

NEW FACULTY ADDITIONS TO E&E AT STONY BROOK



New Assistant Professor [Brenna Henn](#) arrived in January 2013 as part of the department's new initiative to develop a new undergraduate major in human evolutionary biology with the Dept of Anthropology. A population geneticist, Brenna began her PhD by studying the deep population structure and complex migration patterns of African hunter-gatherer groups. She continues to have an interest in diverse, indigenous populations from around the world who harbor genetic (and linguistic and phenotypic) variation that is often overlooked in more commonly studied urban populations. Motivated by her prior PhD (2009) training in anthropology and evolutionary genetics at Stanford University, she aims to approach questions of genetic and phenotypic diversity from an interdisciplinary standpoint. After her Ph.D, Brenna enjoyed a 'personal genomics' interlude at 23andMe, Inc. working on their ancestry team and doing research development. In 2010, she then began a postdoctoral position in the Dept. of Genetics, Stanford University School of Medicine working with Carlos Bustamante. During the postdoc, she led several African genomic projects aimed at understanding the origins of modern humans and dispersals Out-of-Africa.



[Krishna Veeramah](#) will arrive as an Assistant Professor in January 2014 also as part of the new initiative in human evolutionary biology. Krishna is a primate genomicist and population geneticist, who received both his B.Sc. in 2003, and Ph.D. in 2008 from University College London. His Ph.D., conducted under the supervision of Mark Thomas, examined the distribution of genetic variation in Africans. He then moved to UCLA as part of John Novembre's lab where he looked at the genetic architecture of European population isolates. In 2010 he joined Michael Hammer's lab at the University of Arizona in order to lead a project comparing patterns of genomic variation on the autosomes and X chromosome in apes. At Stony Brook his research will be focused on using genomic-scale data to understand the evolutionary genetics of human and non-human primates and conducting geographically fine-scale studies of human genetic variation in sub-Saharan Africa. He is also involved in projects examining ancient DNA from Migration Period Europe and the genetic basis of epilepsy.



[Heather Lynch](#) is in her third year as a new Assistant Professor in the department. Prior to Stony Brook, Heather was an Adjunct Professor of Applied Math and Statistics at UC Santa Cruz and a Research Scientist in the Biology Department at the University Maryland. She received her Ph.D. in Organismal and Evolutionary Biology from Harvard University in 2006. Heather's research is focused on uncovering the population dynamics and biogeographic distribution of penguins breeding on the Antarctic Peninsula region, with a particular focus on untangling the effects of climate change and anthropogenic disturbance. Her work has been at the forefront of using satellite imagery to map penguin occupancy and abundance across the Antarctic. These data have allowed her and colleagues to explore how coloniality constrains the colonization and extinction of individual habitat patches and, ultimately, the metapopulation dynamics of colonial seabirds. Heather has been recently awarded an NSF Early Career Award for 5 years of funding.



[Ross Nehm](#) arrived in our Department last January from Ohio State and is part of a major new effort at Stony Brook to renovate science education and develop the tools to improve the teaching of science and the understanding of how science is learned. He is a member of a new team at Stony Brook involved in STEM doctoral education, the [Center for Science and Mathematics Education \(CESAME\)](#). Ross specializes in evolutionary biology education and has been well funded by many agencies, including several sections of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Nehm has published in

a wide array of education and science journals, including the Journal of Research in Science Teaching, Science Education, Science & Education, International Journal of Science Education, Research in Science Education, Journal of Science Teacher Education, The American Biology Teacher, Journal of Science Education and Technology, CBE-Life Sciences Education, Evolution Education and Outreach, Genetics, Journal of Paleontology, and several other journals. His evolution education research was recently highlighted in the National Research Council publication Thinking Evolutionarily (National Academy Press, 2012).