

# Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

## Spring 2015 Seminar Series

### **Community ecology in a changing environment: perspectives from the Quaternary**

A central topic in ecology is understanding the processes that structure communities through time. Ecological explanations center on three basic themes: environment, interactions between species, and neutral processes. In this talk, I will discuss how my research using the Quaternary fossil pollen record tries to disentangle these processes, focusing primarily on environmental vs interaction drivers of community structure. Overall, the Quaternary fossil pollen assemblages show strong signals of environmental structuring, but interactions between species are likely operating and incorporating associations between taxa into models could lead to greater predictive ability, particularly across periods of substantial climate change.



**Dr. Jessica Blois**  
UC Merced

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015; Room 307, SERF; 3:30-4:30 PM**  
**Pre-talk reception: 3:00 PM in Dabney 568**