

BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES - FALL 2007

Susan E. Barbaro, Ph.D.*

Associate Professor of Biology and Department Coordinator, Rivier College

The Biology Department invites all interested faculty, staff, and students to attend the Fall-2007 Biology Seminar Series. Seminars are held on Friday afternoons at 2:30 pm in Mendel Hall, room 201. Following is a list of the guest speakers, seminar topics, and dates. Contact Nina Harrold, Biology Department Laboratory Coordinator (e-mail: nharrold@rivier.edu, phone: 897-8624) or Susan Barbaro (e-mail: sbarbaro@rivier.edu, phone: 897-8261).

September 28th: Dr. Eric Simon

"Using Technology to Enliven Biology"

Dr. Eric Simon received a B.A. in biology and computer science and an M.A. in biology from Wesleyan University. He then earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard University. Currently, Dr. Simon is an assistant professor of biology at New England College, where in addition to teaching introductory biology to both science and non science majors, is working toward an M.S. Ed. in educational psychology. His research focuses on innovative ways to use technology to improve teaching and learning in science classrooms.

October 19th: Beth Suedmeyer

"Purple Loosestrife: Biological Control in Massachusetts"

Beth has a B.Sc. in biology from the University of Illinois and a M. Sc. in GIS for Development and Environment from Clark University. In 2002, she conducted research as a Fulbright scholar assessing a conservation and development initiative in Kerinci Seblat National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. She has also applied her skills at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine as an environmental education coordinator and GIS specialist, respectively. Beth is currently the restoration planner for the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP), where she coordinates planning projects and assists with restoration policy development and collaborative restoration initiatives.

November 9th: John Coppinger

John Coppinger has a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Horticulture from The University of Massachusetts in Amherst. John is a registered consulting arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists and a certified arborist in the International Society of Arboriculture and the Massachusetts Arborist Association. The Green Guy company is dedicated to providing a sustainable approach to caring for lawns and trees. Employees of The Green Guy work with their clients to restore vigor and life through all natural fertilizers and blended compost.

November 30th: Dr. Brian Penney

“Sea slugs that sting and steal: use of sequestered chemicals and nematocysts in nudibranchs”

Dr. Brian Penney received B. Sc. from Cornell University and a Ph. D from the University of Alberta and is currently an assistant professor at St. Anselm College. Dr. Penney has conducted research in insect chemical ecology, focusing specifically on host-finding behavior and pheromones. He currently works on nudibranchs, shell-less marine snails, and their use of chemical defenses. ■

* **SUSAN E. BARBARO**, Ph.D., obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, and Master of Science and Doctorate from the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Her desire to understand and protect the environment has always played an important role in determining Susan's research interests. In particular, she is interested in the microbial ecology of fresh water and soil ecosystems. Susan has studied and conducted research related to microbial physiology, biological control, and bioremediation. Her first full-time teaching position was at Delaware State University, a Historical Black College. She joined the faculty at Rivier College in 2003.