Annual BSCI Research Symposium

The annual BSCI Research Symposium will be held Monday, March 31st at the Kent State Student Center. Departmental awards and the keynote presentation will take place starting at 10:45 AM in the Kiva. We also will have a poster session in the afternoon from 1:30-4PM on the 2nd floor outside room 204 in the student center.

Graduating Seniors. The MFAT Exam is Next Month!

All BSCI undergraduates that plan to graduate in May, August or December 2008 must take the MFAT exam (this applies to those working on a BS or BA in Biology, or a BS in Conservation, Botany or Zoology). The number of times that the MFAT will be offered is limited; you should already signed up for a time. If you have not done so, please stop by 256 CHH immediately.

If you have any questions, please see Dr. Carlson in room 256 during his office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00 or call 330-672-3613.

MFAT TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>APRIL 8</td>
<td>1:10-4:10 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>APRIL 8</td>
<td>4:30-7:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>APRIL 9</td>
<td>2:15-5:15 P.M.</td>
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Get Involved! The New Biological Sciences Club.

The Zoology Club is up and running and has joined with the Conservation Club. The new Biological Sciences
Club is a student organization open to all undergraduate and graduate students. The club’s goals are to promote organismal biology and the ecology and conservation of plants and animals. Field trips, speakers, internship opportunities, wetland restoration, habitat assessment, plant and animal displays and collections, are all part of the club’s activities and objectives. Please contact either Kaleigh Moore (kmoore11@kent.edu), Dr Adam Leff (aleff@kent.edu), or Dr. Oscar Rocha (orocha@kent.edu) for more information.

3rd Annual Earth Day Environmental Justice Conference
Kent State University East Liverpool will be hosting this conference on April 19th, 2008. Speakers include: Thomas Shevory, author of Toxic Burn, LuAnn Keener Mikinas, environmental poet, and Lauraine Breda, Organization REACH. Students are encouraged to submit papers for presentations or posters. For further information contact: Dr. Patti Swartz, pswartz@kent.edu. Registration forms are available through the Biological Sciences Department.

Summer Classes....
During the coming summer, the department is offering a variety of required and elective courses for BSCI majors (as well as an array of non-majors classes). These courses offer a chance to progress towards your degree while enrolled in sections that are often smaller than you might encounter during the academic year. Beyond the two freshman majors classes, we also are offering: Cell Biology, Elements of Genetics, General Ecology, Vertebrate Anatomy, Organic Evolution, History of Biology, and Animal Physiology. Summer is also an excellent time to sign up for an internship (BSCI 40192) or individual investigation (BSCI 20196 or 40196). Check the course descriptions for details and requirements for these courses. Easy to read lists of our summer classes can be found on the folder attached to the board outside 101 or by following the link on our home page (www.kent.edu/biology).

Fall Schedule
The Fall 2008 schedule is on-line. Easy to read lists of our fall classes can be found on the folder attached to the board outside 101 or by following the link on our home page (www.kent.edu/biology). We are pleased to offer some brand new and interesting special topics courses. We also have several special topics that were offered last year including courses in bioinformatics and tropical biology. New ST courses for these year include:

Introduction to Neurobiology: To further broaden the undergraduate curriculum, the Biological Sciences Department is offering an introductory course in neurobiology that will lay the foundation for students to take advanced neuroscience courses in the future. Introduction to Neurobiology will cover basic principles in neuroscience from the cellular to systems level. After completion of the course students should have a basic
understanding of how the nervous system is organized, how it detects sensory stimuli to create a mental representation of your environment, and output pathways by which the nervous system can control movement, hormone levels, and physiological processes.

**Biological Light Microscopy:** In this course, students will learn about the microscope theory and operation, including wide-field and confocal fluorescence, differential interference contrast and other imaging modes. Hands-on training will cover all stages of the typical microscopy imaging project, from sample preparation to image analysis and presentation.

**Aquatic Ecology Lecture and Aquatic Ecology Lab:** Ohio is a state rich in a variety of aquatic resources. These range from numerous natural lakes, miles of streams and rivers, man-made reservoirs and ponds, and the prized Lake Erie. Understanding these valuable resources is critical to keeping them swimmable, fishable, and drinkable. Aquatic Ecology (formerly offered as Limnology), takes a multidisciplinary look at functioning of lakes and streams. Some questions to be addressed include: Why does a lake become green and smelly? Is acid rain still a problem? Why have the fish died in my stream? How will climate change affect Lake Erie? Are the fish safe to eat? Are zebra mussels bad? The lecture portion of the class will examine the fundamentals needed to examine these questions. The lab offers considerable hands-on experience in the field, including trips to Twin Lakes just north of campus. The Twin Lakes are world-renown because of pioneering work in lake management conducted there, and offer an exciting setting to learn about aquatic ecology. Also, a weekend field trip to Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie will be scheduled for the lab and lecture students, depending on student interest and availability.

The students in **Molecular Systematics and Evolution** will explore the theoretical and operational aspects of Bayesian inference, maximum likelihood, maximum parsimony and neighbor-joining phylogenetic tree building algorithms for analyzing DNA/protein sequences alone, and in combination with morphological/behavioral data, to estimate evolutionary relationships among species and higher taxa. Hypotheses of evolutionary relationship will be used, together with maximum likelihood- and maximum parsimony-based ancestral character state reconstruction methods, to estimate the order and number of morphological, behavioral and molecular changes that occurred in the evolutionary history of the study taxa. The revolutionary ability of modern phylogenetic methods to test historical evolutionary hypotheses will be a central theme of the course.

**Animal Health and Disease** is one credit hour special topics course that will cover animal health care issues and disease processes for each of the major animal groups; mammals, birds, reptiles & amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. Each issue will relate specific health and disease examples to physiologic, behavioral, and adaptive mechanisms. Animal examples will include companion animals, animals kept in the hobby industry, and animals common to zoological parks and educational displays. Topics covered include: signs of illness,
basic diagnoses, pathophysiology, general care and treatment, and prevention.

Opportunities

Periodically, the department receives notification of job openings, opportunities and internships. We also have positions in our department that are open at various times ranging from student employees to faculty. For undergraduates, internship information can be found on the board across from 201 CHH and in a notebook in the main office (256 Cunningham Hall).

Some of the recent items we have heard about or materials we have gotten --

- **Spring Job and Internship Fair**, Wednesday, April 9th, 12 – 4 p.m. Student Center Ballroom. Open to all students. View more than 80 registered employers at career.kent.edu. Professional attire recommended.

- **Kent State Student Employment - Supplemental Instruction Leaders Needed**
  - Criteria for SI Leader:
    - Undergraduate or graduate student taking at least six credit hours
    - Cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above
    - Sophomore or higher class standing
    - Taken the SI class before, preferably from the same instructor
    - Received a final course grade of an A in the SI class
    - Have appropriate times open to conduct the SI sessions
    - Good communication and interpersonal skills
    - Mastery of the course content
    - Sensitive to the needs of others
    - Strong writing and speaking proficiency
    - Evidence of excellence in responsibility, reliability, and punctuality.

  - What does a SI Leader do?
- A SI leader for a given course attends all class sessions, takes notes, reads all assigned materials and conducts three or more SI sessions each week. During these sessions, the SI leader integrates how-to-learn with what-to-learn.

- **How many hours would I have to work as a SI Leader?**
  - SI leaders normally have a ten-hour weekly commitment. This commitment includes time for class attendance, SI session preparation, and a bi-weekly SI leader meeting.

- **How can I apply?**
  - If you meet the criteria above, you may download the application form from this site or pick up a copy from the Academic Success Center located in the Michael Schwartz Center room 207.
  - All forms must be returned with the following attachments:
    - A letter of recommendation from an instructor who teaches a course in the subject for which you are applying
    - A detailed copy of your class schedule for the upcoming semester, if available.

- If you have any other questions/comments regarding the SI program, please contact:
  - Jennifer Kaschner
    Supplemental Instruction Coordinator
    207 Michael Schwartz Center
    Tel: 330-672-8690
    Fax: 330-672-2073
    E-mail: siprogram@kent.edu

- **Environmental Consulting Opportunities:**
  - **Environmental Consultant Internship**
    - The Orin Group, LLC, provides professional due diligence services to the international business world. Currently we are seeking paid summer interns to support the environmental consulting staff at our office in Tallmadge, Ohio. The Environmental Consultant Intern will assist senior project managers with environmental site assessments (Phase I ESAs) and property condition assessments on a wide range of property types including office, industrial, retail, hospitality, and multi-family housing properties.
    - Intern duties will include, but are not limited to:
      - Travelling to local subject sites
• Conducting phone interviews
• Internet researching of subject sites
• Writing Phase I ESA reports

• **Successful candidates must possess the following:**
  • Pursuit of a 4 yr degree in sciences/environmental-related emphasis (Biology, Conservation, Geology, Chemistry, etc.);
  • Exceptional writing skills and commitment to accuracy, along with good verbal communication skills and personal presentation;
  • The ability to meet stringent deadlines without exception;
  • Computer literacy on Windows-based programs including MS Word and Excel;
  • Any experience with Phase I investigations, wetland delineation, sampling for asbestos, lead-based paint, radon gas, Phase II subsurface investigations, remedial design, construction oversight, and/or regulatory compliance is a plus.

• Please forward your résumé and desired salary ($/hr) to: hrd@theoringroup.com, including “Internship” in the subject heading.

  • **Environmental Consultant:**
    • **Status:** Full time, employee
    • **Relevant work experience:** 0-3 years
    • **Career level:** Entry level
    • **Education level:** Bachelor’s degree
    • **Job description:** The Orin Group, LLC provides professional due diligence services to the international business world, and is presently experiencing tremendous business growth. Due to our success, we are actively seeking entry-level/junior staff individuals with a commitment to quality and excellence to join our office in Tallmadge, Ohio.

    • Candidates must possess, at a minimum, the following education and experience:
      • A 4-year B.S. degree with a science/environmental-related emphasis;
      • Performing transaction-based environmental site assessments (Phase I ESAs) on a wide range of property types including office, industrial, retail, hospitality, and multi-family housing properties;
      • Experience with sampling for asbestos, lead-based paint, radon gas, Phase II subsurface investigations, remedial design, construction oversight, and/or
regulatory compliance is a plus.

- In addition to the requirements above, candidates must possess the following:
  - Exceptional writing skills and commitment to accuracy, along with good verbal communication skills and personal presentation;
  - The ability to meet stringent deadlines without exception;
  - A willingness to travel approximately 30-50 percent throughout the U.S.;
  - Computer literacy (intermediate or better) on Windows-based programs including MS Word and Excel;
  - A strong desire for personal career growth.

- In return, The Orin Group employees receive:
  - A very competitive salary and benefits plan;
  - Work from a casual office setting in Tallmadge, OH;
  - Retirement plan;
  - Flexible, family-oriented work environment and quality of life;

- The Orin Group, LLC is a high-quality, growth-oriented organization that rewards excellence through advancement. If you are looking for a fresh start in a growing entrepreneurial organization, please forward us your résumé, including salary history, to: hrd@theoringroup.com, including “Consultant” in the subject heading.

- **National Park Service Opportunities:**
  - Cuyahoga Valley National Park is searching for highly motivated students to spend the summer working as park rangers for the National Park Service to represent the diverse face of the American public. Applicants must be students (can't graduate in the spring) and be prepared to share Cuyahoga Valley National Park with diverse audiences through both formal and informal programming.
  - Applicants can be either undergraduate or graduate students enrolled with a minimum of six credit hours for the Fall 2008 semester. Those selected will lead interpretive programs, work at visitor center information desks, and provide a variety of services to the public.
  - Applicants should send resumes to my attention at the address below no later than April 10. More detailed information can be found by following the link below. Feel free to print the flyer at this website for students or give them the web address to follow-up themselves. Feel free to call me with questions.
Steven J. Roberts
Supervisory Park Ranger
Interpretation, Education, & Visitor Services
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15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, OH 44141
216-524-1497 ext. 222  phone
216-524-2604  fax
440-343-7329  cell

http://www.nps.gov/cuva/seasonaljobs.htm