

2019 SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

at the  THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Biology Field Station

When: Thursdays | 7-8 p.m.
Where: The Lodge
8330 Mary Ingles Hwy.,
California, KY 41007

Free and open to the public

8330 Mary Ingles Highway, California, KY, 41007 | For directions, visit: tmuky.us/bfsdirections

Join us and explore a diverse range of topics presented by five experts. These topics are all of importance to environmental conservation and stewardship efforts.

May 30



Mike Booth, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor, department of biological sciences, University of Cincinnati

“There and Back Again: Fish Behavior as a Driver of Ecosystem Structure and Ecosystem Structure as Regulator of Fish Behavior”

Booth’s research focuses on aquatic systems, particularly how the movement and behavior of organisms influences ecosystem processes. He is interested in questions ranging from basic natural history (e.g., fish movement and dispersal) to ecosystem dynamics (fluxes of sediment and nutrients) and his lab uses creative, technological approaches to address these questions at a variety of scales and inform better resource management in aquatic systems. He received his Bachelor of Science in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. After graduating, he worked as a project manager for Arizona State University, University of Minnesota, and Yale on a large scale project investigating the controls of food chain length in streams. He received his doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from Cornell University, advised by Nelson Hairston Jr. and Alex Flecker, investigating the role of fish and fish movement in structuring stream ecosystems. He then worked as an ecologist for a public groundwater management agency in southern California, United Water Conservation District, managing a variety of ecological issues related to water resources, particularly endangered southern California steelhead and non-native, invasive quagga mussels. He also served as an adjunct professor at California State University Channel Islands. Booth joined the department of biological sciences at the University of Cincinnati in January 2018, where he is a visiting assistant professor, studying fish behavior and aquatic ecology.

June 13



Page Jordan, M.En., environmental health specialist, adjunct professor, Miami University

“Geology, the Environment, and Health”

Jordan received her undergraduate degree in environmental science, sustainability, and geography from Miami University. She also received her master’s degree in environmental science with a focus on water resource management from Miami. She is now a professor at Miami University teaching geology courses. She is currently an ORISE participant at the USEPA in Cincinnati, Ohio, with experience in researching potential sorbents for immobilizing PFAS compounds in-situ to prevent groundwater contamination, Superfund site remediation technologies, municipal solid waste gas emissions monitoring and evaluation, and waste materials management. Page is a registered sanitarian and environmental health specialist through the state of Ohio and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

June 27



Tammy Newcomer-Johnson, Ph.D., systems ecologist, US EPA
“Effects of Stream Restoration on Nutrient Pollution”

Newcomer-Johnson is a systems ecologist with the US EPA at the National Exposure Research Lab in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her research interests are in using biogeochemistry and EPA tools to understand human dominated watersheds in order to maximize ecosystem services and reduce stressors like excess nutrients and storm water pollution and benefit communities. Newcomer-Johnson received a Bachelor of Science in environmental science from UMBC and a doctorate in marine estuarine environmental science from University of Maryland, College Park. Her graduate work was supported by fellowships from Sea Grant, US EPA, and the National Science Foundation. Newcomer-Johnson is passionate about using applied science to improve environmental management and policy. During her last year of graduate school, she served as a Knauss Marine Policy Fellow with NOAA’s National Sea Grant Office and supported fisheries extension agents across the country. After graduating she served as ORISE postdoc with US EPA’s Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds and worked on helping communities adapt to climate change. Now she works on applied environmental research and building science-based tools such as the EcoService Models Library.

July 11



Mitchell Kriege '16 aquatic consultant, Environmental Solutions & Innovations Inc. (ESI)

“Freshwater Mussel Communities in the Ohio River”

Kriege is an environmental consultant who specializes in freshwater mussel and fish ecology. His primary research interests include life history of rare/endangered freshwater mussels, mollusk and fish relationships, and human impact on aquatic communities. Kriege is a product of Thomas More University (class of 2016) and attained his master’s degree in biology from Marshall University (class of 2018) where he studied freshwater mussel communities in the Ohio River and their spatial relationship to fish hosts. During his master’s degree research, Kriege quantified the freshwater mussel communities of an entire pool within the Ohio River and identified areas of robust mussel resources. As a consultant for ESI, he conducts aquatic studies throughout the eastern United States, analyzes complex datasets, prepares technical reports, and coordinates with state and federal agencies. He regularly uses SCUBA to study freshwater mussels in the Ohio River and has travelled extensively with ESI, performing surveys in 13 states.

July 25



Kimberly Wyatt '11 lab coordinator and instructor, Thomas More University
“How an invasive species succeeded in colonizing Greater Cincinnati and became a local icon”

Wyatt is a Thomas More University alumna (Class of 2011, environmental science). She received her Master Science in biology from the University of Cincinnati in 2013, then spent several years performing research for the USEPA’s Office of Research and Development before returning to work at TMU. Kimberly has studied the invasive common wall lizard, *Podarcis muralis*, for more than a decade. Her doctorate research is focused on elucidating the roles of microbiome and other factors contributing to the success of this species in the Cincinnati area.