



## Alison A. Coulter



# Biology and Ecology of Bigheaded Carp in an Invaded Ecosystem

Ph.D. Defense

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

9:30 AM Pfendler Hall

Room 120

Globally, the homogenization of species has become a threat to biodiversity. As species are transported around the world, a portion of these species, released intentionally or accidentally, may become invasive and can produce negative impacts. Great effort has been invested into early identification and prevention of invasions as these are considered less expensive than managing an invasion. Unfortunately, species may exhibit varying characteristics across ecosystems, and so their behavior and potential survival in a new environment may be difficult to predict. Therefore, we examined trends in the biology and behavior of invasive fish, the plasticity surrounding these traits and how they may contribute to the successful invasions using bigheaded carps (*Hypophthalmichthys* spp.) as a case study.