**Bio Advising Newsletter – September 15, 2020**

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**CHECK IT OUT**

1. Biology-Related Clubs
2. Hispanic Heritage Month
3. Study Spaces Around Campus
4. Study Lab Drop-In Tutoring
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6. Bio Advising on Social Media

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1. **Advising Appointments Starting Sept 4**

***NEWLY DECLARED STUDENTS, please do not sign up for an enrollment appointment. You cannot meet with an advisor until after you complete the Biology Advising Orientation on Canvas, which will be available by the end of September.***

There are several types of appointments available during the month of September:

* **General Advising Appointment** – This is a 30-minute appointment designed for in-depth discussions of academic planning, career goals, extracurriculars, and more complex issues. Non-majors and prospective students are welcome to make these appointments through the end of September.
* **Pre-Enrollment Appointment –** This is a 30-minute appointment designed for planning and discussion of Spring and Summer 2021 scheduling, and for lifting advising holds. These appointments are reserved for majors only.
* **Senior Special** – This is a 15-minute appointment reserved for seniors who will graduate in April 2021, who need only a quick review of their plan and their advising hold removed.

Schedule using the Navigate Student app or access the Navigate Student [website](https://pitt.guide.eab.com/app/#!/authentication/remote/).

Spring enrollment begins October 23. You should be able to see the Spring term class schedule Oct 5.

After you schedule an appointment, your advisor will send you a Zoom meeting invite. The email may also include a request for the following:

* An up to date copy of your [Progress Tracker](https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/forms)
* An up to date copy of your [Semester Planner](https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/forms) (don’t stress if you aren’t sure of your plan yet!)
* An idea of the questions you have for your advisor.

***\*\* Please submit these documents prior to your appointment. \*\****

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1. **S/NC Grade Option - Deadline Sept 16**

In considering if you would like to take a course as Letter Grade or Satisfactory/No Credit we recommend that you wait until the week of 9/14 to get the most data and determine how you want to proceed. Students with majors in the Dept of BIOSC may choose to take one BIOSC core course as S/NC.  Other minors, certs, and majors may have their own requirements.  Please check with the appropriate advisor before making a decision.

* Before Sept 4, you can change the grade option on your own by editing your courses in your Student Center. ***This is not reversible****.*
* After Sept 4 and until Sept 16, you can still change your grade option by filling out [this form](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Grade%20Option%20Audit%20Fillable.pdf) and emailing to [StudentRecords@AS.Pitt.edu](mailto:StudentRecords@AS.Pitt.edu)

**Please note that students will not have the option to change their grade option after September 16.**

*“Certain courses are offered on the S/NC (Satisfactory/No-Credit) grade option. This option was designed to encourage students to explore new and potentially difficult subjects without fear of the risks of failure. Under this option, a student who does satisfactory work (a grade of C or better) in a course receives the grade of S. If the student’s work is not satisfactory (a grade of C- or lower), the grade of NC (No Credit) is given. Courses for which an S is received are counted toward graduation, but are not computed in the GPA. Courses in which an NC is received are counted toward neither graduation nor the GPA.”*

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1. **In-Person Instruction After Sept 14**

If you are enrolled in a class that has 25 or fewer students, your class *may* begin meeting in person. Check your course syllabus in Canvas and other communication from your instructor for details.

From Provost Ann Cudd, Sept 10…

“At this time, the Pittsburgh campus remains in the Elevated Risk Posture. There is no expectation that most classes will be in person. Many faculty members will continue to offer instruction only online, synchronously and a synchronously. That said, our COVID-19 Medical Response Office (CMRO) has advised that in-person classes can safely take place in this posture.”

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1. **Biology Peer Advisors – Office Hours Open!**

Our Peer Advisors office hours are in full swing! These students are an **invaluable** **resource** for helping you navigate scheduling, bio classes, remote learning, gen eds, extracurriculars, take-out food, Netflix series, etc. They are here to share their experiences in and out of the classroom. Definitely check in with them!

**Fall Schedule:**

Monday 11:00 – 12:00 Kayla & Peter [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93436310447](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F93436310447&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C85e276b3294e4513dc1008d84e131e5b%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345191303044300&sdata=lr2blObAVJXZt7eGkWHJePt0nphlAfFl7tCePnymlfc%3D&reserved=0)

Monday 2:00 – 3:00 Jacob & Luke [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/95151233172](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F95151233172&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cb36ceccb60964d07b22f08d84de66303%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637344999179643106&sdata=R2xGZzB%2BAr3ALw961d%2FxjGVKy4QfMZ77XFIMYHnjeI4%3D&reserved=0)

Tuesday 2:45 – 3:45 Sarah & Sarah [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/92732583725](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F92732583725&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C777b874fcf5442bb01df08d84dea63ec%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345016381653626&sdata=6ijR3dA%2Fu8NUpdu73%2BaUCyjG8UcCFJVzw12%2BhdtuL6I%3D&reserved=0)

Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 Madison & Nicole [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94822145512](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F94822145512&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C5bdc2d6509b74731544f08d84ddb4f9d%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C1%7C637344951612737199&sdata=y3I9h42l1LTbMmU10DjPjCS2YDD8YttixmuCFlSwaA4%3D&reserved=0)

<https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/peer_advising>

In the meantime, you can read about these students on our blog: [http://bit.ly/2BS5zg6](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2BS5zg6&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cfa95295199dc49fd885908d8437fcaf0%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637333563440163660&sdata=Vuv29tN9%2F25CzCSQxOIIAEnpD6nS9%2Fe40tuab%2BO8tYI%3D&reserved=0)

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1. **Biology Representation at the Career Center**

Ashley Hennen will now be assisting majors within the Department of Biology. She can assist you with your résumé, finding a job/internship, preparing for interviews, building your network, and more! Click [here](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/login) to schedule a phone, Zoom, or email appointment via Handshake. You can email Ashley directly at [amh348@pitt.edu](mailto:amh348@pitt.edu).

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1. **Career Seminar Series - Science Communicator– Sept 17**

The first Career Seminar Series event is September 17th at 2:30PM.Our career seminar series is an opportunity for all members of our department (including undergraduates, grad students, post docs, research techs, and other trainees) to learn more about different career paths.

Our first speaker will be Dr. Shane Hanlon, who is a program manager for American Geophysical Union. Shane serves as a science communicator and science communication trainer. More information about Shane can be found in the flyer below. You can register for the Zoom seminar [here](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtJ0udOivrT4tE9B5AMc7nBmvs-clNPMqF04X&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cc5cd44bce7b648a8af1408d855c01b08%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637353630983145682&sdata=8R%2FJpsfBm6Hj2UhL3QfZOsEnV8KURHa8kTf%2FFxx70Bs%3D&reserved=0). Please feel free to invite others who may be interested in attending this seminar.

Shane’s host is Kimberley Powell, so if you have any additional questions about Shane or the seminar, feel free to email her at [KIH21@pitt.edu](mailto:KIH21@pitt.edu).

This year, we are introducing a virtual ‘coffee hour’ with the speaker.If you are interested in meeting with Shane after his seminar, we still have some spots available! This is a great networking opportunity to meet with someone who has forged a career in your path of interest. You can register to meet Shane or other speakers in our series with [this link](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSckFX_m7EKQFnQ8VxxhJDSncauYdZZ4t6es9X-PT0sjD0M4eQ%2Fviewform&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cc5cd44bce7b648a8af1408d855c01b08%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637353630983155662&sdata=8CXv%2Fx59nUwZTTWuPnhMwsIqd5FjVltbDbbrOU8wsh4%3D&reserved=0).

We have several exciting speakers lined up for the next few months. We have recently added Dr. Carly Strasser, who works as the Director of Academic Alliances and Data Strategy at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. You can learn more about our upcoming seminars here: [https://www.bioscigso.com/career-seminar-series](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bioscigso.com%2Fcareer-seminar-series&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cc5cd44bce7b648a8af1408d855c01b08%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637353630983160649&sdata=afj3HquHt81dMj8IFSEsIe7zAMYkFpuTR75Sa8NrSNE%3D&reserved=0).

We hope to see you at Shane’s seminar!

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1. **Instructor Office Hours**

When should you go to office hours?  Sooner, rather than later! We have been hearing from a lot of instructors that students are not dropping in to office hours much this semester.

Now more than ever it is important to build connections and make sure that expectations are clear - and office hours are a great way to do this.

Not sure what to do in office hours? Check out some tips on questions to ask (and not ask) during office hours:

<https://pittbioblog.weebly.com/blog/it-is-time-to-go-to-office-hours>

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1. **Graduate Assistantship in Stream Biolfilm Ecology**

The Costello Biogeochemistry Lab at Kent State University ([https://costellolab.weebly.com](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcostellolab.weebly.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C2d7ef0a2655643a41c7b08d854bf08a4%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637352526738145460&sdata=HOCIQ%2FL67ICLela%2FJK56RjO1MYsktCKMVIXqs1ZhmTQ%3D&reserved=0)) is recruiting at least 1 PhD student in Fall 2021 to study nutrient and trace metal limitation of stream biofilms. Three years of NSF-funded CAREER grant support is available with additional support for at least 1 additional year through the Department of Biological Sciences as a TA (12-month support). The PhD student will join a vibrant community of aquatic researchers at KSU and work with a team of collaborators at institutions within the Great Lakes region.  
  
This NSF-funded project will explore the prevalence, cause, and consequence of trace metal-nutrient co-limitation of algal biofilms in streams throughout the Great Lakes region. The project uses a combination of field sampling and experimentation from the patch to whole-stream scale to explore micronutrients as drivers of algal metabolism and growth. Ample flexibility will provide a PhD student freedom to develop independent research projects.  
  
I encourage applicants from historically excluded and underrepresented groups in science as well as scientists with interests in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in aquatic sciences. The project also includes opportunities to engage first-generation and low-income undergraduate and high school students through the KSU Upward Bound program.  
  
Prior undergraduate and/or master’s level independent research experience is required and experience with ecosystem ecology or biogeochemistry is preferred. If interested in this position, please contact David Costello directly ([dcostel3@kent.edu](mailto:dcostel3@kent.edu)) and provide a CV or resume and a cover letter that briefly describes your background, expertise, and research interests. An official application must be submitted through KSU Admissions, and the admission deadline for Fall 2021 is Dec. 15 (Dec. 5 for international students).

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1. **Graduate Position in Penn State’s Ecology IGDP**

The Ecology Intercollege Graduate Degree Program at The Pennsylvania State University is recruiting for students with interest in ecology as it relates to a wide variety of organisms and systems, including pollinators, wildlife, corals, microorganisms, soils, plants, humans, and the built environment. Current students in the program interact with several Centers at Penn State that facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, including the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, the Microbiome Center, and the Center for Pollinator Research.  
  
Students will be fully funded throughout their program (at least 2 years funding guaranteed to M.S. students and 5 years funding guaranteed to Ph.D. students). Additional funds for travel and professional development are available on a competitive basis through several internal sources, including the Huck Institutes for the Life Sciences. An expected start date is Fall 2021, but this is flexible depending on the needs of the student and the primary advisor.  
  
We ask that students communicate directly with potential project advisors before applying to the Ecology program in order to better assess fit. We encourage applications from students of all backgrounds.  
  
Information about the program and how to apply can be found here: [https://www.huck.psu.edu/graduate-programs/ecology/applications/apply-now](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.huck.psu.edu%2Fgraduate-programs%2Fecology%2Fapplications%2Fapply-now&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C2d7ef0a2655643a41c7b08d854bf08a4%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637352526738150453&sdata=clMFz1pditICaXB1nCtcfRWTNnpjDJQotoUorz9N8I0%3D&reserved=0)  
  
Specific project postings will be added throughout the Fall term, but you should feel free to contact any faculty affiliated with the program to discuss opportunities.

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1. **Research Husbandry Technician**

The Memphis Zoo in Memphis, TN is looking to hire a full-time Research Husbandry Technician.  
The position will act as primary caregiver to the Conservation and Research Departments living animal collection, which includes a large breeding colony of Louisiana pine snakes and dusky gopher frogs, and smaller groups of a variety of other reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.  
  
The Research Husbandry Technician is also responsible for ensuring a positive guest experience when interacting with guests and facilitating research and conservation chats.

To learn more about the position and apply, click [here](https://www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs/ViewJobDetails?job=27324&clientkey=05CE5959ED803A8D72CA12EF87F1125A).   
  
Questions should be directed to Dr. Steve Reichling, Director of Conservation and Research. [sreichling@memphiszoo.org](mailto:sreichling@memphiszoo.org)

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1. **Graduate Lab Assistant Needed – Department of Infectious Diseases**

Dr. Hong Nguyen from the Department of Infectious Diseases is looking for an undergraduate student lab assistant to assist with various tasks including specimen preparation and storage, shipping, and analysis. Work will not involve any SARS-CoV-2 specimen. The position would require up to 20 hours per week. Prior lab experience is preferred. Please contact Kailey Hughes, MPH at [hugheskl4@upmc.edu](mailto:hugheskl4@upmc.edu).

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1. **Microbiology and Immunology Diversity (MID) Scholars Program**

The newly established MID program will engage underrepresented minority undergraduate students to consider careers in science, medicine and public health, as well as provide exposure to microbiology and immunology research, and improve diversity in STEM by preparing these students for careers in the biomedical sciences.

The program will provide $1500 in funding per semester (fall and spring) to cover 10 weeks of research, and $500 to travel to national scientific conferences.

The program is currently taking applications for the fall 2020 semester until September 21.

For more information, click [here](http://www.mmg.pitt.edu/education/undergraduate-program/mid-scholars-program). Contact Partha Biswas at [psb13@pitt.edu](mailto:psb13@pitt.edu) for application questions.

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1. **Grad School Recruitment Opportunities**

A group of biomedical science and engineering focused graduate programs have created a consolidated website and calendar of events to help you on your virtual graduate program search for fall 2020.

The [BioGAP Recruitment Calendar Website](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fsite%2Fnagapbiogap%2Fvirtual-recruitment-events-calendar__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561892567&sdata=6O%2FmtFwaFlqnAJi5ayF3oStQG8hYbKW9e1d5QBpa8Uk%3D&reserved=0" \o "Original URL: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://sites.google.com/site/nagapbiogap/virtual-recruitment-events-calendar__;!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU$  Click to follow link.) contains more details about three types of events:

1. Admission workshop panels jointly held by representatives from more than twenty institutions. Six presentations will cover topics including the application process, funding, interviews, REUs, and more.  Register at [https://forms.gle/bqK1FfQ6pNsyj7G46](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FbqK1FfQ6pNsyj7G46__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1AFqksdLM%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561902562&sdata=cGiJvO4IGVUpygpkF7yBRWg%2FIdMLfFMmY2Mv%2Fm33SlU%3D&reserved=0).
2. Large professional recruitment fairs that are either open to the public or available to event registrants.  Register at [http://careereco.com/join/biomed](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__http%3A%2F%2Fcareereco.com%2Fjoin%2Fbiomed__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1AgfnIP7I%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561902562&sdata=9%2Ffnn2rUix13HMwwHU2qbZrWa9rZ6d0eVfjDy%2BGDTMY%3D&reserved=0).
3. Virtual Information Sessions held by individual institutions.  See the BioGAP calendar for further details.

This new resource is provided at no cost. We hope that the website and accompanying calendar help streamline the graduate school exploration process and provide a little bit of clarity in a year when so much has been unclear.  Again, the website is [https://sites.google.com/site/nagapbiogap/virtual-recruitment-events-calendar](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fsite%2Fnagapbiogap%2Fvirtual-recruitment-events-calendar__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561912555&sdata=eSERzSumyaQZYweB0%2Blk5qWBzZNmcqHUNWJwb%2FCOntU%3D&reserved=0).

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1. **Job Opportunity for Graduates– Insanally Lab, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine**

The Insanally Lab at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine is seeking a full-time laboratory technician. We’re a brand-new neuroscience lab that studies the neural mechanisms that support flexible behavior. We incorporate a wide range of techniques including behavioral paradigms, neural recordings at different scales, optogenetic manipulations, and novel computational methods to relate neural recordings to behavior. We take mentoring seriously and strongly believe in fostering a productive and supportive environment for all lab members. We seek a highly motivated individual with excellent organizational and communication skills to help manage the laboratory. The successful applicant will be responsible for managing rodent colonies, running behavioral experiments, surgical implantations, and providing technical and administrative support to other trainees in the lab. For more information, check out our lab website: [insanallylab.com](https://www.insanallylab.com/)

Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in biology, neuroscience, or related field.

Salary: ~$30-$37k depending on qualifications.

Interested applicants should contact Michele Insanally at [mni@pitt.edu](mailto:mni@pitt.edu)

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1. **Funded PhD Position – Conservation and Climate Change – UC Santa Cruz**

The [Zavaleta lab](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzavaleta.eeb.ucsc.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cf484f2882ff44265123c08d84e76a30e%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345618732910885&sdata=%2BI9zgSyXqFkZboneu4pHLJZ6dWX3Ir6CAq9aQQKmGCk%3D&reserved=0) in the [Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eeb.ucsc.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cf484f2882ff44265123c08d84e76a30e%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345618732910885&sdata=ZFaBpwuhm03mk9zhNYIOpuwwVTfyUcgJGF1XQUuGA8I%3D&reserved=0) at the University of California-Santa Cruz seeks a Ph.D. student to join the Sierra Nevada Rosy-finch Project beginning summer 2021. The project links climate and other environmental changes to the ecology and conservation of mountaintop communities, with opportunities to develop dissertation work on population dynamics, distribution modeling, food webs and local adaptation, among other topics. Our lab, department and campus (an R-1, Hispanic-Serving Institution) value inclusion and diversity, and we encourage prospective students from backgrounds underrepresented in our field to apply.

The ideal candidate has experience in and commitment to four areas:

* Vertebrate field ecology, with experience handling and observing birds, mammals or herps, and with interest in pursuing research on the ecology and conservation of an alpine-breeding songbird in a range of topic areas.
* Work, living and travel in alpine environments including mountain safety and backpacking to enable safe, effective fieldwork in our study system.
* Mentoring students from diverse backgrounds in field research experiences, to enable undergraduate field interns to contribute successfully to the project.
* Excellent quantitative and writing skills, to analyze and communicate the outcomes of research to scientific and general audiences.

To inquire directly about your potential fit or to find out more, please send Erika ([Zavaleta@ucsc.edu](mailto:Zavaleta@ucsc.edu)) a cover letter with resume/CV, transcripts (screenshot/ unofficial fine), and a writing sample (paper, statement, proposal, report, etc. with you as sole or lead author). Erika will contact strong candidates for a video interview.

UCSC is located on the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe, at the land-sea interface in one of the most biodiverse places in North America. The EEB Department, on UCSC’s coastal campus at the western edge of town, is home to a close-knit community of faculty, staff and students nested within the vibrant community of Santa Cruz, California.

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1. **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)**

The Department of Biological Sciences' Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity is soliciting applications for an exciting opportunity for traditionally underrepresented undergraduate researchers to apply for attendance and presentation at Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS: [https://www.abrcms.org/index.php/present-at-abrcms/submit-an-abstract](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abrcms.org%2Findex.php%2Fpresent-at-abrcms%2Fsubmit-an-abstract&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C2899eda3145e4bbbd46208d84e94e045%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345748611110348&sdata=wGDiaMX3vYuspdYPIK%2Bya0rs0juBNLISMDniYT4zR40%3D&reserved=0)).

This virtual conference will take place Nov 9-13, and the department is planning its first ever participation in the conference this year and would like to support some biology undergrads to attend.

This is a very prestigious conference at which to present your own research (either as an oral presentation or poster) and a great networking opportunity for your future career.

If you have permission from your research advisor to present your research and fit the criteria (underrepresented in STEM, 2nd-4th year undergrad, masters student, or postbac; fit ABRCMS disciplines [MCDB-type research]), please email Sarah Hainer ([sarah.hainer@pitt.edu](mailto:sarah.hainer@pitt.edu)) with your CV, a research title, and maximum 250 word abstract by 5pm Friday Sept 4th. Please also feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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1. **Global Health Case Competition – October 30**

The Global Studies Center and the Center for Global Health is holding a Global Health Case Competition in October for Pitt students, both undergraduate and graduate. It is the first time such an event is taking place at the University of Pittsburgh.

The competition simulates professional practice in developing strategies to address a hypothetical global health scenario. Interdisciplinary teams of graduate and undergraduate students will develop presentations that address the scenario in a holistic way.

Each team will present their strategy for 15 minutes to a panel of three experts and the top team will receive support to represent Pitt at the [**2021 Emory University's International Case Competition**](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fglobalhealth.emory.edu%2Fstudents%2Fcase-competitions%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cdcb50991b46d4b39513608d84f47875f%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637346517026464951&sdata=IedOBQWYVHkYtsISLjVg%2Bqpa7sTB%2FnGIUgjtxJLeLKI%3D&reserved=0)**.**

For more information visit <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/node/2085>.

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1. **Panthers *Forward***

Pitt seniors on the Pittsburgh campus who intend graduate in 2021 and received federal student loans to fund their senior year can apply to [Panthers Forward](http://panthersforward.pitt.edu/).

The University will select 150 students to participate in the program and throughout the year, those students will receive mentoring opportunities with Pitt alumni, life-skills programming and invitations to special events. Shortly after participants graduate, the University will apply up to $5,000 directly to their federal loan balance.

<https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/announcements/pitt-seniors-get-5000-student-load-debt-relief>

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, Sept. 20.  [Apply online](https://form.jotform.com/201336618950152) and [read more](https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/pitt-launches-initiative-support-education-debt-relief-and-student-success) in Pittwire.

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1. **Prescribe It Forward – Medical Student Mentors for Undergrads**

Prescribe It Forward is a mentorship opportunity for any Pitt undergrad who is excited about a career in medicine. The program is free, and pairs undergrads with current medical students who will provide guidance and support through the student’s journey to medical school. Get more information [here](https://www.prescribeitforward.com/).

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1. **PIC Health Careers**

If you are pre-med/pre-health, make sure that you schedule an appointment with Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers (PICHC) who will be able to assist you with the testing and application processes. Refer to their [website](https://www.prehealth.pitt.edu/about-us) for more information, and schedule your appointment through the Navigate app.

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1. **DPT Information Session – Sept 16**

Learn more about Pitt’s top-ranked Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the information session on September 16 from 1-2 pm. Click [here](https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/dpt/admission/dpt-small-information-sessions) to find out more and register.

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1. **Volunteer Fair – Sept 15**

Interested in volunteering? Connect with Community Agencies and learn more about their volunteer opportunities. Each organization that you meet with has the ability to aid in your civic development. Click [here](https://app.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/18510?ref=events-search) for the list of organizations that will be represented, and to register.

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1. **Introduction to R - Sept 15**

This workshop will cover the basics of R programming for data analysis and graphics using R Studio.

What is R? R is a programming language written for statistics that is free, well-documented, and runs almost everywhere. This program has a large (and growing) user base among scientists, especially in biological sciences. *Knowledge of R is an in-demand skill for students interested in pursuing jobs or graduate programs in biology*.

Neither programming experience nor familiarity with R is required. Registration *is* required. Click [here](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/Introduction_to_R#.X1adimdKhTZ).

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1. **Virtual Career + Internship Fair - Sept 25**

Virtually meet with representatives from local, regional, and national nonprofits, corporations, and government agencies. Explore internship and full- and part-time employment opportunities. [Registration](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/virtual_career_internship_fair_-_liberal_arts_sciences_and_business#.X1aGamdKhTZ) is required.

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1. **Internship Prep Program**

Pitt Career Center is a combination of workshops and individual appointments designed to offer individualized support of each student’s internship or experiential learning search. The service is available to all undergraduate students.

Workshops include Resumes, Networking, Searching & Applying and Interviews. Find out more about the program [here](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cdpa/internships/internship-guarantee/), and review the workshop offerings [here](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/cdpa/internships/workshops-and-special-events/).

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1. **First Experience in Research Info Sessions – Sept 21**

If you’re unsure of how to obtain a position in a research lab, First Experiences in Research can help. FE-R connects undergraduates to formal mentorship from faculty researchers from across the disciplines and schools at the University. Find out more about this program at their [Info Session](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/fer#.X1adQmdKhTY).

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1. **Big Idea Kickoff – Sept 15 and 29**

Are you interested in innovation and entrepreneurship, but are not sure how to get involved? Our Big Idea Kickoff is your chance to meet the Big Idea Center as we “Kickoff” the start of our first entirely virtual semester!

Pick one of our two meeting options and join Big Idea Center staff and entrepreneurs in residence as we tell you a little bit about what the Big Idea Center has to offer Pitt students.

We will be unveiling our events calendar and conducting a live Q&A session where students will be able to have their questions about the Big Idea Center answered in real time. This event is a perfect stepping-stone for students to get involved in the innovation and entrepreneurship activities here at Pitt!

Registration is required in order to receive a unique Zoom meeting link and password.  
[Register and learn more here.](https://go.innovation.pitt.edu/bigideakickoff)

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1. **Biology Related Clubs**

***\*\*\*If you would like to spread the word about your club, email us at*** [***bioadv@pitt.edu\*\*\****](mailto:bioadv@pitt.edu***)

This week’s featured club is the **Birding and Ornithology Club.**

The Birding and Ornithology Club is a student run club open to all majors and experience levels. We take birding trips around Oakland and Allegheny county, and host virtual meetings to cover topics such as bird identification, ornithology, and the environment.

Our first birdwatching outing will be **Saturday, September 26th to Schenley Park**.

We will be meeting at **8 am in the Schenley plaza** before walking over to the park.

If you do not have binoculars to use, we have some for you to borrow.

Future outings are scheduled for:

Sunday, October 11th Schenley Park

November 6th or 7th Frick park

For more information, and to be added to the email list for future meetings/events, email [pittbirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:pittbirdingclub@gmail.com).

\* Refer to the Sept 8 newsletter for info on HOSA and The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.

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1. **Hispanic Heritage Month – Sept 15 through Oct 15**

Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) is celebrated annually from Sept 15 – Oct 15 to acknowledge the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to over 20 countries in Latin America, including Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Scheduled events include an Artifact Showcase, Latin Dance Workshop, and several discussion groups. Click [here](https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/events/monthly-celebrations/hispanic-heritage-celebration-month) for a complete calendar of events.

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1. **Study Spaces Around Campus**

Are you looking for a place to study on campus? Click [here](https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/student-learning-living/study-spaces) for a list of more than 60 options. Make sure to follow all signs, including posted occupancy limits and in-use and out-of-use stickers, avoid moving any furniture and clean your space before and after use.

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1. **Study Lab**

Don’t fall behind! Study Lab is offering all of their tutoring and coaching services virtually, beginning Monday, Aug 31. You can make both [coaching and tutoring appointments](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/schedule-tutoring-online-navigate-student) through the Navigate Student App.

For more information on Study Lab services, click [here](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/study-lab/study-lab-remote-distance-learning-services).

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1. **Stress Free Zone**

Are you feeling stressed or anxious? The Stress Free Zone is a free service to help students learn and practice evidence-based, mind/body stress reduction skills.

The Stress Free Zone is operating remotely this semester, but they are still offering classes! Find their schedule, and register for Mindful Moments, Yoga, and other Workshops [here](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/stressfree/classes-and-workshops/). You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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1. **Bio Advising on Social Media**

Stay up to date with bio advising news, and other noteworthy campus happenings by following us on social media.

Twitter: @PittBioADV

Facebook: University of Pittsburgh Biological Sciences Advising

Instagram: pittbioadv

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**See you next week!**

**Christine Berliner,**

**Ellen Kelsey,**

**Brenda McDevitt,**

**Jessica Wandelt,**

**Dan Wetzel**

**Lou Yurasits**

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