

SE&T Colloquium Series-Winter 2016

Speaker	Dr. Arthur Martin Department of Biology
Title	<i>Social Status and the Effects of Environmental Factors</i>
Abstract	<p>An important outcome of agonistic interactions is the allocation of resources. Environmental factors such as shelters, habitat dynamics, food, and mates are important variables that alter agonistic interactions and their outcomes. Environments are ever changing and animals often move between habitats. The variability that can exist within and between environments makes it difficult to predict the way in which animals will respond to these changes. Crayfish are known to readily compete with conspecifics and develop social status, which may influence access to key resources, including shelters. For this reason, crayfish have often served as a model organism for examining both aggression and social relationships. In these studies, populations of male crayfish are presented with environmental scenarios that include variable shelter, conspecific, and flow dynamics. These studies help to examine the importance of changing and variable environments. Our findings reinforce that the environments influence on agonism and social structure is context specific. Specific and detailed analyses are often necessary in order to make broader claims about the population dynamics that animal's experience.</p>
Date	Tuesday, March 29
Time	4:10-5:00pm
Place	Pioneer 240
	Refreshments will be served at 4:00pm.