1. Achievements

New baby!
Congratulations to Nyree and Dave Zerega on the birth of their son, Luca Anselm Zerega, born on February 13 (7 lbs 13 oz, 20 inches) in Saint Paul. Nyree is a post-doc with George Weiblen. She and her baby are happy and healthy.

2. Teaching and Outreach

The Twin Cities Regional Science Fair will be held soon. Volunteer judges are needed. Project judging will be Friday, February 25, from 4:30 until 9:00 pm at the University of Minnesota Field House.

First-time judges are asked to attend an orientation meeting at 3:30. At the Regional Science Fair, judges see the best projects from several schools. Some are really quite amazing, considering the student's age and experience. It is great to talk with these aspiring students! There are never too many judges. Food and refreshments will be available. Qualifications: 1) College-level science/engineering education or comparable experience; 2) Desire to encourage young people to be enthusiastic about science and the world around them. Please contact Karin Ostrand (David Underbakke judges@underbakke.com) if you can help or need directions. You may also simply show up if your schedule allows.

3. Calendar of Events

March 9 Event to Promote Ethical Research Culture

On March 9, 2005, the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Institutional Compliance Office will co-host an event for faculty, principal investigators, and other research personnel titled "Promoting an Ethical Research Culture." The event will take place from
9:15 to 11:45 a.m. in the A.I. Johnson Room of the McNamara Alumni Center on the east bank of the Twin Cities campus.

Ron James, President and CEO of the Center for Ethical Business Cultures, will lead a presentation and discussion titled "Ethics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." The event will also include a panel discussion on government guidance for research scientists.

Panel members include Howard Gadlin (National Institutes of Health Office of the Ombudsman), Scott Moore (National Science Foundation Office of the Inspector General), Alan Price (Office of Research Integrity), and Henry J. Shea (U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota). Online registration for this event is available at www.research.umn.edu/communications/news/ethics_event_012805.html.

The Bioethics Institute at Iowa State University, May 23-27, 2005.
Application Deadline: March 15, 2005

Extension personnel and life science faculty from the nine land-grant institutions* funded by the USDA to address the social, economic and ethical aspects of biotechnology are invited to a unique, week-long conference on bioethics hosted by Iowa State University, in Ames, May 23-27, 2005. The Bioethics Institute will provide participants with the training and resources to address bioethics with their audiences.

If you discuss issues concerning agriculture, food, families, youth, human health, the environment, animals, or biotechnology with your audiences, and you find yourself fielding ethical questions about these topics, the Bioethics Institute is for you. The Bioethics Institute provides a strong background in ethical theory, which enables participants to lead discussions about ethics with confidence. We'll also discuss environmental ethics, animal rights and animal welfare, the ethics of biotechnology, research ethics, bioethics policy, and more.

The Bioethics Institute provides a great opportunity to work closely with colleagues from other institutions who share an interest in bioethics. In addition to lectures and large-group discussions, you will have plenty of time to work in small groups on case studies and other activities that you can take home and use with your audiences. You also will have the opportunity to write a case study with a small group of colleagues. This provides a chance to cover issues that are important to you and to incorporate them into an educational activity that works for you.

Travel and Development Awards: Life science faculty and extension personnel at Iowa State University will receive a professional development award of $425 to facilitate future efforts to include ethics discussions in future courses or extension work. Life science faculty and extension personnel at any of the other institutions in the USDA Consortium to Address Social, Economic, and Ethical Aspects of Biotechnology* will receive a stipend of $450 to cover travel expenses in addition to the professional development award of $425.

In addition, all participants will receive books, case studies, classroom exercises, bibliographies, lunches and coffee breaks. Teams of applicants from a single institution are encouraged. Because of the terms of our grants, applicants from NABC member institutions and USDA Consortium institutions will be favored over others.
For more information and to download application materials, please visit the following link:
http://www.iastate.edu/~ethics/Institute_Page.html

Save Three Important Dates!

Senior Send-Off, Monday, April 4, 2005 – 12 noon -1:30 p.m.
McNamara Alumni Center – Memorial Hall
Members of the Class of 2005 are invited to celebrate their upcoming graduation at this FREE event. Features include a performance by the Acme Comedy Co., a lunch buffet by D'Amico, and a chance to win prizes. New grads can register online at www.alumni.umn.edu/senoff and receive a complimentary, one-year alumni association membership, which awards each new member with instant benefits and a continued connection to the U.

For more information about Senior Send-Off, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/senoff or contact Susan Zarambo at 612-625-9180 or zaram006@umn.edu.

Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony
Monday, April 25, 2005 – 3:30-6 p.m.
McNamara Alumni Center – Memorial Hall
All members of the University community are invited to a special ceremony and reception to honor six new recipients of the Morse-Alumni Award for their contributions to undergraduate education, and eight new recipients of the University’s Graduate-Professional Teaching Award.

This occasion recognizes the significance of excellent teaching by inducting the recipients into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Academy members provide important leadership to the University community, serving as mentors, advisers, and spokespersons for the University’s mission.

The Distinguished Teaching Awards are sponsored by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Mark your calendars and register now at www.alumni.umn.edu/distinguishedteaching.
For more information, contact Elinor Auge at 612-625-9195 or augex012@umn.edu.

Annual Celebration
University of Minnesota Alumni Association
Tuesday, May 10, 2005 – 5:30-7:30 p.m., social hour and dinner; 8 p.m. program

Coffman Memorial Union and Northrop Auditorium
Join the UMAA for “U’s Night with Aaron Brown,” spotlighting the anchor of CNN’s flagship evening newscast, “News Night with Aaron Brown,” who is also CNN’s leading anchor during breaking news and special events.

Brown is a native of Hopkins, Minnesota, and a former student at the University. With more than 25 years of journalism experience to draw from, he will share his views of world events and today’s most pressing issues.

This is a wonderful opportunity to entertain alumni, donors, colleagues, and friends. Early Bird group and single ticket sales begin February 28. The price for a table of 10 is $500 (plus a $6
ordering fee); however, if you reserve your table(s) before April 15, you will receive a $50 discount per table. Additional tickets are $45 each.

Single tickets (plus $4.50 ordering fee) are: $65 nonmember (dinner and program); $50 member (dinner and program); $30 nonmember (program only); $25 member (program only); $15 U of M student (program only).

To reserve tables of 10 or more, call 612-625-8878; to reserve individual tickets, call 612-624-2345; or order online at www.northrop.umn.edu. For additional information, visit www.alumni.umn.edu/annualcelebration, or contact Elinor Auge at 612-625-9195 or augex012@umn.edu.

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4. Faculty Meetings

**Friday, February 25th, 1:00 pm., Room 257 BSC.**
PBio Tenured/Joint faculty only.

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5. Funding/Job Opportunities/Seekers

**The COAFES Awards Committee** is soliciting nominations for the CSBU and P&A awards. Send nominations to: Erik Kattan, 277 Coffey Hall, by March 15, 2005. Criteria and procedures are posted outside the main office.

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**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe** has three openings for persons interested in plant ecology, botany, and invasive species. Full position descriptions are posted on the Employment Posting Board outside the main office. The positions include:

**PLANT ECOLOGIST / HABITAT BIOLOGIST-DIV. OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**
**Job Code: 05-030** 1 FT, $15.50 to $16.50/hr (DOQ) Close: March 21, 2005
Assist the Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources Program of the LLBO in the field survey and assessment of rare plants, animals and ecosystems on Tribal lands. QUALIFICATIONS: Masters Degree with an emphasis in plant ecology and biology. At least one year experience in a position that utilize job skills outlined in the job description. Familiarity with Almendinger's and Hanson's ECS classification system and conduct releves under this system.

**PLANT SPECIALIST (exotic species control) DIV. OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**
**Job Code: 05-029** 1 FT, $14.50 to $15.50/hr (DOQ) Close: March 21, 2005
Assist the Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources Program of the LLBO in the field survey for rare and traditionally utilized plants and coordinate the control of exotic species on the reservation. QUALIFICATIONS: Masters Degree with an emphasis in biology or botany or a Bachelor's degree with 2 years experience in plant and exotic control field. Familiarity with Almendinger's and Hanson's ECS classification system and the ability to identify ECS land types.

**SEASONAL BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN DIV. OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**
**Job Code: 05-028** 1 FT, $8.00 hr (DOQ) Close: March 21, 2005
Season with benefits, from April to October. Assist the ecologist/biologist of the Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources program of the LLBO in the field survey and assessment of rare
plants, animals and eco-systems of Tribal lands. QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in biological sciences with and emphasis in field ecology, biology and botany. Familiarity with Almendinger's and Hanson's ECS classification system and conduct releves under this system. Must have a valid drivers license, current insurance or be insurable.

How to apply: send a resume, credentials, and transcripts, along with a filled out application to Suzanne Northbird, LLBO Human Resources Department, 6530 Hwy. #2 NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633.

Contact Suzanne Northbird for an application. Call 218-335-3698 or toll free 1-800-631-5528 for more information.

You can also contact me at the following phone numbers or email address for more specifics of these positions. Steve Mortensen, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Program, Division of Resources Management, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, 6530 Hwy 2 NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633

Email: scmort@blackduck.net Tel.: 218-335-7423 or 800-442-3942

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6. Seminars and Symposia

PLANT BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM SERIES
Tuesdays, 3:30 PM, 335 Borlaug, St. Paul Campus
(*Unless Noted Otherwise)

March 1  Dr. Neil Anderson, Associate Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Minnesota
“Treasure the Exceptions: Changing Floral Crop Ideotypes”
Host: Dr. Jim Bradeen

March 8  Dr. Florence Gleason, Professor, Dept. of Plant Biology, Univ. of Minnesota
“Ribonucleotide Reduction in the Cyanobacteria”
Host: Dr. Cynthia Weinig

PMGI/CMPG SPRING 2005 DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULE
WEDNESDAY, NOON - 105 CARGILL BLDG.

March 2  Dr. Tony Dean, Associate Professor of BPTI
“TBA” and,

Postdocs from Dr. Jerry Cohen’s Lab in Horticulture
Minsang Lee, “Measurement of indole and related compounds and the metabolic fate of anthranilate and tryptophan” and
Lana Barkawi, “Genomic approaches to Auxin Biology: Developing a high throughput method for auxin analysis”

Cargill Building/MPG Research Seminar Series
Wednesday, February 23, 2005, Wednesday, 12:00 noon, Seminar Room 105
The University of Minnesota Center for Community Genetics 2005 Symposium
Saturday April 9th, 2005 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Community Genetics and Phylogenetics
Past and ongoing evolutionary and ecological processes interact to shape the biodiversity within ecological communities as well as the genetic diversity of their component species. Recognition of these interactions has prompted efforts toward a synthesis of community ecology and evolutionary genetics. This symposium explores the dynamic interplay between ecology and genetics in the ongoing evolution of species interactions while recognizing the importance of history. Of special focus are the joint roles of population processes and phylogenetic relationships in community assembly and the role of community in the divergence of species populations. Presentations and panel discussions by seven internationally renowned ecologists and evolutionary biologists will be followed by a poster session and a banquet. The event is free and open to the public.

Symposium Program
Friday April 8th   Hamm Memorial Lecture
Dr. Janis Antonovics, Univ. of Virginia
“Plant models and infectious diseases”

Morning Session:  Population-level processes and diversification

Dr. Bob Holt, Univ. of Florida
“TBA”
Dr. Michael Travisano, Univ. of Houston
“TBA”
Dr. Lacey Knowles, Univ. of Michigan.
“Disentangling the effects of dynamic climate change on species diversification”

Afternoon session: The interplay of phylogenetic history and community structure

Dr. Scott Hodges, Univ. of California at Santa Barbara
“The genetic basis of floral adaptations in columbines”
Dr. Rosmary Gillespie, University of California, Berkeley
“Evolutionary déjà vu: spiders on the remote islands of the Pacific”
Dr. Mark McPeek. Dartmouth University
“The genetic and ecological legacies of the Pleistocene in modern communities”
**Registration**

Please send Dr. Peter Tiffin (ptiffin@umn.edu) your name, affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address. Limited funds are available for travel expenses of graduate students and post-docs who present posters (please provide a poster title when registering).

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**7. Miscellaneous Announcements**

**The COAFES Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the CSBU and P&A awards.**

The CSBU award is to recognize an extraordinary contribution of two members of the Civil Service and Bargaining Unit Staff: one for academic related duties and the other for scientific work. The P&A award is to recognize the excellent performance of two members of the Professional and Academic staff: one for academic related duties and the other for scientific work. More details at: [http://www.coafes.umn.edu/awards](http://www.coafes.umn.edu/awards).

Nominations should be sent to Erik Kattan, 277 Coffey Hall, by **March 15, 2005**. If you have questions, please call Erik at 4-1456.

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**Editors:**  
Kate VandenBosch, Dept. Head; Anne Caton, Admin. Director; Odette Holter, Principal Administrative Specialist

This publication is available in hard copy or email by request. Please contact Odette Holter via email (oholter@biosci.cbs.umn.edu) or call 625-1234 if you would like to receive a copy.

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