

News fEEB

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Monthly Newsletter

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Monthly Discussion

According to [Dr. Karen M. Douglas](#), as the new SARS-CoV-2 has spread in 2020, new conspiracy theories have emerged surrounding the current pandemics. Including conspiracy theories regarding environmental protection which “assert that climate scientists and politicians are distorting or hijacking the science to suit their own purposes” ([Douglas & Sutton, 2015](#)) and make difficult the efforts of ecological conservation and restoration. As a community of scientists, how we can deal with such theories and their associated effects?

Want to join the discussion? Respond to the corresponding email

Announcements

Feb. 1 Dr. Erle Ellis, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Feb. 8 Dr. Claudio Gratton, University of Wisconsin

Feb. 12 Darwin Day 2021, More information in next page

Feb. 15 Dr. Chris Butler, Visiting

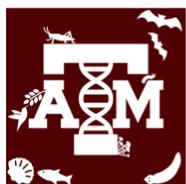
Feb. 22 Dr. Oano Carja, Carnegie Mellon University

Paper Spotlight

Contrary to what one could think, biodiversity in coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico is increasing as a result of climate change. Amongst the researchers who are investigating the topic is Michaela Pawluk, doctoral student in the Fujiwara Population Ecology Lab. In her article entitled, “**Climate effects on fish diversity in the subtropical bays of Texas**”, Pawluk investigated the increasing of diversity of adult fish in six major bays in Texas. The results indicate increases in temperature and sea level are important drivers of fish diversity in estuaries alongside the coast of Texas. This process is referred to as tropicalization of the Gulf of Mexico. We invite you to read the article to learn more about this consequence of the climate change in the coasts of Texas.

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2020.107121>

You or a colleague accomplish something? Let us know by twitter, including the hashtag #TAMUEEB



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DARWIN DAY 2021

February 12th

This year
will be
virtual!

We are pleased to announce the 2021 edition of Darwin Day, beginning on Friday **February 12th**. This year the Darwin Day committee is working hard to bring you an exciting Darwin Day and continue our recent tradition as a community outreach event. While this year's event will be completely online, we have developed plans to make this worth everyone's time, and avoid, as best as we can, the tedium of the virtual format.

Keynote speaker

This year's Darwin Day keynote speaker is [Dr. Joseph L. Graves, Jr.](#) from North Carolina A&T State University. Dr. Graves is a geneticist who works on aging, and is also a prominent scholar on racism in science, specifically in the discipline of evolutionary biology.

He has authored/co-authored over 100 papers and two books, namely [The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium](#) and [The Race Myth: Why we pretend race exists in America](#). He will be giving the Darwin Day keynote on "African Americans in Evolutionary Science" on Friday, February 12th (afternoon, time TBD).

The keynote will be part of a 2-hour program featuring the keynote talk, interaction with Dr. Graves, and other evolution themed games and activities. Please look out for a registration link that will be sent out in the next week.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help us pull off this online event, reach as much of our intended audience, and help us with various logistical tasks – nearly all of them from the comfort of your couch.

Please sign up to volunteer here:

<https://forms.gle/6xzDQj86kwBiFWTy8>

For detailed information, please contact:

Dr. Nick Jacobsen

njacobsen@tamu.edu

Dr. Giri Athrey

giri.athrey@tamu.edu



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Outreach events

This year, outreach events will be held the following week (**Feb 15th-17**). In lieu of booths, this year we are inviting labs and individuals to submit pre-recorded presentations (7-10min). These can be video recordings of demonstrations, multimedia presentations, displays or other forms. We will provide guidance on the specifications for these videos. These presentations will continue on our theme of 'Celebration of all things biology' and be aimed at the general public and school children.

Presentations will be streamed on YouTube Live (Premiere) and will be advertised to community members, school and college students, and as wide an audience as possible. After Darwin Day, these recordings will remain online as part of the EEB YouTube channel.

If you are interested in putting together a presentation, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/HRJKQhx2WXXkGXax9>

For more information visit:
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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION AVAILABLE

Currently there is an available position for a postdoctoral research associate in the Rosenthal Lab.

Amongst the characteristics required for the for the candidates are:

- Ph.D. in evolutionary biology, animal behavior, neuroscience, or similar field
- Strong background in evolutionary theory and animal behavior
- Experience using high performance computing
- Dual experience with fieldwork and biological computation strongly preferred
- Fluency in both Spanish and English

For detailed information about the position, please visit the following link:

https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/TAMU_External/job/College-Station-TAMU/Postdoctoral-Research-Associate---Rosenthal-Lab_R-035196

Or contact Dr. Gil Rosenthal:

groenthal@bio.tamu.edu



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Laboratory Highlight

Marine Community & Ecosystem Resilience Lab

Dr. Laura Jurgens

In Dr. Jurgens' lab on marine community and ecosystem resilience, ecologists work mostly in coastal marine and estuarine habitats, community and ecosystem resilience and recovery processes in coasts and estuaries. Their aim is providing the science to support real solutions for people and nature. They are committed to inclusion, equity, and honoring the value of human diversity in science and its application.

Melissa Ciesielski, Senior Research Associate. Melissa joined the Jurgens Lab in February 2019, after completing 2 years as a Coastal Resource Management Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. Prior to her Peace Corps service, she received a Master's degree in Environmental Science from Western Washington University.



Anika Agrawal, M.S. student. Anika joined the Jurgens lab in the fall of 2019 as a Master's student after completing her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California, Davis. Passionate about understanding anthropogenic impacts on marine species, she is looking into the impacts of multiple environmental stressors on ecosystem function and resilience.

Emily Hubbard, M.S. student. Emily joined the Jurgens Lab in the fall of 2019, after spending three years working in collaboration with UC Davis, California Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA. Prior to that she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Biology from UC Davis. She is interested in the effects of multiple stressors on community resilience and passionate about bridging the gaps between agency and university research, and public understanding and

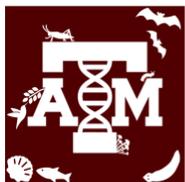


Arani Cuevas-Sanchez, Ph.D. student. Arani joined the Jurgens lab in Fall 2020 as a PhD student after receiving her Master's in Biology from Washington State University, where she studied effects of environmental conditions on the behavior and activity of intertidal copepods (*Tigriopus californicus*). Her research interest is in Marine Ecophysiology.

Please, visit the website <https://laurajurgens.com> to get more detailed information about this lab.

Please see the opportunities to participate in this lab in the following link:

<http://laurajurgens.com/opportunities>



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