

P-CockTales

Second Issue of The P-Cock Tales Science & Math Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to promote local community awareness of accomplishments achieved by the Upper Iowa University Division of Science & Math students and faculty. This publication will come out semi-annually and will provide details on new projects, programs, and milestones of the Science & Math Division.

UIU Cyber Camp 2009

By: *Dr. Joseph Elarde*

On Saturday, May 2, 2009 the first Peacocks Cyber-Camp was held in the Information Technology lab FA 213. A total of fourteen students from grades 6-9 attended the camp - supervised by six camp counselors. Topics included game development using Game Maker 7.0, a Cyber scavenger hunt, Cyber Safety, robot programming, a tour through the internals of a Dell server, a presentation on Nepal, and Wii game play research.

The objectives of the camp were to help stimulate interest in computing, science, and mathematics. Cyber-campers came to realize that all the cool technologies such as iPods, video games, the Internet, and Facebook are ALL derived from computer science and programming. It takes a lot of creativity to develop these awesome technologies. In addition, the campers learned how computer science and information technology have the power to change the world, help people, and make the world a better place.



Announcements:

The Division of Science & Math has 3 new Professors:

- 1) **Dr. Jennifer Stoffel**, Assistant Professor of Biology (Spring 09')



- 2) **Dr. Le Gui**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics (Fall 09')



&

- 3) **Pam Moss**, Assistant Professor of Nursing (Summer 09')



We welcome Jennifer, Le, and Pam!

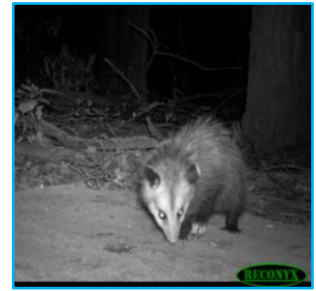
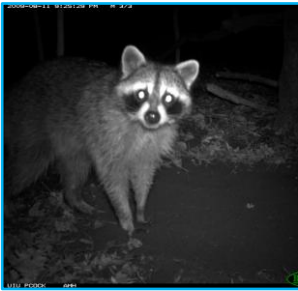
2009 Highlights:

- UIU Cyber Camp
- New Faculty
- Workshops
- Tales From The Summer
- Where Are They Now?
- Tales From Ecuador
- Tales of Texas Lions
- Visit to ISU Herbarium
- Prof. Chong Fatt Fei
- Student Project Poster Presentation Fair

TALES FROM THE SUMMER

[Examples of many of our student's professional experiences during the summer]

Marc McKinney (*Conservation Management*): This summer I worked as a park technician and a night patrolman at Backbone State Park. I am a conservation management major, thus most of my work experience and professional contacts directly applied to my future career in the natural resource field. I've loved the outdoors my entire life, so getting to work in the conservation management field is awesome. In addition, I started my senior research project comparing remote camera traps and scent traps. Unfortunately, it ended up taking up most of my fishing time, but the speed of the rotations and the frequency of monitoring kept me interested and excited to return to the field every day. Below are some of my research results from the field (raccoon, mink, opossum).



Rebecca Daugherty (*Conservation Management*): This summer I worked for the Fayette County Conservation Board. My job duties included taking care of birds of prey, fox, deer and raccoons at Wildwood Nature Center. In addition, I was involved in general park maintenance like mowing, trimming, painting, etc. After working for 4 seasons with a county focused on customers and campers, I saw how a county can also focus on conservation. Fayette County does an amazing job at working with landowners to restore prairie, timber, and wetlands. They spend more of their budget on land improvement projects than resort parks. It was really nice to see some conservation efforts come out of a county park system.

Tyler Seuferer (*Conservation Management*): This summer I worked with the Warren County Conservation Board on their new osprey (a.k.a. fish hawk) reintroduction project. We first started the project by building an osprey hack tower. The hack tower was used to house five osprey chicks brought in from Wisconsin. We monitored and cared for the chicks in the hack tower until they were ready to be released into the wild. When the osprey were released, it was remarkable watching the new birds fly around the wetland and hearing their distinct calls. It gives you hope that one day this fish eating bird will soon again grace its presence in Iowa. A webcam currently sits on top of the hack tower to monitor osprey feeding behavior. You can watch them yourselves at www.warrencb.org.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

[Where some of our alumni are currently employed]

MAJOR

CURRENTLY KNOWN EMPLOYER

Conservation Management

Joan Flecksing
Carl Fairley
Jeremy Rieck
Marty Hamel

Pleasant Creek State Park
Lake McBride State Park
Johnson County Conservation Board
Master's in Fisheries from South Dakota State University – Now at University of Nebraska
Winneshiek County Soil & Water Conservation
Master's in Business from Upper Iowa University – Now at Iowa DNR
Conservation Officer- Jones & Jackson Counties
Elk Rock State Park
US Army Corps. of Engineers
Iowa DNR

Corey Meyer
John Maehl
Burt Walters
Nick Rocca
Rick Knoke
Jeremy Ansel

Environmental Science

Jenny Lawler

Dubuque County Conservation Board

Applied Plant Science

Troy McQuillen
Brent Lennox

Kirkwood Community College - Instructor
Monsanto/DeKalb



Dan with ocelot kitten



TALES FROM ECUADOR

By: Dano Grayson (Life Science)

For my summer internship I traveled to Western Ecuador to inventory the reptiles and amphibians of the local tropical humid forest. For the month of July, I spent my evenings combing the jungle for frogs, snakes, and lizards.

Aside from the nights in the jungle, I spent my days in a laboratory setting using taxonomy and anatomy to key out species and determine if they are known or previously undiscovered animals.

Overall, my trip to Ecuador went very well. I saw many animals and experienced several new things native to the South American Culture.



SCIENCE & MATH FACULTY NOTES

[Some of our faculty's accomplishments for 2009]

New Publications:

1. Haines A.M., F. Hernandez, S. E. Henke, and R. L. Bingham. 2009. A method for determining asymptotes of home-range area curves. *Gamebird 2006: Quail VI and Perdix XII*. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Athens, GA, USA. Pages 489-498.
2. Haines A.M., F. Hernandez, S. E. Henke, and R. L. Bingham. 2009. A review of crippling loss for northern bobwhites. *Gamebird 2006: Quail VI and Perdix XII*. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Athens, GA, USA. Pages 420-425.
3. Horne, J., A. M., Haines, and M. E. Tewes. 2009. Habitat partitioning of sympatric ocelots and bobcats: implications for recovery of ocelots in southern Texas. *Southwestern Naturalist* 54:119-126.
4. Vierling, K. T., D. J. Gentry, and A. M. Haines. 2009. Nest niche partitioning of Lewis's and Red-headed woodpeckers in burned pine forests. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 121:89-96.

Recent Presentations:

1. Dr. Jennifer Stoffel et al. 2009. Microbial dynamics following small scale harvesting in northern hardwood forests. 94th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting.
2. Jodi Forrester, Dr. Jennifer Stoffel, Stith Gower, and David Mladenoff. 2009. Near term results of soil and wood CO₂ flux from experimental manipulation of northern hardwood forest structure. 94th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting.
3. Dr. Kerry Opel. 2009. Low copy number (LCN) DNA analysis. Midwest Association of Forensic Scientists DNA symposium.
4. Dr. Nigel George. 2009. Approaches to stakeholder buyin. Tegrity User's Conference.
5. Dr. Kata McCarville. 2009. Place-based pedagogies build undergraduate geosciences content knowledge and career skills. 43rd Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America.

Recent Conferences or Workshops Attended:

1. Dr. Joseph Elarde, Annual Association for Computing Machinery Conference in Chattanooga TN.
2. Dr. Kerry Opel, American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meeting in Denver CO.
3. Dr. Kerry Opel, Council on Forensic Science Education (COFSE) meeting.
4. Dr. Nigel George, Chautauqua Course Workshop on "Energy Sustainability: What Every Faculty Member Should Know".
5. Dr. Nigel George, Iowa Science and Mathematics Teacher Educators Summit in DesMoines IA.

Awards & Grants:

1. Dr. Rick Klann, Awarded 2 grants from the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District for water quality monitoring.
2. Dr. Rick Klann, Awarded 2 grants from the Maquoketa River Alliance for water quality monitoring.
3. Dr. Rick Klann, UIU Summer Faculty Scholarship Stipend.

TALES OF TEXAS LIONS

Researchers Dr. John Young of Texas Parks and Wildlife and Dr. Michael Tewes of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Director of the Feline Research Center teamed up with Dr. Aaron Haines and Dr. Nigel George of the Science and Math Division of UIU to model population persistence of Texas mountain lions. In Texas, mountain lions can be harvested year round; however the impacts of year-round harvest to mountain lion populations are unknown. The goal of this project was to evaluate the impacts of year-round harvest on the western and southern populations of mountain lions in Texas. Results found that the larger western population of mountain lions are still able to maintain population numbers with year-round harvest while the southern population showed declining population sizes. Management recommendations may include defining a more limited hunting season for Texas mountain lions and trying to establish habitat connectivity between the two Texas mountain lion populations.



VISIT TO ISU HERBARIUM

Dr. Scott Figdore visited Iowa State University's Ada Hayden Herbarium in Ames, Iowa, the week of July 19-24. Dr. Figdore met with Dr. Lynn Clark, ISU Herbarium Director and Professor, and Ms. Deborah Q. Lewis, ISU Herbarium Curator (pictured below). While at Ames, Dr. Figdore experienced first-hand the processing and preservation of herbarium specimens that occurs at one of the largest herbarium collections in the United States. He also had an opportunity to visit prairie sites around Story County and identify plant species in flower at these sites. Before traveling back to Fayette, Dr. Figdore took a tour of the Pioneer research facility in Johnston, Iowa, with UIU alumnus Anthony Crain, who currently works in the molecular biology lab at Pioneer.



VISITING PROFESSOR CHONG FATT FEI

Mr. Chong comes to the Science & Math Division from Segi College Subang Jaya in Malaysia. Mr. Chong's research area is in Bio-informatics and he is interested in collaborating with other faculty while at Upper Iowa University. We welcome him to Fayette Iowa!

STUDENT PROJECT POSTER PRESENTATION FAIR

Upper Iowa University Division of Science & Math

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Editor: Dr. Aaron Haines

During the 2009 Homecoming, The Division of Science & Math will be presenting the first annual **Student Project Poster Presentation Fair**. Posters on our students' research will be on display in Baker Hebron Hall starting at 1 p.m. on September 25th 2009.

Food & Drink will be served. We hope to see you there!

In Memoriam

On May 28 Division of Science & Math Alumnus **Jordan Fiddelke** passed away from injuries suffered in an automobile accident south of Sanborn, Iowa.

Jordan was a Conservation Management Major who graduated just weeks before the accident. He will be truly missed by his many friends and family.



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.UIU.EDU/~SCIENCEANDMATH/](http://www.uiu.edu/~SCIENCEANDMATH/)