

## College and University news

**Craig Packer**, ecology, evolution, and behavior, has received a five-year grant of \$1,482,000 from the National Science Foundation for his research project "Viral Transmission Dynamics in the Serengeti." His study will investigate the transmission dynamics of three viral pathogens; rabies, canine distemper virus, and canine parvovirus, identifying reservoirs of infection through a combination of approaches that include intervention trials, genetic analyses, and disease surveillance. Of the emerging infectious diseases, zoonotic and generalist viral pathogens pose a particular threat to public health and biodiversity. The effective control of these diseases requires both the identification of reservoirs of infection and an understanding of viral transmission dynamics within complex host assemblages. Yet for most emerging infectious diseases, reservoirs remain to be identified and little is known about mechanisms by which infections are maintained.

**David Tilman** has been appointed Regents Professor of the University of Minnesota. Tilman, the only UM faculty member selected this year, will be presented with the Regents medallion at the board's June 14 meeting. Tilman is the third faculty member in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior to receive this designation, which is the highest honor the University bestows upon faculty. Others are Eville Gorham and Margaret Davis.

**A \$979.1 million bonding bill was passed by the legislature** early Sunday morning, May 19. The bill calls for approximately \$132 million in state funding for capital projects at the University of Minnesota. Adding private contributions and the University's debt obligation, the University's projects total \$180.4 million.

Projects included in the bonding bill and their total dollar amounts are: HEAPR, \$35 million; Jones Hall, \$8 million; Plant Growth Facilities, \$17.7 million; Duluth Lab Science, \$33 million; Nicholson Hall, \$24 million; Translational Research Facility (TRF), \$37 million; Bede Hall (Crookston), \$7.7 million; Social Science Building and Fire Protection (Morris), \$9 million; Classroom Improvements, \$2 million; Research and Outreach Centers (ROCs), \$2.44 million; Teaching and Technology Center (planning), \$3 million; Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, \$1.5 million; and Morris Swine Facility, \$70,000.

The bonding bill has been forwarded to Governor Ventura, who has the authority to veto individual projects or the entire bill. The Governor has listed the following University projects as those he may veto: Nicholson, TRF, Morris Social Science, ROCs, Vet Diagnostic Lab, and Morris Swine Facility. He is expected to make his decisions by Wednesday, May 22.

**Candidates for the CBS associate dean for academic and faculty affairs** will be on campus this month to present seminars open to everyone. **Susan Singer** will present "Genetic Regulation of Inflorescence Architecture in Pea: Roles of *Arabidopsis* floral meristem identity gene orthologs" today, Wednesday, May 22, 1:30–2:30 p.m., in 239 Gortner Lab. "Learning To Do Biology" will be held Friday, May 24, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m., 2-520 Moos Tower.

**Virginia Seybold**, neuroscience, will present "The Gain in Pain: New Roles for Calcitonin Gene-related Peptide" on Tuesday, May 28, 1:30–2:30 p.m., in room 239 Gortner Lab. "Challenges in Education in the Biological Sciences" will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 1:45–2:45 p.m., in room 2-101 Basic Sciences & Biomedical Engineering. Candidate rating sheets will be available at the seminars. Send them and any other comments to Gail Kalli at [gkalli@cbs.umn.edu](mailto:gkalli@cbs.umn.edu) or 123 Snyder Hall.

**The 3rd Annual CBS Community Day** will be Wednesday, August 28, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., at Bandana Square in St. Paul. Workshop options will include "Technology Enhanced Learning" and "The One Biology: Evolutionary Lessons from Molecules to Ecosystems." Faculty and staff may attend either workshop. Details on the workshops will be announced shortly.

**Go to the Minnesota State Fair for free.** Volunteers are needed to staff the CBS booth in three-hour shifts, August 22–September 2. CBS will display a beautiful new exhibit designed for this event and demonstrate research conducted at the

college. Student workers will be available at all times to assist volunteers in answering questions about CBS. Contact Emily Johnston at 612-624-4770 or [ejohnsto@cbs.umn.edu](mailto:ejohnsto@cbs.umn.edu) to sign up.

**Successful career choices are informed career choices.** Encourage your students to use CBS career services and resources. Career Center staff will be available this summer and fall to make brief presentations on career services and resources to classes and student groups. Call Maggie Kubak, coordinator of internships and career services, at 612-624-9270 to schedule a presentation.

**A new course “Algorithms in Biological Computation” (ABC)** is being offered this fall on the St. Paul Campus. The course will introduce students to important aspects of the growing relationship between biological sciences and computational sciences. The lab offered with this course provides a great opportunity to check out the new computer facility in Biodale. Instructor Mark Furtney holds a Ph.D. in computer science and is currently completing a master of biological science degree.

Course Information:

Biol-4950 Algorithms for Biological Computation

Lecture: TTh 3:15-4:30 Bioscience 70

Lab: T or Th 5:00-7:00 Snyder 13 - Biodale Computer Lab

**Lot SC108 (the State Fairgrounds parking lot) will be closed** to U of M students, faculty, and staff from Monday, May 20 through Wednesday, September 4. If you are a public, contract, carpool, or reciprocal parking patron in the Fairgrounds lot, use lot S104 located east of Earle Brown Continuing Education Center. Until the Fairgrounds lot reopens on September 5, this facility will charge the standard daily rate of \$3.00, increasing to \$3.25 on July 1. If you have two or more people in your vehicle and you arrive before 2 p.m. you qualify for the carpool rate of \$1.50, increasing to \$1.75 on July 1. Reciprocal parking on the St. Paul campus will be relocated to Gortner Avenue Ramp. For further information, call Parking and Transportation Services at 612-626-PARK.

**The 1666 Coffman Condominium Association**, a unique University of Minnesota community for active adults over 55 years of age, has a condominium available for rent. Call Donna Scott at 651-644-4541 for more information.

### **Kudos**

**Gary Nelsestuen**, biochemistry, has been named the first holder of the Samuel Kirkwood Chair in Biochemistry. The chair, which honors the memory of biochemistry professor Samuel Kirkwood, was created to support outstanding faculty in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics. Nelsestuen, a former student of Dr. Kirkwood's, is a leading researcher who studies membrane-protein interactions and mechanistic enzymology. He developed a protein now licensed to Eli Lilly for use as the first drug to treat sepsis. Samuel Kirkwood joined the biochemistry department in 1956 and was the first professor to receive the Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Undergraduate Education. He became head of general biology in 1981, retired in 1987, and died in 1999.

**Robert Sterner**, ecology, evolution, and behavior, has published “Ecological Stoichiometry: The Biology of Elements from Molecules to the Biosphere.” The book, co-authored by Jim Elser from the University of Arizona, is being lauded as a future classic in the field and examines ecological phenomena such as competition, herbivory, symbiosis, energy flow in food webs, and organic matter sequestration. For more information, visit the Princeton University Press Web site at [www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/7434.html](http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/7434.html).

**Mary Jaeger**, a CBS undergraduate majoring in biology, was chosen as the Biology Colloquium Student Leader of the semester for spring 2002, an award given every semester to an outstanding student leader.

## **Events, seminars, and conferences**

---

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 22 | “Genetic Regulation of Inflorescence Architecture in Pea: Roles of <i>Arabidopsis</i> floral meristem identity gene orthologs,” Susan Singer, candidate for associate dean, 239 Gortner Lab, 1:30 –2:30 p.m. |
| May 24 | “Learning to Do Biology,” Susan Singer, candidate for associate dean, 2-520 Moos Tower, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  |
| May 27 | Memorial Day holiday; no classes, offices closed.  |

- May 28 "The Gain in Pain: New Roles for Calcitonin Gene-related Peptide" Virginia Seybold, 1:30–2:30 p.m., 239 Gortner Lab.
- May 29 "Challenges in Education in the Biological Sciences," Virginia Seybold, 1:45–2:45 p.m., 2-101 Basic Sciences & Biomedical Engineering.
- June 4 UMAA 2002 Annual Celebration: Rock Around the Block, McNamara Alumni Center, 4:30 p.m. For further information contact Emily Johnston at 612-624-4770 or ejohnsto@cbs.umn.edu.
- June 27 CBS at St. Paul Saints vs. Sioux Falls, 5:30 p.m. happy hour at Gabe's By-The-Park, 7 p.m. first pitch.
- August 22–  
September 2 Minnesota State Fair.
- September 21 Cedar Creek 60th Anniversary Celebration, Cedar Creek Natural History Area, cake and ice cream social, 1:30–2:30 p.m.; tours and displays, 2:30 –5 p.m. Contact Lija Greenseid at 612-625-7705 for further information.
- September 30–  
October 1 "From Egg to Organ: Motors and Motility in Development," Earle Brown Center.
- October 11–12 CBS and U of M Homecoming activities.

**Go to [www.cbs.umn.edu/college\\_info/seminar.html](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/college_info/seminar.html) for links to department seminar lists.**

---

**Next issue: June 19 ■ Copy deadline: June 12**

Send your items for *CBS News* to Kristen Murphy, 220 BioSci, or [kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu](mailto:kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu).

Visit the CBS Web site at [www.cbs.umn.edu](http://www.cbs.umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Kristen Murphy, 612-624-6743.