



Notes from the Field

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What's Luck Got To Do With It?

On the evening of March 31st, a group of people interested in Ecology gathered for three hours in the ASI building with mugs and spoons in hand. Eight undergraduates, one post-doc, and numerous graduate students from five departments and two intercollege graduate degree programs were present. In total, close to forty people attended the Ecology Career Forum, which featured five panelists with very different careers.



The panelists included, John Young (environmental consultant), Andrew Warner (senior advisor for water management in The Nature Conservancy), Carolyn Mahan (associate professor in Biology at the Penn State Altoona campus), David Pacchioli (editor for the Research Penn State magazine), and Wayne Millington (NE Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the National Park Service). Each panelist used the word, "luck," at least once throughout the evening when describing how they made it to their current positions. However, they all insisted it takes more than luck. If you are true to yourself and your interests, you will open doors for yourself in order to arrive at that satisfying job.

What were the mugs and spoons for? The Ecology Career Forum attendees and panelists also benefited from a free soup and bread dinner sponsored by PSIE, the EGSO, and the IGDP in Ecology. The food was made locally by Tom Everly, the soup chef for Stone Soup Market, and by Millheim Bread Co.

It was clear to everyone by the end of the evening that there are many careers, which are fueled by a passion for Ecology. There are also many unique ways to arrive at them.

~Glenna Malcolm, PhD Candidate Ecology

Tiffany Bogich wins prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

Penn State IGDP Ecology Graduate Student Tiffany Bogich, along with three other undergraduates, Joshua Albert, Tina Lin and Christopher Urban each have won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships for 2005. The national scholarship was established to encourage more students to pursue degrees and careers in mathematics, the sciences and engineering, as there has been a noticeable decline in these innovative fields. Bogich has dedicated her studies at Penn State to just this ideal and has excelled in her chosen fields of ecology.

Bogich, a junior mathematics (B.S.)/ecology (M.S.) major and Schreyer Honors College Scholar, realized a connection between mathematics and ecology while taking a course entitled "Ecological and Environmental Problem Solving" with Professor Katriona Shea. Now, she works alongside Shea as an honors and master's research student. Blending her training in mathematics with the knowledge acquired in ecology, Bogich is utilizing mathematical modeling to optimize the management and monitoring of the gypsy moth. Bogich's course of study represents the ideals of the Goldwater Foundation as she has dedicated her time to providing real answers to problems in ecology through research and mathematical applications. With her acceptance of the Goldwater Scholarship, Bogich now hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in ecology, and eventually teach and conduct research at the university level on the use of quantitative methods in behavioral ecology.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was founded by Congress to encourage educational pursuits in engineering, the sciences and mathematics. Goldwater served the United States as both soldier and senator, while maintaining a strong legacy of courage, leadership and vision for a greater United States. The Goldwater Scholarship helps to preserve Goldwater's dream of improving the nation by funding scholarships for exceptional students to pursue careers that will contribute to advancements in the sciences, engineering and mathematics.

With their acceptance of this scholarship, these students will receive approximately \$7,500 to assist with their financial needs to complete their undergraduate degrees.

~adapted from www.live.psu.edu



Volleyball for Ecologists!

WHAT: V-ball for fun!

WHERE: Sunset park (a few blocks northwest of campus, follow McKee street)

WHEN: Thursdays 5:30pm

WHO: you and other ecologists

On April 28th we kicked off the new ecology volleyball season at Sunset park and we had a lot of fun! "That is what you're saying," you may think, but luckily I have proof, thanks to Linda Zelnio: (You can find more on the following webpage: <http://photobucket.com/albums/y170/LindaZphotography>)

Besides happy faces and high quality fun-v-ball, you can also see on these pictures that there is enough space for your volleyball skills (or your lack of them...we're not picky), so do not hesitate and come too next Thursday, May 5th (and following Thursdays) from 5:30 on!

Please let me know if you want to be on my VOLLEYBALL-LIST to get weekly reminders and cancellations (exj10@psu.edu). See you next Thursday in Sunset Park!

~Eelke Jongejans, Post-doc Scholar



Congratulations to:

Kat Shea, Assistant Professor of Biology, winner of the Edward D. Bellis Award for outstanding contribution and dedication to educating graduate students in the Ecology Program.

Joe Dauer, PhD Candidate, winner of the J. Brian Horton Memorial Award for outstanding achievement and service to the Ecology graduate student community.

Rosemarie Hibbler, Program Coordinator IGDPs Ecology and Physiology, winner of the Penn State Educational Office Professionals, 2005 Outstanding Office Professional Award to recognize exceptional meritorious service on behalf of Penn State including exhibiting professionalism, initiative, leadership skills, self-improvement and volunteerism. Ro will be honored at a Spring reception on May 19th. Her dedication to the Ecology program and concern for the people in it, is well worthy of recognition. Congratulations!

Schedule of Events:

May 12	EGSO Meeting 4:30~5:30 pm Sunset Park
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