

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

EPIC ADVANTAGE: Endangered Bahamas Iguana Research

Dates: May 13-29, 2019

Credit: 2 credits (credit/no credit)

Leader: John Iverson (Biology, Ext. 1405)

Application Deadline: October 15, 2018



Description of Experience and Research:

This tropical biology experience will allow eight or nine Earlham students to be an integral part of a team doing field research on a population of endangered iguanas (from planning to field capture of iguanas to data collection and analysis, to report preparation). This study represents the longest continuous field study of any lizard in the world (our 40th year). Collaborators from Utah State University and Denison University will join the team specifically to investigate the impact of tourists feeding iguanas on iguana blood chemistry and immune response. We will also spend time identifying invertebrates in tide-pools and snorkeling on coral reefs for fishes and invertebrates. For more details about this program, please attend the Biology Colloquium on Thursday, 4 October at noon (pizza provided)

Location:

We will spend three days on campus at the beginning and end of the course, plus ten days in the Exuma Islands, Bahamas aboard a charter boat. While on campus, students will stay in college housing (presumably a College House, as in the past). Housing arrangements will be made through the campus housing coordinator, but paid for by the program. While in the Bahamas, we will live on the sailing vessel Beacon Won (www.7cscharters.com or www.facebook.com/BeaconWon). We will eat and sleep on board, but spend about 11 hours a day on the islands themselves. Boat charter reservations have already been made.

Faculty:

John Iverson, Biology Research Professor at Earlham. John has a PhD from the University of Florida and taught full-time at Earlham for 33 years. He is semi-retired but still actively involved with students for his research on turtles and iguanas. Dr. Susannah French of Utah State University (supported by NSF) and Dr. Geoff Smith from Denison University will join the program for our continuing collaborative research. For any additional questions of John, please contact him (johni@earlham.edu or 765-983-1405 or in Dennis Hall 001 any afternoon [under east stairs]).

**Expectations for Students:**

Prerequisites include Biological Diversity and EcoBio (Vertebrate Zoology would also be helpful but not required). Students will be expected to attend orientation meetings during spring semester, actively participate during the May field experience, maintain a lab/field journal, and collaborate on preparing a final report of our activities at the end of the program. Final reports (and images) from recent trips are available by following the links at www.earlham.edu/~johni. Participants **MUST** be in good physical condition, and able to swim. Learning goals include hands-on research methods with an endangered species; knowledge of vertebrate biology with emphasis on reptiles; field experience in the tropics; the complexities of doing conservation biology; marine biology basics; and having fun in the field.

Dates of Experience:

13-29 May 2019.

Application Dates:

Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

Link to Application:

Apply in Handshake.

In addition, a separate one-page application form provided by John(johni@earlham.edu) must also be returned directly to John by Oct. 15, 2018

Preparation:

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility:

Any eligible student who has taken BioDiv and EcoBio. Students who have already completed their EPIC Advantage opportunity **would be required to cover their part of this program (ca. \$1200)**

Cost to Student:

This is an EPIC ADVANTAGE program, supported in part by Biology endowed funds and the National Science Foundation. This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>