

Biology Advising Newsletter 9/11/2012

OVERVIEW (See below for details)

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CLUBS & GET INVOLVED

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CAREER

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CHECK IT OUT

- 17. C. F. Reynolds Medical History Society Lectures - Sept 12 and 18
- 18. Global Health Film Series - Sept 13
- 19. UHC Friday Afternoon Lecture "A Few Things We Don't Know About the Universe" - Sept 14

**\*\*INTERVIEWING TIP OF THE WEEK\*\***

Emphasize your skills and experience.

Especially when the job market is tight, employers are more likely to be interested in job candidates with previous work experience and transferable skills. Even if you're applying for work in a different field, you probably have many basic work skills just from being in the work force. Don't underestimate such qualities as punctuality, creativity, and being a team player. If you've been a mom and homemaker, talk about your home management skills that can be transferred to other environments.

(Tips by Carol Stanton, CGS Career Counselor)

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1. Advising & Pre-Registration Appointments

Sign-up sheets are available in the advising office to schedule an appointment about your spring schedule. After meeting with one of the advisors your hold for spring self-enrollment (begins October 29) will be lifted. Advising holds can be lifted even if financial holds exist.

### IF YOU MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT you will need to re-schedule for AFTER October 29th. ###

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2. Grade Option Deadline Sept 21

S/NC Grade option (AKA "pass/fail"): Under this option, a student who does "Satisfactory" work (equivalent of C or better) in a course receives an "S" grade. If the student's work is not satisfactory (equivalent of C- or lower), the grade NC (for No Credit) is given.

Courses with S grades are counted toward the 120 credits needed for a Bachelor degree, but are not computed in the GPA. Courses with NC grades are not counted toward graduation credits because the NC designates that no credit was earned. Only one BIOSC class for your major may be taken S/NC. You may select S/NC for as many of your non-BIOSC courses as you wish, including sciences for the major, general education courses, or free electives. Double-check however, for minor or certificate courses.

To take a class with the S/NC grade option, a student must complete a "Grade Option/Audit Request" form in the A&S Undergraduate Dean's office, 140 Thackeray Hall, by 5:00pm September 21st.

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3. Bioinformatics Major Information Session - Sept 28, 11am, 5317 Sennott Square

Informational meeting for students interested in, AND all declared Bioinformatics majors. There will be a brief overview of the field of Bioinformatics, some current undergraduate research options, and the degree requirements at Pitt.

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4. Majors and Minors Expo - Volunteers Needed

We are looking for students able to spend 30 to 60 minutes at the Biological Sciences table at the Majors and Minors Expo to promote our majors on October 10 from 11am-3pm in William Pitt Union. If you can help out, contact Jaime Warren [jlw146@pitt.edu](mailto:jlw146@pitt.edu)

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5. Ecology Club - next meeting Sept 18, 7:30, Langley A224

Do you enjoy nature, wildlife, or being outdoors? Come learn about the Ecology major and careers, participate in various field trips, gain field experience working with field biologists, and meet friends that love the outdoors. You don't have to be an Ecology & Evolution major to join.

All meetings are on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in Langley A2224  
9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4

[pittecologyclub@gmail.com](mailto:pittecologyclub@gmail.com)

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6. Biology Club First Meeting - Sept 18, 8:30pm, Langley A214

All meetings are on Tuesdays at 8:30pm in Langley A214  
9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27

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7. Tribeta Nation Biological Honor Society - Sept 11, 8pm, Langley 224

Tribeta is a nationally recognized honor society for students interested in the life sciences. Tribeta advocates the discovery of scientific knowledge by participating in and presenting academic research. Members are given exclusive access to various academic awards and research opportunities.

All meetings are on Tuesdays at 8pm in Langley 224.  
9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20, 12/4

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8. Birding Club Trip to National Aviary - Sept 16, 9:45am, meet in front of Clapp Hall.

The Birding and Ornithology club is dedicated to the study, conservation, and enjoyment of birds. Club activities mainly consist of birding trips to nature preserves throughout Western Pennsylvania. If you're interested in participating, contact [pittbirdingclub@gmail.com](mailto:pittbirdingclub@gmail.com).

Next field trip: Sept 16 meet in front of Clapp Hall at 9:45am to head to the National Aviary.

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9. AED General Body Meeting - Sept 20, 8:30pm, CL 232

Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pitt's only pre-health honor society) welcomes you to the first meeting on Thursday, September 20th at 8:30pm in Room 232 of the Cathedral. We only have one general body meeting each semester, so make your best effort to be there.

Questions: aed.pitt.1926@gmail.com

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10. Forbes and Fifth (a student-run interdisciplinary magazine) now accepting submissions

Interested in publishing your research, creative writing, visual art, or other scholarly works? Forbes & Fifth, a student-run interdisciplinary magazine sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, is accepting submissions from all disciplines.

- Submissions include, but are not limited to:
- Research Articles
  - Works of Nonfiction
  - Poetry
  - Fiction
  - Book or Film Reviews
  - Translations
  - Art (illustrations, paintings, or any visual art)

To submit your work, email forbes5@pitt.edu.

Deadline - October 3

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11. Senior Career Bootcamp - Sept 18, 6-9pm or Oct 17, 6-9pm

Participants will learn: networking, interview tips, follow-up technique, resume and cover letter writing.

Participants have a chance to win a Kindle Fire.

Hosted by: UPMC and Career Development and Placement Assistance  
To register: David Fortna djf50@pitt.edu

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12. Pre-Health Advising with Angela Illig & Andrea Abt

\*\*\* All Health Professions Students \*\*\*

Take advantage of the new programs for pre-health advising: Wednesday Walk in Hours & Quick Question Sessions. Quick questions are 10 minutes or less. No resume or personal statement reviews in these sessions.

Fall 2012 Wednesday Walk in Hours: noon-1pm CL 3609 / 1pm-2pm CL3606

Quick Questions most Tuesdays 11am-noon, CL Commons Room  
Quick Questions most Thursdays 10am-11am, Langley 208

Download the Schedule: [www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/quick-questions-schedule.pdf](http://www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/quick-questions-schedule.pdf)

\*\*\* Freshmen and Transfer Students \*\*\*

It is mandatory for every freshman and transfer student to attend a series of 4 overview sessions during fall or spring terms before scheduling an individual appointment with the health advisors.

Download the Schedule: [www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/freshman-transfer-schedule.pdf](http://www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/freshman-transfer-schedule.pdf)

\*\*\* 2013 Committee Applicants \*\*\*

Juniors and seniors who plan to apply to the Health Professions Committee during the 2013 cycle will need to attend the mandatory resume and personal statement sessions before meeting with a health advisor to review a personal statement or resume.

Download the Schedule: [www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/resume-statement-schedule.pdf](http://www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/documents/health-professions-advising/resume-statement-schedule.pdf)

\*\*\* Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors \*\*\*

If you need advice that falls outside of resume/personal statement preparation, schedule an appointment using the UHC Online Appointment Scheduler at [www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2160041238/login](http://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2160041238/login)

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13. Free GRE, GMAT, MCAT Tests - Oct 13

The Princeton Review is offering free practice tests for the GRE, GMAT, and MCAT in October.

Free LSAT Practice Test - October 13, 9am-12:30pm, Carnegie Mellon University  
Free GRE Practice Test - October 13, 1pm-3:30pm, Carnegie Mellon University  
Free MCAT Practice Test - October 13, 9am-12:30pm, Carnegie Mellon University

Reserve a seat: [www.princetonreview.com/testfest/](http://www.princetonreview.com/testfest/)

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14. Undergraduate Lab Assistant Needed for 0050/0060 Foundations of Biology Laboratory

Paid lab assistants will gain knowledge of general laboratory practices over the school year including pouring plates, sterile techniques, solution preparation and laboratory equipment functioning. Responsibilities include preparing for 0050/0060 Foundations of Biology Laboratory classes as well as maintaining the preparation areas. Tasks will vary on a day to day basis with the curriculum of the course. Paid position, ~ 10 hrs/week.

Requirements: Interested students should be biology majors and have already completed both 0050 and 0060 Foundations of Biology Laboratory courses. Interested students need to be available on Tuesdays (preferably at 11:00AM and 2:30PM) as well as on Friday mornings. Contact Jessica Robertson at [jah99@pitt.edu](mailto:jah99@pitt.edu)

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15. Part-time Laboratory Position (Center for Biological Imaging)

The Center for Biological Imaging is looking for current freshman-juniors majoring in Biology or Chemistry for a part-time position. Duties Include: Clerical work, autoclaving, washing labware, maintaining microscope rooms, preparing biological solutions, filling reagent bottles, light computer work and other various lab tasks. Position available immediately, with hours over the summer in addition to during the school year. 10+ hours per week; pay starts at \$7.50/hour.

For further information contact Jason at 412-648-9796 or email [jdevlin@pitt.edu](mailto:jdevlin@pitt.edu)  
[www.cbi.pitt.edu](http://www.cbi.pitt.edu)

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16. Work Study Lab Assistant

Tarun Lab in the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology of the Graduate School of Public Health is conducting research on the genomics of malaria parasites. Looking for a motivated and organized student to assist researchers in conducting routine experiments and be responsible for over-all lab maintenance, ordering, and reagent preparation. Must have taken some chemistry or biology classes and have interest in biology research. \$7.65/hour

Contact: Alice Tarun, [ast22@pitt.edu](mailto:ast22@pitt.edu)

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17. C. F. Reynolds Medical History Society Lectures - Sept 12 and 18

"Charles Darwin's Challenge to the Skeptics"

Sept 12, Noon, Scaife Lecture Room #5

"Innovation and Limitation: The History of 'Me-Too' Drugs"

Jeremy Greene, M.D., Ph.D. Associate Professor of History of Medicine-Johns Hopkins University  
Sept 18, 6pm, Scaife Lecture Room #5

Once again this year the Dean of the University Honors College has agreed to cover annual student dues for a limited number of Honors College students. This also includes the opportunity for free dinners following some of these presentations. If you are interested in accepting the Dean's offer, email Dr. Jonathon Erlen <erlen@pitt.edu>.

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18. Global Health Film Series - Sept 13, 3pm, Scaife Hall Lecture Room 1

Following her own serious complication during childbirth, American model Christy Turlington Burns became both a maternal health advocate and a public health student at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. "No Woman, No Cry", Turlington's directorial debut, tells the stories of four women from across the globe - Tanzania, Bangladesh, Guatemala, and the United States - who are among the hundreds of thousands who die needlessly each year during childbirth.

Sponsored by the Global Health Student Association and the Center for Global Health.

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19. UHC Friday Afternoon Lecture - Sept 14, 2pm, CL 3500

"A Few Things We Don't Know About the Universe" - Dr. Arthur Kosowsky, Dept of Physics & Astronomy

In the past decade, a flood of data from many sources has determined the basic model of our universe with remarkable precision. But we still don't know a few basic things: What is most of the mass in the universe made of? Why is the expansion of the universe speeding up? What made the universe look so even in all directions? Why is there something rather than nothing?

All Are Welcome! Light refreshments will be served.

Questions: Mike Giazconi <giazconi@pitt.edu>

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Until next week,

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