

Science and Math Seminar Series: Fall 2015 Open to All



Wed, Sep 16, 2015

UNCOVERING THE CRYPTIC WORLD OF BATS

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Hard to capture and harder to recapture, bats are cryptic, nocturnal, and volant, and thus biology for many species remains largely undescribed. However with their ecological, behavioral, and morphological diversity, they are fascinating animals to study. An understanding of wildlife habitat relationships explains processes and mechanisms involved in selecting habitat, predicting species occurrence, and assessing responses of animal populations and ecosystems to natural and human-induced disturbances. Using traditional and novel methods, we are defining aspects of population biology and natural history for rare and common species through a number of projects. We are examining impacts of management from forest thinning to installation of bat gates at abandoned mines, and disturbances such as wildfire on roosting and foraging. We have developed a tool (Species From Feces) to identify any bar-coded bat in the world from its guano and are also using genetic tools for study of bat mummies, microbiomes, genetic relatedness, and diet. These projects are leading to a greater understanding of the conservation challenges faced by these species.

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Cooley Ballroom

(next to student center)

2:45 refreshments

3:00 seminar