

BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES (FALL 2009)

Joel L. Stake, Ph.D.*
Associate Professor of Biology, Rivier College

October 2, 2009

“How a Novel Nutraceutical Supplement Can Improve Cognition and Mood in Early Alzheimer's Disease”

Dr. Thomas Shea, Professor and Director, Center for Cellular Neurobiology and Neurodegeneration Research, University of Massachusetts–Lowell

Dr. Shea studies Alzheimer's disease, in particular nutritional approaches to delay onset and progression. He will be discussing the background of the disease, how it affects families, and what can or cannot be done/hoped for.

October 23, 2009

“Horseshoe Crab Biological Rhythms, from Molecules to Movements”

Dr. Chris Chabot, Professor of Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, Department of Biology, Plymouth State University

Dr. Chabot's interests lie in the area of animal behavior – especially in 1) the neural and hormonal control of behavior, as well as 2) the influence of the environment. Many of his investigations address issues of circadian biology.

November 13, 2009

“Coral Bleaching: What Does Genomics Tell Us about the Causes and Mechanisms”

Dr. Michael Lesser, Research Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular and Biomedical Sciences, University of New Hampshire

Dr. Lesser will present what is known about the causes and mechanism of coral bleaching, and discuss how genomic approaches have informed us about the role of oxidative stress, or other processes, in coral bleaching. ■

* Upon completion of his undergraduate education at Louisiana College, **Dr. JOEL L. STAKE** began working at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on his master's degree during which he first started studying scleractinian corals and developing and interest in teaching. After a shift in research focus to molecular biology and phylogenetics, Dr. Stake's dissertation research focused on understanding the relationships of species of coral from two genera found throughout the western Atlantic and Caribbean. Dr. Stake's research has taken him to places throughout the Caribbean, including Belize, Jamaica, and Panama. After completing his doctoral degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, he accepted a postdoctoral research position at the University of the Virgin Islands located in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. There he continued to study the phylogenetic and evolutionary relationships of corals. He joined the faculty at Rivier in fall 2008.