

EEB Monthly

A Department Newsletter

March 26, 2021



About This Newsletter

EEB Monthly is a new department newsletter that will be sent at the end of each month. It will be used to share departmental information, remind team members of upcoming events, acknowledge various accomplishments, and keep us all connected while we are apart. This newsletter is for your enjoyment, so if you have any suggestions for upcoming editions, please email leah.rossettie@uconn.edu or eeb.assistant@uconn.edu

Enjoy!

Employee Appreciation Day

Friday, March 5 was this year's Employee Appreciation Day. We wish to recognize all EEB team members for how they have managed in the past year since the onset of Covid-19. All routines were completely disrupted, yet our team came together and kept their focus on helping students succeed. We thank all EEB employees for always taking care of the students - and each other.



Team Member Shout-Outs

Leah Rossettie began at EEB in January as an Education Program Assistant:

Leah has been adjusting wonderfully to her graduate coordinator position in EEB. She has been with UConn for many years prior to joining us in EEB, so she already has a tremendous amount of Husky Pride and knowledge of the University and all it has to offer. It is so refreshing to have a fresh perspective in the office and have someone offer new ideas and initiatives to improve the department. I have no doubt that she will be an amazing addition to the department and CLAS.

-Submitted by Nicholas Boston



If you would like to shout-out a fellow EEB team member for any reason (their hard work, kindness, accomplishments, etc.), please email eeb.assistant@uconn.edu with whom you would like to recognize and a few sentences explaining why.

EEB in the News

- **Margaret Rubega** was featured in [UConn Today](#) for evaluating the effectiveness of communications courses for scientists.
- **Chris Simon** was mentioned in [The Washington Post](#) for her upcoming research on Brood X Cicadas.
- **Sarah Knutie** was published in the [Wiley Online Library](#) for her research on Darwin's Finches in the Galápagos Islands.
- **John Cooley** and **Chris Simon** were featured on the [Science Vs. Podcast](#) discussing the upcoming surge of Brood X Cicadas in the United States.
- **Daniel Bolnick** was published in the [Wiley Online Library](#) regarding his research on MHC II diversity in various stickleback populations.

Upcoming Events

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- **The EEB Seminar Series** occurs every Thursday from 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM. All sessions can be joined at [this zoom link](#).
 - 4/1: **Namrata Sengupta**; *What it Means to be a Science Communicator: From Part-Time Volunteering to a Full-Time Career*.
 - 4/8: **Deepa Agashe**; *Adapt or Bust? Predicting Adaptive Dynamics Under New Challenges*.
 - 4/22: Earth Day Seminar by **Amitav Ghosh**: *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*

EEB Seminar Series

Awards

Congratulations to EEB PhD student **Zach Muscavitch** for receiving a research award from the Phycological Society of America to develop target capture loci for green algae that associate with the lichen fungus, *Niebla*!

Pamela Diggle and **Cynthia Jones** were among the nine UConn researchers to be inducted into the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering for 2021. Congratulations to both for this accomplishment!

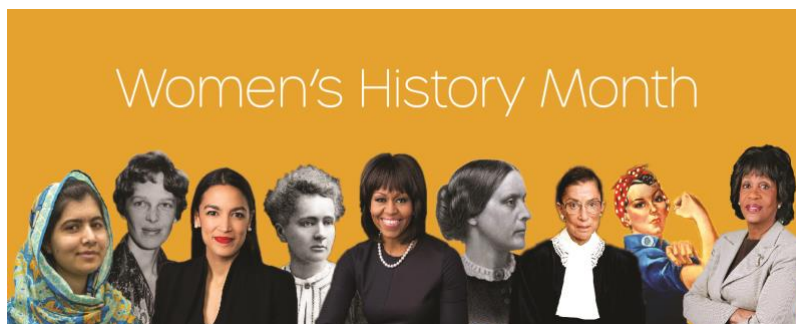


Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, with International Women's Day falling on March 8. This began as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed the bill to request that the President proclaim the week beginning with March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Later, the National Women's History Project petitioned to designate the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." This is a time to commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American and World History.

Every year, the National Women's History Alliance designates an annual theme for Women's History Month. For the 2021 celebration, the theme is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced." This theme recognizes the battle for women's suffrage, which was achieved with the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920. Countless women fought, demonstrated, and petitioned that women, like men, deserve the right to vote as citizens of the United States.

Ways to celebrate Women's History Month include, but are not limited to, educating yourself on women's history in America, staying aware of the issues women all over the world still face today, spreading awareness on social media platforms, supporting a women's non-profit organization, and buying from women-owned businesses. More information on this topic can be found at the [Women's History Month official website](#).



Faculty Spotlight

Every month, we would like to feature an EEB faculty member to get to know colleagues better. We are pleased to present March's edition of the Faculty Spotlight, featuring Miranda Davis!



1. What is your specific area of study?

My interests are in the interactions among wildlife populations and how they can be conserved in the face of human-driven environmental change. Particularly, I'm interested in how large predator populations interact with one another and their prey.

2. What was your first job?

My first ever job was working as a cashier at Price Chopper. My first job in EEB, doing what I really wanted, was being a field assistant on a Capuchin Monkey project in Suriname.

3. What is the best trip you've ever taken?

Going on a safari in Tanzania. It was amazing to have such a clear view of so many animals out in the open. It was a truly moving experience.

4. What is your favorite book/movie/song?

My favorite movie is *The Painted Veil*. My favorite book is *The Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean M. Auel. There are too many songs to choose from, but I guess I really like "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen.

5. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

Dr. Anne Clark of Binghamton University once told me to sit back and relax more when I finished my undergraduate degree and my path was not clearly defined. She just told me to have fun with it. I'm not sure I succeeded at taking that advice, but it was the best advice I had heard.

6. What trend do you hope never makes a comeback?

Colored bathroom fixtures. Just don't do it please. Our house had a yellow and green toilet when we moved in... not good.

7. What energizes you at work?

Having enthusiastic students. I love helping students work through a difficult concept and seeing that moment when it all "clicks."

8. What's your favorite sport to watch and what team do you root for?

I don't really watch sports... I root for the Yankees. I believe they play baseball.

9. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Balancing my work life with my personal life in a way that makes me feel fulfilled and accomplished at

EEB Resources

- [EEB Website](#)
- [EEB Twitter](#)
- [EEB Covid-19 Safety Plan](#)
- [WFH Resources](#)

