



**Important Dates**

**11-** Last day to process a University Withdrawal

**14-18-** Final Exams

**18-19-** Commencement Ceremonies

**22-** Fall grades available on RamWeb

**23-25-** Winter holiday; University Closed

*Advisors will be in the office over Christmas Break, so send an email or make an appointment if you'd like to chat!*

**Included in this newsletter:**

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**\*Attention Spring 2016 Graduates\***

If you are graduating in May 2016, you will receive an email from the Biology advisors in January, encouraging you to come to the department's front office to sign your graduation contract in the first two weeks of the spring semester. Grad contracts outline remaining requirements to be completed for graduation and reviewing it is an important step to making sure you're ready for commencement. You don't need an appointment and don't have to come during walk-in hours—just stop by.

**Want to learn more about commencement?**

You'll walk with other students in the College of Natural Sciences, so please check [natsci.colostate.edu](http://natsci.colostate.edu) (hover over "Current Students" tab, then click "Commencement") to learn information about the ceremony, your cap and gown, tickets, check-in and more! Share this website with friends and family who plan to attend the ceremony.



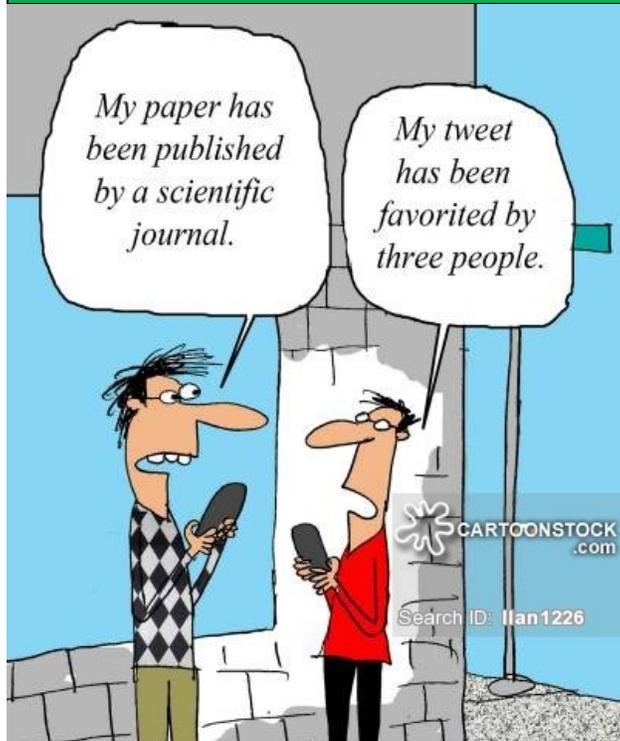
**KEEP CALM AND SIGN THE CONTRACT**

# Don't get ...



All students on Probation II who will have below a 2.0 for the third consecutive semester (but wish to return to CSU for another semester) are urged to submit an academic dismissal appeal. Academic dismissal appeals are considered by the Committee on Scholastic Standards, a faculty committee representing the University's eight colleges and the Library.

- Appeals must be *submitted online* (<http://appeals.casa.colostate.edu>) and must include a well-written personal statement and a detailed plan of action for improving academic status. The committee strongly encourages students to include any and all relevant supporting documentation.
- In your mandatory written statement, you need to identify the reasons why your academic performance has fallen below expectations and your plan must address the steps you have taken to address and correct any situations which have contributed to poor performance
- Contact CASA at [970-491-7095](tel:970-491-7095) for the dismissal appeal deadline. Late appeals are not accepted and you cannot edit an appeal after submission.



## Interested in writing for a scholarly journal?

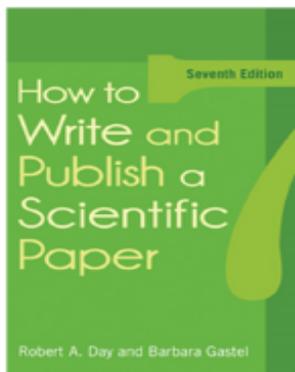
The Journal of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Excellence (JUR) is a peer-reviewed journal registered with the Library of Congress that accepts submissions of any subject. The review process for publication includes peer, graduate, and faculty referees, ensuring that the Journal publishes competitive material. We encourage undergraduate involvement in JUR. We accept articles at any time, and there are no submission fees.

JUR is looking for submissions for JUR Volume VII. Benefits of this include enhancement of a resume for possible graduate program application, introductory experience with the publication process, and the confidence and validation that comes with seeing your work in print.

For more information, please visit our website at [jur.colostate.edu](http://jur.colostate.edu). All article submissions should be sent to our managing editor at [submit.jur@gmail.com](mailto:submit.jur@gmail.com) along with the required permission to publish form found on our website.

# NEW SPRING CLASSES

Are you in the Honors program? Are you a junior or senior? Are you interested in improving your writing and publishing skills? If so, check out this new honors seminar beginning this spring! Register on RamWeb, and email Professor Mark Simmons with any questions ([psimmons@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:psimmons@rams.colostate.edu)).



## Ten Simple Rules for Better Figures

Nicolas P. Rougier<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Michael Droettboom<sup>4</sup>, Philip E. Bourne<sup>5</sup>

## Ten Simple Rules for Getting Grants

Philip E. Bourne\*, Leo M. Chalupa

## Publish like a pro

*Prolific authors and journal editors share how to get manuscripts noticed, approved and put in print.* (Powell, 2010)

### GENERAL HONORS COLLOQUIUM: SCIENTIFIC WRITING

HONR397 section 001 (1 credit hour)

Spring Semester 2016

Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45 PM in Yates 306

- In this discussion group we will cover:
  - How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 7<sup>th</sup> edition
  - writing advice and career editorials from *Nature* and *Science*
  - “Ten Simple Rules” series from *PLoS Computational Biology*
- Target audience: junior- and senior-level honors students who plan to conduct research and publish scientific papers
- Each student will lead at least one discussion group
- Small class size – 15 students max
- Grading based on attendance and participation
  - final exam is critiquing one of your professor’s unpublished manuscripts
- Class led by Professor Mark Simmons from the Department of Biology

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE HONORS PROGRAM?** If you have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and have completed fewer than 60 credits, you may be eligible to apply for the CSU Honors Program through the track 2 pathway! There are a lot of great benefits to being a part of the Honors Program including early registration, smaller sections of courses, and the “Honors Scholar” designation on your diploma. If you’re interested, visit [honors.colostate.edu](http://honors.colostate.edu) or contact Diane Burton ([diane.burton@colostate.edu](mailto:diane.burton@colostate.edu)) to learn more.

# NEW SPRING CLASSES

## Marine Biology (BZ415) is being offered this spring!

If you love studying marine organisms, habitats and communities, you'll love this class. Juniors and seniors are likely eligible to enroll in the course even if they do not meet the posted requisites. Please contact the instructors if you are interested!

### Professor Kanatous

shane.kanatous@colostate.edu

### Professor Peers

graham.peers@colostate.edu



### Can't get enough marine biology?

If you take the spring semester of BZ415, you can continue your aquatic education by taking a study abroad to Todos Santos, Mexico this summer! The trip is May 16-June 3, and you can earn credit that may count toward your degree! (See your advisor to make sure this works for your specific degree.) To learn more information, search "Field Marine Biology" on CSU's Study Abroad program or email the instructors.



## Marine Biology in Todos Santos, Mexico

### Info Sessions:

Tues. Dec. 1 – 5:30pm Yates 208

Wed. Dec. 2 – 12:30pm Yates 208

[educationabroad.colostate.edu](http://educationabroad.colostate.edu)

# 2016 Front Range Student Ecology Symposium

Have you ever wondered what it means to be an ecologist? Are you confused about what “research” actually involves? Are you currently doing research and looking for a chance to practice presenting?

**You are invited to participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Front Range Student Ecology Symposium!**



Organized by students, for students, this **FREE EVENT** provides a supportive atmosphere for undergraduate and graduate students to present their projects. Whether you're starting your undergraduate career or already thinking about graduate school, the FRSES is the perfect place to network and learn about ecology. Even if you are not presenting research, the event will still be a fantastic opportunity! The symposium is modeled after a professional society meeting and will include guest speakers, a photo contest, and a catered awards reception with prizes.

If you would like to participate in the symposium, please submit an abstract (~200 words) summarizing your project by 5pm on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. You can also submit a photo contest entry up until the week before the event. (If you're not presenting, there's no pre-registration required to attend.)

**When:** February 23-24, 2016

**Where:** Lory Student Center

**Contact:** [ecosym@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:ecosym@rams.colostate.edu)

**For more information, visit:**

<http://ecosym.ecology.colostate.edu/> or Facebook page “Front Range Student Ecology Symposium”



## Are you taking the MCAT?

This spring, an MCAT prep course will be offered through CSU as a lower cost alternative to the commercial prep courses. This on-campus course continues to cost significantly less (\$750) than commercial courses (can cost as much as \$2,000).

**WHEN:** Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:00pm-8:30pm; January 26<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>

**TO REGISTER:** Go to the Health Professions advising website and click on “MCAT PREP COURSE” link. Note: This course does NOT count for credit and is not registered for through the CSU registration system (RAMweb).

*If you'd like more information about the MCAT prep course or other ways to prepare, please contact Jim Zakely, Health Professions Advisor, by calling 970-491-7095 to make an appointment.*

\*The MCAT is the entrance exam for students who are applying to allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO), and podiatry (DPM).