

The University of Pennsylvania
Biology Undergraduate Newsletter

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Spring Events

Info Night for Undergraduates Interested in the Biology Major

will be held

**Wednesday, February 16th at 5:00pm
in Leidy Lab room 10**

Thinking about majoring in Biology? The Undergraduate Chair, **Dr. Brenda Casper** and Biology professors, **Dr. Sally Zigmund** and **Dr. Greg Guild** will provide information on the requirements for the major and answer your questions about the general major as well as concentrations within the major.

Student Advisory Board

The **2004-05 Undergraduate Student Advisory Board** needs your help! Board members arrange student events, are available to answer questions about the major, and are your voice to the department – **but they can only succeed with information from you.** They would like to plan a social/educational event for this semester but only if you can attend. What would you like to do? When can you attend? Let them know what's on your mind! Visit <http://www.bio.upenn.edu/programs/undergraduate/ot/her/sab04.html> to ask questions, give your opinion or just to learn more about their areas of interest and future plans.

Advanced Placement Exams

AP exams for BIOL 101, 102, and 121 will be given on **Thursday, January 13 at 4 pm**, in Leidy Lab, room 10. The AP exams give students the opportunity to earn 1 cu credit for the lecture portion of BIOL 101 or 121 and/or 102. Contact the Academic Office to sign up by **3 pm, Wednesday, January 12**, if you want to take any of the AP exams. *Don't forget to bring your ID to the exam.*

Information Meeting

Students enrolled or interested in the field course, **BIOL 465: Ecological Techniques in Conservation** should attend the organizational meeting on **Friday, January 21st 3:00-6:00 pm in Goddard Lab 103**. For more information contact the course TA, Rich Lucas at rlucas@sas.upenn.edu

Updates on Spring 2005 Courses

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

Take a course that is both **fun and rewarding!**

Taught by Dr. Waldron and Jennifer Doherty (dohertyj@sas.upenn.edu) on Monday from 1-3 pm. Share your knowledge of biology by teaching a series of hand-on activities at local high schools. You will learn the background and techniques in class on Monday and then visit local high schools on Wednesday or Friday.

BIOL 423: Experimental Plant Ecology

Taught by Dr. Casper on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-2 pm. Topics include physiological plant ecology, population biology, community ecology and plant – animal interactions. Two class meetings each week will be lectures and the third meeting will be a discussion of current literature. Students have the opportunity to participate in a greenhouse experiment or to complete a literature review. Prerequisite: one year of introductory biology.

BIOL 483: Epigenetics

Taught by Dr. Wagner on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3pm. Epigenetics investigates heritable changes in phenotype that do not result from changes in the DNA sequence. Topics include gene silencing, chromatin assembly and imprinting. Prerequisite: Biol 221 or permission of instructor.

BIOL 484: Cell Motility and Cytoskeleton

Taught by Dr. Svitkina on Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4:30 pm. This course covers current topics in cell biology with emphasis on cell motility and roles of the cytoskeleton in motility. Dr. Svitkina, an expert in cell motility, is offering this course for the first time. Lectures, student presentations, and discussions in the class will be based on primary scientific literature.

BIOL 540: Genetic Systems

Taught by Dr. Poethig on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-12. The techniques used to study gene action will be investigated by studying different model organisms including *Drosophila*, *Arabidopsis* and mice. Grades are based on take home problem sets, questions about assigned readings and a final exam.

Research Opportunities

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates

REU sponsored by NSF offers students the opportunity to work with faculty and other researchers at a variety of locations. Research topics span all disciplines of biology including environmental biology, computational biology, biochemistry, and tropical research. Students receive a stipend but housing and transportation are not necessarily included. Visit the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/start.htm> to search the list of projects. Application deadlines vary depending on the project.

The Jackson Lab Summer Student Program

The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor Maine is a leader in genetics research. The Summer Student Program offers undergraduates an opportunity to carry out independent research under the supervision of a research scientist. Students receive room, board and a \$2,500 stipend. Applications are due **January 21, 2005**. For more information visit <http://www.jax.org/education/ssp.html> or e-mail: summerstudents@jax.org

UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

offers Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships in molecular and cellular biology. Students develop an individual research project with a UT Southwestern Graduate School faculty member. Students receive a stipend of \$3,500 for the ten-week program that begins June 6th. Applications are due **February 7, 2005**. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/SURF> or contact SURF coordinator Linda Diaz at SURF@utsouthwestern.edu

Summer Internship in Native Plants and Public Gardens at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

Interns learn native plant propagation, grounds keeping, trail maintenance, public education, and curation by working with Preserve staff. There is also the opportunity to work on an independent project through the Education Dept. Applicants should be juniors or seniors with an interest in botany or environmental studies. Interns receive an hourly wage and usually work full time (40 hours) for 10-15 weeks. Applications are due by **February 11, 2005** and are available on line at <http://www.bhwp.org>

American Museum of Natural History Southwestern

Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona is offering 30-40 volunteer positions from March 1 – Nov. 1 with most positions available for 6-8 weeks between May and August. Volunteers work 24 hours/week on routine chores in exchange for room and board. The remaining time each week can be spent assisting station researchers with field research. Applications must be submitted by **15 February 2005** for spring positions (March-May) or by **1 April** for summer (June-August). Applications for the fall (Sept-Nov) can be submitted at any time. For more information and applications, contact Dr. Dawn S. Wilson, Director, P.O. Box 16553, Portal AZ 85632 520-558-2396 dwilson@amnh.org or visit <http://research.amnh.org/swrs/>

University of Texas Medical Branch Summer

Undergraduate Research Program in Galveston, TX offers research experience for undergraduates interested in biomedical science. Research topics at UTMB include cell and molecular biology, toxicology, biochemistry, neuroscience, pharmacology and marine biology. The deadline for applications is **February 18, 2005**. More information is available at <http://www.gsbs.utmb.edu/surp> or e-mail grad.school@utmb.edu

Mentored Internship Program at Monterey Bay Aquarium

Research Institute in Moss Landing, CA offers a ten-week program for undergraduates interested in ocean science and technology. Students apply to a specific project from a list of descriptions that include deep-sea ecology, microbiology and ocean floor mapping. The stipend for the program is \$500/week. Applications are due by **February 28, 2005**. The webpage for the 2005 internship program is <http://www.mbari.org/education/internship/05interns/05announcement.htm>

More information on these opportunities is available in the Academic Office, Leidy Lab room 102. For more listings on available research and fellowship positions, please contact the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships office: Cheryl Shipman, shipman@pobox.upenn.edu.

Open House

Jefferson College of Graduate Studies offers a **Program in Neuroscience**. Meet with mentors and tour their facilities on **Tuesday, January 25th noon to 4:00 or February 15th 9:00 to 1:00**. To learn more about the program visit the website at <http://www.jefferson.edu/fin>

Career Services

Pre-Graduate

Panel on Graduate Study and Fellowships
Tuesday, February 1 4:30-6:00 pm

Pre-Health Applicant Workshop for those seeking Fall 2006 Admission

Thursday, January 27 4:00-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 9 12:00-1:30pm
Tuesday, February 22 9:00-10:30am

Pre-Dental Applicant Workshop

Wednesday, March 2 4:00-5:00pm

Pre-Vet Applicant Workshop

Thursday, March 3 4:00-5:00pm

Doctors Panel

TBA

To sign up for the workshops, please go to the Career Services Office in the basement of the McNeil Building. For further information and locations for these workshops, see Career Services website: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/gradprof/gradprof_programs.html