

The University of Pennsylvania
Biology Undergraduate Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 3

Published by the Biology Department Academic Office

September 15, 2006

Fall Events for Biology Students

**Study Skills for Success in Introductory Biology
Monday, October 2nd, 5:00 pm
Goddard Lab, Room 101**

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 missed the session with Dr. Waldron, this will be your chance to get ready for your upcoming midterms.

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
**Penn Humanities Forum and the
Department of Biology Present:**

**“The Impact of Human Travel on Agriculture”
a lecture by Dr. Paul Gepts
Professor of Agronomy and Range Science
University of California, Davis**

**Wednesday, October 11, 5:00 – 6:30 pm
Leidy Lab room 10**

The transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture was a milestone in human evolution. Over the millennia since, migration exploration, conquest, and developments in transportation have changed agriculture into a global production system. Distinguished biologist Paul Gepts will describe the worldwide spread of agriculture through human travel and its profound impact on the ecosystems of our planet.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
**John Cebra Memorial Lecture
“Evolution of Adaptive Immunity”**

**Dr. Max Cooper
HHMI Investigator and Professor of Medicine,
Pediatrics, Pathology, and Microbiology
University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Monday, October 30, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Join us on Monday, October 30 to celebrate and remember Dr. John Cebra, Annenberg Professor of Natural Sciences and Biology. A tree will be planted in the Biopond garden

in Dr. Cebra’s memory followed by Dr. Cooper’s lecture at 4:00 pm in Leidy 10. Before his death in 2005, Dr. Cebra was awarded the Excellence in Mentoring Award from the American Association of Immunologists. It is fitting that Dr. Cooper, former president of the AAI and of the Clinical Immunology Society, will be presenting this lecture.

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
**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** as well as answer any questions about the major.

Course Changes for Fall 2006

BIOL 438: Systems Biology: Integrative Physiology and Biomechanics of the Muscular System
Course has been cancelled.

BIOL 251: Cellular Neurobiology
TR 10:30 – noon Chemistry Bldg. room 102
This course has move and will now be offered every fall. Associated with this change, BIOL 442: Neurobiology of Learning and Memory and BIOL 451: Systems Neuroscience will be offered as Spring only courses.

New Biology Faculty

The Biology Department welcomes Dr. Kim Gallagher, Assistant Professor of Biology. Dr. Gallagher is a cell biologist studying cell-cell communication. Using *Arabidopsis* as a model system, Dr. Gallagher utilizes genetic techniques and microscopy to better understand cell signaling during development. Dr. Gallagher received her degree from the University of California at San Diego and most recently, she completed a post-doc at Duke. Dr. Gallagher is busy setting up her lab, which will include many undergraduate researchers, and she will be co-teaching BIOL 221 in the Spring semester with Dr. Jean Labriola Scholz from the medical school.

Student Advisory Board

Biology Majors are invited to join the Biology Department Student Advisory Board. Any interested major 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
- 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

Planning to go to medical school? Thinking about Penn, John Hopkins, or Yale?

These schools are among the medical schools that allow students to defer enrollment for two years if they are accepted to **Teach for America**. Teach for America is looking for outstanding Biology majors to commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools. Outstanding students will qualify for a signing bonus from the Amgen Foundation. If you would like to learn more, attend the medical school panel on **Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 6:30 pm in Irvine G16** to hear from current doctors and medical school students about their experiences applying to medical school and how their decision to participate in Teach for America impacted their current career plans. **Fall application deadlines for Teach for America are Sept. 30th and Nov. 5th.**

Many Species, One Medicine

“Whether it’s fighting epilepsy, finding a cure for Alzheimer’s or making progress in brain and spinal cord trauma, the link between human health and animal health is absolutely crucial. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine provides an outstanding environment for the training of future veterinary scientists through a combined VMD-PhD program. It’s an excellent way to continue your education while impacting the future of medicine – for humans and all species.” Two applications are needed: **The Vet School application, due Oct. 1** for admission the following fall and the **Combined Degree Program application, due Nov. 15**. For more information visit, <http://www.vet.upenn.edu/programs/pennvetphd/>

Opportunities for Grants and Fellowships

Smithsonian Institution Internships for Minority Students

Full-time internships are available for underrepresented minority groups in the following fields of study: Animal behavior, ecology, environmental science, evolutionary and systematic biology. Interns are supervised by professional staff members in research or museum-related projects. Ten week appointments are offered in the summer, fall, or spring with a weekly stipend of \$400. Application deadlines are Oct 1st for spring and Feb. 1st for summer and fall. For more information, visit <http://www.si.edu/ofg/internopp.htm>

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

Advanced Placement Exams

AP exams for the fall semester were given on Sept. 7th and the results are posted on the door to the Academic Office, Leidy 102. The next opportunity to take the departmental placement exams will be the first week of classes in January. See our website, <http://www.bio.upenn.edu/programs/undergraduate/> for more information.

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

Junior Pre-Health Workshop

For those who want a head-start on the application process
Wednesday, November 8 noon-1:00pm
Other applicant workshops will be held in the Spring.

Pre-Health Interview Workshops (for 2006 Applicants)

Monday, September 18 noon – 1:00pm
Wednesday, September 27 5:00-6:00pm

Pre-Health Workshop for Studying Abroad

For guidance in planning your future academic schedules.
Tuesday, November 28 4:00-5:00pm

MD/PhD Panel

Tuesday, October 17 6:30 pm
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