. Candidate for Assistant Professor, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles Bell Museum of Natural History.

Topic: "The Systematics of a Model Organism and its Natural Relatives: Axolotls and North American Tiger Salamanders" and "Speciation and Diversification in North American Woodland Salamanders"

Notes:

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

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.

The Lion and the Lamb, or the Facts and the Truth

Presenter: Fenton Johnson

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 28; 7:30 pm

Location: Weisman Art Museum, Shepard

Notes: Worldwide we are witnessing violence with its roots in the tension between reason and faith, science and religion, history and memory, the law and the heart, the facts and the truth. Are these forces inevitably mutually destructive, or can the magicians of the earth--its artists and scientists and writers--propose and negotiate peace? In a world in which fact is so malleable, what is truth, and how may we know and preserve it? Memoirist, novelist, and essayist Fenton Johnson discusses how a frank embrace of memory--including its fallibility--may be our best means for historically hostile disciplines to make constructive peace, in which the scientist will lie down with the priest, the historian with the fictionist, the lion with the lamb.

This is the kickoff event for a yearlong series that will bring in distinguished authors to explore the intersection of memoir and history.

For more information, visit:

[www.whosgotthistory.umn.edu](http://www.whosgotthistory.umn.edu) <<http://www.whosgotthistory.umn.edu>>

Major funding from: the University's McKnight Arts and Humanities Endowment, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Events Fund. Co-sponsors include: the School of Journalism and Mass Communications the Center for German and European Studies; the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; the Center for Jewish Studies; the Creative Writing Program; the Department of American Studies; the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature; the Department of English; the Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; the Department of History; the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally Programs office; the Immigration History Research Center; the Institute for Global Studies; the Center for the Study of Politics & Governance; the Frederick R. Weisman Museum; the Loft Literary Center; the Minnesota Historical Society.

Special seminar: Postdoctoral candidate for Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology

Time and Date: Wednesday November 29, 2006 10:30AM

Location: 495 Hodson Hall, St Paul

Presenter: Dr. Hangkyo Lim University of Kansas Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Title: "Female Pheromonal Chorusing and Aggregation in an Arctiid Moth, *Utetheisa ornatrix*: A New Aspect of Pheromone Communication"

Notes: Prior to mating, male and female of certain species of arctiid moths aggregate in response small groups of females which form clusters and release pheromones in a synchronized manner, or 'chorus'. Competition amongst females is intense and results in female-biased sex ratios and promiscuity, and in some instances, loosely-knit leks. This talk will discuss the evolution and functional significance of pheromonal chorusing and how it might apply to and aid understanding of pheromonal communication in other groups of organisms including fish.

Questions?: Peter Sorensen [psorensen@umn.edu](mailto:psorensen@umn.edu)

Forest Resources

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2006

Times: 3:00pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenters: Tony Schoenecker Graduate Student and John Berini Graduate Student

Titles: "Describing and Differentiating Recreational ATV Rider Preferences" and "The Effects of a Changing Landscape on Wolf-Bison Interactions: Pelican Valley, Yellowstone National Park"

Notes: (Schoenecker presentation) Recreation preferences are a fundamental aspect of leisure social behavior. A useful construct to assess recreation preferences is specialization. Although research has examined recreation preferences in many outdoor recreation activities, no study has focused on recreational ATV rider preferences. Further, within-group differences as a consequence of recreation specialization among ATV riders remain empirically unknown. Given the rapid growth of recreational ATV riding within Minnesota and across the United States, examining the recreation preferences of Minnesota's recreational ATV riding population is both timely and important. The purpose of this project was to discern 1) important recreation preferences among systematically selected registered recreational ATV riders and 2) preference differences by recreation specialization. Results shed light on the preferences of recreational ATV riders and suggest that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to establishing trails for this activity may not satisfy the range of participation styles. Management implications for ATV trail design and ATV tourism are discussed as well as ideas for future research.

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## **Announcements**

LCCMR Proposal Review Opportunity

The deadline for proposals was Friday, November 17, 2006. Three proposals were received.

To review the proposals go to the LCCMR website at [www.lccmr.leg.mn](http://www.lccmr.leg.mn) under the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan click on Proposal A, B, or C to view them. A hard copy of each proposal is available for review at the Legislative Reference Library - Rm 645 State Office Building.

Comments are welcome. Please submit through the website.  
For more information contact Michael McDonough at 651-296-2443.

#### Rounding up the next batch of student presenters for CB Seminar spring semester

Just a reminder, you need to present twice before you graduate from the program.  
If you want to present in the spring, e-mail me (brumm043@umn.edu) back with the following information:

- 1) The title of your presentation.
- 2) Any dates that you absolutely, positively, can't present.
- 3) Two of your preferred presentation dates.

I'm not able to promise you any particular date at this point, but at the very least, we will avoid those dates you for sure can't make. If you don't send me a title, I can not and will not reserve a spot for you. The deadline for submitting a title is Dec. 13th. When you are considering possible dates, remember that seminar is on Monday's and that student presentation slots are for half of a seminar session. The sooner that you e-mail me a title, the more likely you are to get a slot that works for you.

Thanks and have a great weekend,  
Rachel Brummel [brumm043@umn.edu]

#### \*\*\*\*2006 Frenatae Honey and Candle Sale\*\*\*\*

This year's Honey and Candle Sale will be held: November 29- November 30th: 9am until 5pm (\*, \*\* see below for locations) December 1: 10am until 2pm (\* see below for location)

\*= Hodson Hall in front of the Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife Library \*\*= St. Paul Student Center -Preorder Forms are now available on-line at the Frenatae Website:

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/%7Efrenatae/honeysale.htm>

Preorders must be received by November 22, 2005 and must be picked up at the Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife Library (Hodson Hall) by Thursday, November 30th at 5pm.

Thank you for your support!

#### 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)

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## **Funding opportunities**

### New Funding for International Scholarly Activities

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

Guidelines and application materials: <http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html>

Questions: Karen Brown, 612-624-0832 or kbt@umn.edu

#### *Funding for Faculty, Staff, and Colleges/Departments*

- Interdisciplinary International Institutional Partnership Grants *Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007*
- Interdisciplinary International Research Circle Grants *Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007*

Informational Sessions: are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, November 28, 9:00-10:30am, 620B Mayo Building  
Wednesday, November 29, 9:00-10:30am, 190F Coffey Hall  
Thursday, November 30, 9:00 - 10:30am, 110 Heller Hall  
Thursday, November 30, 11:30am-1:00pm, Nolte Library

#### *Funding for Graduate and Professional Degree Students*

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

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

GRADUATE student informational Sessions: are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, November 29, 2:30 - 4:00pm, 125 Blegen Hall

More information on guidelines and application forms is available at:

<http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html>.

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

Students currently registered for credit in the University of Minnesota Graduate School who are official state-of-Minnesota residents may apply. The award is open to individuals who have an interest in or connection with Norway and/or its culture. Applicants should have a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field, with a sound research or study plan. Applicants must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and high academic achievement. Preference will be given to students who earned their undergraduate degrees from a Minnesota college or university, or from a college founded by or associated with Norwegian-Americans, such as Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A stipend of \$10,000 for the academic year. For recipients without another source of tuition support, such as an assistantship, the Graduate School Fellowship Office will provide a Tuition Scholarship for full-time study for the academic year.

Torske Klubben is interested in supporting students of high academic achievement who show great promise of becoming leaders in their chosen profession and/or in the Norwegian- American community, who have a deep and abiding cultural and/or professional interest in Norway (in a historical or present-day context), and who convey a sensitivity to the future of Norway and Norway-America relationships. Need may be taken into account, all other factors being equal.

Complete Fellowship description, application form, and instructions are available on the web at [http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk\\_mn\\_residents.pdf](http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk_mn_residents.pdf) or from the Graduate School Fellowship Office [gsfellow@tc.umn.edu](mailto:gsfellow@tc.umn.edu)

Deadline: March 1, 2005

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

Scholarship Funding Opportunities for Graduate/Professional Students

Funding available: **Summer 2007** (\$2500 stipend + tuition and selected fees) and **2007-08 Academic Year** (\$15,000 stipend + tuition and fees)

FLAS fellowships promote the study of modern foreign languages within graduate and professional schools. The awards are available on either a 9-month academic year or summer term basis. The fellowships are primarily available to graduate and

professional school students studying less commonly taught languages, but students of other languages are also welcome to apply.

Join us for an Informational Meeting:

Tuesday, November 21, 2006 – 246 Social Sciences, 3:30-4:30pm

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 – 128 Folwell Hall, 3:30-4:30pm

Thursday, November 30, 2006 – Humphrey Center 215, 3:30-4:30pm

During these meetings we will also provide information about FLEP (Foreign Language Enhancement Program) summer scholarships. For more information, see <http://igs.cla.umn.edu/grad/>

#### The Udall Foundation

Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Environmental Public Policy & Conflict Resolution Dissertation Fellowship for qualified Ph.D. students. The Udall Foundation awards two one-year fellowships of up to \$24,000 to doctoral candidates whose research concerns U.S. environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who are entering their final year of writing the dissertation. Dissertation Fellowships are intended to cover both academic and living expenses from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Please see the brochure for program details. Applications are available at [www.udall.gov](http://www.udall.gov)

While scholarly excellence is of prime importance in selection of fellows, the Foundation is also seeking to identify individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who have the potential to make a significant impact in the real world.

#### The Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences (<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>)

There are 3 funding opportunities for faculty; graduate and professional students; and departments, programs, or centers. This funding initiative aims to encourage work on the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences.

The Requests for Proposals (RFPs) may be found at:

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/> :

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) from GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS to Provide Support for Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/19/07);
2. Request for Proposals (RFP) to Support DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM, or CENTER Colloquia in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07); and
3. Request for Proposals (RFP) from FACULTY to Fund Interdisciplinary Research, Projects, or Curricular Innovation on Health, Environment, or the Life Sciences in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07).

The Consortium currently links 18 University programs and centers to examine the legal, ethical, and policy questions raised by the life sciences.

If you have questions concerning these RFPs, please contact Audrey Boyle at [boyle032@umn.edu](mailto:boyle032@umn.edu) or 612.626.5624.

Audrey Boyle, Project Manager

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences University of Minnesota Law School

(612) 626-5624

(612) 624-9143 fax

[Boyle032@umn.edu](mailto:Boyle032@umn.edu)

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>

### AAUW Career Development Grants

The American Association of University Women will make 60 Career Development Grants of \$2,000-\$8,000 to women in the early stages of a master's degree program who have not received academic degrees in the last 4.5 years. Special consideration will be given to women of color.

DEADLINE: December 15, 2006

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

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### DNR student worker position—hurry this closes today!

Working Title: Student Worker Paraprofessional

Class/Option: Student Worker Paraprofessional Senior

Position: 9949550 Location: Saint Paul Bargaining Unit: AFSCME 207 Employment

Condition: Limited, Part-time FLSA Status: non-exempt Days of Work: Monday-Friday

Hours of work: 08:00 AM-04:30 PM Work Area: Division of Lands and Minerals Previous

Incumbent: N/A View at:

[https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?\\_posting=06DNR000727](https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?_posting=06DNR000727) (or below)

\$ 12.40-\$ 15.17 hourly

Apply for this job

Date Posted: 11/17/2006

Closing Date: 11/27/2006

Position End Date: 08/31/2007

Job Description: A Student Worker Para-Professional (Sr.) position exists to assist the Information Systems and Records Section and Transaction Section staff in managing information about land and mineral ownership and transactions.

Specifically the job will include:

\*Entering easement information from DNR documents into the Land Records System.

\*Checking land and mineral record information in existing data bases for accuracy.

\*Reconciling county Tax Forfeit parcels.

\*Assisting staff in accessing and reporting land and mineral ownership information.

\*Assisting staff with documenting division business processes and requirements \*Other tasks as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications: Students must be enrolled in an educational program or planning to enroll within three months at a university, college, or vocational school. Students enrolled at a credit granting institution must carry at least nine quarter (six semester) credits. Students enrolled at a non-credit granting institution must carry two or more classes.

The student's major or degree is directly related to the field of study. Requires occasionally lifting and/or carrying such articles as file folders, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties.

Preferred Qualifications: Communication skills to respond orally and in writing to a wide range of technical questions. Experience with personal computers, an introductory knowledge of geographical concepts and information systems (GIS) and/or surveying and/or legal descriptions for land transactions, and be self motivating, be attentive to details, and able to work with minimal supervision.

Selection Process: The selection process is a resume-based, skill-matching process. Your resume will be entered into a database. The software program matches your skills with the skills needed to perform the duties of the position. If your skills match the required skills for this position, the department may contact you.

If you have already submitted a resume to this database within the last 12 months that clearly identifies your knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience, you do not need to submit another.

How to Apply: You are strongly encouraged to submit your resume through the online Resume Builder at <<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/ResumeBuilder>>. You may copy and paste in your existing resume or let the software create a resume for you. You may edit your resume later should your contact information or experience change. The Resume Builder also collects your work preference information so we can match you with future job openings that meet your interests.

If you wish to apply with a paper copy, submit your resume AND a completed State of Minnesota Employment Application form to: Minnesota Department of Employee Relations (DOER), 200 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155. Be sure to indicate the posting number of this job on your application. The paper application is available on the State Employment Web and DOER web sites, at any state agency HR office, or by calling

651-296-2616 or, in greater Minnesota, 1-800-657-3974.

Contact for More Information: Perry Canton, 651/259-5381 /  
perry.canton@dnr.state.mn.us.

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## Short Courses

### SAS PROC Mixed—two day training session

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

Where: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

When: December 18, 2006 1:00-5:00 PM and December 19, 2006 8:00 AM-12:00 noon.

All interested faculty, staff, and graduate students are welcome to attend. There is no fee for this workshop, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

TO REGISTER: reply to Jean Swanson: [swans008@umn.edu](mailto:swans008@umn.edu)

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

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## Spring Semester 2007 Courses

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

Dr. Todd Arnold is teaching this seminar (Tuesday evenings, 5:00-8:00 pm, 20 Feb to 27 March).

Mark-recapture (or mark-resighting) data can provide a powerful means of estimating population size and important vital rates like survival, natality, and immigration, but the statistical programs for analyzing these data can seem daunting at first. In this 6-week seminar, we'll take a whirlwind tour of Program MARK and use it to analyze various forms of mark-recapture data, examining everything from population size based on live-trapping data to adult survival based on telemetry data.

Contact Todd Arnold for more information on this course ([arnol065@umn.edu](mailto:arnol065@umn.edu)).

### Sustainable Aquaculture FW5455

How can we make the world's fastest growing food sector environmentally and socially responsible?

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

Graduate Seminar in Climatology (GEOG 8270)

Spring 2007

Topic: Climate Models and Modeling

Meets Wednesdays from 2:00-4:30 p.m. (West Bank)

Instructor: Katherine Klink

Science and Policy of Global Environmental Change

EEB/FR 5146, T, Th, 10:15 - 11:30 am

Instructors: Sarah Hobbie, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, [shobbie@umn.edu](mailto:shobbie@umn.edu), Steve Polasky, Applied Economics and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, [spolasky@apcc.umn.edu](mailto:spolasky@apcc.umn.edu), Peter Reich, Forest Resources, [preich@umn.edu](mailto:preich@umn.edu)

Course Description: Through readings, lectures, discussions, and presentations this course will introduce the critical issues underpinning global environmental change and its biological implications. The course will examine current scientific literature in exploring evidence for human-induced global change, including changes in biodiversity, land use/land cover, the global N cycle, the global C cycle and climate change. We will also discuss the potential effects of these global changes on a wide range of biological processes. In addition, we will examine some of the economic drivers, economic consequences, and political processes related to global change, including local, national and international laws and policies that impact global change.

Please feel free to contact any of the instructors with questions about the course!

Sarah E. Hobbie, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Admissions

Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior University of Minnesota

1987 Upper Buford Circle

St. Paul MN 55108

ph: 612-625-6269

FAX: 612-624-6777

Office: 502 Ecology, St. Paul Campus

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

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

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](mailto:pff@umn.edu) for permission number) Under the guidance of the course instructor and a faculty mentor from a local university, participants will plan for their future careers and consider how best to structure the remainder of their graduate education or post-doctoral appointment for future success in the job market. Activities include examining a variety of institutional contexts in higher education, gaining valuable teaching experience at a host institution, exploring the faculty role beyond the classroom, and creating a job search portfolio.

Spring 2007

Mondays 2:30-5:30 pm / St. Paul

Thursdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

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

Spring 2007

Fridays, 10:10 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets six times.

Teaching With Technology - Practices, Problems and Promises

Tuesdays, PACE Program for CSOM students. Contact Steven Huchendorf.

Fridays, 9:05 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets five times. Language and Literature Job Search Strategies

Mondays, 5 - 7:30 pm. Class meets five times. Multicultural Teaching and Learning Across the Disciplines

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## 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.

Bruce Vondracek [bvondrac@umn.edu] will also be traveling to the Conference in a Coop Unit Suburban and he welcomes other riders. The caveat is that he will leave early Sunday, 3 December and return following oral presentations on Tuesday, 5 December.

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## News you can use

### A Free-for-All on Science and Religion

By [GEORGE JOHNSON](#) Published: November 21, 2006 New York Times

Maybe the pivotal moment came when Steven Weinberg, a [Nobel laureate](#) in physics, warned that "the world needs to wake up from its long nightmare of religious belief," or when a Nobelist in chemistry, Sir Harold Kroto, called for the John Templeton Foundation to give its next \$1.5 million prize for "progress in spiritual discoveries" to an atheist — Richard Dawkins, the Oxford evolutionary biologist whose book "The God Delusion" is a national best-seller.

Or perhaps the turning point occurred at a more solemn moment, when [Neil deGrasse Tyson](#), director of the [Hayden Planetarium](#) in New York City and an adviser to the Bush administration on space exploration, hushed the audience with heartbreaking photographs of newborns misshapen by birth defects — testimony, he suggested, that blind nature, not an intelligent overseer, is in control.

To read more check out: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/21/science/21belief.html?ref=science>

You can join the public conversation on this topic at the following links: [Readers' Opinions Share Your Thoughts](#) [Read Comments](#).

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## **Date Saver**

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.