

Office of Research Administration and Graduate School Newsletter



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS
Volume I, No. 1 October, 2001

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our newsletter, which we plan to publish monthly. Our goal is to inform the campus community of grants received, to highlight the accomplishments of our faculty and students, and to share with you a calendar of important events and deadlines. Please send any comments regarding the newsletter to: cocalisJ@msx.umsl.edu.

The Office of Research Administration

September 2001 Awards

Eric Baumer, awarded \$39,896 for "Community Variation in Victim Crime Reporting: A Multilevel Analysis Using Data from the Area-Identified NCVS" from the American Statistical Association

David Curry and Scott Decker, awarded \$200,000 for "Evaluation of Juvenile Justice Mental Health Initiative with Randomized Design" from the US Department of Justice

Carl Hoagland and Susan Catapano, awarded an additional \$771 for "The Urban Educator Corps Partnership Initiative," from the US Department of Education

Ric Hovda, awarded \$404,858 for "Partnership for Excellence in Urban Teacher Preparation: A Teacher Recruitment Initiative" from the US Department of Education

Ric Hovda and Virginia Navarro, awarded \$2,176 for "Teacher Workforce

Replenishment Program" from the US Department of Education

Charles Kuehl and Peggy Lambing, awarded \$21,000 for "Missouri Business & Industry Development Program (EDA Project)" from the US Department of Commerce

Carole Murphy, awarded \$25,000 for "Missouri Geography Alliance," from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation

Carolyn Neal, awarded \$287,114 for "Missouri Accelerated Schools," from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Lois Pierce, awarded \$311,928 for "Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Grant," from the Missouri Department of Social Services

Lois Pierce, awarded \$144,252 for "MDFS Title IVE MSW Training Contract," from the Missouri Department of Social Services

Terry Suhre, awarded \$4,400 for "2001-2002 Gallery 210 Exhibition Season," from the Missouri Arts Council

Joseph Polman and Helene Sherman, awarded \$290,823 for "St. Louis Consortium Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology" from the US Department of Education

Diane Touliatos, awarded \$2,000 for "Monday Noon Cultural Series," from the Missouri Arts Council

**Total for the Month of September:
\$1,734,218**

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Robert Ricklefs

Robert E. Ricklefs, Curators' Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is the 2001 winner of the UM System's Presidential Award for Research and Creativity. The award, given in recognition of a sustained effort of nationally or internationally prominent research or creativity, includes a \$15,000 stipend.

Internationally recognized as one of today's leading ecologists, Ricklefs joined the UM-St. Louis faculty in 1995. The author of six major books (including two of the most influential ecology texts in existence), 199 peer-reviewed articles and 70 other publications and chapters, his work has been cited some 6,000 times since 1995. Ricklefs' contributions to the field of ornithology and evolutionary ecology include seminal research in community ecology, species diversity and the biology of aging. Ricklefs received a bachelor's degree in biology from Stanford University in 1963 and a doctoral degree in biology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967.

When asked to describe the nature of his research, Ricklefs offered the following:

“The general theme of my research is to understand the diversity of life. I have taken several paths towards this goal. The first has been to interpret the diversification of life histories of organisms, particularly birds, in

terms of extrinsic selective forces in the environment and intrinsic constraints on the evolutionary response. The life history of an individual includes adaptations that enhance reproductive rate and survival and thus unambiguously influence evolutionary fitness. I have used comparative, experimental, and modeling methods to understand the adaptive significance of rates of growth and development, and complementary adult strategies of parental care, in birds. I was the first ecologist to address development as a component of the life history and to propose an intrinsic physiological trade-off, specifically between growth rate and mature function, as a fundamental constraint on life-history evolution. More recently, I have focused on the evolution of senescence as a component of the life history. My work in this area has demonstrated that variation in rates of senescence among species is consistent with theories concerning the evolutionary modification of the aging process. My comparative studies have also shown that aging-related mortality is due to intrinsic, catastrophic events rather than increasing vulnerability to extrinsic causes of mortality, and these studies have also suggested a mechanistic connection between early development and aging processes at the end of life.

The second component of my research has been to understand global patterns of taxonomic diversity. Number of species is generally related

to conditions of the environment, which has led ecologists to focus on environmental control over the number of coexisting species within a biological community. As an alternative, I have stressed regional differences in the number of species under similar environmental circumstances to emphasize the important roles of unique historical events, geographic configurations of landmasses, and large-scale processes responsible for species production and extinction. My approaches to these issues have been primarily comparative but directed towards evaluating the predictions of contrasting hypotheses concerning the origins of diversity patterns. More than any other ecologist, I have advocated the importance of regional and historical factors in understanding patterns of species diversity.

The third component of my research at the present time stems from a long-time interest in island biogeography. In collaboration with Eldredge Bermingham at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, I have undertaken the largest study to date of the development of a

regional fauna, that of the birds of the West Indies. Using molecular phylogenetic approaches, we have determined the historical biogeography of most of the species within the region and demonstrated a historical/evolutionary component to both geographical distribution and local ecology. New insights into colonization and extinction revealed by our historical/genetic approach will dramatically alter prevailing views of equilibria and the role of evolution in ecological systems. This study has recently been extended to the blood parasites of birds within the West Indies, which will allow us to examine uniquely the development of a regional parasite fauna in which we know the history of all the hosts. This research is funded under a grant entitled "Host specificity and distribution of avian blood parasites," by the National Science Foundation."

Dr. Ricklefs is equally proud of his textbooks in ecology (*Ecology*, 1973, now in its 4th edition with coauthor Gary Miller; and *The Economy of Nature* 1976, now in its 5th edition) as well as the doctoral students he has trained.

Deadlines

- **Oct 29** Fulbright-Hays Training Grants: Faculty Research Abroad (202) 502-7633
- **Nov 1** Amer. Philosophical Society: Sabbatical Fellowships in Humanities and Social Sciences eroach@amphilsoc.org
- **Nov 1** The Getty Grant Program: Postdoctoral Fellowships (art and its history) <http://www.getty.edu>
- **Nov 7** National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships
- **Nov 13** National Science Foundation University-Industry Cooperative Research Programs in the Mathematical Sciences
- **Nov 15** EPA: Environmental Education Grants Program (201) 260-8619
- **Nov 15** AAUW: Science and Technology Fellowships: Engineering Dissertations <http://www.aauw.org/>
- **Nov 15** Earmarked Projects

Meetings

- **Oct 22** IRB

- **Nov 15** Technology Transfer Workshop(MSC 2:00PM)
 - Property Rights
 - Patents
 - Licenses
 - Startups
 - Sources of Funding: Venture Capital
- **Nov 19** IRB
- **Dec 10** IRB

(IRB protocols are due 10 days before the meeting in order to be reviewed at that month's meeting.)

Note to Faculty/Staff: If you are signed up for the daily SMARTS e-mail service, will you please take a minute to let us know how successful it's been in locating appropriate sources of funding for your projects? We want to decide whether or not to continue to use this service. Please contact Jane Cocalis in ORA: cocalis@umsl.edu or call ext. 6336.

The Graduate School

A Message to Graduate Students from the UM-St. Louis Counseling Services

Dear UM-St. Louis Graduate Students,

Most of us experience ups and downs in our daily lives. However, there may be times when personal difficulties leave you feeling "stuck" or overwhelmed. UM-St. Louis Counseling Services offers you the opportunity to meet with an experienced professional, to explore, understand, and work through these issues and concerns, in a supportive and confidential environment. Our approach is to focus on identifying and engaging your own strengths to meet the challenges that confront you.

Some of the issues our staff members are experienced with include: decision-making, crisis management, stress and anxiety, relationship issues, depression, grief and loss, alcohol/drug abuse, marital and family problems, history of physical or sexual abuse, eating disorders, clarification of personal identity and values, and career/life planning.

Signs that suggest a need for counseling include: feeling out of control of your life, difficulty concentrating, decreased energy and motivation, difficulty sleeping, fears or phobias, irritability and anger, use of alcohol or drugs to relieve stress, thoughts of suicide, and/or others express concern about you. Or, you may just be feeling the need to get clarity or a fresh perspective on some aspect of your life.

To make an appointment: call [516-5711](tel:516-5711), or visit us at Counseling Services, [427 SSB](#). I welcome you to call me personally if you have any questions about our services.

Sincerely,
 Sharon Biegen, Ph.D.
 Director, Counseling Services

Deadlines

- **Nov 15** Nominations to Graduate Faculty
- **Nov 30** Applications for Master's Degrees
- **Nov 30** Dissertations Due

Student Fellowship Awards

BIOLOGY

Karina Boege	CONACYT	\$12,650
Beth Churchwell	MO Dept of Conservation	\$ 1,075
Marcus Coehlo	Brazilian Government	\$13,200
Cintia Cornelius	Fulbright	\$13,000
Yeshey Dorji	NSF PEET	\$14,100
Tibisay Escalona	Compton Foundation	\$ 6,545
Ivan Jiminez	Compton Foundation	\$ 6,545
Danielle Lee	NSF MAGEP	\$15,300
Andrea Loayza	Fulbright	\$15,000
Zacharia Magombo	NSF PEET	\$15,000
Jorge Perez	Central University of Venezuela	\$20,400
Michelle Price	NSF PEET	\$15,000
Miriam Ramos-Escobedo	Compton Foundation	\$ 9,400
Renata Ribeiro	Brazilian Government	\$13,200
Adriana Rodriguez	Fulbright/LASPAU	\$13,110
Jorge Uribe	CONACYT	\$21,333
Alberto Vicentini	CAPES	\$13,200

BUSINESS

Jason Augustine	Ethan Shepley Community Banking Scholarship	\$ 500
John Adams	Albert Haskell Accounting Scholarship	\$ 700
Julie Harned	Baris Kurtz and Dobson Graduate Accounting Scholarship	\$ 1,000
David Tsadka	Price Waterhouse Coopers Accounting Scholarship	\$ 1,500

CHEMISTRY

Anchalee Thanavaro	Mallinckrodt	\$ 5,000
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EDUCATION

Loren Rullman	Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship	\$ 5,000
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NURSING

Debbie Fritz	American Lung Association	\$20,269
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The following students were awarded Professional Nurse Traineeships from the Department of Health and Human Services for a total award of \$70,997.30:

Martha Beilsmith	Renee Fishering	Geneva Kilgore	Alice Roberts
Judy Bieker	Nancy Fuegner	Waltina Kisner	Sukhraj Shinger
Leisa Blue	Emily Garrett	Pat Koppeis	Daniel Shipp
Nancy Brown	Katherine Gerrein	Michael Logue	Jo Shirley
Julie Buford	Katherine Gray	Robert Lorenz	Michael Singh
Linda Butler	Alma Harkey	Janet McEwen	Sandra Stein
Mary Campbell	Kristi Harris	Beverly Miller	Susan Susler
Becky Cannady	Gail Hatfield	Nancy Mitchell	Karen Tracy
Carol Clark-Kutscher	Gina Heberle	Michelle Montgomery	Lyn Vargo
Carie Clements	Heidi Hengsbach	Deborah Monzyk	Kristin Wald
Angie Coleman	Branna Hensley	Donna Naumann	Monica Washburn
Cheri Crowley	Amy Holland	Janet Neihaus	Nancy Weintraut
Tonny Dement	Holly Huelskamp	Amanda Nevill	Alicia Whitwell
Anna Dryer	Lynda Hughes	Rebecca Organ	Loettchen Wider
Starla Dulworth	Susan James	Mary Patterson	Anne-Marie Woodruff
Lisa Eloff	Donna Jewell	Judy Pedigo	Alesha Worley
Julie Epple	Katherine Johnson	Mary Pfenning	Yakima Young-Shields
Maria Eppler	Felecia Jones	Vanessa Pratt	Constance Young
Andrea Faulkner	Janet Jones	Angela Potter	Patricia Yount
Leigh Ann Faulkner	Linda Kendrick	Michelle Redfern	Jeanne Zack

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Jeanne Sevelius

William A. Kerr Foundation

\$10,000

Please contact our office (heckel@umsl.edu) if you know of any additional scholarships/fellowships from outside sources received by your departments and we will mention them in next month's newsletter.