



Announcements



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of this excellent Department, and all of your family members and loved ones, a very happy Holiday Season. Thank you all for the tremendous effort you put into the various aspects of the operation of the Department of Biological Sciences. I hope that you are all able to take a well-earned rest over the Holiday period, and that you come back refreshed, invigorated and ready to face the excitement and the challenges of the New Year. I can assure you that there will be plenty of each!!

With best wishes, Tony.



Keeping track of equity.... Our Department has an Equity Issues Committee! The mandate of the EIC is to help ensure equal opportunity for all members of the Department, including undergraduates, graduate students, staff and faculty. The EIC has collected information and resources pertinent to the Department and seeks to identify initiatives that may improve the work environment for all members. The EIC is concerned about any group whose identity might influence individuals' opportunities to succeed in their careers. See our BioSci website under Contact Us where we have posted reports about our Department and provided pertinent links: http://bio.ucalgary.ca/contact/EIC_committee.html

We are currently looking for a postdoc member for our committee, particularly as we will be considering the postdoctoral experience in the near future. Please contact Mary Reid, mreid@ucalgary.ca, if you're interested. Committee members: Sarah Akierman, Fran Cusack, Cindy Graham, Bill Huddleston, Ross Lein, Mary Reid (Chair), Dae-Kyun Ro

Main Office holiday closure - The main office will be closed for the holidays from **Noon Dec 23rd to Jan 1st**

The EEB New years potluck event will be held on Jan 21 2012 at the Scandinavian Centre - see pg 7 for more details.

There will be a DNA and Proteins Basics workshop held in HSC 2525 on Jan 3-8, 2012. See pg 8 for more details.

Recent Publications



Ida, T.Y., **L.D. Harder** and G. Kudo. 2012. Effects of defoliation and shading on the physiological cost of reproduction in silky locoweed, *Oxytropis sericea*. *Annals of Botany* 109:237-246.

Seminars



BCEM seminars - Mondays at 16h00 in BI 211
January 9 - Raymond Chew - TBA

CDP 601 seminars - Wednesdays at 16h00 in MS 319
January 11 - Introductions
January 18 - Samuel Abassah-Oppong - TBA

EEB 601 seminars - Mondays at 12h00 in BI 211
January 9 - Erick Elgin - Seasonal variables of shallow lakes

MICRO 601 seminars - Wednesdays at 11h00 in BI 211
Seminars return in January

Scholarships



Alberta Innovates Technologies Futures (AITF) ENTRANCE: Department deadline **January 15**. NOTE: this competition is for incoming students only - http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award_competitions/graduate_award_competition/aif

Alberta Doctoral Awards for Chinese Students: Department deadline **January 15** - http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award_competitions/adacs

Graduate Award Competition: Department deadline 18 January.

Alberta Innovates Technologies Futures (AITF): Department deadline **18 January**. NOTE: this competition is for continuing and incoming students - http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award_competitions/graduate_award_competition

Please contact Sophia George (georges@ucalgary.ca) for details.



Did you know....



RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Research Proposals and research proposal meetings are required for all M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in Biological Sciences.

The purpose of the Proposal Meeting is for you, the student, to:

- **Summarize the literature and history related to your research problem and provide a critical evaluation of any studies which were previously completed.
- **Stress the means and methods by which you propose to pursue your research project.
- **Indicate the contribution to existing scientific knowledge which you expect to make from your particular research project.

Research Proposals are due no later than the 12 months after the student's initial registration in their graduate program.

M.Sc. research proposals should not exceed 10 pages double-spaced (8 ½ x 11)

Ph.D. research proposals should not exceed 20 pages, double-spaced (8 ½ x 11)

Seven days prior to the proposal meeting, Karen (Bio 186), and the committee members require a paper copy of the proposal. After receiving a copy of the student's Research Proposal, it is the supervisory committee's responsibility to:

- **ensure that the student's course work is complete, or indicate which additional courses will be required or will benefit the student's research project
- **ensure that the research project is suitable for the M.Sc. or Ph.D. program that the student is enrolled in. If not, recommendation should be made to the Graduate Supervisor and the Graduate Director.
- **ensure that the student is qualified and prepared to continue with their research.

IF, for whatever reason, you cannot meet the specified deadline of 12 months after initial registration for your research proposal, you or your supervisor, must provide a written request explaining the reason for the delay. The Graduate Director will review this request.

Research Proposals

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for Tina Johnston, in the area of "Environmental Neurotoxicology", was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on December 19, 2011.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for David Lloyd, in the area of "Cancer Biology", was accepted by his Supervisor Committee on December 21, 2011.

Ph.D. Candidacy Oral Examinations - Candidacy Exams are Closed Exams.

Hillary Ward (Supervisor: J.R. Post), will be holding her Ph.D. Candidacy Examination, in the area of "Fisheries Ecology & Management", on January 30, 2012 @ 2:30 p.m. in BioSciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: J. Fox).

Thesis Oral Examinations - Exams are "Open" unless otherwise noted.

Please note: Pre-defense seminars are a degree requirement for all M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in Biological Sciences. Typically, the seminar will take place immediately preceding the Oral Defense Exam.

It is the student's responsibility to book the necessary com-media equipment with either Christine (220-3578) or David (220-8307) for their examination. Please book the equipment as soon as you have the date set for your exam/proposal meeting. (defense seminars are held one hour before the stated defense time in BI 211 unless noted otherwise)

Chloe MacLean (Supervisor: D. Storey), will be defending her M.Sc. Thesis, in the area of "Microbiology", on January 6, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: E. Prenner).

Hao Ding (Supervisor: M.F. Hynes), will be defending his Ph.D. Thesis, in the area of "Bacterial Genetics", on January 19, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: M. Fraser). **CLOSED EXAM**

Jacson Laliberte (Supervisor: J. Post), will be defending his M.Sc. Thesis, in the area of "Fish Ecology", on February 1, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in BioSciences room 499. (Neutral Chair: TBA).

Lorraine Adderley (Supervisor: J. Vamosi), will be defending her M.Sc. Thesis, in the area of "Plant Reproductive Ecology" on February 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in BioSciences room 499. (Neutral Chair: TBA).



Congratulations

Alexander Tinius, who successfully held his Ph.D. Candidacy Examination in the area of “Vertebrate Morphology”, on December 16, 2011!



Susan Golby, who successfully defended her M.Sc. Thesis, in the area of “Environmental Microbiology”, on December 20, 2011!

Positions / Opportunities



Faculty of Medicine National Graduate Student Recruitment Drive

Deadline: **January 9, 2012** <http://www.medicine.ucalgary.ca/grad/recruitment>

We are looking for highly motivated and qualified graduate students (finishing their MSc program) interested in ~~doctoral research in one of our 8 Graduate Programs at the University of Calgary.~~

Biotech Job Bank (www.bhrc.ca) has current employment opportunities in the biotechnology industry in Canada. The Biotech HR Pulse is available in PDF format at: www.bhrc.ca/Pulse/index.html. Phone 519-457-1470, Ext 268, Fax 519-457-3997.

University Affairs Career Ads. Current employment opportunities, including all facets of the biological sciences, in Canadian universities may be found at the University Affairs website: www.universityaffairs.ca. Career ads are available in HTML format at: http://www.universityaffairs.ca/career_ads/index.html

It's winter in Canada
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour

Oh, how I love Canada
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Canada
Cuz I'm frozen to the ground!

Enjoy the Holiday

Bio Store Will Be Closed

Noon

December 23, 2011

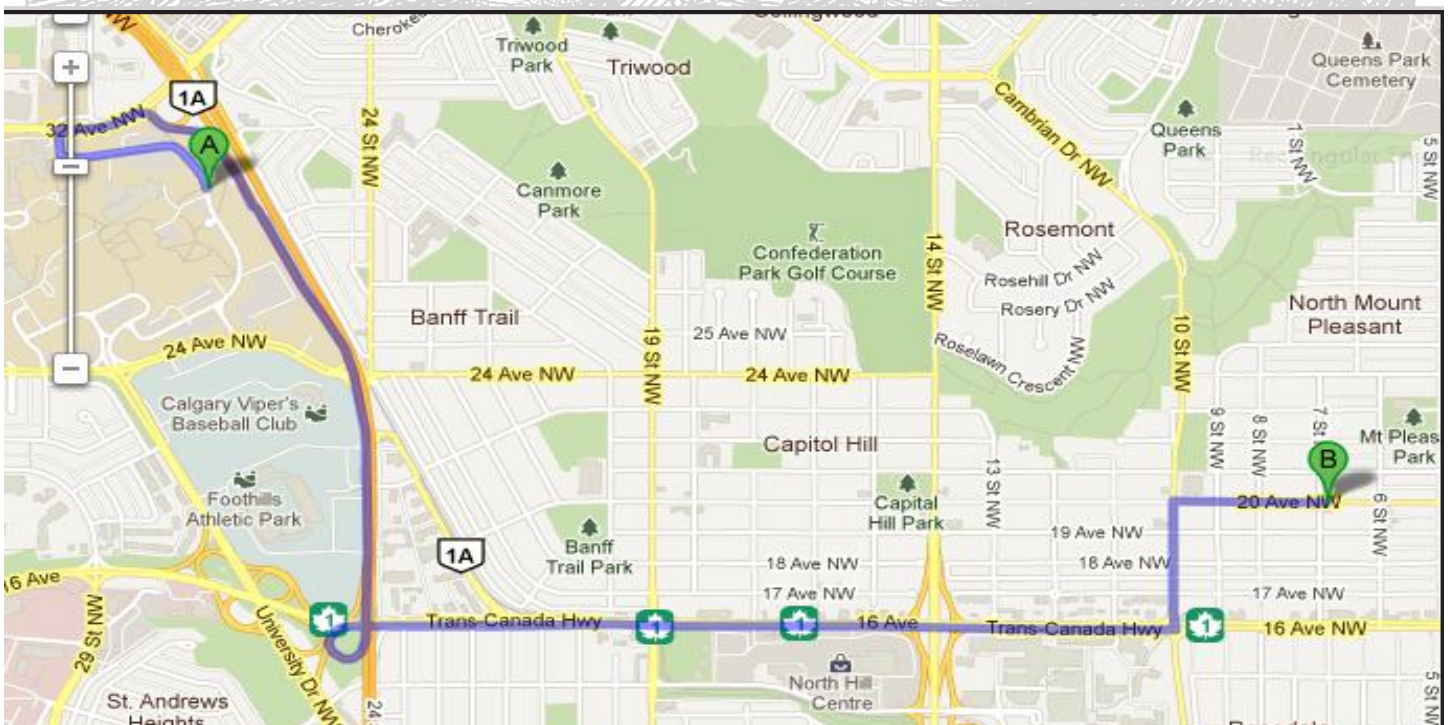
Reopening

January 2, 2012







EEB New Years potluck and tacky gift exchange

- January 21st 2012 @ the Scandinavian Center
 - 739 20 Ave NW (map below)
- 5pm to 11:30 w/ cocktails @ 5 and dinner at 7
- Tickets - \$12 per person (\$10 if purchased before Dec 20th!)
 - Guests welcome; kids free
 - Pay Geoff Legault (Fox lab - Biol 275)
- Potluck style
 - Signup w/Geoff to bring an appetizer, side, main, or desert
- Norse themed New Years! (Norse drinks/food/dress etc.)
 - Grab your horned cap and your biggest goblet!
- All dinnerware provided; bring iPods to play music and an unwanted gift for the tacky gift exchange
- Bring a non-perishable item for the UCalgary food bank
- BYOB – Remember to bring receipts for all your booze!!!



DNA and Proteins Basics Workshop

Hands-on techniques workshops for students, graduate students, post-docs, faculty, and technicians

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Nucleic Acids Basics Workshop | } | Jan 3 – 7, 2012 |
|  | Proteins Basics Workshop | | |
|  | Web-based Bioinformatics | | |
|  | ELISA and Immunoassays | | Jan 7 – 8, 2012 |

Our workshops are designed to cover the basics of all protocols listed below, including lecture/discussion to cover standard methods, hands-on application of all techniques, with helpful advice on how to troubleshoot your protocols through an understanding of technique theory. The workshops will be of interest to undergraduate students doing research projects over the summer, new graduate students, technicians, lab technologists, post-docs or faculty looking to expand their repertoire of techniques.

Module Descriptions:

DNA Basics: DNA isolation and quantitation; PCR and gel electrophoresis. How DNA and RNA isolation work, PCR design and optimization such as RT-PCR, K-PCR, Q-PCR, arrays and primer probes. Restriction digests ligation, transformation and screening, sequencing, theory of cloning strategies and other molecular reactions.

Proteins Basics: Expression of recombinant proteins, isolation/purification/quantitation of proteins, functional studies, SDS-PAGE, Westerns, antibodies as reagents.

Bioinformatics: Use of web-based resources for sequence identification, alignment, restriction mapping, translation, and more.

ELISA and Immunoassays: Variations [direct, indirect, and sandwich], design and standardization, curve analysis, other immunoassay platforms, dot assays, antibodies as reactants. Note: one lecture overlaps with the Proteins workshop.

| Topic | January Bock week | Days | Cost |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| DNA Basics | Jan 3 & 4 | 2 | \$300 |
| Bioinformatics Basics | Jan 5 AM | 1/2 | \$100 |
| Protein Basics | Jan 5 PM to Jan 7 | 2.5 | \$375 |
| ELISA and Immunoassays | Jan 7 & 8 | 2 | \$300 |
| Total Package | | 6 | \$900 |

To register: Email workshop@ucalgary.ca. Registration due by Dec 31, 2011.

Payment: By check or by UofC accounting string (training grants will cover this workshop).

Where: O'Brien labs, 2525 Health Science Centre, Faculty of Medicine.