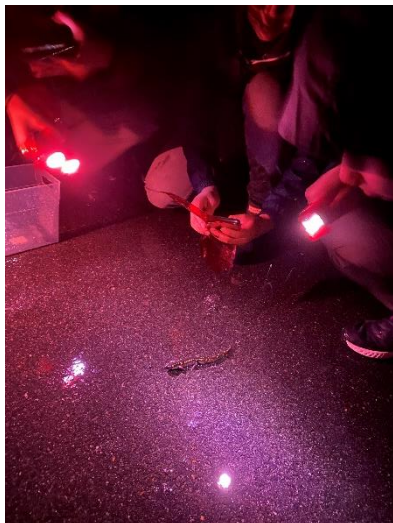


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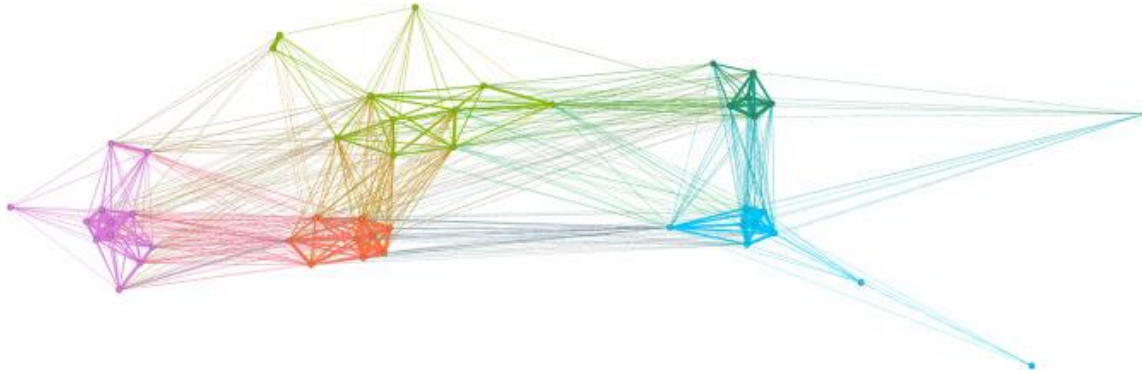
Salamander Crossing

For smaller Massachusetts natives, like amphibians, spring rains signal it's time to emerge from winter retreats and migrate to breeding sites or disperse to new areas. On March 6th, a group of students got the chance to experience this migration and assist these ambitious amphibians on their journey.



New publication from the Clotfelter lab

Samantha Rothberg '21 and **Professor Clotfelter** [recently published a paper](#) in *Animal Behaviour*, based on work conducted for Rothberg's senior thesis. They used social network analysis to identify winter flocks of black-capped chickadees in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Contrary to predictions based on energetics, birds formed more and stronger associations on warmer days, a finding that has implications for understanding social evolution in the face of climate change.

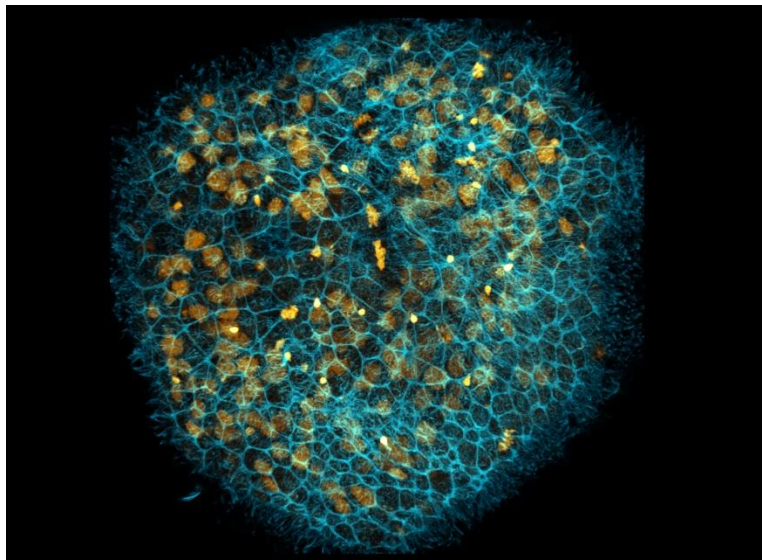


Senior Comprehensive Exams

All senior biology majors have passed their comprehensive exams! The comprehensive exam consists of a 30-minute oral examination in the form of a conversation between students and two professors in the Biology department. The exam is focused around one central theme in biology: energy, information transfer, regulation, sex, or water. Congratulations on completing this important capstone!

Monthly Image from the ABIC

This is a 3D rendering or an Airyscan Z-stack of *Nematostella vectensis* embryo fixed at 26 hours post fertilization, nuclei in orange, actin in cyan. The hair-like structures around the surface are microvilli. Image was acquired by **Anna Postnikova** (Ragkousi Lab).



News from Dr. Kristensen's Students

Some of Dr. Kristensen's students were highlighted in this local article about their educational outreach: "[Wildlife Spotters: Hatfield elementary students tracking animal activity as part of science project](#)".

Updates from the Purdy Lab

Bridget Cassata '24 won a Fulbright Research Fellowship to Iceland, where she will study mitochondrial DNA damage in the lab of Dr. Jón Jóhannes Jónsson at the University of Iceland.

Sarah Quirós '24 gave a talk at the Pioneer Valley Microbiology Symposium entitled "Determining the core functions and evolution of a *Vibrio cholerae* regulatory system" at UMass Amherst on March 2, 2024.

Seojin Jung '24 presented a poster on their honors thesis research with Dr. Jeff Blanchard at UMass Amherst!

Biology Q Fellow

The Q Center and Biology department are looking to hire a Biology Q Fellow for the coming academic year to support Biology 191. If you are interested in spending a year helping to create a welcoming and supportive learning experience for Biology students from a wide range of backgrounds, please look in Workday under Amherst Career Opportunities (JR4819). Review of applications will begin March 25 and continue until the position is filled. If you have any questions, email jbinnes@amherst.edu or contact the current Biology Q Fellow, Victoria Gallestegui.

Upcoming Events

April 8 at 5 pm - Biology Tea Time with Prof Wallace

April 22 at 4 pm – Biology Monday Seminar

April 29 at 2 pm – Honors Thesis Presentations

If you have any updates for the next issue of BioNews, please send them to Ldavis@amherst.edu.