

BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES (SPRING 2011)

Joel L. Stake, Ph.D.*

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Rivier College

February 11, 2011

“Microbial Action and Inaction: Factors that affect the Degradation of Crude Oil, Gasoline Additives, and Pharmaceuticals”

Dr. Susan E. Barbaro, Associate Professor of Biology, Rivier College

Bio: Dr. Susan Barbaro joined the Rivier College Biology Department in the Fall of 2003. Susan has always been interested in the effects of environmental contaminants on fresh water ecosystems. Contaminants such as petroleum hydrocarbons, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals reach aquatic ecosystems as a result of human activities mainly from agricultural practices, industrial activity, and sanitary sewage disposal. Microorganisms are our most efficient recyclers and their activity in the environments is important because it can result in the removal of pollutants from streams. Unfortunately, many contaminants currently detected in aquatic environments are unfamiliar to the indigenous microbial populations so removal is slow or does not occur at all. Understanding the factors that affect the microbial degradation of environmental contaminants is important because many of these contaminants have far reaching negative impacts that are not always immediately apparent.

April 8, 2011

“Reptiles and Amphibians of Colleton County, South Carolina: Threatened and Endangered Species”

Dr. Paul Kelly, Professor of Biology, Salem State University

* **Dr. JOEL L. STAKE** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Rivier College. Dr. Stake holds a B.S. in Biology from Louisiana College and received both his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Dr. Stake's current research is focused on understanding the evolutionary history and relationships of scleractinian corals as well as characterizing the molecular regulation of morphology in scleractinian corals. Dr. Stake's research has taken him to places throughout the Caribbean, including Belize, Jamaica, and Panama. He joined the faculty at Rivier College in Fall 2008.