Tennessee State University
Department of Biological Sciences

2007 SPRING SEMINAR/
CHALK TALK FORUM SERIES

Frontiers in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

January 25, 2008	Katja Schulz Managing Editor/Tree of Life Project University of Arizona tolweb.org	The Tree of Life: Biodiversity from a phylogenetic perspective

Seminar **Holland Hall Room 102** **11:30 – 12:30PM**

Evidence from morphological, physiological and gene sequence data indicates that all organisms on Earth are genetically related, and the genealogical relationships of living things can be represented by a vast evolutionary tree, the "Tree of Life". I will provide an introduction to the concept of the "Tree of Life," and I will tell you about scientist's efforts to reconstruct the evolutionary history (phylogeny) of life. Much progress has been made in this field recently, and many biological subdisciplines now benefit from the great explanatory and predictive power of phylogenetic research.

I will then talk about our work on the Tree of Life Web Project (http://tolweb.org), an online database that presents biodiversity from a phylogenetic perspective. I will provide information about the project's content, administration, and information architecture, and I will report on our efforts to collaborate with other initiatives, such as the emerging Encyclopedia of Life (http://eol.org), to assemble a comprehensive, authoritative online resource documenting all that is known about life on Earth.

Chalk Talk **Holland Hall Room 124** **2:00 – 5:00PM**