

The University of Pennsylvania
Biology Undergraduate Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

**Career Night for Biology Majors
Wednesday, November 1st
6:30 pm in Leidy Lab room 109**

Do you know what you are going to do after graduation? Whether or not you've made plans, why not learn more about your options? Come to Career Night!

Representatives from: Career Services; Teach for America; the Graduate School of Education at Penn; Watson School of Biological Sciences; and Penn Biology Graduate Student Rich Collum will provide information about their programs and opportunities for Biology majors. Pizza will be served!

Note: Career Night for Biology Majors will **not** deal with medical careers. See reverse side for Career Services workshops for pre-med students.



**Questions about what to take Spring semester?
Ask the Student Advisory Board
Monday, November 6th 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Leidy Lab, room 109**

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 know the benefits of taking BIOL 221 or when to take start your independent study.



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 supplement 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 cell and molecular biology, genetics, and evolution 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 class participation as well as quizzes on the assigned reading and two research papers on topics related to the hands-on activities.

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 room 102) or e-mail Dr. Waldron (iwaldron@sas.upenn.edu). Applications should be returned by Nov. 6th but late applications will be accepted until the course is full.

BIOL 442: Neurobiology of Learning and Memory and BIOL 451: Systems Neuroscience

These courses are now offered every spring semester.

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 – 11) 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 8 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 Persuasion

Taught by: Dr. Sue Weber

Thursday 1:30 – 4:30 pm

This course is designed to help students become more effective public speakers in order to prepare them to serve as paid 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, visit the CWiC website at www.sas.upenn.edu/cwic/. [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. If chosen, a CWiC speaking advisor will work with you to develop a speech and deliver the speech compellingly, with poise and confidence. 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 11.**

Volunteers are needed for Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair. Attend an organizational meeting on **Thursday, November 2nd at 4:00 pm in the Undergraduate Lounge, Stiteler Hall** (208 South 37th St.). For more information, visit the BBB website at <http://www.psych.upenn.edu/bbb/> or e-mail Ms. Beatrice Reid at reid@psych.upenn.edu

Graduate Studies at The Rockefeller University

Dr. Sidney Strickland, Dean of the Graduate Program will present information about Ph.D. programs in biological science, computational biology, chemical biology and MD/PhD programs on **Wednesday, November 8th at 5:00 pm in BRB II/III, room 253** (421 Curie Blvd.) For more information, contact Dr. Brian Keith at bkeith@mail.med.upenn.edu

“Writing a scientific paper” by Dr. Ted Abel
November 28th at 5:00 pm in Solomon Psychology Lab, room A3. If you are taking or considering an independent research project but not sure how to present your results, this seminar can help. Dr. Abel, the program director for BBB, will talk about the essential parts of a research paper. This presentation is part of the Sponsored Research Seminar in BBB and is open to all students. Please RSVP by e-mail to Ms. Beatrice Reid at reid@psych.upenn.edu (pizza will be served!)

Summer Research Program at University of Iowa

This program offers undergraduates an opportunity to participate in a formal biomedical research program or make an individual arrangement with a faculty member. (**Note:** This program will **not** count for Penn credit.) Formal programs include Free Radical & Radiation Biology; Neuropsychology, Behavioral Neurology, & Cognitive Neuroscience, and other topics. All programs include a weekly seminar series and workshops on research related issues. For more information or to apply, visit www.medicine.uiowa.edu/biosciences/summer/programs.asp#SummerList

Job Opportunities

The Junior National Student Leadership Conference is looking for intelligent, driven undergraduates to work as Team Advisors for junior high school students in Washington, D.C. TAs are expected to lead discussions on physical and biological sciences and to act as chaperones, mentors, and resident advisors. For more information, contact Sarah L. Kellogg, Program Director JNSLC, at sarah.kellogg@nslcleaders.org

Research/Fellowship Opportunities

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 2007) 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 at <http://www.swepweb.com>. **Applications are due December 15, 2006.**

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 Workshop for Studying Abroad

For guidance in planning your future academic schedules.
Tuesday, November 28 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