

Bio-Notes: Welcome Week 2006 Issue

Biology Department Web Page (<http://cas.bethel.edu/dept/biology/>) is your source for information regarding your major (B.S. Biology, B.A. Biology, B.S. Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, B.A. Environmental Studies, B.A. Science Education 5-12: Life Science emphasis) as well as departmental activities.

Freshmen! Science Tutor Lab (CC119) is a **free** walk in tutor center offering assistance for 100 and 200 level Biology and Chemistry courses.

Did you know that as a Biology or Environmental Studies major you can use the departmental computing lab in AC233? The lab is equipped with the latest in Mac and Windows computers and includes access to a scanner and printer. The computers will also have many of the course specific programs that you will need to complete assignments outside of class time. **See Dr Port (AC204) for more information or fill out the permission request form available on the lab door.**

Fall Biology Picnic is a wonderful opportunity for biology departmental faculty and students to mix and munch! We traditionally cook hamburgers and provide the fixings for an outside feast! Date and details will be posted on the departmental doors later in September.

The following Honor Societies and Student Organizations are wonderful opportunities for you to develop camaraderie within the biology community!

- The Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society: our Bethel chapter is nationally recognized for conducting and publishing research, participation in scientific conventions and meetings, and chapter programming and activities. Watch for membership details and activities on the bulletin board between AC134 and AC135. (Sponsors: Brian Anderson and Dr. Johnson)
- The Sigma Zeta National Science and Mathematics Honor Society membership includes individuals from all science and mathematics disciplines. This organization provides an excellent avenue for students and faculty to grow as scientists through cross-disciplinary discourse. (Sponsors: Dr. Reinhout - Biology, Dr. Rohly - Chemistry)
- The Pre-Medical Club is of interest to all medical career bound students. The club sponsors visits from several med schools, tips on interviews, entrance exams, and evening socials with local physicians, dentists, and veterinarians. (Sponsor: Dr. Shaw)

- The Restoration Crew Environmental Studies Organization serves to examine, evaluate, and educate the Bethel Community about campus environmental and resource stewardship opportunities and behaviors. (Sponsor: Dr. Petersen)

Teaching Assistantships

Each semester the Biology department hires students to assist in a variety of functions, *e.g.* helping with lab prepping, teaching, clean up, grading, caring for animals, and greenhouse facilities. The time commitment averages about four hours per week. See Brent Hoernemann for openings this fall semester.

Students: please consider on-campus summer research experiences.

Competitive applications are accepted from faculty and students wishing to undergo summer research sponsored at Bethel University. The Edgren Scholarship is a university-wide opportunity, and the C. Weldon Jones Summer Research Scholarship is open to biology majors. Talk to a biology faculty member if interested.

Students: please consider off-campus summer research experiences/internships.

Last year's opportunities are posted on the first and second floor departmental bulletin boards outside of Dr. Reynhout's office (AC 143), Dr. Johnson's office (AC122), and the Environmental Studies board (AC237). Postings for Summer 2007 opportunities begin about January 2007. Many of these are paid experiences and participation in these professional experiences often increases the likelihood of acceptance into graduate and/or medical schools.

Plan ahead: This year's off-campus biology-related interim courses (Jan 2007) include:

- **BIO318K - Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands: Natural History and Future Prospects 4 credits (Dr. Jeff Port)**

Travel from base in Quito throughout Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, surveying the land, climate, plants, animals, homes, transportation, and industries, noting especially the impact of human culture, presence, and activities.

Note: this course is currently full and in recent years has been filling several months in advance. If you are considering participating, plan ahead!

- **Au Sable Institute for Environmental Studies.** Bethel is one of several Christian colleges affiliated with this environmental institute that offers several environmentally oriented courses every interim and each summer. There are *also opportunities for education and pre-health professions students*. Au Sable also offers extensive summer programs at their Great Lakes, Pacific and Florida sites. See Dr. Port for more information.