1014-97-875   **Donald Estep*** (`estep@math.colostate.edu`), 1874 Campus Delivery, Department of Mathematics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, and **Jay Breidt**, **Richard Davis** and **Simon Tavener**. *PRIMES (PRogram for Interdisciplinary Mathematics, Ecology, and Statistics).*

PRIMES is a graduate program in quantitative ecology at Colorado State University sponsored by a National Science Foundation IGERT grant. The goal of PRIMES is to train graduate students from various disciplines to work at the interface between mathematics/statistics and the ecological sciences. It is truly interdisciplinary program in the sense of involving students and faculty from across campus.

The PRIMES educational program is based on the observation that it is impractical to attempt to make mathematicians of ecology and biology students or ecologists of mathematics and statistics students. Rather, projects in quantitative ecology require a team-based interdisciplinary collaboration. We describe how PRIMES tackles the challenges of providing students from different disciplines with the foundation needed to communicate and cooperate with each other and training the students to work together on scientific investigations effectively. (Received September 26, 2005)