

# These Weeks in Biology

February 27th, 2007 - March 10th, 2007

## Special Events

- On March 5 and 6 the the **Department of Biology** was visited by an external review team (Fred Delcomyn from Univ. Illinois, Lou Feldman from Univ. California-Berkeley, Dan Howard from New Mexico State University). From all indications, a favorable review of the department was forwarded to **College of Natural Sciences Dean Rick Miranda**. Congratulations to all of you in the **Department of Biology** for your talent, hard work, and accomplishments!

## Welcome

- **Special Assistant Professor Gul Shad Ali** and **Professor ASN Reddy** hosted a group of Denver High School students for visit to their laboratory and an introduction to the ins and outs of transgenic potatoes.

## Research Funding and Grants

- **Assistant Professor Mark P. Simmons** returned from his long trek to Madagascar to find that he was awarded a three year grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his phylogenetic studies of the Celastraceae. Word!
- **Professor Mike Antolin** was awarded a Research Experience for Undergraduates supplement to his NSF funded project on "Plague as a model for low prevalence/epizootic disease dynamics" to support two students during summer of 2007. One position will be taken by **Alexandra Ard**, a Biological Sciences Major from the Department of Biology.

## On the Road

- Much of the **Department of Biology** will be on the road during Spring Break week from March 9 to 18. See you when we all get back!

## New Publications from Biology

- **Associate Professor LeRoy Poff** is lead author on a paper in the latest issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, entitled: "Homogenization of regional river dynamics by dams and global biodiversity implications." Co-authors include former PhD student **Julian Olden** and former post-doc **David Merritt**.

## Biology Research in the News

- **Associate Professor LeRoy Poff's** new paper in PNAS, on the negative effects of dams on flow regimes and biological diversity of rivers has made quite a splash! The research was covered in the Observatory section of *Science Times* in the New York Times on March 6, under the title "The Greater Impact of Dams."

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