

DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY SEMINAR

THE ROLE OF SEXUAL CONFLICT IN COPULATION AND GENITAL COEVOLUTION IN VERTEBRATES

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MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Sexual conflict is expected to be widespread in nature as males and females do not fully share their evolutionary interests. The copulatory arena, due to its evolutionary importance and direct fitness consequences, is rife with evidence of conflict. Dr. Brennan's lab has uncovered several examples of the consequences of sexual conflict in genital evolution and copulatory behavior in several vertebrates that include modifications in functional morphology and physiology. In waterfowl, sexual conflict over forced copulations has led to the evolution of unique functional morphology of male genitalia and coevolution between males and females that result from an evolutionary arms race as males try to bypass female choice and females resist male coercion. The lab has discovered similar antagonistic coevolution in snakes and more recently in dolphins. Patty will describe how her research is helping us better understand sexual conflict and the potentially important role of plasticity in genital evolution.

www.pattybrennan.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

10:00 A.M.

ALS 4001

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be made by contacting 541-737-2993
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