

BioLog

A Newsletter for Biology Undergraduates

August -September 2009 (WELCOME BACK!)

For Those New to Biology

What is *BioLog*?

BioLog is a newsletter the Biology Department publishes to help undergraduates keep up to date with developments in the Biology Department. You will find information about potential opportunities for scholarships, research and study abroad as well as advice about classes and registration. Look for new issues of *BioLog* each month in the new Biology Department offices at 114 LSC (Life Sciences Complex).

Pamphlets in 114 LSC

You will find copies of various pamphlets just inside the door to the left in LSC 114. They describe our undergraduate programs, opportunities for undergraduate research in Biology, career opportunities for Biology majors, and the Biology BS Degree Checklist. Please help yourself to any of these at any time.

SU Biology Web Site

You will find our web site at <http://biology.syr.edu/undergraduatestudies/undergraduatestudies.html>. Please bookmark this site. You will find *BioLog* and all the information in our pamphlets.

Advice For Biology Degrees

If you are a new student to Biology, and you do not have a Biology faculty advisor, you should follow one of two options to obtain

advice about completing your major requirements. First, you can obtain a Biology faculty advisor at any time by declaring Biology as your major. This is easy to do. Simply fill out a Declaration of Major form in room 114 LSC and give it to Deborah Herholtz. She will then assign you to your new Biology faculty advisor (you may change your advisor or major at any time if you wish). The second option is to keep your current advisor but also see Dr. Marilyn Kerr, room 238, LSC (443-3985; mskerr@syr.edu). She is the Principal Advisor for Biology. She can check your courses to help you plan how to finish the requirements for a B.A. or B.S. degree. Those interested in a B.S. degree with a Focus on Environmental Sciences should contact Dr. Doug Frank, room 446 LSC (443-4529; dafrank@syr.edu).

Health Professions Advice

Anyone interested in any of the health professions should contact the Health Professions Advisory Program (HPAP) in 323 Hall of Languages (hpap@syr.edu or call 443-2321).

Pizza with the Chair

Every month the Chair of the Biology Department schedules "Pizza with the Chair." This is an opportunity for undergraduates to meet with Dr. Russell to discuss any concerns or issues about their education. Look for the time in the "**coming up...**" section at the end of each issue of *BioLog*.

Freshmen with AP credit for Biology

Students admitted to Syracuse University who wish to use Advanced Placement Biology to fulfill laboratory requirements in science (8 credits) must submit a petition for that purpose to the Biology Department (114 LSC). Materials should be attached to the petition documenting:

- 1) the completion of an Advanced Placement

course with a grade of B or A (please attach a copy of your high school transcript), and 2) a score of 4 or higher on the AP exam. A student will automatically receive six credits of Biology 200 with an AP exam score of 4 or higher, but this will not fulfill the Arts and Sciences lab or Biology major requirements without the above documentation and petition.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

In this section we will provide lists of potential opportunities for study abroad, internships, research openings, etc.. We do caution that these come with no guarantees from the Biology Department; we cannot check on the quality of each item listed. This section is for your information and we strongly urge you to check into the details of any opportunity you find appealing to be sure that it meets your needs and expectations.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2009-10 Mark and Pearle Clements Intern Scholarships here at S.U. make possible a few of the most important, unusual, and creative internships that otherwise would not be financially possible. Previous awards have ranged from \$2,500 to \$7,000. The application deadline is the middle of November. For more information contact Rhona Lee Jones, Career Services Internship Coordinator, 235 Schine (443-4271).

Some math, science or engineering sophomores or juniors will be nominated for **Goldwater Scholarships** (\$7,500) this year by Syracuse University. Sophomores receive a two-year scholarship. Those interested will need to submit a 1,000 word essay that (1) describes their professional aspirations, (2) describes research or other activities associated with their interests, and (3) discusses a significant issue or problem in their field of study. The essays will be due by the end of October at the Honors Program, Suite 306, Bowne Hall. Please talk with Dr. Wolf (room 110C LSC; llwolf@ syr.edu; 443-3956) if you are interested in this scholarship.

You may ask the Biology Department Chair, Dr. John Russell, to be considered for nomination as an **SU Scholar**. The deadline is the first week of December. To qualify, a student must have fulfilled graduation requirements for Dec 2009, May 2010 or Aug. 2010. The department chair will need: (1) a transcript of all work, (2) two letters of recommendation from faculty, (3) writing samples, and (4) a personal statement. All the information should be given to Dr. Russell well before December.

The **Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research** encourages close working relationships between students and faculty. The program promotes scientific excellence and achievement through hands-on learning. Research grants may be used to support scientific investigation in any field. Funding may be used for: (A) purchase of specific equipment necessary to undertake the proposed research project; (B) travel to and from a research site; and (C) reimbursement for human subjects (only for psychology studies).

The following expenses are not supported: purchase of supplies and equipment that is considered standard, travel, educational expenses, salaries or stipends, fees for using

institutional or departmental equipment, and manuscript preparation and publication costs.

Deadlines for all application materials are **October 15** and **March 15** annually. If the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, applications will be accepted on the next business day. For questions or additional information send an e-mail to giar@sigmaxi.org.

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** offers undergraduate fellowships for junior and

seniors of \$17,000 for tuition and \$7,500 for summer internship support. Pre-applications are due in early November for a July decision.

Visit:

http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2006/2006_gro_under_grad_fellow.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVISING UPDATES

You may continue to adjust your schedule of classes on-line from Monday, August 31 through Tuesday, September 8. After that time until the academic drop deadline of Wednesday, October 28, you will need to use paper forms. These are the add/drop forms. Only classes that start after Tuesday, Sept. 8 may be added.

You can find information on Fall courses at the Biology web site <http://biology.syr.edu/> Select "Course Information" under "Undergraduate Studies." You also may find a list of Fall Courses in Biology and brief descriptions in 114 LSC. Help yourself.

Course Information

All 3 credit hour labs are **closed** prior to the schedule adjustment period. If you are interested in a lab that is closed, you should plan to go to the first class to see if there is room. Instructors will be in charge of admitting additional students.

Any seniors who need to register for a class that is currently closed in order to graduate should see Dr. Hainsworth (room 246 LSC, 443-2155, frhainsw@mailbox.syr.edu) as soon as possible.

SUNY-CESF Courses

It is always worth looking through the course offerings from the College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. These are found near the end of the time schedule. The offerings greatly increase the variety of biology courses you may take. You can use up to 6 credits of 300 or higher level courses for upper division electives once you have filled out a petition for this in room 114 LSC. Also, College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry courses at the 300 or higher level with labs can be petitioned to complete the B.S. degree "extra lab experience" requirement.

Beta Beta Beta

Syracuse University is the home of the Rho Xi Chapter of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. This national organization is dedicated to encouraging students to pursue their interest in the life sciences and to promote the appreciation of biological studies to the general public. All students are urged to attend the Tri-Beta meetings and consider becoming a member. It is an excellent way to become involved in your campus and community with like-minded students. Meetings will be announced by advance notices near the Biology Office (114 LSC).

coming up...

First Day of Classes	Monday 8/31
Labor Day (no classes)	Monday 9/7
Last Day to Add Classes	Tuesday 9/8
Pizza with the Chair (12:45 pm, 106 LSC)	Monday 9/14
Financial Drop Deadline	Tuesday 9/22
Mid-term	Wednesday 10/21
Academic Drop Deadline	Wednesday 10/28