

EES^{LMU} Newsletter

Issue 04: April 2009

What's new in the EES^{LMU}?

This has been an exciting semester for the EES^{LMU}, which has started up its PhD program. There are fifteen students, with a variety of educational backgrounds working in different departments within the fields of ecology, evolution and systematics. The group is already planning a retreat as well as workshops in time management and scientific writing.



Coffee Break during the DZG PhD Evolution Meeting

DZG Evolution PhD Meeting 2009

The 14th Annual Evolution Ph.D. Meeting, organized by Sonja Grath, Stefan Laurent and Jennifer Lohr and aided by a large crew of volunteers, was very successful. It was held at the Botanical Institute in Nymphenburg, and featured engaging plenary talks by Dr. Olaf Bininda-Emonds (University of Oldenburg), Dr. Penelope Haddrill (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Thomas Schmitt (University of Freiburg). The conference also incorporated talks by students as well as poster presentations. Graduate students in the fields of evolutionary biology were able to present their work, and connect with each other, and the plenary speakers through common dinners, breaks and an excursion to see the botanical gardens.

EES^{LMU} Agenda Summer Semester 2009

- April 24-26th -First-Year Excursion: Potsdam
- May 11th -Seminar: Gregor Bucher (Göttingen)
- May 14-22nd -Second-Year Excursion: Sweden
- May 25th -Seminar: Andreas Betancourt (Edinburgh)
- June 1st -Seminar: Peter Linder (Zürich)
- June 8-14th -First-Year Excursion: Austrian Alps
- June 15th -Seminar: Eörs Szathmary (Budapest)
- June 29th -Seminar: Jan-Peter Frahm (Bonn)
- July 13th -Seminar: Ido Pen (Groningen)
- Sept 18th -Talks for best EES Thesis awards (presentations)
- Sept 20-25th -Summer School: Host-Parasite Coevolution
- Oct 12th -3rd Annual EES Conference

Human Evolution Week

In December, to get a collaboration started and to let our current students profit from the ties between the universities, the EES offered a week of joint teaching for all first semester master students from Munich, Uppsala and



Students and teachers in the human evolution week

Groningen. The topic of the joint week was human evolution. The idea was to use recent genomics information from humans, chimps and Neanderthal to address questions in phylogenetics, speciation, ecology, and disease detection. During the week the three universities presented the research possibilities they offer for students. Some of the students were inspired and will to do a course or a research project at one of the other universities.

Goodbye to Prof. Sebastian Diehl and Dr. Herwig Stibor

This semester, the Aquatic Ecology groups head, Prof. Sebastian Diehl is moving to Umeå University in Sweden. Dr. Herwig Stibor, also from the aquatic ecology group, has recently moved to the European Institute for Marine Studies in Plouzane, France. Sebastian was an integral part of the EES program and will be greatly missed by his students and colleagues. A special goodbye from his 'Team America' master students!

Upcoming EES ^{LMU} Courses	
30.03	-Evolutionary Ecology Modeling (Gabriel)
20.04	-Principles of Behavioural Ecology (Foitzik, Witte, Kempenars) -Basic Evolutionary Genomics (Parsch) -Zoology (Starck) -Morphology and Physiology of Animals (Starck)
18.05	-Population Genetics 1 (Stephan, Hutter, Metzler) -Mycology, Evolution and Diversity of Fungi (Agerer)
15.06	-Ecophysiology (Matyssek) -Morphology, Evolution and Diversity of Seed Plants I (Gottschling)
06.07	-Advanced Evolutionary Genomics (Parsch) -Experimental Behavioural Ecology (Foitzik, Witte, Forstmeier) -Soil Mycomicrobiology (Agerer, Hartmann) -Marine Biology (Haszprunar, Hess) -Morphology, Evolution and Diversity of Seed Plants II (Gottschling)
31.08	-Fungal Interactions: Animals (Persoh, Agerer) -Field Mycology (Agerer)
20.09	-Summer School: Host-parasite Co-evolution
05.10	-Fungal Interactions: Mycorrhiza (Agerer) -Microarray Analysis in Evolution (Parsch, Baines)
*	-Microarray Analysis in Evolution (Parsch, Baines) * By arrangement



Sebastian and Herwig with PhD students Stephan, Florian, Mia and Maren while leading an EES excursion in the Austrian Alps

EES^{LMU} Excursions 2009

The first year Master's students will be led on a weeklong excursion into the Austrian Alps by an interdisciplinary group of five researchers. Integrating this with the statistics course, the students will learn about alpine ecology and biodiversity. The first year group is also making a trip to the University of Potsdam from April 24-26th to promote collaboration with the LMU.

The second year students will be going on a 1-week trip to Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden. They received two grants to go on this excursion: one from the EES and one from the DAAD. While in Sweden, the students will be visiting Stockholm's renowned botanical gardens and meeting with several evolutionary biology professors at the University of Uppsala.

EES^{LMU} Summer School 2009

This year's summer school will cover theoretical aspects of host-parasite evolution and discuss empirical approaches for studying coevolution. Specific topics will include the evolution of virulence and resistance, local adaptation and spatial structuring in host-parasite systems, and the molecular signature of coevolution. Instructors: Mike Boots (Sheffield), Jukka Jokela (ETH Zurich), David Nash (Copenhagen), Peter Tiffin (Minnesota), Local Instructors/Organizers: Susanne Foitzik, Pleuni Pennings, Laura Rose, Aurelien Tellier, Volker Witte, and Justyna Wolinska. The summer school is open to all graduate students and will be taught in English. For more information please visit: www.eeslmu.de/eeswiki/Summer_school_2009 Application Deadline: June 1st, 2009.