

Evolution, Ecology & Biodiversity Major Newsletter Fall 2012



Fox Squirrel

Inside this issue:

New Academic Peer Adviser,
Larson Ankeny

EVE Undergrad Website

Graduation Checklist

Bodega Marine Lab

Bodega Marine Lab Classes

Interview with Graduate Student
Jessica Abbott

Welcome EEB Students!

It's fall quarter at UC Davis and the temperature is starting to fall and the smell of pumpkin spice lattes are in the air. The leaves will change color from verdant green to shades of fiery red and crisp orange... and there is also this funny thing called class and work that happens too. The EEB major is offering a myriad of exciting coursework this year that includes: ecology & evolution of animal-plant interactions (EVE 181), marine ecol-

ogy (EVE 115), global change ecology (EVE 120) and many other great courses that are applicable for graduation requirements. If you would like any assistance in course planning, checks on graduation requirements or general questions contact the advising staff listed here. Feel free to email us or visit during drop-in office hours or make an appointment.

EEB Advisers:

Sherri Mann,

Undergraduate Adviser
smann@ucdavis.edu

Storer 2320

Larson Ankeny,

Peer Adviser

lkankeny@ucdavis.edu

Storer 2202

Prof. Gail Patricelli,

Master Adviser

gpatricelli@ucdavis.edu

Storer 2208.

EVE Fall Courses

- EVE 100—Introduction to Evolution
- EVE 101—Introduction to Ecology
- EVE 102—Population and Quantitative Genetics
- EVE 117—Plant Ecology
- EVE 149—Evolution of Ecological Systems
- EVE 181—Ecology & Evolution of Animal-Plant Interactions
- EVE 190—Undergraduate Seminar, "Climate Change and Conservation Biology"

New Academic Peer Adviser, Larson Ankeny

Hello to all of my EEB colleagues! My name is Larson Ankeny and I am the Peer Adviser for the Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity major for the 2012-2013 academic year and I'd like to welcome all of the new and returning students and wish you well for this year! I am very excited to be your peer adviser and am more than happy to answer your questions pertaining to the EEB major; classes, research opportunities, career

planning and anything else you have in mind. I have taken many of the courses offered by the EEB major including animal communication, invertebrate biology, and ecology of tropical systems and I have conducted research with our faculty for the past 2 years. I hope to be a strong resource for all of you and I can be contacted by email: lkankeny@ucdavis.edu or stop by my office (Storer

2202) and visit when I hold office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4 and Tuesdays 1-5. Those times are subject to change and I am also free to make appointments as well.



Me and a water snake I caught for a field experiment

EVE Undergraduate Website

Ever curious what EVE classes are going to be offered or want to know what classes you need to take to graduate? Check out the EVE/EEB website (<http://eve.ucdavis.edu/undergrad/>) to find all that information and much more! The EVE website also has information on career planning and lists the EVE faculty with their research interests as well as their lab's website which you can use to figure out potential research and internship opportunities!



Sage Grouse

Graduation Checklist!

Thinking it's about time to graduate and move onto the big, scary real world? Make sure you refer to the graduation checklist posted on the EVE website, <http://www.eve.ucdavis.edu/undergrad/gradchk.html>. It outlines all the deadlines for filing to graduate, as well as registering for commencement. Also make sure to meet with your undergraduate adviser, Sherri Mann, to check that you have fulfilled all major requirements and request a degree check from the College of Biological Sciences at room 202 in the Life Sciences Building. For those of you planning on graduating in spring, the College of Biological Sciences will update its commencement page in February.



Tiger Salamander

Bodega Marine Lab



Ochre Sea Star

Being a student in Davis may seem at times like living in the middle of Farmville, but the beach and ocean are actually closer than you'd think. A two hour drive from Davis brings you to the Bodega Marine Lab (BML) located on the Sonoma coast. BML is a facility where research on both marine and terrestrial biology is done by UC Davis faculty as well as visiting scientists. BML offers 362 acres of pro-

tected nature including rocky coves with numerous tide pools, mudflats with expansive eelgrass beds, sandy dunes and beaches and research vessels. These resources are also available to students through classes taught onsite! Classes are offered both in spring quarter as well as during the summer sessions (see below for class offerings) and onsite housing is available for students. In classes, students will get small class sizes, hands-on learning

with real organisms, personal attention from their professors as well as the opportunity to carry out their own research. For more information about BML, the classes, how to apply and what it's like to live there, check out the website (<http://bml.ucdavis.edu/>) or contact the on campus BML recruiter, Wilson Sauthoff through email, wsauthoff@ucdavis.edu, or visit him during office hours in Storer 2202 on Thursdays from 11-12.

Classes Offered at BML

Spring Quarter:

NPB 141: Physiological Adaptation of Marine Organisms

NPB 141P: Advanced Laboratory Research in Physiological Adaptation of Marine Organisms

BIS 122: Population Biology and Ecology

BIS 122P: Advanced Laboratory Research in Population Biology

and Ecology

BIS 123: Undergraduate Colloquium in Marine Science

Applications for spring quarter are due 1/31/13.

Summer Session I

Sequence I Marine Organisms and Ecology of the Californian Coast

EVE 106: Mechanical Design in

Organisms

EVE 114: Experimental Invertebrate Ecology

BIS 124: Coastal Marine Research

EVE 111: Marine Environmental Issues

Sequence II Effects of Coastal Pollution on Marine Organisms

ETX 127: Environmental Stress

Summer Session II

Sequence III Oceanography

ESP 152: Coastal Oceanography

GEL/ESP 150C: Biological Oceanography

BIS 124: Coastal Marine Research

Application due dates for the summer sessions are to be announced .



Interview with PhD student Jessica Abbott

LA: Tell us about your background...

JA: I am from North Carolina and I did my undergrad at North Carolina State University and majored in zoology. I did undergraduate research on endangered, threatened species in the sand hills when I was there and I decided I wanted to switch to marine stuff mostly because I like to SCUBA dive (laughs) and I thought I had to narrow down my interests. After undergrad, I got a tech position at BML working for Jay Stachowicz, who I was interested in for grad school, so it worked out pretty well. I worked for him for a year as a tech then applied to grad schools and then joined his lab at Davis.

LA: What are you doing for your PhD?

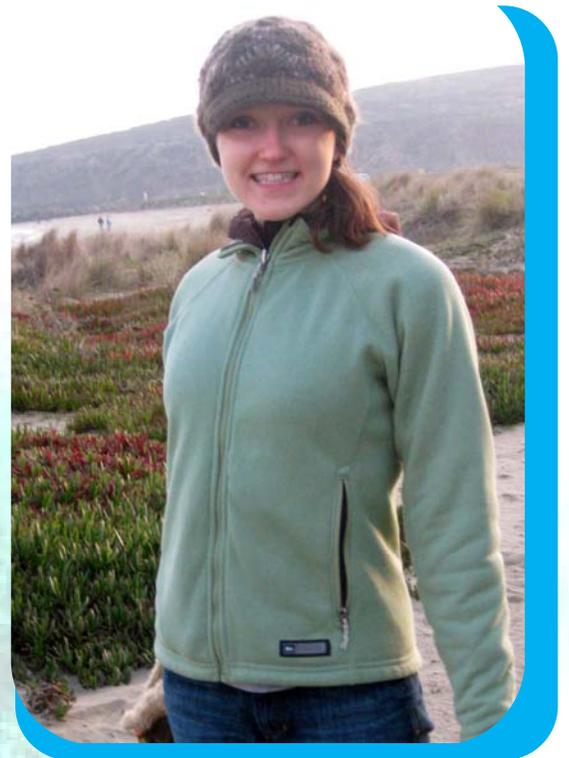
JA: For my PhD, I work with genetic diversity in eelgrass and I'm interested in how genetic diversity can make eelgrass populations more productive and stable in the face of disturbance such as algal blooms, geese grazing and climate change. Specifically we know some eelgrass beds with differ-

ent genotypes of eelgrass are more productive and less affected by some of these disturbances and that's just from manipulating the number of genotypes but now I am interested not just the number of genotypes but how closely related they are. The idea being that more closely related individuals might share more traits and so they'll compete more but there also might be some kin selection going on, too. So now, I'm looking at the relationship between relatedness of genotypes and their performance and also their traits and figuring out is it true that more closely relatedness individuals share more traits or vice versa.

LA: Where did your interest in ecology/marine biology come from?

JA: I've always been interested in nature, I grew up spending every weekend going hiking and fishing with my dad; our family trips were always backpacking or something outdoors oriented. In middle school and high school I worked at

the North Carolina Natural Science Museum and did this great program where I had the chance to take care of museum animals and present them to the public at events and at local high schools. We also did tons of local and international field trips, so I traveled a lot and saw tons of cool wildlife. We also had scientists come in to talk to us through the program and I got to see examples of what you could do in the field of zoology.



Jessica Abbott, Population Biology PhD student in Jay Stachowicz's Lab

Interview with PhD student Jessica Abbott

LA: How do you like the Bodega Marine Lab (as a resource)?

JA: I think BML is awesome! It's huge and has a lot of space for doing experiments, it has an awesome flow-through sea water systems so you can set up mesocosms and other indoor experiments that require flow-through sea water, it has a great community and there a lot of resident grad students and faculty, and weekly seminars where you can learn what other research is going on at BML and in marine biology and ecology at large from visiting scientists. It's a pretty tight knit community where you can interact with other labs and get help and borrow stuff (laughs); it's been great there!

LA: What is your favorite/ best part of your research?

JA: That's a tough question... I think for me, part of it is running the experiments and getting the results and seeing what I predicted was correct or not. And the other part is interacting with really cool people, I feel like I learn so much from interacting with professors, other grad students, students and techs and just everyone around me is smart and doing really cool things.

LA: Any future plans after grad school?

JA: Oh that's a loaded question

(laughs), I always thought I wanted to be a professor and wanted to go down the academic route but now, I'm not entirely sure if that's what I want to do but I'm still considering it a possibility. I'm more considering working with nonprofit groups or doing some more education and outreach like working at a museum or at a smaller non research oriented college but I don't know yet. I want to do something that keeps me doing field work and be outside.

LA: Advice to those looking to go to grad school?

JA: If you don't know what you want to do or not sure if you want to do a PhD then think doing a masters or some time as a tech, and regardless, I'd suggest working sometime in a job related to field you want to go into because once you get into a PhD it's a 5-7 year

commitment which is longer than the average marriage (laughs). Along those same lines it's important to find an adviser who is interested in you and what you'd like to work on as well as someone who you are compatible with, almost like in a relationship and a good way to do that is to talk to grad students because it's also important to get along with because they'll be people who you spend a lot of time with. So, do your homework before diving into a program!

Thank you Jessica for taking the time to answer these questions and for the advice!



One of Jessica's research sites in Bodega Harbor