



Department of  
**Biology**



## Spring 2012 Important Dates

### March

10 - 18: Spring Break!

**19: Last day to withdraw from classes; Repeat/Delete forms due**

20: Summer registration begins

### April

3: Fall registration begins and will be staggered by credit numbers earned

### May

4: Last day of classes

7 - 11: Final exams

**Don't wait to schedule your appointments to pick out Fall courses. Our schedules book quickly around registration time, so make your appointments now! As always, appointments can be made online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates/schedule-an-appointment/>**

## *New this month:*

### **Summer Registration Begins March 20th!**

Interested in taking summer courses? Registration begins March 20th at noon. All info (including course schedule) can be found here: <http://www.summer.colostate.edu/>



### Walk-in advising hours:

Have a quick question for one of the Academic Support Coordinators? We hold walk-in advising hours every Wednesday from 9:00–11:00 and 1:00–3:00. These are 10-15 minute max meetings that can only cover limited subjects. You must sign in and complete an info form if you come by for walk-ins.

#### Things we **will** cover in walk-ins:

- Change/add major.
- Have form signed.
- Course selection for **one** semester.
- Answer quick questions.
- Review CSU policies.

#### Things we **will not** cover in walk-ins:

- Four-year plans.
- Academic probation counseling OR **release advising code**.
- First-time advising appointment (covering curriculum, etc.).
- Career counseling.

For a full 30 minute appointment, you can schedule online at: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/undergraduates/schedule-an-appointment/>

The Department of Biology has a new website! Check it out:

<http://www.biology.colostate.edu/>

## FACULTY CORNER

Each month we will be interviewing a professor in the Department of Biology so you can get to know the faculty on a more personal basis. This month, we sat down with Dr. Graham Peers, the department's newest faculty member.



**Dr. Peers**

### What was your path to CSU?

I received a dual bachelor's (honors) degree in oceanography and biology from the University of British Columbia. From there I moved on to my Ph.D. at McGill University. Upon completing my Ph.D., I moved on to a post-doctoral position at the University of California – Berkeley where I started transitioning from oceanography to molecular biology. Before finally joining the faculty at CSU, I worked in the biotech industry in San Diego. All throughout my career I have worked on algae, which is pretty unusual!

### What courses do you anticipate teaching and what are your research interests?

This coming fall I will be teaching a completely revamped BZ332 (Introduction to Phycology). In spring, I

will be teaching one of the intro biology courses (either LIFE102 or LIFE103).

I study the process of photosynthesis and how it differs between different types of plants, cyanobacteria, and algae. This information is then ideally applied to maximize productivity of crops, whether they be plants or algae.

### Will you include undergraduates in your research program?

Yes! I have already included undergrads in my lab, and I anticipate always having undergrads helping me with my research. Students are welcome to email if they are interested in working with me for course credit, and I ask that they include a resume and unofficial transcript in their email. Students must keep in mind when asking to work in research labs that timing is important. It's best to contact professors during the middle of the semester before the semester they would like to start working so all of the details can be worked out.

### What is something that students do not know about you?

Halfway through college I needed to decide whether I wanted to pursue music or science as my career. I was a drummer for multiple jazz and rock bands, but ultimately decided to pursue science. In high school, thinking I really wanted to pursue music as a career, I took a lengthy career aptitude exam and answered the questions as I thought a musician should. The results wound up surprising me in that I showed the highest aptitude for science even though I expected and hoped to get musician as the results. I thought they were so wrong, but in the end, I see the two careers share an incredible number of similarities.

### Do you have any advice for students in our department?

Take as broad an array of courses as you can in your undergraduate degree. What you think you want to do now with your career may not be true in a couple years, so exploring as many aspects of biology (and beyond) as possible will open your eyes to other fields and possibilities.

Also, getting undergraduate research experience is invaluable, so find a lab that truly interests you and get some great experience.

For more information on Dr. Peers and his research, click here: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/people/gpeers/>



**THANK YOU  
DR. PEERS, AND  
WELCOME TO  
THE DEPARTMENT!  
MENT!**

## RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESS— AN INTERVIEW WITH 2011 GRADUATE, ESTHER DANIELLS

**HOMETOWN:** Boston, MA

**MAJOR:** Zoology

**HOBBIES:** Walking my dog, reading, comic books, and trying new teas.

### How did you decide to major in Zoology at CSU?

I decided to come to CSU because it's known for its zoology program. I also wanted to get away from Massachusetts since I grew up there.

### What department or campus resources did you use to help you be successful?

I have been involved in many things CSU has to offer. A few of them are: the free tutors provided by TiLT, the Career Center for help on career and professional development, and SLiCE for leadership development. I was also involved in SACNAS, a science student organization that encourages students academically and to pursue graduate school by providing help to attend a national conferences and professional development workshops. I also worked in a lab to gain undergraduate research experience. Finally, I utilized the biology advisors (Academic Support Coordinators).

### What advice would you give students just entering the Biology or Zoology majors?

Biology is a big major with many options for after graduation. So I would recommend giving new things a chance by using your electives to explore different fields and new ideas. You never know what might spark an interest. Also, try to volunteer or work at a lab that interests you. The best way to know if you truly enjoy something is by doing it. It also helps when you need a letter of recommendation or a job in the future.

**What was your favorite Biology course and why?** Plant Biology. I loved this course when I was a freshman. I still don't know why, but yet again now I work with plants. I really liked all of my ecology classes. It is very fascinating to learn and understand the interaction/relationship organisms have within their community and with the world (mind blowing). Herpetology was also an awesome course. The teacher rocks and there is so much to love and learn about reptiles and amphibians; but then again who could really hate herps :)

### What challenges did you face as a Zoology major?

Class work was my biggest challenge. As fun and interesting a topic may be, the biology degree requires a lot of time to excel. Studying and keeping up with material is very hard and sometimes discouraging, but in the end it's so worth it.

### What are you doing now with your degree?

I currently work for CSU as a research associate in a plant pathology lab and also as a contractor for the United States Department of Agriculture, APHIS branch.

### How did you get the position that you have now?

I'd been working as an undergraduate assistant for about 2 years at Jan Leach's plant pathology lab. When I graduated, they told me about the contractor position the USDA-APHIS had to offer. I applied and showed interest, and voilà, I have the job. Making connections pays off.

### Thank you Esther! We're so excited about your success!



## CLUB INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Join the Biology Club!** Interested in biology but not sure where your degree will take you? Let the Biology Club help you out! We are a student-run club focused on providing career ideas for students majoring in biological sciences, or who are just interested in learning some cool things about the world around us. We have monthly meetings with speakers from different biological fields, as well as field trips and community service opportunities. Please contact Claire at [wil-lis.c7@q.com](mailto:wilis.c7@q.com) with any questions. **We are also looking for some new officers**, so let her know if that sounds like something you'd be interested in! To stay up-to-date with the club's happenings, visit our website at <http://rydberg.biology.colostate.edu/bioclub/>. We hope to see you at our next meeting!



**Join the Zoology Club!** Zoology Club is for those passionate about animals of any major (not just Zoology)! We meet every other week and host guest speakers ranging from zookeepers to professors here at CSU. We also provide an average of 3 trips a semester. Recent trips have included camping at an Emu Ranch, and behind the scenes tours at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Downtown Aquarium in Denver! With summer internships on the way we will also be providing resources for those looking to get involved in research, wildlife, zoos, aquariums, etc! To be part of our mailing list, which will allow you to get updates on meetings and trips please contact us at [csuzoologyclub@gmail.com](mailto:csuzoologyclub@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!



**Join the Gillette Entomology Club!** The Gillette Entomology Club (GEC) is a great opportunity to learn more about some of the most common organisms in the world. There are over a million known species of insects and about sixty thousand arachnid species. The GEC is devoted to the challenge of teaching its members and the community. We hold monthly meetings that often feature guest speakers from throughout the profession, and we also organize outreach events. Our mission is partly accomplished through the bug zoo in the Plant Sciences building that houses many local and exotic species of arthropods. GEC is also getting its first bee hives up and running soon.



## HEALTH PROFESSIONS HAPPENINGS



**To schedule an appointment** with a Health Professions Advisor call the Center for Advising and Student Achievement (CASA) at 970-491-7095. For more information on Health Professions Advising visit <http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/>.

If you are interested in health professions, we encourage you to sign up for the health professions electronic mailing list (at <http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/hpmailinglist.aspx>). Subscribing to this list enables you to receive email messages about Health Professions advising, workshops related to Health Professions and special events sponsored by the various Health Profession student organizations.

**Taking the GRE soon?** On Tuesday March 7 at 7:00 the Pre PT Club is hosting a GRE Test Strategy Study Session in Clark A 203. A representative from Kaplan will be there to share hints on how to effectively study. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Applying to medical school (MD or DO)?** The AMCAS and ACOMAS workshop will be held on Sunday March 25 from 12:00 to 4:00 in Clark A205.

**The 14th Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Individuals with Disabilities** will be held on Saturday March 31 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers are welcome to attend this fun and free event.

**Mark your calendars: Personal Statement Workshops** will be held April 16 at 12:00 PM in AZ E112 and April 19 at 5:00 PM in Clark A204. (You should only attend one as the same workshop will be repeated.)

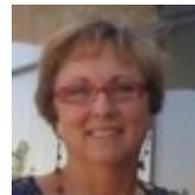
## Biology Joke(s) of the Month:

### One-liners:

- **Q:** Why don't clams share?  
**A:** Because they're Shellfish!
- If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate!
- Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron". The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."
- **Q:** What did the male stamen say to the female pistil?  
**A:** I like your "style".
- **Q:** How do you identify a bald eagle?  
**A:** All his feathers are combed over to one side.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

Need help planning your future? **Judy Brobst**, the Career Center Liaison for the College of Natural Sciences, can assist you with all aspects of your career development! Services offered: Internships & volunteer experiences, resume development, choosing/changing majors, graduate school, on-line assessments, job search skills, etc. **To set up an appointment** contact Judy at [judy.brobst@colostate.edu](mailto:judy.brobst@colostate.edu) or 970-491-1190. **Drop in Career Counseling with Judy Brobst:** Every Wednesday during Spring semester **starting Feb. 22nd** from 9:00 - 11:00 in A/Z E-108 . No appointment necessary!



### Advising Tip of the Month:

**Register as soon as your designated day/time comes up each semester!**

Courses fill up really quickly, so delaying your registration for any reason will mean not getting the classes you need or want. Each semester you can find your designated registration date once you complete "Registration Ready" in RAM-Web.

### UPCOMING CAREER CENTER EVENTS:

#### BioTech Connect

March 7, 2012 Wednesday

6:00 – 7:30 pm

LSC, Main Ballroom

BioTech Connect brings the Colorado BioTech industry community together with students and faculty at Colorado State University. Networking reception will offer you the opportunity to meet with several members of the BioTech industry. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to connect! RSVP today! click [HERE](#).

**We are half full for this event – business cards ONLY – pick up your free business cards at The Career Center in LSC – drop in office and main office has blank cards available.**

**Get it Punched! Attend this event and get one punch closer to entering the drawing to win an iPad2! Don't have a punch card yet? Pick one up at this event.**

#### Discover What Drives You

Beginning March 19 & March 20, 2012 (for 5 weeks)

2:00 – 4:00 pm

The Career Center, LSC, Room 26

Want to know more about yourself? What brings you joy? What are you good at? What does the world need you to do?

Discover What Drives You guides participants through a self-exploration process aimed at helping them discover the answers to the above questions and more.

This is a 5 week discussion style group, participation in all 5 sessions is required of those who RSVP. Reserve your spot today, groups have limited availability. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

**Get it Punched! Attend this event and get one punch closer to entering the drawing to win an iPad2! Don't have a punch card yet? Pick one up at this event.**