Hello fellow EEB-ers!

The Committee on Climate for All is very excited to share the first iteration of our semesterly departmental newsletter! The idea for this newsletter started with the goal of improving communication within the department. We hope that by providing a single outlet for introducing new community members, updating everyone on departmental activities, and recognizing awards, we can bring people together and strengthen our sense of community. We are also considering research or outreach spotlights for future editions, with sections added over time. Please send suggestions about things to include (or not to include) to Beth Leman (bl5@princeton.edu). And one final note — in the Stumped section (bottom of the newsletter) we outline a naming contest for this newsletter. Please gather your creativity and wit and make a submission!

— Your friends on the Climate Committee

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Shane Campbell-Staton, Assistant Professor, EEB
Contemporary evolution and adaptation
Office - Guyot Hall, 223; Lab - Moffet 327 and 330
Website: www.campbellstaton.com

Join the EEB community in welcoming Shane Campbell-Staton and his lab members to Princeton! They moved from UCLA in mid-July, and we are thrilled to have them join the department. Shane’s research group focuses on evolution in the anthropocene, helping to tell a new chapter in the story of evolution dominated by the pressures of human history, movement, culture, politics, and conflict. They use a variety of approaches and study systems, including the investigation of animal performance, gene expression, and genomics in taxa as diverse as lizards, elephants, wolves, and alligators. Discover some of their wide-ranging research projects on the lab’s website.

In addition to his research pursuits, Shane has a deep passion for sharing science with the public. He wants to make science a fundamental part of everyday conversation and help a broad and diverse general audience understand the important role science plays in our past, present, and future. Towards this end, he hosts “The Biology of Superheroes” podcast, which examines how science and science fiction intersect. In his spare time, Shane enjoys music, martial arts, and going on adventures with the lab’s 2nd in command, Great Dane, Tatanka! To learn more about his work, check out Shane’s profiles in Research Gate or Google Scholar.
Welcome Campbell-Staton lab members!


**FALL EVENTS, INITIATIVES, AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

An active and interactive community, there are many events that take place over the course of the semester. Some are routine and others are one-time only. This fall, EEB has had quite a lot going on:

**Events or Series**

- **EEB 522 Seminar Series**, Colloquium on the Biology of Populations are weekly research seminars given by invited guests on Thursdays at 12:30 pm in Guyot 10 (with live stream option). Some colloquia include dinners with the guest speaker on the same day (e.g. most recently on November 11th). The [Events](#) page lists upcoming talks and a link to the archive of past seminars.

- **Postdoc-Faculty Monthly Conversations** is a Climate Committee initiative that began at the start of the pandemic. It’s a monthly series where faculty volunteers discuss professional development topics with EEB- and EEB-affiliated postdocs; postdocs also get to meet each other and faculty outside their lab groups. Dates and times are chosen based on faculty availability. The last event of the semester (December) will be a conversation with Corina Tarnita and Lars Hedin on “Finding and applying for your dream job” and “Designing your first class”. Past fall faculty participants include Bryan Grenfell, Simon Levin, Christie Riehl, and Cassie Stoddard.

- **Climate Committee Office Hours** aim to create a confidential space for discussion of any issue of concern or interest related to EEB ‘climate’. This new initiative is a monthly event; the last one of the semester took place on Tuesday, November 23rd, 10:30-11:30am with both in-person and remote participation options.

- There are a variety of **weekly discussion groups** open to all students, postdocs, faculty, and staff within the department. These usually involve short talks followed by lively discussion. They can also take the form of brainstorming sessions. See contacts below to get on the relevant listserv.
  - The [Integrated Behavioral Research Group (IBRG)](#) focuses broadly on animal behavior, meeting Fridays from 3-4 pm in Eno 209. Contact: [Rosalyn Price-Waldman](#), [Trey Hendrix](#).
○ The **Disease Modelling Group** focuses on the ecology and evolution of infectious disease, meeting every other Wednesday at 4:30 pm in Eno 209. Contact: Qiqi Yang, Justin Sheen.

○ The **Evo Group** focuses broadly on evolutionary biology, meeting every other week in Eno 209 (alternating with disease group). Meetings were paused during the pandemic but will hopefully restart soon. Contact: Luke Henry.

○ **Theoretical Ecology Lab Tea** offers presentations on a wide range of research projects and meets Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in Eno 209. Contact: Max Nguyen, Sebastián Michel-Mata.

○ **Drongos Conservation Meetings** are periodic open meetings of the Wilcove Lab, involving presentations on conservation-related topics. These special meetings are held on Thursdays from 3-4:30 pm. Contact: Chris Crawford.

- **EEB Book Club** - This new book club, begun by graduate students, is open to all community members. At its first meeting this semester, the club hosted a potluck dinner and discussed *The Invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf, a biography of Alexander von Humboldt. If you have any questions or would like to join, please email Justin Sheen.

**Socials**

- **EEB Departmental Holiday Party** - Wednesday, December 1st, 4 pm, Guyot Hall Atrium.

- **Graduate Student-hosted Holiday Party for EEB** - December 10th, 8 pm at the Campus Club.

- **EEB Beverage Hour** is a weekly social on Fridays at 4:30 pm on Eno Glade, hosted by 2nd-year graduate students to celebrate the week and share some laughs/good conversation over snacks and a variety of beverages.

- **Bagel Hour is BACK!** Bagel Hour has returned every other Wednesday for the remainder of the semester. Bagels will be available in the Guyot Atrium at the large table closest to room 100 at 10 am on November 10th and 24th, and December 8th.

- **EEB Halloween Party** hosted by the grad students took place October 29th at the Campus Club; creative costumes (see right) along with much laughter made for good times for all!

**Special Programs**

- **EEB Scholars October 2021** - Now in its 4th year, this annual program led by graduate student coordinators, Aiyu Zheng, Erin Phillips, and Jacob Levine, was a big success. There were 15 scholars chosen from a wide range of institutions and academic, research backgrounds who were excited for the opportunity to interact with faculty, grad students, and postdocs. They valued all pieces of the program but especially enjoyed the small group meetings and mock interviews. Scholar research talks presented during the poster sessions can be found on Media Central.
• **EEB Mentors 2021-22** - This program was kicked off in late September by Maria Smith and Rosalyn Price-Waldman and includes 33 mentee-mentor matches. Each relationship differs based on the needs of the mentee, but mentors (grad students and postdocs) generally expect to provide feedback on application materials and help mentees navigate the personal and logistical dimensions of applying to graduate school with empathy and care through the application cycle. New this year, mentor-mentee pairs were invited to join a pod that can meet virtually to provide additional support and networking opportunities.

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**Let’s Celebrate!**
*(FPOs/ Awards / Grants/ Special Distinctions & More!)*

Congratulations to our EEB community members who have achieved significant milestones, honored with awards and special distinctions, submitted successful grants, and other significant celebrations!

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**Final Public Oral Examinations (FPOs)**

- **Ciro Cabal,** Pacala Lab, September 27th, *thesis title*: “The mechanisms of plant interactions: to the root of the problem”
- **Samuel Cho,** QCB and Levin Lab, June 28th, *thesis title*: “Beyond Optimization and Dynamic Programming: Incorporating Frequency-Dependent Effects through Mean-Field Games”
- **Matthew Hutchinson,** Pringle Lab, July 19th, *thesis title*: “Foraging in a variable world: species interactions across ecological gradients”
- **Tong Mu,** Wilcove Lab, August 26th, *thesis title*: “The ecology and conservation of migratory shorebirds along the East Asian-Australian”
- **Fernando Rossine,** Tarnita Lab, September 27th, *thesis title*: “The emergent properties of diverse organism ensembles: from slime molds to protocells”
- **Zhilei Zhao,** McBride Lab, July 28th, *thesis title*: “Neural basis of host preference evolution in mosquitoes”

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**Awards or Special Distinctions**
*(Please use this form to submit award information for the next newsletter)*

- **Theo Gibbs,** QCB Graduate Student, Levin/Levine Labs: [National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship](#)
- **Rosemary Grant,** Emeritus Professor: [2021 Zoological Society of London Frink Medal](#)
- **Yuki Haba,** EEB Graduate Student, McBride Lab: [Walbridge Fund Graduate Award for Environmental Research; Rosemary Grant Advanced Award](#)
- **Sarah Kocher,** Assistant Professor, EEB and LSI: [2021 Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering](#)
- **Simon A. Levin,** Professor: Elected [Luohan Academy Distinguished Fellow; Elected Fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS)](#)
- **Jacob Levine,** EEB Graduate Student, Levine/Pacala Lab: [Mary and Randall Hack ’69 Graduate Award for Water and the Environment](#)
- **Chadi Saad-Roy,** QCB Graduate Student, QCB, Levin/Grenfell/Wingreen Labs: [Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Fellowship](#)
• **Z. Yan Wang**, Postdoc, Kocher Lab: [Whitman Fund Award](#) for Collaborative Research from the Marine Biological Laboratory; [IMPACT Fellowship](#); [Allen Institute Next Generation Leader](#); and **new faculty position** in Psychology & Biology at UW Seattle.

### NEW EEB MEMBERS

*(an addendum includes pictures for many of the new members)*

#### Welcome 1st-Year Graduate Students

EEB is excited to introduce and welcome 1st years to the community!

- Stavi Tennenbaum (vonHoldt)
- Timothy Schwanitz (McBride)
- David Ocampo (Stoddard)
- Benjamin Muhoya (Ayroles)
- Yeraldi Loera (Campbell-Staton)
- Madison Lichak (Campbell-Staton)
- Kelly Finke (Tarnita)
- Gates Dupont (Dobson)
- Vitor De Aguiar Dos Anjos (McBride)
- Emmanuel D’Agostino (Ayroles)
- Albert Chung (Campbell-Staton)
- Breanna Bennett (Riehl)

#### 2nd-Year Graduate Students

A special shout out to the 2nd years as they began their program and introduction to EEB in an all-remote, virtual world! Let’s take a moment to welcome (again) and meet them in person!

- Qiqi Yang (Grenfell)
- Alex Wiebe (Wilcove)
- Justin Sheen (Metcalf)
- Erin Phillips (Pringle)
- Sebastian Michel-Mata (Tarnita)
- Arthur Menezes (Graham)
- Finote Gijsman (Pringle)
- Ari Freedman (Levin)
- Matthew Cheung (Levin/PACM)
- Ruby An (Levine)

#### Other New EEB Members

EEB welcomes other new members who have joined the community within the past five months in various labs, departmental affiliations, and functions!

- Kristin M. Winchell, Postdoctoral Researcher (Campbell-Staton)
- Lukas Weiss, Postdoctoral Research Associate (McBride)
- Heather D. Waters, Research Specialist, Undergraduate Teaching Lab
- Nikki van Dorp, Senior Research Specialist (Kocher)
- Hannah Stouter, Research Specialist (Levine; HMEI-affiliated)
- Jeffrey Smith, Postdoctoral Research Associate (Levine; HMEI-affiliated)
Stumped?

To engage and intrigue inquisitive minds, STUMPED is an interactive section where a puzzle, riddle, contest, or interesting question will be posed to EEB newsletter readers to submit responses.

For the first edition of “STUMPED” the newsletter is holding a contest to come up with a witty or clever name for the newsletter. Why have a catchy newsletter name? It helps to increase the appeal, facilitates a more inclusive environment, is easier to remember, and it’s fun! The idea is to propose a name that embodies the character(s) of our community. If you have a way with words and phrases, submit your newsletter name idea [here](#) by December 21st.

Let Your Voices Be Heard!

The Committee on Climate for All has created several confidential mechanisms for the community to submit ideas, ask questions, or raise issues regarding our community’s diversity, inclusivity, and transparency. We are committed to listening and hearing concerns and potential solutions.

To reach us:
- The **Electronic Suggestion Box** ([LINK](#)) offers people a venue for sharing anonymous comments.
- A **Physical Suggestion Box** can be found outside Guyot 101 to complement the electronic portal.
- **Office Hours** - a monthly venue to chat with ~2 committee members (see Events, above).
- **Reach out to any committee member directly.** A full list of members can be found [here](#).

Next Edition: Have news or an award you want to share in the spring edition? Do you have a question, puzzle, riddle that you would like to see printed in the STUMPED section of the next newsletter? Submit award information [here](#), and send all other news and ideas to Beth Leman (b15@princeton.edu).