

## **BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES (SPRING 2010)**

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

**February 19, 2010**

**“Serotonin in swimming sea slugs: evolution of species-specific behaviors”**

**Dr. James Newcomb**, New England College

**Bio:** James Newcomb is the son of an electrical engineer and initially swore that he would never work with electrical machinery for a living. However, he eventually outgrew those childhood desires during graduate work studying the neural control of swimming in nudibranchs at the University of New Hampshire and Georgia State University. Now, as an assistant professor of biology at New England College, he regularly uses electrical equipment to study the neural physiology of locomotion and circadian rhythms in a variety of marine invertebrates.

**March 26, 2010**

**“Pathophysiology of non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus”**

**Dr. Mary Katherine K Lockwood**, University of New Hampshire

**Bio:** Dr. Lockwood completed her B.Sc. in Biology at Davidson College (NC), M.Sc. in Physiology at Pennsylvania State University, and her Ph. D. in Nutrition and Biological Chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**April 16, 2010**

**“Adaptation to salinity stress: the response of coastal fish populations to a changing world”**

**Dr. Kevin M. Purcell**, North Dakota State University

**Bio:** Dr. Purcell holds the ECS Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Biological Sciences at North Dakota State University. His research has focused on examining the impacts of global climate change specifically, rising sea levels, on the ecology and evolution of coastal marsh fish populations using a combination of molecular and ecological tools. He is currently participating in several research projects which focus on the impacts of serial translocations, on the adaptation and genetic diversity of introduced species, as well as a project examining the molecular ecology of the Northern Leopard Frog, a species of concern in North Dakota. ■

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\* 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 an 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.