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UNH Teacher Awarded Shepherd Professorship

By Sharon Keeler
UNH News Bureau
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September 24, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. -- University of New Hampshire Professor Thomas Kocher has been awarded the university's Hortense Cavis Shepherd Professorship.

The professorship, established by a bequest from Hortense Shepherd, Class of 1921, and Sarah Shepherd, recognizes outstanding members of the teaching faculty who have served the university for at least two years.

Kocher, professor of zoology and genetics, has been teaching at UNH since 1989. He is director of the university's Hubbard Center for Genome Studies and DNA Sequencing Facility.

Kocher's research focuses on the evolution and genetics of several fish species. He studies the cichlid fishes of Lake Malawi (East Africa), a group which has rapidly evolved at least 500 species in the past million years. He also works on the genetics of tilapia and flounder, fish important to aquaculture around the world.

The Hortense Cavis Shepherd Professorship includes a $9,000 stipend over three years. Kocher will use the money to help support the development of the university's genomics program.

A resident of Durham, Kocher holds a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Colorado and a B.A. in biology from Yale University.

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