



OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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Summer 2009 Undergraduate Commencement

This year's summer commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 15, 10:00 a.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center. The College has approximately 40 students slated to graduate this summer.

Our student marshal for summer commencement this year is Corinne Baccanti, an animal bioscience major with a minor in wildlife and fisheries sciences. After graduation, Corinne hopes to pursue opportunities with the National Aviary in Pittsburgh and apply for graduate school in the spring with a focus on veterinary medicine and wildlife rehabilitation.

Faculty are encouraged to attend and participate in commencement ceremonies to honor our College of Agricultural Sciences graduates. Faculty participating in the summer commencement ceremony should report to the Green Room of the Bryce Jordan Center at least 20 minutes prior to the ceremony with your academic regalia. A University Marshal will be present to assist and place you in the academic procession. To get to the Green Room in the Bryce Jordan Center, enter the arena floor via Portal 15. Ushers are available to direct you to the Green Room once on the event floor. (<http://commencement.psu.edu/attending.html>)

Call for the 2010 University Faculty Teaching Award Nominations

The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence is still accepting nominations for the 2010 University Faculty Teaching Awards. Penn State recognizes the highest standards of academic excellence, outstanding leadership, and meritorious service with these awards. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and friends of Penn State may nominate faculty for the following three awards:

- 1) Milton S. Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Teaching
- 2) George W. Atherton Award for Teaching Excellence
- 3) Alumni Teaching Fellow Award

The online nomination form requires general

information about the nominee and a brief statement that describes why the nominee deserves the teaching award. Information about the nomination process and the subsequent dossier preparation can be found at <http://www.schreyerinstitution.psu.edu/Awards/>.



The Schreyer Institute accepts nominations throughout the year, but to be considered for the 2010 Awards, nominations should be submitted by August 14, 2009.

If you have any questions about the faculty teaching awards or have trouble accessing the web nomination form, please call 814-865-8681, or send an email to SchreyerAdmin@psu.edu.



*Dr. Terry Musser,
Coordinator of Student
Advising Center and
DUS programs*

Academic Advising Corner!

Academic Review

Use the "Academic Review" module on eLion to assess the progress your students are making toward their degree program. It's easy! Check it out on eLion now – this will enable your students to make necessary changes to their fall schedules or entice them to get in to see you before it's too late. www.elion.psu.edu

Fresh START Program — August 29 —



**PLEASE SHARE WITH
YOUR NEW STUDENTS!**

All students new to Penn State are invited to participate in Fresh START Day of

Service on Saturday, August 29, at University Park.

Fresh START (Students Taking an Active Role Today) is all about making new friends, helping the community, and getting rooted with service. Free food and t-shirts will be offered, too.

For more information, visit [Fresh START](http://FreshSTART) online or send an e-mail to psufreshstart@gmail.com. To register, visit volunteer@psu.

IMPORTANT DATES!

**Student Club
Fair & Social**
Wednesday, Sept. 2nd
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Courtyard between
Creamery & ASI
Greenhouses

Ag Career Day
Tuesday, Oct. 27th
9 AM to 4 PM
Bryce Jordan Center

**College of Ag Sciences
Scholarship Banquet**
Monday, Oct. 12th
5:30 PM
Penn Stater
Conference Center

Request Funds for Student Activities

**Fall 2009 Semester:
Proposals are due September 1, 2009**

**Spring 2010 Semester:
Proposals are due December 1, 2009**

Forms and procedures are in place for the 2009-2010 academic school year. For details and proposal forms, go to <http://students.cas.psu.edu/RequestingFundsforStudentAct.htm>



Undergraduate Research Proposals

Research is a valuable learning experience for students. If you are involved with research and willing to create an opportunity for an undergraduate student to assist you, please contact Denise Connelly (dcc6@psu.edu).

We will create a list of faculty and contact information to be included on the Current Student Web site.

Funding for approved Undergraduate Research projects are at a maximum of \$1250 (2:1 match between University/College and the academic



unit of the faculty adviser). Information for the College Undergraduate Research program is available on the Current Student Web site <http://students.cas.psu.edu/UndergradResearch.htm>

The deadline for research proposals for the Fall 2009 semester is September 11, 2009.

2009 College of Ag Sciences Teaching Recognition and Awards

To recognize and promote excellence in teaching, we invite you to nominate faculty (tenure-track and instructors) from your units for our two college-wide award programs: The *Community of Teaching Excellence Award* (est. 2000), and the *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit* (reinstated in 2007). Nominations and awards for both programs are based on accomplishments during the past academic year (comprising the summer, fall, and spring semesters of 2008-09) in formal undergraduate and graduate instruction, including resident instruction and online instruction.

The *Community of Teaching Excellence Award* is offered solely through the college and can have multiple recipients on

any given year. This recognition can also be received by an individual for multiple years, potentially leading to the induction of the individual into the Academy of Teaching Excellence. The *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit* is awarded by the college to one individual each year as part of our institutional membership in the NACTA Association.

In an attempt to properly recognize and encourage excellence in teaching in faculty early in their careers, tenure-track faculty and instructors with less than five (5) years of teaching experience at Penn State will be considered for the *NACTA Teaching Award of Merit*.

Complete nomination packets for these teaching awards are

available from your Unit Leader and must be submitted to J. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Agricultural Sciences, 101 Ag Administration Bldg. by **5:00 PM on Friday, September 11, 2009.**

Please feel free to contact Marcos Fernandez (jmf28@psu.edu; or 865-7521) if you have any questions. Both award programs carry financial award and recognition.

Formal recognition of award recipients will occur on the evening of October 12, 2009, during the annual College of Agricultural Sciences Scholarship & Recognition Banquet.

CAAS Internship Awards

The College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society recognizes and supports the importance of a planned on-the-job learning experience to help prepare undergraduate students for today's competitive job market.

Because of our support for internship experiences, the Alumni Society annually offers \$750 awards to undergraduate students who have participated in an internship offered through the College of Agricultural Sciences, and who meet other established criteria. Awards are offered on a competitive basis, and applications are judged by a team of impartial representatives from the Alumni Society and the College's Scholarship Committee. The \$750 awards will be made at the annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet to be held on October 12, and will be credited to the students' accounts here at Penn State.

Please encourage your students to apply for this award by the September 4 deadline.



Criteria for eligibility, submission of the application form, and supporting documents can found online at <http://agsci.psu.edu/alumni/awards/student-awards/internship-award/internship-application>.

Please contact the Ag Alumni Office at 814-867-1819 if you have questions or need additional in-



Backpack to Briefcase



Look here for related information about career, internship, and professional development opportunities that may benefit your student programs. If you have ideas or suggestions for programs associated with the Career and Internship Initiative, please contact Debbie McAllister at djm415@psu.edu or 814-865-7522.

2009 Ag Career Day!

The College of Agricultural Sciences will hold its annual career day on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Bryce Jordan Center. Companies have been directed to visit the College of Agricultural Sciences Business and Industry website, <http://agsci.psu.edu/business/events/ag-career-day>. A new opportunity for participating companies this year is a tour of the Food Science Building and Berkey Creamery.



In mid-April, informational postcards were sent out to over 600 company contacts. If you would like printed materials to distribute about Ag Career Day to interested companies, please contact Debbie McAllister. Registration and more information about the event is available online at the [Ag Career Day CVENT site](#). Please mark this date on your calendars and fall course syllabuses, and encourage your students and industry connections to attend!

Upcoming Events and Information

Stay tuned for more detailed information about student professional development events in the month of October. Details are being finalized for programs focused on resume preparation, as well as professional dress and etiquette. The goal of these programs is to help students learn and prepare for Ag Career Day on October 27th.

Through the Career and Internship Initiative, we are in the process of revamping the internship and employment database to better serve our students and potential employers. We hope that a more user-friendly system will encourage active use of the database.

Fall College Info and Club Fair

The 2009 College Info and Club Fair will be held Wednesday, September 2, from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM on the grassy area behind the ASI greenhouses and across from Creamy patio. The purpose of the info fair is to introduce our College students new to University Park to college academic programs and clubs, organization and society opportunities. All academic programs and

Department clubs, organizations and societies are invited to exhibit. Creamery ice cream will be served. Set up for the Fair is from 9:30 – 10:45 AM that morning. Tables will be provided.

Fair will start promptly at 11 AM. All exhibits must be staffed (1-2 persons) for the duration of the Fair. All exhibits must be removed between 2-3:00 PM

on that day. We assume all academic programs and College student organizations will participate.

There is no need to RSVP. Any questions or concerns, please contact Marianne Fivek in the Office for Undergraduate Education at ma-fivek@psu.edu.

Student Organization Success for Advisors

Plan to attend the Student Organization Success for Advisors session on **Wednesday, September 9, 2009**, from 3:35-5:30 PM in 101 Life Sciences Building. The following representatives will tentatively be in attendance: Center for Student Engagement, Associated Student Activities (ASA), Center for Student Activities and Programming (CSA&P), Contracts and Risk Management, HUB Events Management, Office of the Physical Plant, University Park Allocation Committee and Penn State Police Services. This information session is being co-sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Center for Student Engagement. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Vickie Clauer, vcc2@psu.edu, by September 7.

Fall 2009 Undergraduate Program Coordinators' Meeting Schedule

The Fall 2009 Program Coordinator Meetings have been scheduled on the following days, **1:30-3:00 PM**:

- ◆ Monday, September 16, Room 504 ASI
- ◆ Tuesday, October 20, Room 118 ASI
- ◆ Monday, November 23, Room 324 ASI
- ◆ Tuesday, December 21, Room 118 ASI

Meeting notices and reminders containing tentative agenda items will be emailed to Program Coordinators before each meeting.

We welcome your input and ideas for agenda items, so please feel free to contact us at any time to add an item for discussion.

Jim Dunn	AG BM, E RRE, and 2 AGB
John Ewing	AEE and AG SC
Paul Heinemann	A S M and B E
Kate Butler	AGECO, ESOIL
Les Griel	ANBIO and VB SC
Harold Harpster	ANSCI
Jill Findeis	CED
Rob Shannon	E R M
Stephanie Doores	FD SC
Jamie Murphy	FORSC, W F S, and W P
Charles Heuser	HORT
James Howell	IID and TOX
Dan Stearns	LSCPE
Andrew Mc Nitt	TURF
Al Turgeon	TURF (WD)

Special Flu Policies and Procedures from Provost Erickinson's August 10 Email

While you may not be seeing much in the news now about the H1N1 (also called swine flu) virus, we want to provide important information to you about this virus and the impact we expect it could have at Penn State this fall. We also want to review our responsibility in balancing federal and state health guidelines and class attendance.

University Health Services is closely tracking the information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Pa DOH) and recently met with Pa DOH officials so as to be able to provide you with the most up-to-date information. The WHO declared on June 11, 2009, that H1N1 is causing a pandemic, or worldwide outbreak. The illness is currently peaking in the southern hemisphere and waning in the United States.

Even so, public health officials predict that the H1N1 virus will return in the early fall with H1N1 influenza cases occurring as early as late September or early October in the United States. This is an illness that is much more likely to occur in individuals ages 5-25 years old than in any other age group. College campuses such as Penn State are likely to see high numbers of cases.

Because this is a disease that is occurring widely and is highly contagious, public health recommendations are aimed not at containment, but rather at mitigation, or reducing the burden of disease and minimizing its spread.

The most effective strategies for disease mitigation are personal prevention through hand-washing and cough/cold etiquette and other non-pharmacological interventions (NPIs). The most important NPI currently recommended is the exclusion of ill individuals from public, school and group activities. As you can imagine, this will be extremely challenging in an institution like Penn State.

In compliance with CDC and Pa DOH recommendations, Penn State will instruct students with influenza signs and symptoms to follow CDC self-isolation guidelines. Students will be instructed that they should NOT attend classes or any public gatherings while ill. We will ask symptomatic students to leave campus if possible and to return home to recover. Usually the illness and isolation period will be about a week. Given the contagious nature of the illness, its prevalence to date among college-age students, and the self-isolation protocols, it is prudent to prepare for the possibility of significant absences from class during the fall semester.

Likewise, faculty experiencing flu symptoms should follow the CDC self-isolation guidelines and should NOT be present in their classrooms, labs, studios or offices during their ill-

ness. Faculty should alert appropriate officials in their units as soon as possible to inform them that they will be absent and/or to identify possible substitutes.

This extraordinary situation could cause significant stress for infected students as they are required to miss lectures, labs and studios. We recognize too the added burden this places on faculty who have students who, because of flu, cannot attend some instruction periods or scheduled exams. We request that you make every reasonable effort to enable students to complete their courses while recognizing that it is imperative that infected students safeguard the health of faculty, staff and other students by following the non-attendance CDC self-isolation guidelines. Toward this end, we are asking that you:

-- Reinforce the self-isolation guidelines in your course syllabus while recognizing yourself that the current economic environment may drive some students to believe that they should attend class no matter what, rather than risk lower grades or even fewer semester credits. (In practice, if current trends hold, most student absences will be a week or less.) Please help students to understand that in balancing public health and class attendance, public health considerations must carry the greatest weight.

-- Establish and announce in your syllabus a reasonable timeline and means through which students can inform you that they are experiencing flu symptoms and will, therefore, be absent (students should NOT visit you personally to do this--the goal is to limit the spread of this very contagious virus).

-- Follow Academic and Administrative Policy E-11 (that implements University Senate Policy 42-27): Students should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to make up missed work. Ordinarily, it is inappropriate to substitute for the missed assignment the weighting of a semester's work that does not include the missed assignment. Completion of all assignments assures the greatest chance for students to develop heightened understanding and content mastery that is unavailable through the weighting process. The opportunity to complete all assignments supports the university's desire to enable students to make responsible situational decisions without endangering their academic work.

-- Do NOT expect to receive a health care provider certification that a student has had the flu. The university does not have sufficient staff to provide this service. Furthermore, as an important element of self-isolation, we do not want to add to the congregation of potentially contagious individuals, who otherwise do not need medical attention, in the student health center.

Special Flu Policies and Procedures from Provost Erickinson's August 10 Email (continued)

A Sample Insert for Your Fall 2009 Syllabus

Special Fall 2009 Flu Protocols—In compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control recommendations, students should NOT attend class or any public gatherings while ill with influenza. Students with flu symptoms will be asked to leave campus if possible and to return home during recovery. The illness and self-isolation period will usually be about a week. It is very important that individuals avoid spreading the flu to others.

Most students should be able to complete a successful semester despite a flu-induced absence. Faculty will provide students who are absent because of illness with a reasonable opportunity to make up missed work. Ordinarily, it is inappropriate to substitute for the missed assignment the weighting of a semester's work that does not include the missed assignment or exam. Completion of all assignments and exams assures the greatest chance for students to develop heightened understanding and content mastery that is unavailable through the weighting process. The opportunity to complete all assignments and exams supports the university's desire to enable students to make responsible situational decisions, including the decision to avoid spreading a contagious virus to other students, staff, and faculty, without endangering their academic work.

Students with the flu do not need to provide a physician's certification of illness. However, ill students should inform their teachers (but not through personal contact in which there is a risk of exposing others to the virus) as soon as possible that they are absent because of the flu. Likewise students should contact their instructors as quickly as possible to arrange to make up missed assignments or exams.

If you have questions about academic policy-related issues, please call the Associate Dean/Chief Academic Officer of your college. For health-related questions you can email Dr. Margaret Spear, director, University Health Services, at uhsinfo@sa.psu.edu.

Opportunity to Participate – NACTA 2010

During June 22-25, 2010 our College of Agricultural Sciences will be hosting the 56th Annual NACTA Conference. The theme for the three-day conference is "*Collaborate, Communicate, Celebrate.*" NACTA – which stands for North America Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (<http://www.nactateachers.org/>) focuses on the educational and teaching mission of colleges (both Land Grant and non-Land Grant, public and private, large and small) in the agricultural, renewable resource, and human ecology sciences, and is generally a meaningful gathering of teacher- and education focused papers and individuals across our many disciplines.



This past year, the conference was hosted by Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. You can get an idea of conference events, programming, and presentations by going to <http://nactateachers2009.okstate.edu/>. Additional information on the 2010 NACTA conference will be shared later this fall.

To date, we have secured input and guidance from a core group of faculty in the college but want to extend an invitation for others to join the group as we begin to finalized details for the conference. So, if you are interested in participating please contact Tracy Hoover – tsh102@psu.edu by September 15th. We will schedule a planning meeting in early fall.

Curricular Affairs Committee—Meetings go paperless this year!



College of Agricultural Sciences Curricular Affairs Calendar 2009-2010

Proposals Due in CSCS system	Send to ACUE Deans (if necessary) Then to Committee Members for review	College Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Dates and Locations	Revisions Due in CSCS System and Begin Final Approval Process (required signatories)	Proposals due to Faculty Senate	Curriculum Report Publication Date (on Blue Sheets for 30 days)	Senate Committee Curricular Affairs (SCCA) all day meeting
Friday August 7, 2009	Aug. 10-11, 2009	Thurs. Aug. 27, 2009 1:30-3:00 p.m. 105 Forest Resources	Sept. 4, 2009	Sept. 11, 2009	for the <i>Oct. 6, 2009 Issue</i>	Oct. 20, 2009
Friday Sept. 18, 2009	Sept. 21-22, 2009	Thurs. Oct. 8, 2009 1:30-3:00 p.m. 105 Forest Resources	Oct. 16, 2009	Oct. 30, 2009	for the <i>Nov. 17, 2009 Issue</i>	Dec. 8, 2009
Friday Oct. 30, 2009	Nov. 2-3, 2009	Thurs. Nov. 19, 2009 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 105 Forest Resources	Dec. 4, 2009	Dec.16, 2009	for the <i>Jan. 12, 2010 Issue</i>	Jan. 26, 2010
Wednesday Dec. 16, 2009	Dec.17-18, 2009	Thurs. Jan. 14, 2010 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 104 Forest Resources	Jan. 22, 2010	Feb. 5, 2010	for the <i>Feb. 23, 2010 Issue</i>	March 16, 2010
Friday Feb. 12, 2010	Feb. 15-16, 2010	Thurs. March 4, 2010 1:30-3:00 p.m. 104 Forest Resources	May 14, 2010	May 28, 2010	for the <i>April 13, 2010 Issue</i>	April 27, 2010
Friday April 9, 2010	April 12-13, 2010	Thurs. April 29, 2010 1:30-3:00 p.m. 104 Forest Resources	May 14, 2010	May 28, 2010

Note: for course proposals submitted in CSCS, paper copies no longer need to be submitted. For PROGRAM proposals (not done in CSCS), you must submit one paper copy and a PDF file of the proposal by the due dates listed above (first column) to: K. Pletcher, 101 Ag Admin. Bldg.



Summer Brown Bag Series a Success!

The Office for Undergraduate Education sponsored a series of brown bag lunches this summer to discuss topics identified by faculty and staff in the College related to undergraduate education. The series included topics on the e-Learning Initiative, recruiting and advising student athletes, interpreting the new SAT scores, developing and approving internships, and writing strong degree audit petitions.

The discussions were so well received that a request has been made to continue the series into the fall semester. Anyone with topics of interest should send them to Terry Musser at txm4@psu.edu. The September brown bag, date and location to be determined, will focus on methods and ideas for collecting data from students. Look for details coming soon.



Instructor Resources @ UP

Check out these Web sites for more information

Technology Classroom Overview

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/Classrooms/>

Reserving a Technology Classroom

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/Classrooms/Scheduling/>

Getting Help and Reporting Problems

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/SendMail/hotline.aspx>

Faculty Learning Opportunities

<http://its.psu.edu/training/>

<http://digitalcommons.psu.edu/>

Assistive Technology & Physical Access

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/AssistiveTech/>

Student Response Systems

<http://clc.tlt.psu.edu/classrooms/prs/>

Using Personal Laptops

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/Authentication/>

Specialized Software Installation

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/labs/Instruction/>

File Storage Options

<http://clc.its.psu.edu/DiskSpace/>

Collaborative Learning Spaces

<http://tlt.its.psu.edu/learningspaces/about.html>

Podcasts at Penn State

<http://podcasts.psu.edu/>

Penn State Testing Center

www.testing.psu.edu/



PENNSTATE



Office for Undergraduate Education

College of Agricultural Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University
101 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802-2602

Phone: 814-865-7521

Fax: 814-863-7277

<http://cas.psu.edu>

ThinkAgain

FALL 2009 COLLEGE & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

August 17 - September 7	Intent to Graduate Activation Period
August 24	Classes Begin
August 24 - September 2	Drop/Add Period
September 7	Labor Day Holiday - No classes
September 28 - October 18	Final Exam Conflict Filing Period
November 13	Late Drop Deadline
November 23 - 29	Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes
December 11	Classes End
December 12 - 13	Study Days
December 14 - 18	Final Exams
December 19	Commencement