

Ecology & Evolution Graduate Program Newsletter

April 2016

Previous newsletters may be found at:
<http://rci.rutgers.edu/~deenr/news.html>

**Thanks to everyone who have sent in material for the newsletter!
Keep those emails, cards, letters, and social media posts coming! Send
your news and accomplishments to pjmorin@rci.rutgers.edu.**

Congratulations!

Molly Bindell (in the Zhang Lab) has received two awards –
Garden Club of America- Caroline Thorn Kissel Summer Environmental Studies Scholarship
National Military Family Association- Military Spouse Scholarship

Jennifer Blake-Mahmud (in the Struwe Lab) received a dissertation teaching award from the Graduate School –New Brunswick on April 21. The title of the course that Jennifer will teach as part of her recognition is “Sex in the tree of life: the evolution and persistence of sexual reproduction”.

Rita Grunberg (in the Sukhdeo Lab) won best paper award at the Helminthological Society of Washington Meetings in DC with her talk entitled "Parasites deviate from the energetic equivalence rule."

Natalie Howe (in the Dighton Lab) received an award for excellence in undergraduate teaching from the Graduate School – New Brunswick on April 21.

Marci Meixler, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, received the SEBS Teaching Excellence Award on April 21.

Max Piana (in the Handel Lab) received both the Torrey Botanical Society Graduate Student Research Fellowship and the Philadelphia Botanical Club Bayard Long Award for Botanical Research. These grants will support his research comparing native tree recruitment dynamics in urban and rural oak-hickory forests.

Lena Struwe received a 2016 Warren I. Sussman Award for Excellence in Teaching from Rutgers University.

Presentations:

Michael Allen:

Tsipoura, N., **M. Allen**, K. Peters, K. Mylecraine, and D. Mizrahi. "Monitoring grassland bird populations in New Jersey and the Northeast: Citizen science and airfield research 2004-2013." Grasslands of New York City: A workshop to evaluate habitat quality and availability for birds. NY DEC, Region 2 and Gateway National Recreation Area, 23 February 2016, New York, NY. Talk.

Allen, M. and N. Tsipoura. "Bird use of coastal impoundments in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast: A preliminary analyses using eBird data" Invited lecture, Raritan Valley Community College, Vertebrate Zoology, 17 March 2016, Branchburg, NJ. Talk.

Mylecraine*, K., **M. Allen**, D. Freiday, M. Crewe, N. Tsipoura, D. La Puma, D. Mizrahi, and C. Davis. "Assessing the status of Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*) in New Jersey" Meeting of The Wildlife Society, NJ Chapter, 14 April 2016, Assunpink, NJ. Joint talk.

Allen, M., N. Tsipoura, K. Schrass, T. Schottland, A. Kane, K. McGuckin, H. Galbraith, J. Miller, C. Emerson, C. Frost, and D. Mizrahi. Regional Catalog and Vulnerability Assessment of Coastal Impoundments in the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic. Coastal Impoundment Vulnerability and Resilience Project: Stakeholder workshop, 21 April 2016, Plainsboro, NJ. Talk.

Publications:

Clark, Daniel G., Amanda Sorensen, and Rebecca Jordan. Characterization of factors influencing environmental literacy in suburban park users. *Current World Environment*. [In Press: April 2016]

Grants:

Ariel Kruger in the Morin lab received a grant for \$5000 from the New Jersey Water Resources Research Institute for her research on amphibian disease ecology.

Faculty Achievements and Activities:

Rick Lathrop and Jeanne Herb of the Bloustein School participated in a congressional briefing On March 23, 2016 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. The briefing was organized by NOAA with the objective of informing US congressional staff on activities related to Community Resilience in the Urban Environment. Rick and Jeanne talked about their work on building Tools for Building Coastal Community Resilience.

Student Achievements and Activities:

Lauren Frazee was selected to travel to China for the Rutgers University-Jilin University graduate student forum. This will be the second graduate student exchange between Jilin and Rutgers, the first having been a visit to Rutgers by Ph.D. students from Jilin in December of last year.

Transitions:

Eden Buenaventura (from the Lathrop Lab) successfully completed her Master's Degree on April 1, 2016.

Natalie Howe (from the Dighton Lab) successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on April 5.

Alexis Kleinbeck (from the Handel Lab) successfully completed her M.S. degree on April 8.

Karen Leu (from the Maslo Lab) successfully completed her M.S. degree on April 5.

Oliver Stringham (from the Fefferman Lab) successfully completed his qualifying exams on April 6.

Talia Young (from the Jensen Lab) successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on April 8.

Alumni News:

Chris Martine, BS Cook 1996 and MS Ecology and Evolution 2001, **received a Dennis M. Fenton Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award from SEBS**. Chris was also just promoted to the rank of Full Professor. Chris is the David Burpee Chair in Plant Genetics and Director of the Manning Herbarium at Bucknell University.

Timon McPhearson (advisor Peter Morin) has received tenure at The New School in NYC where he is the Director of the Environmental Studies Program.

Zac Long (advisor Peter Morin) has received tenure at UNC Wilmington, where he is in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology.