The Program in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology is pleased to offer the following summer graduate field experiences starting in 2014. Participation is also open to exceptionally qualified upper-level undergrads at the instructor's discretion. Students may register for three 681 course credits with the appropriate instructor. Each experience will last two weeks, and the three programs will run consecutively, so students can participate in multiple courses. EEB will cover lodging and transportation expenses for participants.

To apply for each experience, send your CV, a 300-word essay describing why you want to participate and what you hope to get out of it, and a short statement of support from your advisor directly to the instructors listed below. Please submit your application by February 1, 2014.

**14-28 May: GULF COAST (Bill Rogers, wer@tamu.edu)**

The Western Gulf Coast is an incredibly biologically diverse ecoregion that is experiencing numerous threats from development and habitat destruction, climate change, and non-native species introductions. We will travel to the Big Thicket National Preserve and observe hurricane blow-down damage and successional forest regeneration dynamics, Chinese tallow tree and other non-native plant invasions, feral hog damage activity, carnivorous pitcher plant/sundew bog conservation sites, and a long-leaf pine forest restoration study. We will also travel to the nearby Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and the High Island bird sanctuaries to observe habitat restoration studies and neo-tropical bird migrations. Students will be able to participate in ongoing, long-term ecological research studies in these areas and/or develop their own short-term investigations. During the second week of the experience we will travel south to the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Refuge (http://www.welderwildlife.org), where students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of field studies examining fire and grazing effects on coastal prairie restoration, woody encroachment, and the invasion dynamics of non-native species. There will also be opportunities to engage in studies focused on the management and conservation of numerous wildlife species. Finally, we will spend a day travelling to the Aransas National Wildlife Reserve to speak with staff members about conservation and habitat restoration efforts associated with the endangered Whooping Crane and other ecologically important wildlife species. Required assignments will include a series of appropriate readings, short position papers addressing relevant subject matter, and the development of an experimental design/theoretical proposal for a potential future research study.

**23 June – 7 July: GALVESTON (Anna Armitage, armitaga@tamug.edu)**

Students will have the opportunity to engage in discipline-specific field experiences in the marine environment at TAMU-Galveston. Participating students will obtain field experiences that are directly relevant to their own research interests. This field experience will partner graduate students from College Station with appropriate mentors at TAMU-Galveston (contingent on space and resource availability), based on the students' individual research interests and host lab research needs. These partnerships will also facilitate interactions among graduate students by matching College Station students with Galveston-based graduate students that have compatible research interests. The visiting students may receive class credit by assisting a Galveston-based research team with a field expedition for up to two weeks. During the field experiences, visiting and hosting students will have opportunities to give topical seminar presentations to the host department. Application essays should include an indication of which Galveston faculty member(s) the student is interested in working with. Participation will be based on the availability of an appropriate mentor lab.
16-25 August: WEST TEXAS (Tom Olszewski and Dave Baumgardner, tomo@geo.tamu.edu and dbaumgardner@bio.tamu.edu)

Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks in west Texas incorporate a wide variety of habitats characteristic of the Trans-Pecos region, making them ideal field laboratories for understanding how species’ distributions and population structures reflect the landscape they inhabit. This experience will focus on a field-based research project aimed at addressing how the spatial distribution of plants and insects reflects their environment. The first part of the field experience will focus on providing students with necessary background on the organisms and landscapes of the region so that participating students and faculty can define a specific research question of interest to the group. The second part of the field course will focus on collecting data that will be brought back to College Station for preparation and analysis by the class participants through the following semester. Preparation of materials and analysis of data will be conducted by the group through the following semester with the aim of producing an abstract and presentation for an appropriate national meeting. Students will receive instruction in the use of R for conducting statistical analyses and generating figures. Students will experience and participate in the scientific process from initial definition of a problem to final presentation of results to the wider scientific community, thereby preparing them to carry out research independently in the course of their thesis/dissertation work.