

# Newsletter 02

March 2008

## What's new with the EES<sup>LMU</sup> Program?

A lot! It has been an exciting and eventful winter semester at the Biozentrum. The EES program has held its first Master conference and the first group of EES Master students have finished up their first semester. The EES program has hosted a number of great speakers in the highly successful bi-weekly EES seminar series. We are proud to bring you the second EES newsletter, highlighting events from 2007 and presenting those to come in 2008.

## EES Summer School 2008

*Topic: The Evolution of Sex Chromosomes*

This year's summer school will be held again at the Fraueninsel in Chiemsee. The speakers will be comprised of professors and research professionals from the USA (Daven Presgraves, Rochester; Sander van Doorn, Sante Fe), Sweden (Judith Mank, Uppsala) and Scotland (Deborah Charlesworth, Edinburgh). This international panel of instructors will cover theoretical aspects of sex chromosome evolution along with empirical results from the diverse systems of plants, insects and birds. Specific topics will include the origin, role and sexual selection of sex chromosomes, molecular evolution of sex-linked genes, as well as gene content and expression of sex chromosomes. Participating students working on a related topic will be asked to give a short presentation on their research. Included will be an afternoon excursion to the nearby alps. Details are available on the EES<sup>LMU</sup> website. Questions can be directed to John Parsch (main organizer, [parsch@zi.biologie.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:parsch@zi.biologie.uni-muenchen.de)), Bart Kempnaers, Susanne Renner or Pleuni Pennings.

## Farwells and Greetings in 2008: Staff Changes

Joachim Hermisson has left LMU to become a professor of mathematics and biosciences at the University of Vienna, his postdoc Michael Kopp has made the move as well. Thassilo Franke, an assistant of professor Agerer will be leaving the university in pursue of a career in the film industry at Nautilus. Steffen Beisswanger (assistant of professor Stephan) has accepted a position working for Novartis. Another assistant of professor Stephan, Peter Pfaffhuber will be moving to Freiburg to take a position as professor of systems biology. The Biozentrum welcomes Dirk Metzler from the University of Frankfurt who will begin next fall as professor of statistical genetics.

## EES Seminar Series

The EES program has coordinated a bi-weekly seminar series that runs for the duration of each semester. The coordinators are Aurelien Tellier, Stefan Laurent and Pleuni Pennings. Check out the agenda above and the EES website to get information on who will be presenting every second Tuesday.

## EES Agenda 2008

18 <sup>th</sup> March	-Teamwork Seminar for PhD students
29-30 <sup>th</sup> March	-Writing Course for PhD students
14 <sup>th</sup> April	-Start of Summer Semester
29 <sup>th</sup> April	-Seminar: Laurent Excoffier (Berlin)
13 <sup>th</sup> May	-Seminar: Brian Charlesworth (Edinburgh)
27 <sup>th</sup> May	-Seminar: Manfred Milinskei (MPI of Evolutionary Biology)
24 <sup>th</sup> June	-Seminar: Tatiana Giraud (Paris-Sud)
6 <sup>th</sup> July	-Seminar: Dieter Ebert (Basel)
18 <sup>th</sup> July	-Seminar: John Wakeley (Harvard)
28 <sup>th</sup> July	-2 <sup>nd</sup> EES Summer Excursion
14-19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	-2 <sup>nd</sup> EES Summer School
1-2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	-2 <sup>nd</sup> EES Conference



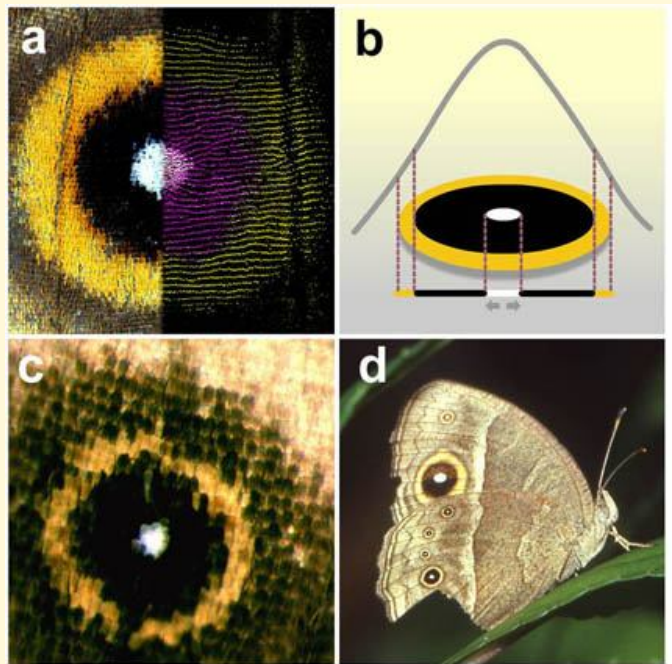
The Fraueninsel, where the EES Summer School will be held. Located southeast of Munich in Chiemsee.

## 14 Students used EES Grants in 2007

The EES program offers Diploma, Master and PhD students the possibility to apply for grants to visit conferences as well as other activities. Many of the 14 students who received an EES grant last year used the money to visit a conference where they presented their own work, but there were some exceptions. Rita Verma, a PhD student used her grant to collect mycorrhiza in Norway. A Diploma student, Annete Leingärtner working on the behavioral ecology of ants, used the funding to learn how to detect biologically active substances in the Dufour glands of ants. In addition, freshly graduated PhD student Nina Stoletzki visited a collaborator in England in order to write a grant proposal for a postdoc position in Brighton. For more information and how to apply, see the EES website.

### Volvox Speaker: Patricia Beldade

On November 29<sup>th</sup> the Volvox group of EES PhD students organized a seminar with Patricia Beldade. Patricia is an evolutionary biologist currently working on "Evolutionary Diversification of Form" based at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. In 2003 Patricia was awarded the John Maynard Smith prize for outstanding young researcher in the field of evolutionary biology. The award was for her work on the genetic basis of phenotypic variation, the evolution and development of butterfly wing patterns. At the Biozentrum seminar, Patricia gave a fascinating talk about the developmental and genetic basis of pattern formation in butterflies. After her presentation audience attendees were invited to join Patricia in a round table lunch session. It was a great afternoon of information flow and idea exchange between researchers in the field of evolutionary biology. It will be exciting to see whom the Volvox organization ([www.eeslm.de/wiki](http://www.eeslm.de/wiki)) invite to present at the Biozentrum next.



From Patricia's 2007 article in Heredity. For more information on Patricia's research and group visit her website at [www.beldade.nl](http://www.beldade.nl)

### Upcoming EES Courses

31.03.08	-Evolutionary Ecology Modeling (Gabriel)
14.04.08	-Basic Evolutionary Genomics (Parsch) -Principals of Behavioural Ecology (Foitzik and Kempnaers)
05.05.08	-Population Genetics (Stephan) -Experimental Community Ecology (Diehl) -Mycology: Diversity and Evolution of Fungi (Agerer)
02.06.08	-Ecophysiology (Matyssek) -Microbiology (Overmann)
23.06.08	-Advanced Evolutionary Genomics (Parsch) -Experimental Behavioural Ecology (Foitzik and Kempnaers) -Soil Mycomicrobiology (Hartmann)
14.07.08	-Phylogenetics of Plants (Heubl)
28.07.08	-Statistics and Excursion (Stibor and Diehl)
15.09.08	-Marine Biology (Haszprunar)
29.09.08	-Cladistics (Renner and Haszprunar)

### EES Master Students Update

The EES Master students have completed their first semester at LMU. This semester concentrated on building the students base knowledge in ecology, evolution and systematics the three pillars of the program. The students also received training in scientific writing as well as in preparation and professional delivery of presentations. A visiting Chilean student, Patricia Silva returned home at the end of February. The EES students were sad to see her leave, but wish her all the best back in Chili, as she completes her thesis. Next semester the students will be choosing from a variety of courses (see table), which will allow them to specialize in their fields of interest. They will also be taking a weekly seminar on global change, taught by Jonathan Jeschke and Stephan Hutter.

### Apply to Join the EES for Winter Semester 08/09

The EES Master program is now accepting applications for its second year, which begins in the winter semester of 2008. Application deadlines are 30.04.08 for non-EU students and 30.06.08 for EU students. The program is conducted in English and applicants require certification of proficiency in English or a degree from an English university or college. Specifics regarding application procedure and information for Diploma students wishing to transfer to the Master program can be found on the EES website. Applications are to be sent to the program coordinator, Pleuni Pennings ([pennings@lmu.de](mailto:pennings@lmu.de)).



EES Master students Pablo Duchén, Delsy Trujillo and Patricia Silva at the Paleontology Institute.