Spring 2018 Important Dates

Tuesday, January 16
First day of classes

Sunday, January 21
Deadline to add a course without an override

January 31
Deadline to add with override and to drop a class

March 10-18
Spring Break—no classes

Monday, March 19
Deadline to Repeat-Delete a course
Deadline to withdraw from a course

Friday, May 4
Last Day of Classes

May 7-11
Finals Week

Saturday, May 12
Commencement Ceremonies
College of Natural Sciences

With a new year comes a fresh start!

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:
Planning ahead........................................page 2-3
Interview with Meena Balgopal.......................page 6-7
Marine Biology Course in Mexico.................page 9

DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES ONLY!
EXTENDED DROP-IN HOURS:
Tuesday — Friday,
9:00-11:00AM and 1:00-3:00PM.

To schedule a 30 minute appointment:
Go to biology.colostate.edu and hover over “Undergraduate Programs”, then click “Advising”, then “Current Students” and “Schedule an Appointment”.

To ask a quick question:
Come to regular drop-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1:00-3:00pm to chat with an ASC for 5-10 minutes.
Graduating this May?
Here’s what you need to do…

1. Be on the look out for an email from the Registrar’s Office notifying you that your Graduation Contract is ready for review
2. Review your graduation contract through RAMweb to check that you will fulfill all of the degree requirements
3. Visit https://commencement.colostate.edu/ to learn more about participating in the commencement ceremony

Are you on academic probation this semester?
SCHEDULE YOUR REQUIRED APPOINTMENT WITH AN ASC!

♦ If you are on Probation I or Probation II, you are required to meet with an Academic Success Coordinator this semester to receive your advising code
♦ Probation I students: You’ll receive an email from your ASC with a link to a video about academic policies and what it means to be on probation. Watch that video, complete the academic assessment at the end, and schedule an appointment with an ASC. Bring your self-assessment with you to your appointment
♦ Probation II students: Simply schedule an appointment to talk with an ASC

JOIN A CLUB!

The CSU Zoology Club
Bi-weekly meetings
First meeting January 30th, 6pm Biology 136
Open to anyone interested in animals
Enjoy guest speakers
Connect with volunteering and internships
Participate in group outings to zoos, etc.
All majors are welcome to join!
https://www.facebook.com/CSUZoologyClub/

CSU Biology Club
Monthly meetings
Meeting Location and time TBD
Connect with like-minded peers
Volunteer in the community
Guest speakers
Fun Club activities
All are welcome to join!
https://www.facebook.com/CSUBIOCLUB/
Welcome Back to the Spring Semester!

Now is the time to plan and prepare for future opportunities! Start with..

The CSU Scholarship Application

Access and submit the application through ramweb.colostate.edu

The CSUSA will enter you into the applicant pool for any scholarships that you are eligible for. Some scholarships do require supplemental information, be sure to submit all of the recommended documents for full consideration. Check the links below for additional scholarships not covered by the CSUSA

DUE March 1st, 2018

For more information visit the following:

https://financialaid.colostate.edu/scholarships/

http://www.natsci.colostate.edu/scholarships/

Remember – the FAFSA is required for any need-based scholarships and should be submitted by February 15.

Interested in finding a summer research opportunity? These opportunities are competitive and most applications will be due early this semester—get started ASAP!

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

REU Site programs are funded by The National Science Foundation. Students work in partnership with faculty and other researchers at sites across the country. Students are also granted stipends and, in some cases, assistance with housing and travel. Find your summer REU today:

https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp

The CSU Career Center also has a useful site for searching for other research opportunities:

https://people.rit.edu/gtfsbi/Symp/summer.htm

Here are a few more useful resources for finding research opportunities:

https://www.zintellect.com/Posting/Catalog

https://www.aamc.org/members/great/61052/great_summerlinks.html

http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/undergrads.aspx
What is the Reisher Scholars Program?
The Reisher Scholars Program awards scholarships to Colorado students based upon demonstrated financial need and academic merit. The program seeks to help promising Colorado students earn their undergraduate degrees without incurring additional educational debt. The Reisher Scholars Program is unique in that it focuses on rising college sophomores and transfer students from community colleges who have already demonstrated academic and leadership potential as undergraduates.

How much is the Reisher Scholarship award?
Scholarship amounts meet individual need, ranging from $4,000 to $11,000, as determined by Office of Financial Aid. Continuing Scholars receive their scholarship for 3 years as long as eligibility is maintained.

Who is eligible to apply?
- Colorado Resident at time application is submitted
- Are a first-year student who will be a “sophomore” with 24 - 45 completed credits by Fall 2017
- Enrolled as a full-time student with an expected graduation within 3 years after being selected as a Reisher Scholar
- Have and will maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher
- Demonstrate financial need ranging from $4,000 to $11,000, as determined by Office of Financial Aid
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, 2017

How do I apply?
- Attend an information session. *See website for details.*
- A complete application for the Reisher scholarship must be submitted at osp.casa.colostate.edu by February 1, 2017 at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Kate Wormus at (970) 491-7095 or Katharine.Wormus@colostate.edu

What is the Puksta Scholars Program?
The CSU Puksta Scholars Program is developed out of the Puksta Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships, mentorship, and experiential community engagement training for undergraduate Colorado students. Scholars participate in a rigorous and rewarding four-year program designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to become catalysts for lasting positive change in the community.

Each year, a new cohort of scholars who exhibit a strong commitment to service and civic responsibility are selected to join the Puksta Scholar Program. Each scholar is asked to identify an issue or need in the community and develop a social change project to address the root cause of that issue. Puksta Scholars in the past have worked on issues such as access to education, health care and poverty in developing countries, and supporting the homeless population.

How much is the Puksta Scholarship award?
Each Scholar receives $5,000 per year for up to 4 years as long as eligibility is maintained.

Who is eligible to apply?
- Current first-year CSU student participating in the Key Communities, SLICE Programs, and/or equivalent university leadership development program
- Colorado resident at time application is submitted for tuition classification purposes or can be classified as an in state student for tuition purposes in accordance with the Colorado ASSET Bill, Senate Bill 13-033
- Have a CSU cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Demonstrate past and ongoing contributions to service and/or community engagement projects and activities
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, 2017.

How do I apply?
- Attend an information session. *See website for details.*
- A complete application for the Puksta scholarship must be submitted at osp.casa.colostate.edu by March 1, 2017 at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Kate Wormus at (970) 491-7095 or Katharine.Wormus@colostate.edu
2018 Instars Fellowships

For undergraduates from under-represented groups interested in the study of freshwater

A Program of the Society for Freshwater Science

Learn about the many disciplines of freshwater science as an Instars Fellow of the Society for Freshwater Science (SFS). The core of the program is attending the Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting, May 20 - 24, 2018 in Detroit, MI where the theme will be Navigating Boundaries in Freshwater Science. Meet with other undergraduates, graduate student mentors, and academic & professional SFS members.

This will be our 8th class! SFS sponsors about 10 Instars Fellows per year by providing meeting registration fees, travel, and lodging for the pre-meeting activities and annual meeting. Instars is aimed at students interested in freshwater science, and those with demonstrated academic or personal experience will have priority for funding. Presentation of undergraduate research by the student during the conference and the student’s year in school will be considered but would not preclude funding.

Faculty sponsors and students are encouraged to contact members of the Instars Organizing Committee for additional information or assistance. We encourage programs or institutions to sponsor additional undergraduate participants by providing financial support for registration fees and associated costs.

**Instars Meeting Activities**
- Instars orientation workshop
- Instars program social
- Plenary sessions, special, technical & poster sessions
- Opportunities to present undergraduate research
- Networking activities during and postmeeting with peers and mentors for research and educational opportunities

**Important Deadlines**
- February 2, 2018: Instars Fellows Application for Funding
- January 26, 2018: SFS Abstracts
- February 23, 2018: Instars Graduate Student Mentors
- March 30, 2018: Instars Fellows Application without Funding

**Find Us Online**
- SFS Annual Meeting: [www.sfsannualmeeting.org](http://www.sfsannualmeeting.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SFSInstars](http://www.facebook.com/SFSInstars)

Please contact members of the Instars Organizing Committee for more information:

Checo Colón-Gaud | Georgia Southern University, jcocolongaud@georgiasouthern.edu
Judy Li | Oregon State University, Judylii@comcast.net
Tamara Sluss | Kentucky State University, tamara.sluss@kysu.edu
Patina Mendez | University of California, Berkeley, patina.mendez@berkeley.edu
Marcelo Ardón-Sayao | North Carolina State University, mlardons@ncsu.edu
Krista Capps | University of Georgia, kcapps@uga.edu
Introducing Dr. Meena Balgopal

Meena is an instructor and researcher with the Biology Department. She teaches Introduction to Evolution (BZ 220) and Teaching Scientific Reasoning and Argumentation (BZ 670—a graduate level course).

I asked Meena what she enjoys most about teaching BZ 220 and she told me that she enjoys the fact that there are often students from many different majors who take this class, which allows her to interact with a diverse group of students with different interests and perspectives, “Evolution is one of the fundamental themes that unifies the life sciences, and I enjoy integrating current research findings in class lectures.”

When asked what she enjoys most about teaching BZ 670 Meena replied that she really enjoys working with students from different departments who are interested in teaching science. In this course students explore how using different argumentation models can reframe teaching, “shifting from ‘teacher-telling’ to ‘facilitating student learning.’”

I asked Meena about her alma mater and the path that led to her current role, “I am proud to have attended 4 land grant universities, just like CSU!” She earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science (physiology track) from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. At the beginning of her undergraduate degree she was pre-vet, but after getting involved with a research project on sheep tolerance of parasitic nematodes she decided to pursue graduate school. Meena completed her Master’s in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she studied insects as vectors (mosquitoes and aphids) or as parasites (parasitic wasps). Meena then spent a couple of years at the University of California, Davis working as a field entomologist. After taking a hiatus from academia to start a family Meena decided to finish her PhD in Zoology at North Dakota State University. It was during this part of her educational development that Meena became interested in merging her interest in Ecology and Evolution with teaching science.

Meena’s primary research interests are in studying “how people make meaning and learn natural science concepts. Often, I study how they do this in the context of socio-scientific issues (e.g., climate change, fertilizer run-off, genetically modified organisms)...” She is also interested in how different instructional or communication strategies can support learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Meena’s graduate students are asking questions about a) how citizen science research networks influence ecological literacy, b) different approaches to teaching climate change, and c) how teaching science that is relevant to the local community can encourage connection and commitment between educators and the communities they serve.

But what about Meena’s hobbies and interests?

Meena is an “avid birder”, which she has been doing since she was 11 years old! “...most of my holidays revolve around birding.” Meena is also a musician! “I have been playing violin for more than 40 years. I love chamber music and participate in Master classes, if I can. I play in a community orchestra with 120 members. We perform at CSU’S University Center for the Arts three times a year. We are always looking for more musicians!”
Faculty Focus...
With Meena Balgopal

Recent adventures?
Just when you thought that Meena couldn’t possibly get any cooler, there she is shaking hands with the Dalai Lama! Meena has been working with a group of colleagues from Emory University teaching biology to a group of exiled Tibetan Buddhist monks. This past December Meena travelled to India and worked with 20 monks who are “teaching their peers how to conduct simple ecological experiments.” The Dalai Lama visited with Meena and her colleagues, personally thanking them for their work. Check out The Source - https://natsci.source.colostate.edu/cs-u-biology-faculty-discusses-science-philosophy-dalai-lama/ - for more on that adventure.

Interested in volunteer work with the Balgopal Lab?
Meena mentors undergraduates who are interested in science communication and helps undergraduates to find volunteer opportunities (sometimes paid positions) working in science outreach in schools. She and her graduate students “welcome enthusiastic, motivated, organized, and responsible students” who are interested in volunteering a few hours per week. Interested students should email Meena (meena.balgopal@colostate.edu) a copy of their resume/CV and make an appointment to meet in person.

Meena is also the director of the CSU-based NSF Noyce Program, which financially supports undergraduate STEM majors who commit to teaching science or math in high-needs schools for 2-4 years following graduation. Meena told me that “Colorado is experiencing a shortage of STEM teachers, and working in schools is one way for CSU students to determine if they want to earn a teaching license along with their degree in natural science.” For more information on this awesome opportunity see the flyer on the next page of this newsletter!

Meena is a fascinating and vibrant individual who is passionate about science and science teaching. We hope that you have enjoyed getting to know her a bit. Be sure and say hello the next time that you see her!
NSF Robert Noyce Scholarship Program

The scholarship program is for students who:
- Have earned at least 60 credits
- Are majoring in a STEM field
- Have earned at least a GPA of 3.0 to be most competitive
- Would like to pursue a career in STEM teaching

Noyce scholars will receive:
- $10,000 scholarship per year for both Junior and Senior years
- $1,000 stipend per year for the first two years of teaching
- Mentoring and professional development supports

After graduation, Noyce scholars will:
- Teach 2 years in a high needs school district for every year of scholarship received
- Participate in mentoring and professional development activities

APPLY ONLINE: http://cns.natsci.colostate.edu/noyce/
APPLICATION DUE: March 9, 2018
CONTACT: noyce_info@mail.colostate.edu
Considering an Education Abroad experience this summer?
Check out the following course that will be led by the Biology Department’s very own Dr. Graham Peers!

Marine Biology in Baja California Sur
May 20 – June 03, 2018
A research-based course in Mexico designed to give students an introduction to the wide variety of approaches used by marine biologists to understand life in the ocean.

Interested? Please plan to attend an information session on January 29th at either 12-1 or 4:30-5:30 in Biology Rm 400, or email Prof. Graham Peers directly for more details: graham.peers@colostate.edu. Applications are due Feb. 15th through CSU’s Education Abroad portal.

Education Abroad Office is offering a series of information sessions this spring to help students learn more about how to make Education Abroad part of your CSU experience!
(see page 10 for more details)
WALK-IN ADVISING – LAUREL HALL, ROOM 008
Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 4 p.m.
Meet with a Peer Advisor to learn more about education abroad opportunities. Coordinators are available on Thursdays for walk-in advising.

COORDINATOR APPOINTMENTS
If you have already talked to a peer advisor during walk-in advising and have specific questions about a particular program or region, please call or email the Education Abroad Center to make an appointment to speak directly with your education abroad coordinator.

AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, UK & IRELAND
derek.smallwood@colostate.edu

ASIA, OCEANIA & SEMESTER AT SEA
ciara.cole@colostate.edu

INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH
sarah.cordonell@colostate.edu

SHORT-TERM FACULTY-LED
emily.gerner@colostate.edu

SPAIN & LATIN AMERICA
sarah.vauels@colostate.edu

EUROPE
amy.young@colostate.edu

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL
vanessa.hayward@colostate.edu

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO
For basic information about financial aid for study abroad, please watch this 3-minute video prior to coming to walk-in advising:
financialaid.colostate.edu/studyabroad

FINANCIAL AID WALK-IN ADVISING
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
1 - 4 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 338

FINANCIAL AID ADVISOR
Erica Norris — (970) 491-2581, SpecialPrograms@colostate.edu

RESOURCES
educationabroad.colostate.edu/scholarships
educationabroad.colostate.edu/general-scholarships
financialaid.colostate.edu/studyabroad
fsa.ed.gov
External Scholarship & Fellowship Advisor — mary.swanson@colostate.edu

COMMON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES
Summer Programs March 1
Fall/Academic Year Programs April 15
Spring/Winter Break/Spring Break Programs October 15

Learn more about specific regions, different program types, and various international opportunities. All info sessions take place in Lory Student Center Rooms 226-28.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
Wednesday, January 24 • 4 p.m.

INTERNSHIPS ABROAD
Wednesday, February 14 • 12 p.m.

ASIA, AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST
Wednesday, February 28 • 12 p.m.

SPAIN & LATIN AMERICA
Tuesday, March 6 • 4 p.m.

EUROPE
Thursday, March 29 • 12 p.m.

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS
Tuesday, April 17 • 3 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS 101
Thursday, February 1 | 12 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 312
Wednesday, April 4 | 12 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 312

Overview of scholarship opportunities available for education abroad through the Office of International Programs, CSU departments, and external scholarships.

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP
Tuesday, February 20 | 12 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 312

The Gilman Scholarship Program is open to undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens, Federal Pell Grant eligible, and participating in programs for 4 weeks or longer in one country.

FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION ABROAD
Wednesday, March 21 | 12 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 310
Thursday, April 12 | 12 p.m. | Lory Student Center Room 312

Learn how to fund your international experience through creative fundraising, crowd funding, budgeting, and more.
PLANNING ON TAKING THE MCAT?
CSU 2018 MCAT PREP COURSE

Registration is open! Register at hp.casa.colostate.edu/mcat-prep

Once again CSU will offer a MCAT Prep Course for students. The course will provide a content review of the basic material covered on the MCAT.

DETAILS: January 18th through April 17th - Tuesdays and Thursdays - 5:00-8:30 pm
Classes will be held on campus. Content review of the material covered on the MCAT will be presented by experienced CSU faculty.

COST: $750 for all classes and course materials.

WHAT YOU GET: A compilation of latest MCAT study guides from Exam Krackers, the latest edition of the Official Guide to the MCAT Exam published by the AAMC with practice tests and question packs authored by the same people who write the MCAT, and an opportunity to take a course on campus and study with fellow CSU students!

REGISTRATION: Registration is now open to CSU students and alumni! To register, visit hp.casa.colostate.edu/mcat-prep and follow the online instructions.

NOTE: This course does NOT count for credit and is not registered through RAMweb.

For more information, contact us at advising_HP@mail.colostate.edu
The complexity of the material and fast-paced environment means that only the sharpest and most motivated students succeed as a scribe. We provide paid classroom and clinical training in the medical department to prepare applicants to be medical scribes.

The role of a scribe offers exciting first-hand experience in the medical department and full one-on-one shifts working with board certified physicians. The job is second-to-none for exposure to medicine, disease processes, medical decisionmaking and procedures performed in the medical department.

We are looking for motivated, loyal applicants who have a passion for learning about the medical field to join our team. If you are looking to be a part of a professional medical scribe team please apply directly at www.scribeamerica.com/apply today!

ScribeAmerica offers:
- Paid classroom and clinical training
- Competitive pay
- Benefits
- 20-40 hours per week
- Flexible scheduling
- Great learning experience
- Room for advancement

Apply today: www.scribeamerica.com/apply

The complexity of the material and fast-paced environment means that only the sharpest and most motivated students succeed as a scribe. We are looking for dependable and hard working employees that have a desire for an eventual career in medicine, or are interested in learning more about careers in medicine. There are multiple shifts, both day and night and each shift consists of following a single physician, usually lasting 8-12 hours. It is expected that each scribe can commit to 2 shifts per week for at least 2 years. Paid classroom & clinical training is provided. Each employee will have multiple training sessions both in the classroom and the emergency department.