

The University of Pennsylvania
Biology Undergraduate Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

**Questions about what to take Spring semester?
Ask the Student Advisory Board
Monday, November 7, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Goddard Lab, room 102**

The Advisory Board is ready to answer your questions about courses, professors, scheduling, or any other topic related to the major. Board members are junior and senior Biology majors so they can tell you the benefits of taking BIOL 221 or when to take start your independent study.

SNACKS AND SODAS WILL BE SERVED!

Biology Course Announcements

BIOL 150: Learning Biology by Teaching Biology in an Urban High School

Taught by: Ingrid Waldron (iwaldron@sas.upenn.edu) and Jennifer Doherty (dohertyj@sas.upenn.edu)

Monday 10-12 and WF in the high school (see course roster for specific times of classroom sessions)

Prerequisite: one semester of college biology or BIOL 091 credit

Teach a series of hands-on activities to students in biology classes at West Philadelphia High School. On Monday, you will learn the relevant biology background and techniques for a hands-on activity. On Wednesday and/or Friday, you will lead a small group of high school students in carrying out the activity. On average, you will teach in West only once a week, but the teaching sessions are scheduled for both Wednesdays and Fridays to ensure your availability on the one day needed to accommodate the high school schedule. The W/F time slots include one hour of teaching at West and 10-15 minutes for transportation between Penn and West. The hands-on activities address fundamental aspects of genetics, evolution, anatomy, physiology and other topics in the high school biology curriculum. We will begin the semester with several classes concerning successful approaches for teaching biology in urban high schools. Your grade will be based on classroom activities as well as quizzes on the assigned reading, a research paper on a topic related to one of the hands-on activities, and grading two sets of weekly quizzes for the high school students. You will also prepare brief reports on the strengths and weaknesses of our teaching and the high school students' learning each week.

BIOL 325: Marine Biology

Formerly offered as Invertebrate Zoology

Taught by: Dr. Peter Petraitis

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 – noon

Prerequisite: BIOL 102 or 122 or equivalent credit

New name, new format! Marine Biology will explore all aspects of the marine environment – from the physical (tides, currents, salinity) to the biological (all the salty and wet organisms) and from the shallow, intertidal zone to the deep blue sea. There will **not** be a lab for this course this semester. If you had planned to use this course to satisfy a lab requirement, please contact Robin in the Academic Office.

BIOL 409: Physiology of Psychosocial and Nutritional Influences on Health

Taught by: Dr. Ingrid Waldron

Tuesday and Thursday, 12 – 1:30 pm

Prerequisite: BIOL 102 or 122 or 091

This course investigates the influences of environmental factors, including nutrition and psychosocial factors, on human health and disease. Instructor's permission required for registration. Pick up an application form in the Academic office (Leidy 102) or e-mail Dr. Waldron (iwaldron@sas.upenn.edu).

BIOL 465: Ecological Techniques in Conservation Biology

Taught by: Dr. William McShea at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation and Research Center (CRC), adjacent to Shenandoah National Park, Front Royal, VA, over Spring break (March 3 – 13) plus preparatory lectures in January at Penn.

This course offers a rare, fun opportunity to gain hands-on experience in many techniques commonly used in conservation biology, ecology, and wildlife management. Students will learn practical methods to study and manage real populations of wildlife including GPS/GIS techniques. Emphasis is placed on populations of small mammals, forest birds and white-tailed deer as well as their respective habitats. You will be spending 9 days living and working at the Center for Conservation. Activities require hiking and other strenuous activities in all weather conditions.

BIOL 484: Cell Motility and Cytoskeleton

Taught by: Dr. Tanya Svitkina

Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Prerequisite: BIOL 202

Explore the vital role of the cytoskeleton and cell motility for the physiology of cells, tissues and whole organisms. Current topics in cell biology from relevant journals will be discussed with special emphasis on conceptual advances, experimental approaches and the interpretation of results.

A complete roster of Biology classes is available on the Registrar web page <http://www.upenn.edu/registrar/register/index.html> and in Leidy Lab, Room 102.

Courses of Interest in Other Departments

CLST 135: The Art of Argument and Persuasive Speaking

Taught by: Dr. Bruce Lenthall

Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 pm

This course is designed to help students become more effective and critical speakers in order to prepare them to serve as speaking advisors in Penn's Communication within the Curriculum (CWIC) program. Students will analyze and discuss a variety of speaking styles, prepare and deliver addresses in various forms and contexts, and explore how to become constructive critics for other undergraduate speakers. Permission of the instructor is required. For more information or to apply, contact Dr. Lenthall at lenthall@sas.upenn.edu. [Note: Dr. Greg Guild is impressed with the work done by CWiC and would be happy to speak with anyone interested in more information.]

Announcements

CWiC Emerging Scholars Program

Are you working on an independent research project?

Communication Within the Curriculum invites you to compete for a spot in its series of student presentations, Emerging Scholar Talks. This is an opportunity to convert your hard work into a prize-winning speech. Visit <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/cwic> for an application or contact CWiC at cwic@sas.upenn.edu for more information. **Applications are due December 13.**

The Triple Helix is seeking Biology students interested in contributing to their online journal. Writers and editors are needed for the "news briefs" (100-200 word) articles as well as feature articles (700-1000 words). See the online journal at <http://www.thetriplehelix.org> or contact Kate Neafsey, Editor-in-Chief at kjn23@cornell.edu.

The Penn Engineering Library is pleased to announce the debut of the **Study Collection** – 45 textbooks for in-library use. The collection includes many Biology textbooks (Campbell's 7th edition; Alberts, et al. Molecular Biology of the Cell; and more). The Engineering Library is located in 217 Towne. For more information visit <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/%7Eedab/study.htm>

Job Opportunities

Work-study student needed for developmental neurobiology lab in Wistar Institute. Responsibilities include preparing materials and autoclaving. Pay is \$8/hour. Contact Stephanie Young at syoung3@sas.upenn.edu.

Wondergy, a local business, is seeking a smart, energetic **student for part-time work**. Wondergy visits schools, parties and corporate events demonstrating scientific principles. Responsibilities include light administrative duties and helping to develop and demonstrate biology based activities. Interested students can visit their website at <http://www.wondergy.com/> or contact Robin for more information.

NSF/Access Science Teaching Fellow Positions available for grades K-12 in West Philadelphia. Teaching Fellows work with teachers to plan and implement hands-on science and math activities. Applicants should have an interest in teaching science, good communication and interpersonal skills, and be able to work independently. Fellows are paid \$10/hour and schedules are flexible (expect to work 7-15 hours/week). Please send a brief statement of your interest and any teaching experience to Leigh Seeleman leighsee@sas.upenn.edu or Idris Stoval istovall@math.upenn.edu.

Department of Health and Human Services offers a two-year program for Bachelor level graduates to work on HHS issues. The program provides training and experience as well as a mentor for career development advise and support. The training is expanded to a full-time opportunity in a pre-selected career path. For more information visit their website at <http://www.hhs.gov/careers/elp.html>.

Full-time position as Outreach Science Educator at Thomas Jefferson University Teach science-based experiments to 4th – 12th grade classes. BA/BS in science preferred; teaching experience a plus; will need car. The experiments involve zebrafish embryos. For more information, contact Jamie Schaefer, Science Education Specialist, at <http://www.kimmelcancercenter.org/kcc/science/ScienceOutreachProgram/default.htm>.

Research/Fellowship Opportunities

Undergraduate Student Scholars Program at Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Disease, University of Pennsylvania offers summer research opportunities in biomedical research. The program includes a series of summer lectures and presentations. Information and applications are available at http://www.ups.upenn.edu/moleculr/Summer_Program/index.shtml or contact Daphnie Jolly at djolly@mail.med.upenn.edu. **Applications must be received by February 1, 2006.**

Students interested in biomedical research may wish to consider the **NIH-Oxford/Cambridge Scholars in Biomedical Research Program**. Study with researchers at Oxford or Cambridge University in collaboration with NIH researchers. The program offers full financial support for PhD students. There are two unofficial sites to find out more about the program, <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~chri1906/> and <http://www.gurdon.cam.ac.uk/~acyl2/cam-nih.html> or e-mail the Graduate Partnerships Program gppapply@nih.gov. **Applications are due by January 9, 2006.**

Undergraduate women interested in environmental careers are encouraged to apply for scholarships available from The Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP). Current sophomores (juniors in the Fall of 2006) can apply for \$1,500 and seniors planning to start graduate school can apply for \$2,000 in scholarships. Applications and more information are available on <http://www.swepweb.com>. **Applications are due December 16, 2005.**