

Okoboji Murmurations

News for Lakeside Lab Alumni and Friends



IOWA LAKESIDE
LABORATORY

Where Do We Go From Here?

With the retirement of Peter Van der Linden as Executive Director of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Regents Resource Center (ILLRRC), a Transition Team has been assembled consisting of Chet Rzonca (Executive Director, ILLRRC), Steve Hendrix (Director of Academics and Research, ILLRRC), and Michael Lannoo, (Assoc. Dir. Academics and Research, ILLRRC, see below). This transition team was deemed necessary because neither recent model of ILLRRC Directorship has been completely satisfactory. On the one hand, university faculty find it difficult to spend most of their time at Lakeside; on the other, as a member of a university community, the onsite Director must be academically credentialed. Rather than address this complicated issue at the present time, the transition team decided instead to work together to focus on 1) building back the Academic and Research programs, 2) maintaining the excellence of our current Outreach Program, and 3) working more closely with the Greater Okoboji Community (see Silent Sports Initiative, below).

Towards these ends we have recruited new faculty, we have been and will be inviting internationally known guests, and we will be offering a variety of scholarships to assist students and researchers. We will also be vigorously promoting Lakeside's programs at the state, regional, national, and international levels. In addition, we will further open Lakeside's grounds in a variety of ways, with the goal of making Lakeside an integral part of the Okoboji Community.

Dr. Michael Lannoo Enlisted to be Associate Director of Academics and Research

Long-time Lakeside Lab faculty member,

Michael Lannoo, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Indiana University School of Medicine, has accepted the part-time position of Associate Director of Academics and Research at Lakeside. His duties will include assisting Steve in re-developing the strong academic and research traditions at Lakeside. Mike has published over 100 research papers and seven books, including "Okoboji Wetlands" (1996) and "The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory: A Century of Discovering the Nature of Nature" (2012).

Why The Newsletter Name Change?

Professors Hendrix and Lannoo have been examining all aspects of Lakeside's operations with one eye towards meeting the goals of all four of Lakeside's focus areas (Academics, Research, Outreach, and Community Involvement) and the other eye towards making Lakeside relevant—enabling the lessons learned at Lakeside to inform the greater worlds of science and society. Towards this end, we feel the word "murmuration" (large scale pattern change) and the science that best describes them (equations of critical transitions) create a suitable imagery for Lakeside moving forward.



Fall 2013

Inside this issue:

Outreach and Friends News 2

Lakeshore Restoration 3

Hannah Kim

Food Philosophy and Practice 4

California Cinematographers Visit

Research Fellows 5

Iranian Scientist Visits lab

New Logo and Faculty 6

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Outreach and Friends' News

Among the many 2013 Outreach accomplishments are the following.

The 2013 CLAMP water monitoring season was again a success.

Lakeside hosted a variety of K-12 programs including "insect days" for 100 Spencer 2nd graders, and a Grow Where You Go program for Spencer high schoolers, which introduced them to natural history and outdoor skills.

Friends hosted both the Provosts from Iowa State and University of Iowa on two separate occasions this past fall. In addition to a lunch and/or reception, the university leaders received tours and conducted a Q and A with representatives of the Friends Board. Hosting these guests at the Lab not only speaks to the marketing goals of the Lab but achieves some of the activities identified in the joint strategic plan.

The Friends of Lakeside Lab received a \$33,000 Resource Enhancement And Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP) grant from the Iowa DNR year to continue Young Investigators: Connecting Children with Nature Through Project Work. This is a five-year training focused on integrating nature and outdoors into classrooms and curriculums. The plan is to reach every early childhood teacher, administrator, and student in northwest Iowa in a series of three cohorts; the Program is now in Year Two.

The second High School Diatom Camp was held from June 15th–19th, was an incredible success, and will again be offered in 2014.

Jane Shuttleworth, Lakeside's Education Coordinator, and Lisa Roti, Lakeside's Campus Coordinator, have been assessing the results of a survey of summer camp parents to receive feedback on how we can improve the camps and potentially expand programming to include middle and high school students.

Jane and Lisa also attended a one-day workshop on STEM, Next Generation Science Standards and informal education organized

by partners of the Governor's STEM Task Force on October 1 in Johnston Iowa.

Jane gave a presentation on using nature inquiry as a method for teaching from children's curiosity at the four-day Midwest Environmental Education Conference.

And finally, Jane and Lisa met with Lee Sorenson, the new Dickinson County Conservation Board director, and naturalist Charles Vigdal to share ideas about programming and possible partnerships.

Awards

Dr. Stephen Hendrix received the University of Iowa's President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence.
<http://cft.uiowa.edu/teaching-awards-celebrations>

Dr. John Doershuk, longtime Lakeside faculty member, and Dennis Heimdal, Lakeside's Water Chemist, each received the University of Iowa's Outstanding Staff Award.
<http://now.uiowa.edu/2013/10/ui-staff-recognized-excellence>

Emeritus Friends Board Member Mary Louise Peterson received an honorary doctorate from the University of Iowa.

The Friends of Lakeside Lab received a special commendation from the Iowa Board, which cited several examples of the Friends' accomplishments including:

* A successful million-dollar capital campaign to build Lakeside's first year-round teaching and research facility, the Waitt Building, completed under budget and on schedule in 1998.

* Expansion of Lakeside education programs to include pre-K through 12 as well as life-long learners, volunteer opportunities, and year-round programming including nature camps and arts projects.

(continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

* Support for Lakeside's water quality monitoring and research including the involvement of hundreds of community volunteers.

* Scholarships for approximately 35 college students per year as well as annual research fellowships for students.

* Establishment of an endowment to sustain Lakeside's water quality monitoring, education, and research programs.

* Funding a significant portion of the Educational Director's position.

* Providing funds for the diatom courses for secondary students, the new undergraduate Honors scholarships, and scholarships for secondary students taking college level classes on the Lakeside campus.

Enhancement of Student Life at Lakeside (Silent Sports Initiative)

"Work hard, play hard" has always been the philosophy at the Iowa Lakeside Lab. In her 1910 essay on student life during the first years at the Lab, Maud Adams describes the long days countered by late afternoon swim breaks, the intense evening studying diffused by quiet walks. The current rigorous immersion experi-

ence of all-day classes has to be met with an equal opportunity for students to relax when their schedules allow time. It is now time for Lakeside to take an active role in supporting the health and well being of students and faculty. Our goal is to promote and support participation in a variety of sports that provide lasting mental and physical benefits long after students have left Lakeside. Such efforts are on all the Iowa campuses (UI's LiveWell Program; ISU's Wellness Services; UNI's Wellness and Recreation Services) and it is a natural progression for Lakeside to facilitate activities that allow students to continue their healthy lifestyles while away from their home campuses. Towards this goal, and working with Jenna Richter, Lakeside Laboratory will be presenting itself to the Okoboji community as both a leader and facilitator of "silent sports" (i.e., running, biking, kayaking, paddle boarding, slack lining, and in the winter snowshoeing and cross country skiing). Beginning in 2014, we will be providing these same opportunities (seasonally relevant, of course) to our students.



Lakeshore Restoration

Lakeside lab has obtained a \$15,946.07 grant from the Dickinson County Soil and Water Conservation District to begin restoring a quarter mile of the north shoreline of Little Miller's Bay from Lakeside Slough west and south to the canoe dock. The restoration will include planting and seeding native aquatic

emergent species as well as wet-tolerant prairie species in a band about 16m (50ft) wide beginning at the low water mark. Matt Fairchild, Lakeside's Facilities Manager, will be coordinating the project with Lakeside alum Jim Vojahosky assisting.

Hannah Kim, 2013 Writer in Residence

Hannah Kim is the 2013 Lakeside Writer in Residence. A graduate with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Iowa Writer's Workshop, Hannah will be staying at Lakeside this fall while working on her first novel. Hannah is being sponsored by the Friends of Lakeside Lab. She works in both traditional and experimental writing forms. Her experiences include

being the fiction editor for the Iowa Review, and teaching a creative writing workshop to university undergraduate students. While at Lakeside, Hannah will also be offering a writer's workshop for regional high school students.



Food Philosophy and Practice at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

Our students and faculty have repeatedly requested food that is imaginatively prepared with a balance of dishes to accommodate traditional appetites as well as the increasing number of vegetarians and vegans now studying and working at Lakeside. In the past, our food preparation has represented an industrial approach to large-scale meals that relied heavily (if not almost exclusively) on highly processed foods with an emphasis on red meat, starchy fillers such as potatoes, canned goods, and a wide array of fried items. As a part of our sustainability initiative, from now on, where we can, we will be using food that has been locally grown and is free of herbicides and pesticides. We will also begin offering Saturday evening and Sunday morning meals.



Dinner on the porch—classes merge!

California Cinematographers Visit Lakeside Lab

US Forest Service cinematographer Steve Dunsky and Harvard-educated independent cinematographer Peter Coonradt visited Lakeside Lab in early October 2013 at the invitation of Mike Lannoo. Dunsky and his wife Ann have produced scores of films, including “The Greatest Good” (2005) the history of the US Forest Service, “The Green Fire” (2010), Aldo Leopold’s story, and “Butterflies and Bulldozers: David Schooley, Fred Smith and the Fight for San Bruno Mountain” (2010).



Peter Coonradt, Mike Lannoo, and Steve Dunsky

Coonradt has also produced scores of films, including “Between the Tides,” a story based on the teachings of marine biologist Ed Ricketts, “Midland Stories,” a movie about Peter’s non-traditional high school in the California foothills, and “Orange Sunrise,” the story of the demise of the California citrus industry.

One goal of the transition team is to introduce Lakeside to sharp-eyed folks—who would otherwise never have the occasion to visit—and get their impressions on the potential of Lakeside to inform a vision of soci-

ety’s future. It was an amazing, idea-filled week, which resulted in lots of networking as well as putting several potential collaborative projects on the table. We thank the Friends, especially Ann Fitzgibbons and Lisa Roti, for putting on warm reception for Steve and Peter in the Waitt Lab.



2013 Lakeside Lab Undergraduate Research Fellows

In 2013, under the guidance of Dr. Steve Hendrix, Professor at the University of Iowa and Lakeside's Director of Academics and Research, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory launched a new undergraduate research program, hosting a student from each of Iowa's public universities. The participants in the inaugural year of the program were Alaine Hippee, a senior biology and dance major at the University of Iowa, Sarah Kleinhesselink, a senior biology major at the University of Northern Iowa, and Nicole Scavo, a recent graduate in biology and environmental science at Iowa State University.

The program was developed as a way to reinvigorate research efforts at the Lab, and was supported by Friends of Lakeside Lab

and the Division of Continuing Education, the fellowship program provided students with a stipend and a month of room and board at the lab. Scavo researched the prevalence and distribution of honeybee viruses in solitary bee populations under the supervision of Dr. Amy Toth, assistant professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State. Kleinhesselink researched seed predation in prairie restoration projects during the first part of the summer under the supervision of Dr. Laura Jackson, a biology professor at UNI. Hippee, who works as an honors undergraduate researcher in Dr. Andrew Forbes' lab in biology department at Iowa, saw the fellowship as an opportunity to expand on research she had already been developing.

Iranian Scientist Travels the World to Discover Species Close to Home

Last summer Somayyeh Kheiri travelled halfway around the world to discover a species that was right in her own backyard. Kheiri, who recently completed her Ph.D. at Islamic Azad University of Garm-sar in Iran, travelled to the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory last May to study diatoms.

Kheiri enrolled in the Ecology and Systematics of Diatoms course, the only full-semester course on diatoms in the world. Knowing that it would offer instruction in the habitats of living and fossilized diatoms as well as sampling techniques, Kheiri enrolled in the course, which was taught by Mark Edlund, a senior scientist at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, and Sarah Spaulding, an ecologist with USGS. Kheiri used her time at Lakeside to analyze diatom samples she had collected in Iran, and she and Edlund confirmed that she had discovered a new species, which she named "Cyclotella iranica". With Edlund and Spaulding's help, Kheiri prepared a manuscript on the species, which was published this May in the journal *Phytotaxa*. Edlund says he believes it is one of the first diatom species in Iran to be described.

Kheiri then stayed to take the Prairie Ecology course with Dr. Daryl Smith, the director of the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa. The class spent four days traveling in South Dakota and along the Niobrara River in Nebraska, surveying prairies.

Lakeside's unique atmosphere gave Kheiri a chance to blossom both personally and professionally. "Somayyeh represents the best things that Lakeside has to offer. It seems almost improbable, but where else can a student come halfway around the world from somewhere like Iran to take specialty classes like Diatoms and Prairie Ecology that are offered nowhere else?" Edlund said. "They arrive tired and a bit reserved, but by the end of the term, they've fallen in love with the subject and Lakeside."



*2012 Diatom Class with
Somayyeh Kheiri*



New Logos and Faculty

As we move forward, Lakeside will be developing a series of new logos. The logo that is featured on the banner of this issue was developed by Sarah Teske, daughter of Mark and Judy Wehrspann, longtime Facilities and Business Managers at Lakeside. Sarah has a graphics design business in Ames, where she lives with her husband, Tyler, and their two daughters.

New Lakeside Faculty

In addition to our traditional faculty members, Lakeside will be welcoming several new faculty including Iowa State University pollination ecologist Dr. Mary Harris, Washington D.C.-based wildfire expert and award-winning author John Maclean, Pulitzer-Prize nominee and Rachel Carson biographer William Souder, Oregon State epidemiologist and Lakeside alum Dr. Viktor Bovbjerg, Indiana State University statistician Dr. William Mitchell, and Central College aquatic ecologist Dr. Paul Weihe. Please join us in welcoming these new members of the Okoboji community.

Diana Isder Returns as Head Cook

After an absence of two years, Diana Isder has agreed to return to Lakeside as our Head Cook. Diana's meals are legendary and for old-time Lakesiders there is nothing but good news here.

Support the Friends

The Friends of Lakeside Lab provide invaluable support to Lakeside Lab.

The Friends will appreciate your contribution at any level. For membership categories and other information, included directed donations, visit the Friends web site at:

<http://www.friendsoflakesidelab.org>.