

**Department of Biological Sciences  
MCMICKEN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2007**

*The Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2007. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.*

**Evolution and Ecology of Natural Systems**

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**Project Description**

Our lab studies the evolution and ecology of natural systems such as Darwin's finches and gecko lizards using both molecular and experimental approaches. This summer I will have opportunities for a student to work on a project involving behavioral interactions or molecular genetics of gecko lizards. Geckos undergo invasions and displacements on a global scale, and we study them as model systems to understand how behavior can affect ecological species interactions. The student may study behavioral interactions among geckos in a lab setting, or they may use molecular markers (multilocus microsatellites) to reconstruct the movements of invasive species across the landscape. These projects are relevant to basic processes that are a fundamental concern for conservation biology. The laboratory and analytical skills that will be learned are widely applicable to a broad range of career options in the biological sciences.