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Contact:

Amy Biber

Marketing Manager

716.896.5200 x312

abiber@sciencebuff.org

WHAT MAKES A BIRD “SEXY”?

Find out on April 29th at this year’s Bird ‘N Buffet and Vaughan Lecture
at the Buffalo Museum of Science

BUFFALO, NY (March 26, 2009) –The Buffalo Museum of Science has scheduled its “Bird ‘N Buffet” dinner and Vaughan Lecture for **Wednesday, April 29**. The **5:30pm dinner** will be followed by a **7:00pm lecture** presented by Dr. Lindsey Walters of Canisius College titled, “**Mate Quality and Parenting in Birds: Is a sexy mate worth more effort?**” Both the dinner and lecture will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Tickets for the “Bird ‘N Buffet” are \$25 and include the annual buffet dinner with a birding theme. Advanced registration is required and can be made by calling 716.896.5200 x391. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit educational programs at Tift Nature Preserve.

For birds, just like humans, some potential mates are sexier than others. The evening’s lecture will examine mate quality influences different types of avian parental investment. Dr. Walters will explain how a high quality mate can increase a bird’s reproductive success by providing benefits like better parental care, more resources, or better genes. She will further investigate how birds that breed more than once need to pay attention to mate quality, because each time they reproduce they must decide the best way to use their resources in order to maximize their lifetime reproductive success.

Dr. Walters’ lecture will take place in the Museum auditorium and is free and open to the public. Lecture attendees are not required to participate in the Bird ‘N Buffet dinner event. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit educational programs at Tift Nature Preserve. The Vaughan Lectures and Bird ‘N Buffet are supported in part by the William C. Vaughan endowment.

To register for the dinner or for general inquiries about the lecture, please call 716.896.5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.

ABOUT DR. LINDSEY WALTERS

Dr. Lindsey Walters is a behavioral ecologist with interdisciplinary training in animal behavior, ecology, and evolutionary biology. Walters is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Biology Department at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. She performed her Ph.D. research on mate choice and parental investment in the house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), and received her degree from Michigan State University in 2008.

Walters is passionate about teaching undergraduates and became a scientist in large part because of the amazing professors and wonderful research experiences she had as an undergraduate at Calvin College. Now she strives to help her own students experience the wonder and excitement inherent in the study of science. She enjoys facilitating student learning experiences in the classroom, laboratory, and outside in the field.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo’s East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tift Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America’s richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.