



NEWSLETTER

The College of Natural Sciences Newsletter is designed to serve CNS students. It is delivered online every Sunday.

Dean Kopp's weekly email includes a link to access the newsletter, as well.

Items in **BLUE** are new;

Items in **RED** are last chance.

If you would like to submit news to CNS Newsletter, send the information to cnsnewsletter@austin.utexas.edu.

Include a contact person phone number and email, date or deadline, write in complete sentences, text must be fewer than 150 words. Submit by 11:59pm Friday to be included in that week's newsletter.

Edited by: Nicole Kruijs



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Academic Announcements

1. MD Anderson Gene Teams

Wednesday, February 12, 11-12, 12-1pm, 1-2pm; NHB 1.720

Come meet Peter Hu, Ph.D and Ming Zhao, MD, Program Directors, to learn about one year, cutting-edge post-baccalaureate programs in Molecular Genetic Technology and Cytogenetic Technology at MD Anderson Cancer Center that will prepare you for exciting jobs in medical laboratory science, biotechnology and research! There are openings in these programs for this coming summer! Don't miss the opportunity to meet Dr. Hu and Dr. Zhao and find out more about these training programs that lead to guaranteed jobs!

2. Study Abroad in Asia Information Session

February 18th; 5pm; PAR 105

The Freeman Initiative at The University of Texas at Austin offers students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents an opportunity to apply to receive a stipend for taking part in an internship, whether through a program or self-arranged, in one of many South and Southeast Asian countries. Whether you are seriously considering interning abroad in Asia, or are just a student full of curiosity, this info session will be a great way to become aware of your options and opportunities.

3. EVS Transfer Information

Applications are due March 7th

The Environmental Science (EVS) degree program at The University of Texas at Austin brings together Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degrees from the College of

Natural Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Jackson School of Geosciences. EVS is small, restricted, and very competitive, and focuses on science, including calculus, chemistry, biology, geology, and physics.

EVS accepts internal transfer applications (from • students currently enrolled at UT) each spring for program entry the following fall.

About 10-15% of the EVS cohort comes from • internal transfers.

That means about 5-7

The applicant's grades in basic science course sequence of Calculus (M 408K, M 408N, or M 408C), Chemistry (CH 301) and Biology (BIO 311C);

The applicant's overall grade point average at the university and any applicable transfer hours; students per year. EVS typically receives 40-50 applications for those spots. • Applications are available on the EVS Program website at www.esi.utexas.edu/EVS. No late applications will be accepted. The difficulty of the applicant's course load, any course repetitions, and proven mathematical ability; The applicant's interest in environmental science and in the EVS Program; and the applicant's previous lab or field experience, and any environmentally-related volunteer work.

Upcoming Information Session

Dates in JGB 4.102

February 11, 2014

3:30 – 4:40 p.m.

4. Global Professional Training

Deadline: March 1st, 2014

Register now to participate a two-day event offering

professional development training to students at The University of Texas at Austin who are interested in working and living in the Middle East and North Africa. This opportunity is open undergraduate students with an interest in the Middle East and North Africa and to students from the region who want to share their unique perspectives.

To apply or for more information, please visit: <http://world.utexas.edu/globalinitiatives/gpt>

5. CompeteUT Competition

Friday, April 4th

CompeteUT, formerly known as the UT Horizon Fund Student Investment Competition, is a venture creation and investment competition that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship from students, medical residents, and trainees throughout all 15 University of Texas System Institutions. Open to all UT undergraduates, graduates, PhD Candidates, post docs, medical interns, and trainees, the competition gives sixteen finalist teams a chance to vie for a \$100,000 Investment Award.

For more information, visit our website www.uthorizons.com. If you have any further questions, please contact Tiffany Kindred at tkindred@utsystem.edu or Jeet Vijay at jvijay@utsystem.edu.

Scholarships

1. Pickle and PAL awards

Applications and Nominations due February 28 in UNB 4.124

We invite you to submit nominations for two University Unions student awards: the 2014 J. J. "JAKE" PICKLE CITIZENSHIP

AWARD and the 2014 PAL-MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD. The recipient of the Pickle Award will receive a \$5000 check, a certificate, and a copy of Congressman Pickle's autobiography, JAKE. The Pal Award recipient will receive a \$1000 check and a certificate.

The Pickle Award is presented annually to a student at the university whose contributions to UT campus life best exemplify the high standards of leadership and service that were the hallmarks of Congressman Pickle's life and career. It recognizes a student's cumulative public service contributions over a period of time (e.g., holding leadership positions in student organizations, or coordinating multiple projects that benefit the campus community). Candidates for the Pickle Award must be in good academic standing and be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student.

The Pal Award was established in 2006 by UT alumnus Jaspreet Singh Pal (BBA '95) to inspire students to engage in a lifelong commitment to public service. The award recognizes a student whose significant, individual program or initiative "makes a difference" to UT campus life or to the broader community. Nomination forms are available online at:

<https://www.utexas.edu/universityunions/pickle-award>

<https://www.utexas.edu/universityunions/pal-award>

If you have questions contact Megan McMillin at megan.mcmillin@mail.utexas.edu

2. CNS Continuing Students Scholarship

Deadline: April 15, 2014

The 2014-2015 College of Natural Sciences scholarship application is now available. The common application is used to award college-level scholarships as well as the Health Professions Scholarships (for pre-medical students) and Out-of-State Tuition Waivers. Current CNS students can access the online application at <https://www.utexas.edu/cns/scholap>.

In addition to the online application, students must submit at least one (1) faculty letter of recommendation. Students may have up to two faculty letters submitted on their behalf, however only one is required. Applications will not be considered complete until at least one letter of recommendation has been received. Instructions on who are eligible to write letters of recommendation and how to submit them can be found on the application.

3. Armed Forces Scholarship

The Army offers one of the most generous and comprehensive scholarships in the Health Care Field. It is called the F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). If you qualify and are selected for this program, you will receive a full-tuition scholarship for Medical School. You will also receive a monthly stipend while attending your Medical School, get paid as a Commissioned Officer during your residency (over \$65,000), and have a guaranteed job working in your trained specialty after residency. The HPSP can be applied to any accredited school in the United

States or Puerto Rico. Besides tuition, the Army will also make sure your required books, nonexpendable equipment, and most academic fees are paid as well.

HPSP Benefits in the Army:

Commissioned Officer
100% TUITION, BOOKS, FEES, and MORE
\$2,157.00 Monthly Stipend
No Basic Training
\$20,000 Sign-On Bonus Available
Apply for both the Army & the National Residence Match Program

Contact:

Luis G. Merino
SGT, USA

U.S. Army Health Care Recruiter
San Antonio MRS
2040 Babcock Rd, STE 406
San Antonio, TX 78229
Office: 210-692-7376
Cell: 210-385-5621 / 877-570-8059

email: luis.g.merino.mil@mail.il.mil

4. Texas Exes Scholarship Application

Due March 1st

The Texas Exes Scholarships for continuing students application is now open. Please see <http://www.texasscholarships.org/apply/continuing/CSA.html> to apply.

5. Continuing and Transfer Scholarship Applications

Due April 1st

UT's Continuing and Transfer Scholarship application is now open. See <http://finaid.utexas.edu/spotlights/CSA140.html>

Internships and Employment

1. Space Mission Design Challenge Info Session

February 17th; 5-6:30; WRW 102

A challenge to all UT-Austin students/faculty to propose novel space mission concepts to JPL/NASA. Want the next NASA mission to be based on your idea? Checkout the info session! SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 31st to Payam.Banazadeh@jpl.nasa.gov

2. Family Orientation Student Leader

Family Orientation Student Leaders (FOSLs) assist Texas Parents in welcoming new Longhorn families to our UT Austin community at Family Orientation in the summer. This team serves as the first point of contact for summer orientation participants while gaining leadership experience, creating new friendships and building a professional network.

If you are interested in applying, click http://www.texasparents.org/jobs_home.php for more detailed information regarding the position, information sessions and a link to the online application.

3. DC Summer Internship

Applications due March 18th

Spend a summer interning in the nation's capital and gain that competitive edge. Taking advantage of a Washington, DC internship is a valuable investment in your future that will set you apart after college. The comprehensive programs sponsored by The Fund for American Studies include a guaranteed internship placement, courses for transferable credit from George Mason University in government and economics, and furnished housing conveniently located just steps from the White House in downtown Washington. Students also benefit from networking

events, exclusive briefings, and guest speakers.

THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

We've been creating academic internship experiences for over 40 years and guarantee all participants an internship placement. Your options are endless – we work with over 300 different federal agencies, policy groups, international affairs organizations, media outlets, public affairs firms, government relations offices, and nonprofit organizations.

APPLY TODAY

Students will be accepted on a rolling basis until the final deadline of March 18, 2014. For more information and to begin an online application, please

visit www.DCinternships.org. Questions may be directed to admissions@ifas.org or 202.986.0384

4. US Army STEM Internship

Deadline February 14th

Undergraduate or graduate students majoring in STEM fields and/or Education

Location: Frederick, MD

Dates & Time: June 16th-August 15th, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Paid: Yes (based on completed semester hours)

What: Mentoring & teaching elementary, middle, and high school students in STEM labs while networking with scientists and professionals from USAMRMC laboratories. Additionally, college students will learn valuable and marketable techniques in chemical, biological, and engineering fields.

If you have any questions about the GEMS program or would like to receive a digital copy of the application contact Lauren

Beeson, 301-619-7942, USArmy.Detrick.MEDCOM-USAMRMC.Other.Educational-Outreach@mail.mil

5. Archer Fellowship Program

Interested in public policy and public service? Want to spend a semester living, interning, and taking in-residence classes in Washington, D.C.?

If the answer is yes, the Archer Fellowship Program may be for you! Students of all majors, political beliefs, and policy interests are welcome to apply. Come learn about this exciting program at an information session; view the schedule at <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/archer/info-sessions>.

Applications for the 2014-2015 academic year are due February 17, though students who will be abroad this spring should apply by November 1

Rose Mastrangelo
at r.mastrangelo@austin.utexas.edu.

Research and Volunteering

1. Integrative Biology Research Position

Researcher in the Department of Integrative Biology seeks motivated undergraduates interested in contributing to research at the University of Texas.

Project Description: In many animals males provide a "nuptial gift" to females before or after copulation, which is presumed to increase the number and quality of offspring. Paradoxically, females in these same species often mate with many males, resulting in sperm competition for the eggs and mixed paternity of the broods. So why do males contribute to offspring that

aren't theirs, and are they able to use environmental cues to estimate the risk of sperm competition and adjust their reproductive investment accordingly? This project will answer these questions using a variety of experimental manipulations.

Duties: Enumerating nuptial gift size, sperm number, sperm viability, and sperm length using microscopy. Maintaining the cricket colony

Contact: Chad

Smith chadsmith@utexas.edu

2. The Undergraduate Research Awards

Applications are due June 2nd

The University Honors Center is pleased to share The Undergraduate Awards, an opportunity for undergraduate students to have their best research essays or special projects recognized and published as part of a program celebrating top students from around the world. We encourage you to share this information with interested students and faculty in your department.

The Undergraduate Awards recognize the world's top undergraduate research projects from a variety of academic disciplines spanning the humanities, sciences, and visual arts. Open to final and penultimate year undergraduates, students are invited to submit research essays or special projects completed as part of their coursework that have received a grade of A and present fresh ideas and new arguments. Winning students will have their work published in the Undergraduate Awards Journal and be invited to attend

the UA Summit—a 3 day conference in Dublin, Ireland.

A sample announcement for your website or newsletter is attached, as well as template for announcement to departmental faculty members.

Students should visit www.utexas.edu/ugs/uhc/awards/undergraduate.

3. KBS REU

Applications are due February 15th

The KBS REU program provides Free Room & Board, up to \$400 in travel expenses, up to \$500 in research funds, and a \$4,500 stipend. The program runs 10-weeks from late May to early August. Applicants must be currently enrolled as a full time student. We especially welcome applications from students from underrepresented groups in the sciences and first generation college students.

Research projects for Summer 2014 include:

- Plant Eco-physiology
- Restoration ecology
- Mating system evolution
- Using soil tests to survey farmer attitudes about soil health
- Effects of genetic diversity on plants and insects
- Algal adaptation to temperature and nutrients
- The role of mutualisms in plant adaptation

For more information or to apply please visit: <http://www.kbs.msu.edu/education/reu>

4. UMass Nanotechnology

Applications due February 28

Ten weeks, May 27 - August 2, 2014

- Competitive stipend
- Free housing in our newest dorms
- Free travel to and from campus
- Application deadline: February 28, 2014

For all the program details, please visit: <http://www.umass.edu/masnanotech/SURE.htm>

For undergrads planning a career in cutting edge research, the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program in Nanotechnology at UMass Amherst might be for you. The ten week lab-and-learning experience will give you a head start on a field that is truly at the forefront of knowledge: nanotechnology!

Women and underrepresented minority students are strongly encouraged to apply. Eligibility is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents only. Undergraduate majors in Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Physics, and Polymer Science & Engineering are recommended for the program

5. REU at LearnLab Applications Due February 17th

Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh have an exciting opportunity summer research experience for undergradates (REU) available for undergraduates. The application for this program can also be found at http://www.learnlab.org/opportunities/LearnLab_Summer_REU.php. This REU program is sponsored by LearnLab, a Science of Learning Center funded by the

National Science Foundation (NSF). We encourage applications from students who would like to conduct research in the fields of psychology, education, computer science, human-computer interfaces and language technologies. LearnLab's REU program allows talented undergraduates to spend 8 weeks during the summer in a research laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, or one of our research partners. The REU program supports LearnLab's commitment to training a diverse set of science, technology, education, and psychology leaders.

6. SENS Research 2014 SRF Summer Scholars Program
Applications due March 3rd

The SENS Research Foundation is pleased to announce its 2014 SRF Summer Scholars Program. The SRF Summer Scholars Program is open to undergraduate students interested in research internships with world-renowned leaders of the regenerative medicine field. Paid positions are available at:

Buck Institute for Research on Aging
Harvard Stem Cell Institute/Harvard School of Medicine
SRF Research Center
University College London
University of Oxford
Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine

<http://sens.org/2014-summer-scholars>. Full descriptions of the available research projects and more details about the program can also be found there as well.

7. Summer Research Diversity Fellowships in Law and Social Science

Application due February 15th

The American Bar Foundation sponsors an annual program of summer research fellowships to interest undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds in pursuing graduate study in the social sciences. The summer program is designed to introduce students to the rewards and demands of a research-oriented career in the field of law and social science. The program is supported in part by the Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Foundation, AT&T, and the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

Located in Chicago, Illinois, the American Bar Foundation is an independent nonprofit research institute dedicated to the study of law, legal institutions, and legal processes.

For application materials and to apply online visit http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/fellowships/Call_for_Summer_Research_Diversity_Fellowships.html

Pre-Professional

1. Group Coaching

Join us for our Group Coaching Sessions, starting February 10th! See below for details:
Meeting Times:
Group sessions will be held weekly, and there is limited seating. You will need to be able to attend at least 90% of the weekly group sessions you sign up for. If you are interested in participating in the weekly sessions please RSVP below:

Monday 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm in MEZ 1.204 (group will meet weekly February 10 – April 28)
[RSVP HERE](#)

Tuesday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm in CAL 419 (group will meet weekly February 11 – April 29)
[RSVP HERE](#)

The Health Professions Office will be offering group coaching sessions designed to give you the resources you need to prepare for your Professional School application. The group format will allow you to ask your own questions and to hear questions you may not have thought of yet! Come with your questions prepared!

2. Health Professions TED Talk

February 19th; 12:00-1:00 pm in PAI 5.03

Come and watch a Ted Talk on a health professions topic and have a discussion with your peers. There is limited space so please RSVP early. We highly encourage you to RSVP, everyone is welcome! So click the link and fill out a survey to RSVP, please:
https://utexas.qualtrics.com/SU/?SID=SV_ePvb9IMLKG0noeV

Organization Announcements

1. "Freshman Experience" Focus Group

February 12th at 5PM, SAC 1.118

As a follow-up to the Town Hall with Dean Kopp on Feb. 5, NSC and CTBAC will be hosting a Focus Group to discuss the first year programs in CNS. Were you in a FIG? Did you participate in FRI? Did you not find the information you needed your first year at UT? Then make your voice count by coming to our

discussion. We look forward to hearing your opinions!

2. Department Chair Luncheon

*February 21st from 12-1PM,
WCH 1.108/1.110*

Come join the department chairs for a lunch hosted by the Natural Sciences Council's Student-Faculty Committee. Meet and talk with the leaders of our college while enjoying a free lunch! No RSVP needed.

3. Texas Undergraduate Research Journal Call for Papers

Deadline: February 19th

The URJ is a work of multidisciplinary research produced and edited by University of Texas at Austin undergraduate students. The URJ is looking for interested in lucid pieces that present original idea. Submissions can include products of coursework, independent student, supervised research, senior theses, etc. In addition to gaining a competitive edge for grad school and job applications, author of published papers are entered into the running for a \$200 award for the first-place paper and a \$100 award for the second-place paper. All current and recently graduated undergraduate students in good standing at UT are invited to submit their articles for review.

Visit

*<http://texasurj.com/submission>
for more information.*