# CoCo Seminar Series
# Fall 2015

## CoCo/EvoS Joint Seminar:

## Using Multilevel Selection Theory To Define the Individual

**Dr. Charles J. Goodnight**
**Professor of Biology, University of Vermont**

**Monday October 5th, 2015**
**5:15-6:15pm**
**Academic Building A (AA) G008**

An old saw of evolutionary biology is that individuals live and die, but populations evolve. This emphasizes the central role that the concept of the individual plays in our thinking about evolution. That said, what we mean by the term "individual" is not always clear. Contextual analysis is a statistical method for analyzing selection acting at multiple levels that has been shown to work both theoretically, and empirically. As such it provides an ideal framework for examining what we mean by "individual". In this talk I will use the statistical method of contextual analysis as a heuristic for examining our concept of individuality and for developing guidelines for identifying the individual.

Dr. Charles J. Goodnight is a Professor of Biology at the University of Vermont. His research interests include genetic differentiation and evolution in structured populations. His research combines theoretical and experimental approaches to study the effects of selection among individuals, populations and communities.

For more information, contact Hiroki Sayama (sayama@binghamton.edu)
http://coco.binghamton.edu/