March 6, 2023

Hello GDPE Community,

The success of the GDPE program depends on the participation and involvement of its members. Thus, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of two opportunities for such involvement currently available to you (faculty, affiliated members, and graduate students).

First is the Call for Distinguished Ecologist nominations (due March 22). Don't rely on others to decide who we bring to campus. This is your opportunity to influence and participate in this important part of the GDPE program. Please note that "distinguished" is defined broadly - outstanding, highly respected, and engaging ecologists are what make the Distinguished Ecologists series great.

Second, is the call for Applications/Nominations for GDPE Graduate Student Awards. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in showcasing the accomplishments of the best part of the GDPE program (the graduate students!).

Award categories include: Outstanding Publication Award, Excellence in Mentoring/Teaching Award, Outstanding Impact Award, and Broadening Participation in Ecology Award.

These are due March 24.

Links to both of these can be found in the EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS section below.

Have a great week.

Alan Knapp
Your GDPE Senior Ecologist

**Quick note from the GDPE Curriculum Committee**
An email went out this morning (Monday, Mar. 6) with links to a survey (one for students, and one for faculty). Please take 5-10 min to complete the survey. In order to evaluate how our community feels about the curriculum and possible curricular revisions, we need to have a good representation from our community! Even if you "don't care", we want to know that! If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Neuwald. Thanks for taking a few minutes to log your responses.
Call for Distinguished Ecologist nominations
The GDPE Executive Committee invites nominations for our Distinguished Ecologist series for 2023-2024. Please submit nominations by March 22 to be evaluated by the GDPE Executive Committee the following week. This is an amazing opportunity to bring extraordinary ecologists to campus! We define “distinguished” broadly (exemplary, outstanding, highly respected) and seek a diverse group of speakers with clear potential to engage GDPE students and faculty.

Call for Applications or Nominations for GDPE Graduate Student Awards
GDPE offers four merit-based awards to graduate students. GDPE students are encouraged to apply directly for these awards. Additionally, GDPE students or faculty members may nominate students. Applications and nominations will be evaluated equally. All graduate students enrolled in the GDPE program at the time of application/nomination are eligible and awards will be given for activities occurring during the two years prior to the application date.

- Outstanding Publication Award
- Excellence in Mentoring/Teaching Award
- Outstanding Impact Award
- Broadening Participation in Ecology Award

Please also see the GDPE website for more information. Packets are due March 24.

Student Defenses

PhD Defense Seminar
Olivia Hajek
Grassland Responses to Seasonal Shifts in Water Availability

March 21, 2023
2:00 pm MT
Yates 304
Zoom link
DEADLINES

GDPE Deadlines
March 10 - GDPE Curriculum Survey (please refer to the Mar. 6th email for links - or contact Jennifer Neuwald)
March 22 - Distinguished Ecologist Nominations
March 24 - Graduate Student Awards Applications and Nominations

Graduate School
If you plan on celebrating at the Graduate School Commencement Ceremony on May 12, you may order your cap, gown, and tassel in advance online via the University Commencement webpage. The deadline for ordering regalia is March 28.
Please visit the Graduate School Commencement webpage for further details about preparing for your big day

Find all of the deadline details on the CSU Graduate School's website here.
Find all of the registration details on the CSU Registrar's website here.

ECOLOGY & CSU EVENTS

Environmental Justice Community Social
Join the Environmental Justice Community for their next social event on March 9th from 4:30-6:00 PM in Smith Natural Resources Room 142.

Their event on March 9th will feature a guest speaker from the Intersectional Environmentalist.

Scan the QR code on the flyer or visit the link here to RSVP for their events this semester. Their future events include a Potluck Dinner and EJ Mapping Activity on April 13 and a Celebration Gathering on May 11.
Ecological Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting
ESA invites abstracts for contributed presentations (talks and posters) for the 2023 Annual Meeting, which will take place August 6-11 in Portland, Oregon.

Inclusive STEM Teaching Project
The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project is designed to advance the awareness, self-efficacy, and ability of STEM faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and staff to cultivate inclusive learning environments for all their students and to develop themselves as reflective, inclusive practitioners. Sessions will be held on Mondays March 6 - April 17 from 4:30-6. Learn more and register here.

Recent Publications and Highlights

Mastication Treatments Increase Perennial Herbaceous Cover Across Soil Types in Southeastern Colorado Piñon-Juniper Woodlands
Rangeland Ecology and Management - May 2023

GDPE student, Katie Nigro, and alumni, Miranda Redmond and Andreas Wion, found that mastication treatments in piñon-juniper woodlands increase herbaceous plant cover and richness with little increases in invasive species across soils with a range of available water capacity in southeast Colorado.

Image taken by Tegan May

A hidden cost of single species management: Habitat-relationships reveal potential negative effects of conifer removal on a non-target species
Biological Conservation - April 2023

Pinyon Jay populations have been declining range-wide since 1966, leading to a recent petition for listing under the Endangered Species Act. GDPE student Nicholas Van Lanen and team modeled Pinyon Jay population trends and habitat associations to identify where populations are stable, identify environmental characteristics which support high jay densities, and inform population recovery efforts. They found conifer removal to restore sagebrush ecosystems may negatively affect jays in areas where they occur.

Image provided by Nicholas Van Lanen

Let us know about your recent publications!

We are trying to highlight the great and diverse science that our faculty and students are doing. If you have recently published an article, please fill out the form linked below and our SciCom Fellow, Josie Otto, will add you to our new Recent Publications section above. We can also feature your work on our website!

Please note that inclusion of events and publications in the Digest is not an endorsement by GDPE
We want your feedback! Do you have comments or suggestions about how your GDPE experience can improve? Let us know! Contact your ExCom Student Representatives, Mel Morado and Erin Weingarten to provide your feedback.

Stay in touch by tagging GDPE in your posts and photos on Twitter (@CSU_Ecology) and Instagram (@CSU_GDPE). Use hashtags #GDPE and #CSU_Ecology. We’d be happy to help highlight your research!

GDPE Social Listserv - Please make sure to sign up here for the GDPE Social Listserv to keep up with all the fun events we have planned this year!

GDPE Slack Channel - Join our GPDE Slack channel here.

We want your photos! What are you up to, how is your field and lab work? Share them with us here.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & JOBS

USDA Biologist
Position open March 1-7
The position is a non-research grade Wildlife Biologist/Support Scientist and is located at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) Field Station in Barrigada, Guam. The program is multi-faceted and is directed at the reduction of wildlife damage as it relates to agriculture, human health and safety, public and private property, and natural resources.

SoGES Sustainability Leadership Fellows program
Deadline March 6
The School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) Sustainability Leadership Fellows program prepares future innovators and thought leaders with state-of-the-art science communication and career development training. Over the course of one year, Fellows develop new skills, interact with a wide variety of experts from different disciplines, and learn strategies to build successful careers that incorporate meaningful science communication, engagement, and interdisciplinarity.

Dual LTE Natural Resource Research Scientist- Senior (Rhinelander, WI)
Deadline March 7
The Office of Applied Science within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) seeks to hire 1 – 2 scientists to join the Large Carnivore and Elk Team. Our team has an assortment of exciting projects designed to directly inform wildlife management decisions in the state. The position will be based out of Rhinelander, WI and can begin as early as May. More information here.

Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry (OURA) Mentored Scholars Matching Funds
Deadline March 10
OURA is soliciting applications from faculty and graduate students looking to recruit undergraduate research/artistry assistants. Matching grants of up to $1000 are available to faculty or their graduate students mentoring students in their research/artistry groups during the summer of 2023. More information here.
Grant Announcement - Western North American Naturalist
Proposal deadline March 17
Western North American Naturalist will award at least 5 individual potential authors a grant of up to $2,500 each to fund their natural history research. Our intent in providing this grant is to help authors who may not have adequate funding to complete their research in natural history. We especially encourage individuals who are at institutions of higher learning that do not focus on research but where research is still possible. More information here.