



Newly appointed Dean John Gittleman leads Ecology faculty, staff and students in a toast celebrating the new Odum School.

## RESEARCH REPORT

a sample of exciting work at the Odum School

- Associate professor Pejman Rohani has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship. Rohani is studying dengue fever, a potentially deadly mosquito borne illness.
- In the current issue of *Oecologia*, UGA Institute of Ecology assistant professor Amy Rosemond and UGA alumnus Christopher Anderson report that beaver invasion in Chile's Cape Horn Archipelago results in a reduction in the diversity of stream-dwelling invertebrates. Curiously, they also found an enhancement of ecosystem function, in the form of greater production of invertebrates in beaver ponds.
- New hire Jacqueline E. Mohan was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* for recent poison ivy research. A Duke University report last year shows that higher carbon-dioxide levels create a chemical change in poison ivy that results in a more potent form of urushiol, the oil that triggers an itchy rash in about 70% of people exposed to it.
- For her expertise in monarch butterflies, assistant professor Sonia Altizer was featured on "The Today Show."
- An international team of scientists including Dean John Gittleman has constructed a complete evolutionary tree for mammals that puts the major diversification well after asteroid strike, casting into doubt the role the dinosaur die-off played in the success of mammals.
- A new University of Georgia study suggests that rapid detection combined with aggressive education can dramatically curtail outbreaks of emerging infectious disease such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Assistant professor John Drake has created a mathematical model that takes into account how information disseminated to the public contributes to the final size of an outbreak.
- Public service assistant Liz Kramer is creating datasets showing how the loss of tree canopy impacts important ecological and economic services throughout the southeast.

## ODUM SCHOOL IS FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD

Larry Dendy, UGA News Service

The world's first stand-alone academic school devoted specifically to the study of ecology was made official July 1 with the opening of the Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia.

Named for the late pioneering UGA professor, the school will further cement UGA's reputation as a world-class center for research and teaching on ecological principles and processes.

The school is being created by reorganizing UGA's Institute of Ecology, which Odum founded in the 1950s and is internationally recognized for its holistic, interdisciplinary approach to ecosystem studies as championed by Odum.

John L. Gittleman, who has been director of the Institute of Ecology since last July, has been named dean of the school. Gittleman, whose expertise in global ecology includes species extinction, emerging diseases and conservation, came to UGA last year from the University of Virginia.

"The creation of the School of Ecology is a historic commitment by the university to this essential field of study," said UGA President Michael F. Adams. "Environmental issues are key as we think about economic success and sustainability for our children and grandchildren.

Gittleman said the Odum School will immediately be recognized as one of the nation's top research programs in ecological sciences based on the strength of its faculty and international stature. The National Research Council has ranked UGA among the top five institutions in ecological research and a survey by the Ecological Society of America also tabbed UGA as one of the country's top five universities in ecology.

Gittleman said the school will adhere to Odum's doctrine of a holistic approach to ecological studies, while strengthening and expanding in key areas such as community, evolutionary and ecosystem studies.

## Odum School Highlights

The University of Georgia is ranked among the top 25 programs in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior by the National Research Council.

Ecology and Evolution at UGA was ranked 8th in graduate school rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The River Basin Center received a \$1 million gift from Columbus attorney James Butler. Butler's gift will establish three Butler Fellows in Ecology for Master's students studying environmental issues such as water quality and land use. The first of these fellowships has been awarded to Rachel Katz of Huntersville, NC.

Faculty and students have recently received a variety of prestigious awards. Some student awards are: Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) Scholar (Will Collier and Jesse Oakley), Environmental Protection Agency STAR Award (Ashley Helton and Nicole Gottdenker), Fulbright (Sara Tova Pilzer) and the Presidential Fellowship (Jane Shevtsov). In addition, ecology undergraduate Jonathan Drury was the only science major to graduate with a 4.0 in Fall 2006.

Faculty honors included: the Senior Researcher Prigogine Medal (Bernie Patten), University of Georgia Richard B. Russell Distinguished Undergraduate Lecturer Award (Jim Porter), Henry Fitch Distinguished Herpetologist Award (Whit Gibbons), Walter Barnard Hill Award (Laurie Fowler), ESA President (Alan Covich) and the Guggenheim Fellowship (Pej Rohani).

**ALUMNI**, please keep your information updated with the UGA Alumni Association at <http://alumni.uga.edu/update>

### GOLLEY MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

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FOR INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS EVENT  
OR FOR ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CONTACT ANISA JIMENEZ AT  
[ANISAJ@UGA.EDU](mailto:ANISAJ@UGA.EDU).

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**DETAILS TO FOLLOW:  
[HTTP://WWW.  
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THE ODUM SCHOOL is disappointed by recent events leading to drastic budget cuts at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. In creating our new strategic plan, the Odum School will include SREL and looks to continue the important relationship between the two units.

### INTERESTED IN GIVING A GIFT TO THE ODUM SCHOOL?

Please visit <http://www.uga.edu/archfoundation> for general gift information.

Funds have also been set up to honor the late Frank B. Golley for both the ecology graduate and undergraduate programs. If you are interested, please send your gift to: Gift Accounting, 394 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605. Checks can be made payable to The Frank Golley Undergraduate Support Fund or The Frank Golley Graduate Support Fund.