

The University of Pennsylvania
Biology Undergraduate Newsletter

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Fall Events for Biology Students

Study Skills for Success in Introductory Biology
Wednesday, September 14, 5:00 pm
Leidy Lab, Room 10

Dr. Ingrid Waldron, Professor of Biology, will give suggestions for learning biology and preparing for exams, with particular relevance for BIOL 101, 102, and 121.

For general information on time management and other study skills, visit the Weingarten Learning Resources Center, <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/>

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Upcoming Events!

The time and date for the following events will be announced – watch the bulletin boards and e-mail for details

Career Night for Biology Majors

Come and learn about graduate training, scientific careers, and job opportunities in biology. People working in various careers in biology will be on hand to talk about how they prepared for their career and to answer your questions. A representative from Career Services will discuss job opportunities and internships for Biology Majors.

Note: Career Night for Biology Majors will **not** deal with medical careers. See reverse side for Career Services workshops dealing specifically with medical careers.

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Study Skills for Success
A Second Opportunity!

Dr. Brenda Casper, Undergraduate Chair and Professor of Biology and **Dr. Myrna Cohen**, Associate Director of Learning Resources, will give suggestions for learning biology. If you miss the session with Dr. Waldron, this will be your chance to get ready for your upcoming midterms.

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Info Night for Undergrads
Interested in the Biology Major

Dr. Brenda Casper, Undergraduate Chair, and other faculty members will briefly describe the requirements and opportunities of the **Biology Major** and answer any questions about the major.

Looking for a small course for Fall 2005?

LAST CHANCE TO ENROLL!

BIOL 464: Introduction to Field Ecology

Taught by Dr. Jim Thorne and members of Stroud Water Research Laboratory on Thursday, 12:00-5:00.

This relatively new course provides an opportunity to learn field techniques and apply them in local habitats. The course requires a large block of time on Thursday for weekly field trips (transportation is provided) to local stream and forest sites. **This course will be cancelled if enrollment does not increase before Thursday, Sept. 15.**

BIOL 330: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy and Evolution

Taught by Dr. A. Dunham on MWF 2:00 – 3:00 pm with Lab on Tuesday 1:00 – 4:00 or Thursday 9 – noon.

This course examines vertebrate diversity and evolution by exploring the diversity, structure, and function of vertebrate anatomy.

BIOL 436: Molecular Physiology

Taught by Dr. D. Ren on TR, 9:00 – 10:30am.

This course is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students interested in molecular physiology of sensory signal transduction. The major topics this year will be signal transduction mechanisms used by membrane ion channels and receptors that detect the sensory stimuli and transmit the signals to the nervous system. Modern molecular/structural techniques (patch clamp, protein crystallization, molecular genetics, expression cloning and protein purification) will be introduced along with each topic. References will be articles from the primary literature. There is no exam but each student is required to write a 10-page research proposal and to critique proposals written by fellow students.

New Biology Faculty

The Biology Department welcomes Dr. Brent Helliker, Assistant Professor of Biology. Dr. Helliker is a plant physiological ecologist and his research focuses on how climate affects photosynthesis and cell respiration. He investigates these processes from the level of the plant leaf to the global scale. Dr. Helliker received his degree from the University of Utah and has completed a post-doc with the Carnegie Institution at Stanford University. Most recently, Dr. Helliker was a consultant for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Dr. Helliker is co-teaching BIOL 240 this semester with Dr. Brenda Casper and setting up his research lab.

Student Advisory Board

Biology Majors or potential majors are invited to join the Biology Department Student Advisory Board. Any undergraduate who is interested is welcome to join, provided you are willing to participate in at least two of the following Student Advisory Board activities:

- attend Student Advisory Board meetings
Note: first meeting is mandatory! (The date will be announced soon – watch the website!)
- provide suggestions to the Undergraduate Chair for improving the Biology Major and Biology courses
- provide peer advising for Biology students via Internet
- organize Student-to-Student Night, offered during pre-registration to provide advice to fellow Biology students
- represent the Biology Department during the Course Majors Fair
- participate in the selection committee for the winner of the Biology Department Faculty Teaching Award.

If interested, come to the Academic Office (Leidy Lab, Room 102) or email sherwood@sas.upenn.edu

Opportunities for Undergraduates

Keep an eye on the bulletin boards on the first floor of Leidy and Goddard Labs for announcements of work and research opportunities:

Helpers are needed for the BIOL 121 labs. Helpers work with the lab TA in making the lab run smoothly and efficiently. Other duties will be determined by the lab supervisor and TA. Each helper works two lab sessions. Helpers should be seniors and have experience with BIOL 121 or with lab techniques from work in a research lab.

The pay is \$1,250 for the semester.

Interested parties should send a copy of their resume to Colleen Gasirowski (gasirow@sas.upenn.edu). Dr. Bassiri will review all resumes, and qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Opportunities for Grants and Fellowships

Nassau Undergraduate Research Fund

Apply for up to \$1,000 to cover costs of an independent research project. **Deadline: Oct. 31, 2005**

Goldwater Scholarship

For sophomores and juniors pursuing careers in the natural sciences. Scholarships cover up to \$7,500 for tuition, fees, books and room and board. Information session on Monday, Sept. 26 at 3:00 pm

For students planning to attend graduate school: National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships in Science and Technology

Fellowships available for research-based PhD degrees in science education. First opportunity to apply is the senior year of college. Information session Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 3:00 pm.

For more information on these and other fellowships, visit <http://www.upenn.edu/curf>

Advanced Placement Exams

AP exams for Biol 101, Biol 102, and Biol 121 will be given on **Tuesday, September 13 at 5 pm**, in Leidy Lab, Room 10. Passing an AP exam earns 1 cu credit for the lecture portion of the course. Come to the Academic Office to sign up by 3 pm Monday, September 12, if you want to take any of these exams.

Don't forget to bring your photo ID to the exam.

Transfer Students

If you are a new transfer student planning to major in Biology, please see **Dr. Brenda Casper**, Undergraduate Chair, as soon as possible to avoid mistakes in course selection. For Dr. Casper's **office hours**, please visit <http://www.bio.upenn.edu/programs/undergraduate/>.

Reminder to Seniors

If you are intending to graduate this fall, please review your worksheet through Penn-in-Touch and then check your worksheet against the requirements, listed in the **Major Manual**, to make sure you have fulfilled all requirements. If you have questions, come to the Biology Academic Office in Leidy Lab, Room 102, or email Robin Sherwood at: sherwood@sas.upenn.edu

Career Services

Pre-Health

Freshman/Sophomore Pre-Health Orientation

Thursday, September 15 12:00-1:00pm

Junior Pre-Health Workshop

For those who want a head-start on the application process

Thursday, November 10 5:00-6:00pm

Other applicant workshops will be held in the Spring.

Pre-Health Interview Workshops (for 2006 Applicants)

Monday, September 12 12:00-1:00pm

Thursday, October 6 4:00-5:00pm

Pre-Health Workshop for Studying Abroad

For guidance in planning your future academic schedules.

Monday, November 14 4:00-5:00pm

For information on the location of these events and other events of interest, please see the website:

http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/gradprof/gradprof_programs.html