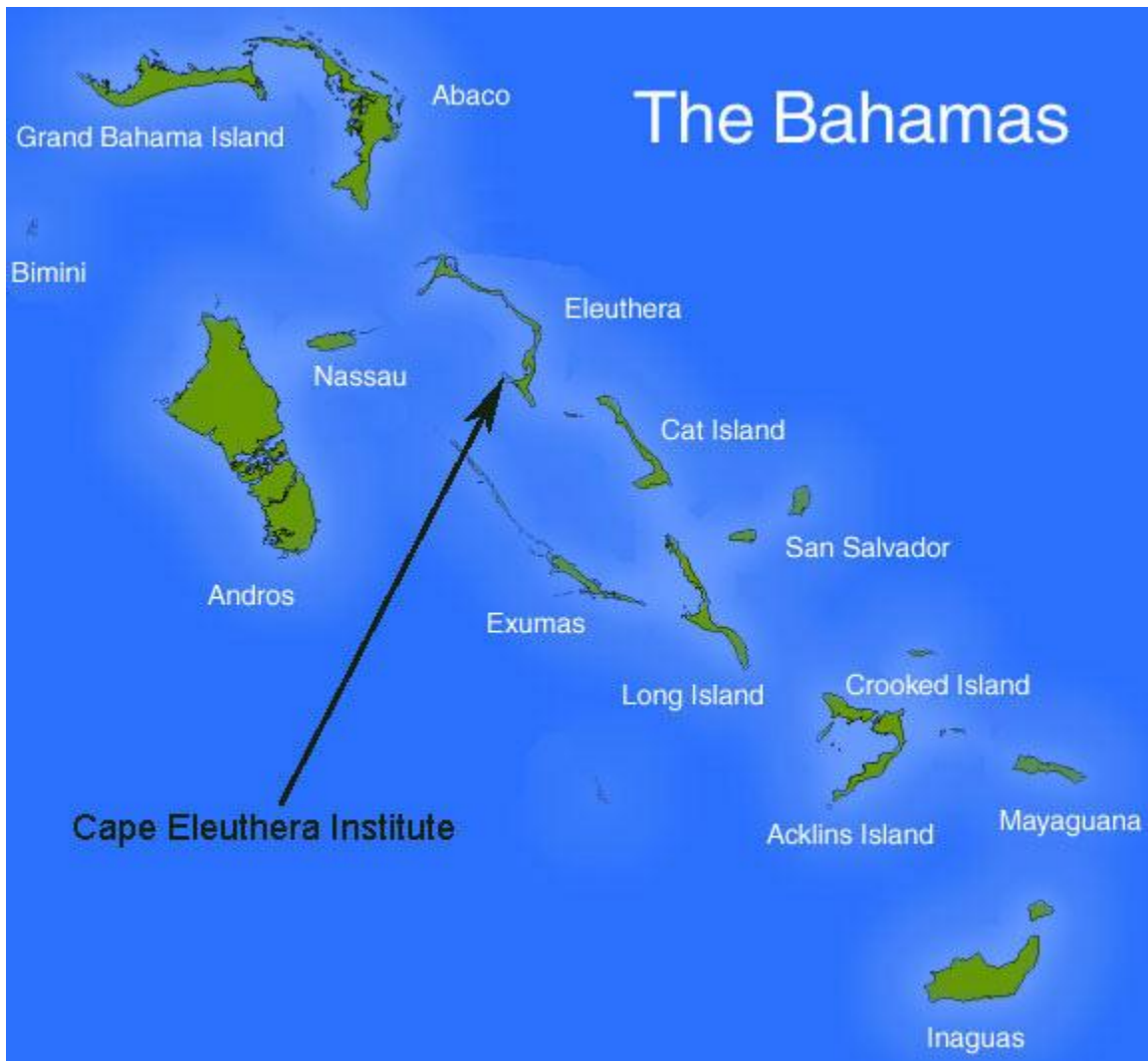


2012 REU Program

Natural History of a West Indian Herpetofauna: **Eleuthera** (Bahamas)



Location of the Cape Eleuthera Institute on Eleuthera in the Bahamas



The Cape Eleuthera Institute, where we will be staying, is adjacent to the [Island School](#), where we will be dining and whose facilities will be available for our use.



A peninsula adjacent to the Cape Eleuthera Institute might serve as a field site for some studies.



Tarpum Bay is another possible field study site..



The southernmost tip of Eleuthera is a windswept complex of habitats (beaches, cliffs, scrub vegetation) supporting populations of *Leiocephalus*, *Ameiva*, and *Anolis*.



Rocky outcrops along the western beaches of Cape Eleuthera will serve as the primary field site for studies of *Leiocephalus carinatus*.

WHEN AND WHERE?

The program begins at Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri on Monday, 21 May 2012 and ends on Friday, 27 July 2012.

The three-week field trip to Eleuthera will be in June 2012.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to undergraduates currently enrolled in an accredited two- or four-year college or university who will not graduate before December 2012.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Applicants should have taken at least one science course and have an interest in pursuing a career in the natural sciences.

BENEFITS

The program will provide a \$4500 stipend, all expenses associated with the field trip, and on-campus lodging for non-resident students.

An additional \$800 is available for an accepted student residing outside the continental United States.

COSTS

Participants are financially responsible for travel to and from Kansas City, food while at Avila University, and tuition (at a reduced rate).

CREDIT

Students may earn up to 6 hrs of credit in biology research.

SENIOR FACULTY

Robert Powell, Professor of Biology, Avila University



Bob Powell with *Mastigodryas bruesi* on St. Vincent.

John S. Parmerlee, Jr., Adjunct Professor of Biology, Johnson County Community College



John Parmerlee with a Turnip-tailed Gecko (*Thecadactylus rapicauda*).

Robert W. Henderson, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, Milwaukee Public Museum



"Boa" Bob Henderson examining a Clouded Boa (*Boa nebulosa*) in Dominica.

Matthew E. Gifford, Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Arkansas-Little Rock



Matt Gifford talking to Pathfinders from Tortola about his research on Puerto Rican Ground Lizards (*Ameiva exsul*) on Guana, British Virgin Islands.

Douglas Eiffler, Natural Resources Liaison, Haskell Indian Nations University



Doug Eiffler with lizard noose in hand chasing Ground Agamas (*Agama aculeata*) in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana, for a behavioral study. Photograph by Kanke Pan.

PROGRAM

Learn: (1) how to use the primary literature, (2) methods of field research, (3) computer applications (word processing, data analysis, graphics, presentations), (4) statistical data

analysis, (5) writing for professional journals, (6) how to choose a graduate program, and (7) how to apply successfully to the graduate program of your choice.

Seminars: (1) natural and political history of the Bahamas, (2) political and economic realities in a developing nation, (3) tropical biology and conservation efforts in Caribbean nations, (4) how to write for science, (5) using a research library, (6) the role of natural history museums in biological research, (7) selection and application to graduate programs, and (8) ethics in biology and conservation.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Habitat Use, Performance, and Time Budgets of Curlytail Lizards (*Leiocephalus carinatus*)







Much of our research on this trip will address the relationships between natural history traits and measures of performance in Curlytail Lizards.

Natural History, Habitat Use, and Population Densities of Ground Lizards (*Ameiva auberi*)



These active foragers are locally abundant on Eleuthera.

Habitat Use and Foraging Behavior of Tree Lizards (*Anolis* sp.)



Three species of anoles are recorded from Eleuthera (the subadult in the photo is *Anolis smaragdinus*). The Brown Anole (*A. sagrei*) has been studied extensively, but projects relating to habitat partitioning among the three species or population densities in different habitats are available.

Other projects might address the abundance, habitat associations, behaviors, and performance of boas (*Epicrates striatus*), racers (*Cubophis vudii*), dwarf geckos (*Sphaerodactylus*), or introduced House Geckos (*Hemidactylus mabouia*).



House Geckos (*Hemidactylus mabouia*) are abundant on most West Indian islands, but few island populations have been studied.

HOW TO APPLY

Download the application form, carefully read the instructions, and submit it with an essay stating your career goals and any particular interests and skills you might bring to the program, a transcript, and two letters of recommendation from faculty members who know you and can accurately assess your abilities.

Deadlines are critical. We must make reservations for the trip as early as possible.

We will begin accepting applications in January 2012.

Applications received after **15 February 2012** will **not** be accepted.

[Click here for a downloadable copy of an application form](#)

Adobe Acrobat Reader required

Click [here](#) if you need to download a free version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

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