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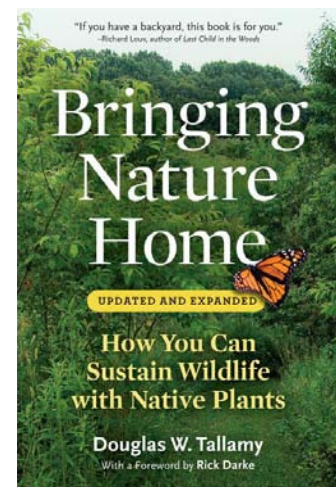


Douglas Tallamy, author of
Bringing Home Nature

Douglas Tallamy will be speaking on December 7th at 7:00 pm in the Holloway Great Hall. Doug is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology and director of the Center for Managed Ecosystems at the University of Delaware where he has authored 73 research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses for 30 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book *Bringing Nature Home; How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association.

Bringing Nature Home

Because our gardens and managed landscapes are part of the terrestrial ecosystems that sustain humans and the life around us, we must keep them in working order. To do that we can no longer view plants only as ornaments but must consider all of their ecological roles when selecting them for our gardens. Tallamy will discuss 1) the important ecological roles of the native plants in our landscapes; 2) why most native insects are unable to develop on plants from Asia and Europe; 3) why insects are essential components of local food webs; and 4) why ecosystems without insects will fail to produce the services that sustain humans. Gardening in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore. You may also be interested in the author's web site, <http://www.plantanative.com/>



This Month's Featured Faculty Dr. Les Erickson teaches several upper level courses here at SU and belongs to a faculty '80's-cover band. To learn more about Dr. Erickson go to page 6.

SU Biology had their first Biology Alumni Meet and Greet on November 5th, 2011. Check out the photos of those who were in attendance on pages 8-10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS

The Fall 2011 Biology and Chemistry Seminar Series:

http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~kxhunter/biology_seminars.html

Student Research Conference – Friday, April 27, 2012

Each spring semester, Salisbury University holds an annual Student Research Conference. This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase and celebrate significant accomplishments in research and performance across as many disciplines as are available in a university environment. For more information: <http://www.salisbury.edu/susrc/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ward Museum Activities

The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury MD ([map](#))

- [Reception for the Opening of Swanfall Exhibit](#): December 2, 5–7 p.m.
The public is invited to the free reception to celebrate the opening of the Swanfall exhibit. Swanfall will be on display in the museum from December 2, 2011 - February 5, 2012. This exhibit will showcase carvings, paintings, and artifacts, as well as photography from the new edition by Tom Horton and David Harp, *Swanfall: Journey of the Tundra Swans*.
- [Reception for the Opening of A Showcase of Women Carvers](#): February 10, 5–7 p.m.
The public is invited to a free reception to celebrate the opening of "Making Her Mark: A Showcase of Women Carvers". This exhibit will be on display in the museum February 10 - April 1, 2012. In honor of Women's History Month, the Ward Museum features an exhibit of carvings by women from the early twentieth century to the present day. Join us as we explore the legacy of women carvers past and present.
- [Drop-In Art Saturdays](#): November 19, and December 17, 2011
Drop-In Art is held on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to noon. In November, join museum educators and artist Michael Auger to create a paper tree in the Kirigami tradition. Kirigami is similar to Origami in that it is made of paper, however instead of just folds, the paper is also cut. Return each month for a new project and theme! There is no fee for the Drop-In Art program, but regular museum admission charges apply for entrance to the galleries.

OPPORTUNITIES

Costa Rica: Ecology and Conservation

Part-time faculty Mary Gunther is leading a spring trip to Costa Rica. This is Ms. Gunther's sixth trip to Costa Rica using EF Tours. The trips have all been fantastic.

Tour # 1146932; Tour Leader: Mary Gunther

Dates: March 2-10, 2012; Cost: \$2490

To register or view tour details go to <https://efcollegestudytours.com/secure/login/enroll-preview.aspx>

You can also call EF Tours at 1-877-485-4184. For more information: mrgunther@salisbury.edu

OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

United States Department of Agriculture: Student and Summer Employment Opportunities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) hires students in various roles throughout the organization during the school year and each summer. Information on ARS student and summer programs can be found at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/docs.htm?docid=1438>

Mayo Graduate School: Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics Ph.D. Program

E-mail: karnitz.larry@mayo.edu; Program URL: <http://www.mayo.edu/mgs/phd-admissions.html>

The core curriculum courses provide a broad foundation of knowledge needed to interpret current research findings and successfully perform laboratory research. Based on research interests, students also select from a menu of small-group tutorials that provide in-depth learning experiences. The most important part of the Ph.D. program is thesis research leading to a significant contribution to the body of scientific knowledge. Deadline: 12/01/2011

Institute of Cancer Research: Postgraduate Research Studentships

E-mail: registry@icr.ac.uk

Web Site: http://www.icr.ac.uk/education/science_students_opportunities/studentships/index.shtml

The sponsor provides full-time PhD studentships at the Institute of Cancer Research.

Deadline: 12/01/2011

Marine Biological Laboratory: Nikon Fellowship

E-mail: researchawards@mbi.edu; Program URL: <http://www.mbl.edu/research/summer/steps.html>

A summer fellowship at the Marine Biological Laboratory is available to a young investigator for research in an area of biology in which they can make extensive use of advanced microscopy or micromanipulation systems provided by Nikon, Inc. for their laboratory, and also benefit from technical expertise offered by Nikon, Inc. to support these instruments. Deadline: 12/15/2011

Torrey Botanical Society: Undergraduate Student Training Fellowship

E-mail: rmaczi@nybg.org

Program URL: http://www.torreybotanical.org/grants.html#Undergraduate_and_Graduate_Training

SYNOPSIS: The sponsor supports student training with an annual award of \$1,000.

Deadline: 12/31/2011

Torrey Botanical Society: Graduate Student Training Fellowship

E-mail: rmaczi@nybg.org; Web Site: <http://www.torreybotanical.org/index.html>

The sponsor supports student training with an annual award of \$1,000. Deadline: 12/31/2011

Our World - Underwater Scholarship Society: Rolex Scholarship

E-mail: info@owuscholarship.org; Web Site: <http://www.owuscholarship.org>

Each Rolex Scholarship provides a hands-on introduction to underwater and other aquatic-related endeavors for a young person considering a career in an underwater-related discipline.

One scholar is selected from each of the three regions and each scholar spends approximately one year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields. The range of experiences may include active participation in field studies, underwater research, scientific expeditions, laboratory assignments, equipment testing and design, photographic instruction, and other specialized assignments.

Deadline: 12/31/2011

OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

Baylor College of Medicine: Summer Medical and Research Training Program (SMART)

E-mail: gayles@bcm.edu; Web Site: <http://www.bcm.edu/smart/>

SYNOPSIS: The SMART Program was developed to provide frontier-level, biomedically related summer research projects for undergraduates in a supportive environment with supplemental educational activities tailored for each individual. Deadline: 01/10/2012

Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory: Undergraduate Student Fellowships

E-mail: mmckernan@mdibl.org; Web Site: <http://www.mdibl.org>

The sponsor provides in-residence summer fellowships at Mount Desert Island Biological Lab for undergraduate students with a minimum of one semester of undergraduate biology. Deadline: 01/13/2012

Florida Education Fund: McKnight Doctoral Fellowships

E-mail: mdf@fefonline.org; Web Site: <http://www.fefonline.org/>

McKnight Doctoral Fellowships provide full tuition or up to \$5,000 per year plus an annual stipend of \$12,000 for students pursuing Ph.D. degrees at the following universities in the State of Florida: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Florida Atlantic University; Florida Institute of Technology; Florida International University; Florida State University; University of Central Florida; University of Florida; University of Miami; and University of South Florida. Deadline: 01/15/2012

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Undergraduate Research Program

E-mail: urpadmin@cshl.edu; Web Site: <http://www.cshl.edu/education/urp>

CSHL's Undergraduate Research Program (URP) provides one of the few places where young people are instructed in the techniques of modern biology while becoming integrated members of a vibrant scientific community. Each year, approximately 25 students from around the world are accepted to the fully subsidized, 10-week summer program to work with senior Laboratory staff members on independent research projects in: Cancer biology; Neuroscience; Plant biology; Cellular and molecular biology; Genetics; and Computational biology. Deadline: 01/15/2012

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): Research Internships in Science and Engineering

E-mail: rise@daad.de; Program URL: <http://www.daad.de/rise/en/11638/index.html>

The sponsor provides support for undergraduate students from the US, Canada and the UK in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering for a summer research internship in Germany. The RISE interns are matched with a doctoral student whom they assist and who will also serve as their mentor. Deadline: 01/31/2012

American Society of Naturalists: Student Research Award

E-mail: asn@press.uchicago.edu; Website: <http://www.asnamnat.org/node/127>

The sponsor invites applications for their Student Research Awards, which support research by student members that advance the goals of the American Society of Naturalists. Deadline: 01/31/2012

OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

University of Notre Dame: NSF Summer Undergraduate Research Program

Web Site: <http://nd.edu/~biosreu/>; Program URL: <http://nd.edu/~biosreu/apply.html>

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame is sponsoring a NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program during the summer of 2012. The focal point of the proposed projects is Integrative Cell and Molecular Biology. Deadline: 02/01/2012

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory: Research Experience for Undergraduates

E-mail: admin@rmbll.org; Web Site: <http://rmbll.org/>

This program is an excellent way to decide if a career in field biology is right for you. Advanced Independent Research offers intensive mountain field work and emphasizes individual research projects. One will interact with a variety of scientists and their research projects at RMBL. Deadline: 02/15/2012

Mountain Lake Biological Station: Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program

E-mail: mlbs-reu@virginia.edu; Web Site: <http://www.mlbs.org/reuprogram>

The sponsor provides support for a ten-week summer program of guided, but independent, original research in field biology. The program supports ten positions each summer. Deadline: 02/20/2012

Hunter College, City University of New York:

Summer Program for Undergraduate Research for Study of Gene Structure and Function

E-mail: cgonzalez@genectr.hunter.cuny.edu

Web Site: <http://genecenter.hunter.cuny.edu/index.php/programs/summer-program>

The goal of the Institute is to prepare and encourage U.S. undergraduate students to pursue graduate Biomedical Research. Deadline: 02/28/2012

Cave Research Foundation (CRF): Graduate Research Grants

E-mail: george.crothers@uky.edu; Program URL: <http://www.cave-research.org/grants>

Each academic year, the Cave Research Foundation (CRF) accepts proposals for graduate student research in cave and karst studies. Proposals may be in any field of the earth, natural, or social, sciences as long as the research addresses topics related to caves or karst. The Foundation may award up to \$10,000 annually, distributed among one or more grant recipients. Typically, awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Deadline: 03/01/2012

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology: Libbie H. Hyman Memorial Scholarship

E-mail: jburnaford@fullerton.edu; Program URL: <http://sicb.org/grants/hyman/>

This scholarship provides assistance to students to take courses or to carry on research on invertebrates at a marine, freshwater, or terrestrial field station. The grant is intended to help support a first meaningful field station experience for a first or second year graduate student, or an advanced undergraduate.

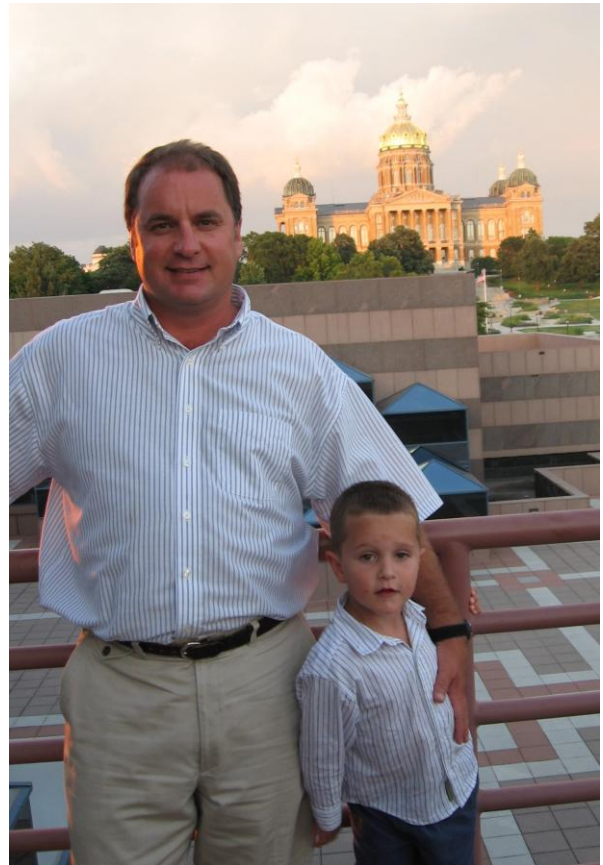
Deadline: 03/01/2012.

FEATURED FACULTY

DR. LES ERICKSON



Biology Professors Patti and Les Erickson



With the F1, Spencer.

Courses taught at SU: Molecular Genetics (BIOL 370), Perspectives in Modern Genetics (BIOL 504), Contemporary Genetics (BIOL 440), Biology and Society (BIOL 105), Seminar (BIOL 418), Biology Concepts and Methods (BIOL 210), Readings in Biology (BIOL 420), Research in Biology (BIOL 415 & 515).

North, South, West, and then East.

My academic path began at the North Dakota State School of Science where I obtained an associate's degree in petroleum technology. The oil fields in ND were booming when I started this program but went bust a few months before graduation. With no job prospects in sight, I jumped a south-bound train, landing in Fort Worth, Texas where I eventually found work in a lab and started taking community college courses. Five years of working in the real world motivated me to pursue a BS degree in biology at the University of Texas at Dallas, which I finally got 10 years after graduating from high school. Not wanting to rejoin the real world anytime soon, I turned an undergraduate research project studying genes involved in protein synthesis into a PhD thesis project. I was astounded that I could get paid a stipend, free tuition, and health insurance for doing fun experiments in a genetics lab. A few years later, with PhD in hand, I had real career options for the first time in my life. So I loaded up the pickup truck and drove west to the University of California, Berkeley where I landed a fellowship in plant disease resistance, which was followed by a few years playing as a research scientist in a lab at Berkeley focused on genes involved in photoreceptor function. I also got to teach a course on plant genetic engineering and do some education outreach where I tried to explain to the public what GMO plants were all about. I learned I was a capable teacher, although some people involved in organic farming or having severe anti-

corporation points of view thought I was a shill and would yell at me. One activist group even tore up our research plots and raided our greenhouse, and a colleague of mine got a cream pie smashed into her face after a public debate. Nevertheless, I really enjoyed California. I even met a wonderful woman scientist there at a brew pub, and we got married. After a few years of bliss, we decided I would apply for faculty positions at undergraduate colleges of national distinction, and that's how the two of us and our cat ended up in 2002 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the land of easy living. We then got a dog, the wife got pregnant and had a boy, and eventually the wife also got a faculty position at SU with an office that is exactly 12 inches away from mine. Nevertheless, life is pretty good at SU. I've got students doing research in my lab on some plant genes involved in stress signaling and on a new project involving DNA fingerprinting of native grapevines. I'm in a faculty '80's-cover band and make decent beer, wine, and furniture in my basement. And we took the boy to Punkin' Chunkin' last weekend. They say North Dakota is currently enjoying a huge oil boom and everyone there is getting rich, but I've heard that story before. I think I'll keep teaching genetics and working up the courage to finally try that muskrat stew I keep hearing about.



Dr. Erickson with
Associate Provost
Dr. Melanie Perreault

Recent Publications/Abstracts

Protzko, R. J. and **Erickson, F. L.** (2011) A scaled-down and simplified protocol for purifying recombinant *Taq* DNA polymerase. *BIOS*. In press.

Ananieva, E., Hess, J., Donahue, J., Nourbakhsh, A., **Erickson, L.**, and Gillaspay, G. (2011) Inositol signaling and regulation of protein stability. Abstract: American Society of Plant Biologists, Plant Biology 2011, Minneapolis, MN.

Ananieva, E., Gillaspay, G., Ely, A., Burnette, R., and **Erickson, F. L.** (2008) Interaction of the WD40 Domain of a *Myo*-Inositol Polyphosphate 5-Phosphatase with SnRK1 Links Inositol, Sugar and Stress Signaling. *Plant Physiology* 148:1868-1882.

Ferralli, P., Egan, J. D., and **F. L. Erickson** (2007) Making *Taq* DNA polymerase in the undergraduate laboratory. *BIOS*. 78(2):69-74.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (* indicates undergraduate student, ** indicates graduate student)

*Protzko, R. J. and Erickson, F. L. A scaled-down and simplified protocol for purifying recombinant Taq DNA polymerase. BIOS. In press.

ALUMNI

Please remind your SU friends to visit the SU Alumni Webpage and update their email information.

Debra Flint (2005) is now working as a patent agent in the Technology Transfer department at The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine and is pursuing a M.S. degree in Biotechnology at Johns Hopkins University.

Colleen Maier just published her first paper as lead author. She was a dual Biology/ Spanish major while at SU and she conducted research with Dr. Kimberly Hunter on Honduran tree ferns. She was also SU Homecoming Queen; we never let her live that down. She is currently at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. The link below is to her paper.

Colleen R. Maier, M. Christine Hollander, Evthokia A. Hobbs, Irem Dogan, R. Iiona Linnoila, and Phillip A. Dennis. 2011. Nicotine Does Not Enhance Tumorigenesis in Mutant K-Ras–Driven Mouse Models of Lung Cancer. Cancer Prev Res 4:1743-1751.

<http://cancerpreventionresearch.aacrjournals.org/content/current>

**SU BIOLOGY ALUMNI MEET AND GREET SOCIAL
November 5th, 2011 Homecoming Weekend**



Our organizers Valerie Butler and Sandy Ramses



Helen Woods and Sandy Ramses

Alumni Meet and Greet cont.



Drs. Kimberly and Richard Hunter



James Ladd, Dr. Mark Frana, and Sarah Ullah



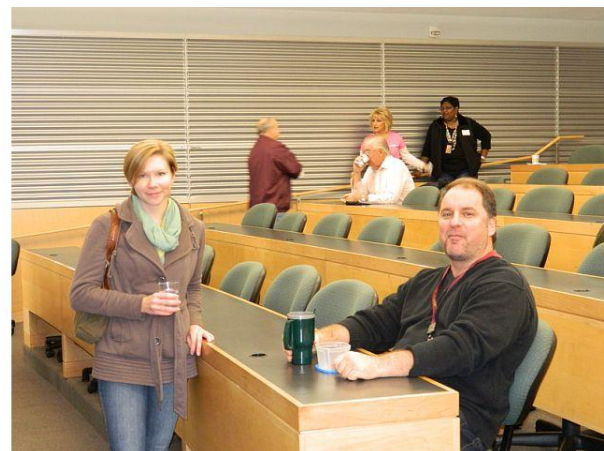
Current Graduate Students Ganna Miller and
Roie Cordrey



Current students Kim Russell and Greg McNew



Michelle Meininger and Lauren Brenneman



Hillevi Ets and Dr. Les Erickson

Alumni Meet and Greet cont.



Michael Goldsmith and Cheryl Wilcox Goldsmith talking with Dr. Ellen Lawler



Tom Jones (Former Provost and Biology Faculty) with Helen Woods and William Lincourt



Robert Shackelford and Dr. Harry Womack (Retired Professor)



Garrett Franz and Dr. Ellen Lawler



Michelle Bulger and Dr. Judith Stribling



Dr. Stephen Gehrlich and Matthew Cutulle

If you have announcements to add or general comments regarding the Newsletter, please email dlprice@salisbury.edu. Your opinion matters!

Editor: Dr. Dana Price; Coeditor: Dr. Ronald Gutberlet