



Department of Biological Sciences Newsletter

“from biomolecules to the biosphere”

No. 8

March 4, 2016

Announcements

Mark your calendars! This year's **Undergraduate & Graduate Student Research Symposium** will run from Tuesday, March 29 - Friday, April 1.

The **undergraduate presentations** will occur on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (March 29-31); the 528/530 coordinators for each program are working on the schedules, which will be announced in the newsletter once they are ready.

The **graduate poster sessions** will be on Thursday, March 31 from 9:00 to 4:00 in the +15 walkway between Biological Sciences and Science Theatres. A new feature of this year's symposium is **3-Minute Thesis talks**, which will be held on the morning of Friday, April 1 in BI 211.

The presentation by the recipient of the **Ed McCauley Postdoctoral Award** will be on Friday April 1 at 2 pm in BI 211, followed by the **Presentation and Poster Awards and Reception** at 3:30 pm.

Seminars



EEB 601 Seminar - Mondays 12h00 in BI 211

Mar 7 - **Rob Morgante** - The role of plant-soil feedback in climate change mediated range shifts



BCEM 601 Seminar - Mondays 16h00 in BI 211

Mar 7 - **Natalie Gugala** - Biochemical comparison of the antimicrobial activity of metal ions towards three indicator strains grown planktonically and as a biofilm



Micro 601 Seminar - Wednesdays 12h00 in BI 211

Mar 9 - **Travis Bingeman** - *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* metabolism in the cystic fibrosis lung

Important Dates

April 29 - University 50th birthday

June 9 - Convocation (morning) and luncheon





EEB Seminar - Fridays 12h00 in BI 211
Mar 11 - **Janneke Hille Ris Lambers** - Forest Community Reassembly with Climate Change



ICB 601 Seminar - Fridays 15h00 in BI 211
Mar 11 - **Anja Ljubojevic** - TBA

Graduate Student Affairs

Research Proposals



The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Kara Vanden Broek**, in the area of “Developmental Biology”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on February 29, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Michelle Chang**, in the area of “Biochemistry”, was accepted by her Supervisory Committee on February 29, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Adam Lakusta**, in the area of “Biochemistry”, was accepted by his Supervisory Committee on March 2, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Doug Curley**, in the area of “Ecology”, was accepted by his Supervisory Committee on March 2, 2016.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Taylor Woo** entitled “Investigation into the Natural History of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and the Microbiome of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis (nCFB) patients”, will be held on March 4, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Haley Glass** entitled “Monitoring of Amphibians in Jasper National Park using environmental DNA metabarcoding”, will be held on March 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Jessica Hopson** entitled “Effects of dispersal and population regulation on synchrony in population dynamics”, will be held on March 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312.

The M.Sc. Research Proposal for **Susan Anderson** entitled “Implications of nitrogen limitation in cyanobacteria in shallow lakes”, will be held on March 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312.

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

Jeremy Morris (Supervisor: P. Facchini), will be holding his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Biochemistry”, on March 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: S. Noskov).

Tegan Barry (Supervisor: S. Rogers & H. Jamniczky), will be holding her Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on March 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: H. Habibi).

Samuel Robinson (Supervisor: R. Cartar), will be holding his Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Ecology”, on April 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: J. Post).

Christina Amat (Supervisor: A. Buret), will be holding her Candidacy Examination, in the area of “Host Pathogen Interactions”, on May 31, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: TBD).

Thesis Oral Examinations - Exams are “Open” unless otherwise noted.

Hazel Cameron-Inglis (Supervisor: L. Harder), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on March 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: M. Hynes).

Mathew Frankel (Supervisor: R. Turner) will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Environmental Microbiology”, on April 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: D. Muench).

Yibo Wang (Supervisor: S. Noskov), will be holding his Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Biophysical Chemistry”, on April 11, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: H. Habibi).

Brandon Allen (Supervisor: S. Rogers), will be holding his M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on April 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: A. Russell).

Ella Bowles (Supervisor: S. Rogers) will be holding her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on April 15th at 10:00 a.m. in Biological Sciences room 542. (Neutral Chair: G. Voordouw).

Lisa Oberding (Supervisor: L. Gieg), will be holding her M.Sc. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Environmental Microbiology”, on April 15, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: P. Dunfield).

Ezgi Ogutcen (Supervisor: J. Vamosi), will be holding her Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Biology”, on April 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 312. (Neutral Chair: J. Theodor).

Larry Powell (Supervisor: A. Russell), will be holding his Ph.D. Thesis Oral Examination, in the area of “Evolutionary Ecology”, on May 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Biological Sciences room 389. (Neutral Chair: J. Fox).

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

A Comparative Analysis of Pandas vs. Academics

Pandas are a species of animals whose survival depends on conservation efforts by government agencies. Similarly, Academics are a sub-species with questionable societal value. Here now is an analytic comparison of the two endangered animals:

	<u>Pandas</u>	<u>Academics</u>
Moves slowly:	✓	✓
Sleeps during daytime:	✓	✓
Has permanent dark shadows under their eyes:	✓	✓
Generally avoids reproduction:	✓	✓
Society keeps them around because they're:	Very cute	Somewhat astute

JORGE CHAM & MAYIM © 2016

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

“Piled Higher and Deeper” by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com

Employment & Other Opportunities



The

following new Culture and Tourism job opportunities are now available:

Curator of Botany - Royal Alberta Museum - Scientific 2

(Competition number: 1034518) Closes Sunday, March 20, 2016

To view job postings please visit MyHR Jobs Page (<http://myhr.gov.ab.ca/resources/Pages/Jobspage.aspx>)

If you need more information please feel free to contact Human Resources at 780-427-2396.

Calgary Youth Science Fair - Friday April 15, 2016



Calgary Youth Science Fair
PO Box 84041, Market Mall #0
Calgary, AB T3A 5C4
www.cysf.org



You are invited to help us judge at the:
52nd Annual Calgary Youth Science Fair
Friday April 15, 2016
7:15 AM to Noon

Olympic Oval, University of Calgary

If you would like to judge, please register online at:

http://cysf.org/checklist_judge.html

(step 2 is the registration form)

The Calgary Youth Science Fair (CYSF) has been inspiring young scientists for over 50 years, and with 800 students and several hundred judges, it's one of the largest science fairs in Canada. The fair's success depends on dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer judges. Judging is both fun and rewarding, and many judges return year after year. However, we always have plenty of room for new judges, and we offer training and support leading up to the big day.

Leaf

News from the BGSA

Cross-country Ski Clinic!

Are you interested in learning how to cross-country ski?

Register for a classroom session (4:30pm-5pm Feb 29 in BI499) .

We are also planning two guided field trips to the Shagnappi and Confederation Golf Course on two Sundays, March 6 and 13 (Weather permitting). In case of warm weather an alternative cross-country ski trip will be made to the Canmore Nordic Centre. Rent a full set up for \$17.85 from the outdoor centre (eligible for a 10% student discount). Don't forget: all full time students are given \$25 in credit which can be used for equipment rentals at the outdoor centre!

Annual General Meeting, Friday, March 4th, 2016

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for BGSA will be held on Friday, March 4th at 4:00 pm in Room 211. All department graduate students are invited and encouraged to attend. We will discuss the accomplishments of our current executive and announce the call for candidates for the next executive team.

ASPB speaker Panel

Interested in a career in biology but aren't sure where to start? Come out and hear some Professional Biologists talk about their career path over pizza and learn what the industry is like.

Register through the link below so they can order enough pizza!

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ec6bgzwiijuq2d3/start>

Presented by the ASPB: Alexander Elliott

Inquiries at alexander.s.elliott@gmail.com



biogsa@ucalgary.ca



BGSA – University of Calgary



@biogsa



committed to the promotion of *excellence* in the practice of biology

So you want to be a Professional Biologist?

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: University of Calgary Biological Sciences Building, room 211

This is a **free** event for anyone interested in a career in biology after academia.
For inquiries, contact Alexander Elliott alexander.s.elliott@gmail.com

Summary

Not sure what you want to do with your degree after you graduate? Interested in a career in biology but aren't sure where to start?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions then come out and hear some Professional Biologists talk about their career path over pizza and learn what the industry is like.

Register at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ec6bgzwijvuq2d3/start> to make sure that we have enough pizza for everyone!

Alber ta Society of Professional Biologists
370, 105 12 Ave SE
Calgar y, AB T2G 1A1

Ph one: 403.264-1273
Websit e: www.aspb.ab.ca
Email : pbiol@aspb.ab.ca

7th annual interdisciplinary conference for students, by students

CONFORWest

April 8th – 11th, 2016

Barrier Lake Field Station – Kananaskis, AB

Welcoming Ph.D., masters, and senior undergraduates from all environmental disciplines!

Forestry · Ecology · Botany · Hydrology · Entomology · Silviculture · Agroforestry · Soil Science · Ecophysiology · Climate Change · Remote Sensing · Landscape planning · Socio-environmental · Environmental policy · Wildlife Management · Natural Resource Management · ...and more!

Sign up for oral or poster presentations!

Abstracts due February 29th

Room and board will be covered by conference fees!

For abstract submission, conference information, and more, visit

www.conforwest.ca



DANTA COSTA RICA FIELD COURSES 2016



Primate Behavior and Conservation

(June 15 – July 10, 2016)

Human Ecology and Tropical Conservation

(June 27 – July 10, 2016)

Methods in Primate Behavior and Conservation

(July 15 – 29, 2016)

Tropical Rain Forest and Wildlife Conservation

(August 6 – 19, 2016)

Sponsoring Organizations: DANTA: Association for Conservation of the Tropics in collaboration with Osa Conservation and Planet Conservation. University credit available.

**WWW.DANTA.INFO OR
CONSERVATION@DANTA.INFO**



Field Assistants Needed



Ferruginous Hawk Research

We are looking to hire 1-2 field assistants for a University of Alberta study on the relationship between Ferruginous Hawks and industrial development in southern Alberta.

Apply early before the positions are filled!

- Tasks:**
- Nest searching and monitoring
 - Behavioural observation
 - Habitat features identification
 - Landowner communication
 - Hawk capture and banding
 - GPS satellite transmitter attachment
 - Automatic Recording Unit (ARU) setup
 - Additional related tasks

Job Requirements:

- Excellent note-taking skills (detailed and accurate)
- Valid class 5 driver's license with clean record
- Capable of driving long distances
- Cannot be afraid of heights, insects, or heat
- Able to work independently and on a team
- Flexible, willing to learn, and well spirited

Additional Assets:

- Ability to identify prairie raptors
- Experience interacting with rural landowners
- Driving 4WD trucks and basic navigational skills
- Reading maps and operating GPS units
- Aptitude for technology based work
- Experience with basic climbing
- Experience identifying grassland vegetation
- Knowledge of Alberta's Species At Risk
- Experience working with and handling birds
- Experience with radio telemetry
- Valid Standard First Aid



Pay Rate, Work Schedule & Work Term:

- \$2500 - \$3000 CDN/month (depending on experience) plus housing and food in the field.
- Typical schedule consists of a 10 days on / 4 days off rotation (this is flexible); but overall work schedule equates to 22 days/month.
- Positions start in early April through July 31 with possibility of extension.

Please send your cover letter of interest outlining your qualifications and available start dates, resume, and three professional references in an enclosed PDF document to:

Nick Parayko
nparayko@ualberta.ca
(Please indicate in subject line: Field Assistant)

Positions filled as soon as suitable candidates found
Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted

Rent Shared Condo

\$775/Month



For rent: a private basement suite in a shared Bowness condo. You would have a private bathroom, bedroom and living space in the basement and share the kitchen and laundry with the two upstairs tenants. The condo is clean, well-maintained, and trendy.

None of the current tenants are big partiers, but we are social, active people who work a lot. I'm currently a biology grad student.

I'm ideally looking for working professionals or grad students.

A cat is negotiable (but generally welcome).

- ▶ Close to parks, bike paths and the river
- ▶ 20-minute bus to the U of C, SAIT, Foothills
- ▶ Internet and utilities are not included
- ▶ Non-smoking; street parking
- ▶ Fast internet

When: Available now, 6-month lease

Where: Bowness, 75th St

Cost: \$775/month, + utilities, internet

Please email and we can easily set up a meeting to show the condo.

susan.m.anderson@outlook.com



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SHAPE THE
FUTURE OF THE
GRADUATE STUDENT
EXPERIENCE

**GRAD STUDENTS,
TELL US WHAT
MATTERS
TO YOU!**

Survey is
open from
Feb. 22, 2016 to
Mar. 25, 2016

Canadian Graduate & Professional Student Survey, 2016

WHAT IS THE CGPSS?

The Canadian Graduate & Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) is run every three years at universities across Canada and gathers important feedback from graduate students. The results are used at the faculty and program level to improve and shape the future of graduate student experience. The CGPSS is an opportunity to share your thoughts on your time at the university and a chance to make a positive impact in your program.

grad.ucalgary.ca/cgpss

WHY TAKE THE SURVEY?

- An opportunity to tell us what you need to succeed in grad school
- You can make a positive impact in your program
- A chance to win a \$300 Bookstore gift certificate

How do I access the survey?

On Feb 21, 2016, you will receive an email invitation with a link to the survey.