

Statement of Teaching Interests

I believe in the importance of students gaining experience as well as knowledge in classes. The standard lecture format for a class is important in providing the students with basic information, but it needs to be mixed with approaches that involve the students more directly. In my own teaching experience and plans, I pursue this goal through the use of discussion-style classroom teaching and demonstrations to give students an experience of the principles they are studying, and involving students directly in professional research. A good teacher should be an active participant in the students' experience with their field of study.

Classes I am prepared to teach include Introductory Biology, Ecology, Microbiology, Limnology, Fisheries Science/Techniques, or Seminar type classes involving the review of prominent papers in fields of interest to the students. In particular, introductory courses in general biology or any more specialized field present a crucial opportunity to grab the student's interest and guide them into pursuing the biological sciences. I have been a teaching assistant in such classes as Ecology, Microbiology, Fish and Water Quality, and Introduction to Fish and Limnology.

I support the use of various technology and software packages in my classroom and laboratory studies. Though class discussions and interactive software use can enhance the classroom and provide an analog of actual research, they cannot substitute for a genuine research experience. Neither classroom nor teaching lab can match the educational experience of being fully involved in an actual research program, leading to professional publications. Inviting undergraduates to participate in research not only enhances their own education but also contributes to the research itself. This is a practice I intend to follow in my own teaching.

All three areas of involvement- classroom lecture and discussion, demonstration and experiment by computer simulation, and direct research experience- will be a part of the teaching program I plan to implement in my future career.