Hello all my fellow Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity students!! The time is nearing… the end of the 2010-2011 academic year is almost here. For those of you who are continuing on and not yet graduating, it means another glorifying year here at UC Davis. For those of us who are graduating, it means one more glorious week as students before we get kicked into the "real world" and are forced to try to figure out what we are going to do next.

While it has been great being your Peer Advisor for the last two years, my time has come to move on. I pass along my torch to Elena Daggett, the EEB Peer Advisor for the 2011-2012 academic year. For those of you continuing on or just coming into the major, I leave you in her capable hands and wish you all the best of luck in your academic endeavors. We are the future and I have to admit the future is looking pretty bright and talented!

If I can give you all some advise before I leave, there would be a few things I would like to tell you about: CLASSES, RESEARCH, and FUN!

FUN:

CLASSES: Take as many classes that interest you as possible. We have so many amazing EVE courses that fit a variety of interests. I have taken Herpetology, Marine Ecology, Plant Ecology, Animal Communication, Global Change Ecology, Biology of Invertebrates, Mechanical Design of Organisms, and Ecology of Tropical Latitudes, and they are among some of my favorite courses here at Davis.

RESEARCH: Find something you are interested in that a faculty member or graduate student is working on and try to get experience working in their lab. One thing I would do over would be to gain more research experience. Everyone is looking for someone with that experience under their belt. Also, you may discover something along the way that interests you as a possible research project that you’d like to work on during your senior year or for graduate school.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!
Save The Frogs Day was April 29...
But You Can Still Save The Frogs!

There are over six thousand known amphibian species in the world and almost 1/3 of them are near extinction. Amphibians are very important to future biomedical technologies, one of which currently being researched is a possible cure AIDS by inhibiting HIV with skin secretions from three African frog species.

Six major threats to amphibians are all anthropogenic (human-caused) and include: habitat destruction, infection diseases, pollution and pesticides, climate change, invasive species, and over harvesting for food and pet trades. Many of these threats are even worse when combined.

Save The Frogs, a non-profit organization devoted to amphibian conservation, has been trying to increase awareness about threats to frog populations by educating people about their declines. Our very own EEB student, Robyn Screen, educated the public on Picnic Day with her Save The Frogs booth, as she collected signatures to support the ban on Atrazine, a harmful pesticide for frog populations.

But why are Frogs so important? Frogs are an important part of the food web, they are bioindicators, they are used for medicinal research, and of course they are COOL!

Endangered California species of amphibians include: the California Red-Legged Frog (threatened listing 1996), the California Tiger Salamander (Threatened/endangered 2004), the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (Candidate species 2003, Southern population endangered), and the Yosemite Toad (Candidate species 2002).

For more information visit: www.savethefrogs.com

“Not only are amphibians fascinating and beautiful, they are an integral part of the ecosystem. I’d like to encourage everyone to find out how you can help with conservation efforts!”
- Robyn

EEB undergraduate, Robyn Screen, tabling for Save the Frogs during the Non-Profit Resource Faire on Picnic Day, April 16, 2011:

Photo by: Michael Starkey, Save The Frogs Advisory
EVE faculty have been recipients of many different types of awards over the years. Some of the more recent award recipients include the following...

Rick Grosberg – 2010 UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement
The prize was created to honor faculty who are exceptional teachers as well as scholars. Prizewinners are leaders in their academic fields nationally and internationally, as well as strong university teachers with a passion for undergraduate education. Richard Grosberg’s research centers on building an understanding of the behavioral, ecological, cellular, developmental, and genetic mechanisms that limit conflict and promote the evolution of cooperation.

Peter Wainwright – 2010 Inducted to the Academy Fellows of the California Academy of Sciences
The California Academy of Sciences is located in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and is at the forefront of efforts to understand and protect the diversity of Earth’s living things. Peter Wainwright is broadly interested in the evolution of organismal design. His research seeks to identify general patterns, repeating themes, and principles of how the complex muscle-skeleton system of fishes is modified during evolution to produce the diversity we see in function and ecology.

Thomas W. Schoener – 2010 Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)
This prize is awarded to an individual for long-term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee’s research; consideration is also given to educational and service impacts of the individual’s career. Thomas Schoener’s research interests are ecology; island ecology; lizard population biology; spider ecology; predation; resource partitioning; food webs; spacing behavior; mathematical models of population interactions; and feeding strategies.

Graham Coop – 2009 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship
This award is given in support of outstanding researchers early in their academic careers. Graham Coop works on a number of different aspects of evolutionary and population genetics.

Peter Wainwright – 2008-2009 College of Biological Sciences Faculty Teaching Award
The UC Davis College of Biological Sciences Faculty Teaching Award is awarded for outstanding teaching in biology. Peter Wainwright is highly regarded by both colleagues and students as a phenomenally successful instructor at all levels, from lower-division introductory courses to postdoctoral mentoring.

Artyom Kopp – 2009 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow Award
Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment. Artyom Kopp’s areas of research include developmental and evolutionary genetics to understand the origin of new phenotypes and ecological adaptations.

Charles Langley – 2009 Faculty Research Lecturer
“Despite a number of truly deserving nominees, this was an easy choice,” noted the Academic Senate committee charged with selecting this year’s award winner. “(Charles Langley) has been an internationally recognized leader in evolutionary genetics since the late 1970s …(and) has pioneered new molecular methods that have revolutionized our understanding of genetic variation within and among species.”

Here are some recent award winners!!!
Where can I get a JOB?! 

The time is fast approaching... graduation... and with graduation comes searching for a job. But you may be asking yourself... What career options are out there for EEB majors? Consider the following...

If you are interested in Graduate School there are graduate programs in: Evolution and/or Ecology, Biology, Population Biology, Integrated Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Genetics, and Plant Biology.

If you are interested in Wildlife there are positions including: Wildlife Rescuer/Stranding Coordinator, Field Biologist, Species Coordinator, Exotic Animal Nutritionist, Zookeeper, Aquarium Keeper, Marine Mammal Trainer, Wildlife Biologist (Forestry Products Company or Private Consulting Firm), District Wildlife Manager, Fish Hatchery Worker, or Nature Preserve Manager.

Those interested in Air quality Management should consider positions as a Meteorologist, Air Pollution and Control Technician, Groundwater Professional, Water Pollution Control Technician, Air Quality Inspector.

If you are interested in Finance and Law you might consider a job as a Social Research Analyst (Investment Fund), Financial Environmental Consultant, or Environmental Attorney.

Those interested in Public Actions should look into jobs such as an Environmental Activist, Grassroots Organizer, Lobbyist, and Environmental Victims Advocate.

If you are interested in Education and Communication there are Environmental Journalist/Editor, Environmental Media Associate, Public Affairs Officer, Environmental Instructor (Public Aquarium or Museum), Environmental Educator, Nature Photojournalist, and Naturalist positions that may be right for you.

If you are interested in Botany and Horticulture you might consider a position as a Agricultural Horticulturist, Ecological Horticulturist, Nursery Plant Manager/Owner, or Plant Health Care Worker.

Students interested in Waste Management and Environmental Assessment might consider Environmental Risk Manager/Site Assessor, Soil Waste Management Professional, Hazardous Waste Management Professional, Recycling Products Manager, Field Sampling Supervisor, Radiological Remediation Expert, Pollution Enforcement/Field Sampling (Environmental Protection Agency), or Biotech Remediation Project Scientist.

If you are interested in Planning and Design you might consider a position as a Planner, Architect, Landscape Architect, Design Technician, or Surveyor and Mapping Scientist.

Students interested in Forestry and Outdoor Recreation should look into positions as a forester, Ranger Manager/ Rangeland Specialist, Soil Scientist, Soil Scientist, Park Ranger, Recreation Administrator, Law Enforcement Park Ranger, or Parks

Places you never knew existed!

As promised... Here is a place on campus you may have never known existed, the Shields Oak Grove! This little hidden area on the far west side of the Arboretum is home to a large collection of oak trees, as well as artwork from past ENT 01 classes that involve ceramic interpretations of lifecycles around the oaks.

The Shields Oak Grove is located near the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden and the Carolee Shields White Flower Garden and Gazebo, all of which are located in the west end of the arboretum just south of the Vet Med Center. Enjoy some lounging in the sun, take a walk around the garden, or enjoy a shaded nap on a bench under the oaks. Whatever your fancy, this is quiet a fabulous place you don't want to miss.

The photo to the right is taken of me (Nicole Carbone) and my ENT 01 ceramics piece on permanent display in the Shields Oak Grove.