

Undergrad Ed Updates

OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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“Cookies, Cocoa & Cramming” Available Once Again to Students During Finals Week



In what has now become an Ag Sciences tradition, the Office for Undergraduate Education will invite students to stop in 101 Ag Administration Building for a study break, and to enjoy some home-made Holiday Season cookies and other baked goodies, along with warm cocoa, coffee, cider, and tea. The office plans to have the “Holiday Season Goodies” available over the first three days of Finals Week - **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 13-15, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.** Students are invited to “stop by and eat & run.” If you are in the area, you are more than welcomed to stop by, say hello, enjoy a tasty holiday treat or two, and see our seasonal decorations in the office. **Season’s Greetings!**

Research Opportunities for Undergraduates

From the Office of Undergraduate Education, 417 Old Main

The Undergraduate Exhibition April 12 -13, 2011

Poster and performance entries invited
Entry deadline Friday, March 4, 2011



Summer Discovery Grants

Application deadline Friday, February 11, 2011

Open to undergraduate students at all Penn State campuses
For more information visit www.undergradresearch.psu.edu

2011 Summer Undergraduate Discovery Grant Applications

Deadline: February 11, 2011

The Office of Undergraduate Education is pleased to announce the following undergraduate research opportunities open to students at all Penn State campuses. **2010 Summer Undergraduate Discovery Grant** applications will be accepted beginning in December 2010. **The deadline for applications is Friday, February 11th.** This highly competitive program provides summer support for undergraduate student engagement in original research, scholarship, or creative work under the direct supervision of a faculty member. Information about the program and application requirements is available at: www.undergradresearch.psu.edu

Please share these opportunities with faculty and students in your college. Questions may be directed to Mary Beth Crowe, Assistant Vice President and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education (863-1864, mbc5@psu.edu).

Faculty Senate Alters Requirements for Minors

The University Faculty Senate passed a revision to the policy for minor requirements to allow students to complete a minor even if their campus assignment does not offer that minor. The revision to requirements for completing a minor amends the Senate policy to allow a minor to be completed by taking courses at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. With a recent realignment of University-wide curriculum, courses are no longer owned by a specific location and any campus with the resources and desire to do so may offer any course. It is now possible for students to complete requirements for a minor without attending the campus responsible for a minor. The one caveat to this policy is that students may not process a change of assignment to another campus for the purpose of completing a minor there.

Academic Review Reminder

It has been highlighted in the Advising Corner before, but there is a great way to check up on all of your advisees on eLion after grades have been posted and it's called the "Academic Review". You can analyze the grades and schedules for all students and send them an electronic form to inform them of their progress toward a degree. It's a quick and easy way to stay in touch and give advice, even with your students at another campus. As always, contact Terry Musser (814-863-2834; txm4@psu.edu) if you have any questions.



Fall 2010 Commencement and College Alumni Society Brunch Buffet



The College of Agricultural Sciences Fall 2010 Commencement will be held on Saturday, December 18, at 9:00 a.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center. Faculty planning to participate in the ceremony can find out more information at <http://commencement.psu.edu/attending.html>.

Graduates are to arrive in regalia at 8:00 a.m. and enter Gate B of the Jordan Center. Visit <http://commencement.psu.edu/undergrad.html> for more information.

Also, the college and the alumni society host a celebration brunch immediately following commencement in Gym I of the Intramural Building. The annual brunch has become a tradition, providing an opportunity for you to meet, mingle, and celebrate with students and their family members. Registration information is available online at <http://agsci.psu.edu/alumni>. All tickets must be reserved in advance of the event. For more information call 865-2717.

Fall 2010 Graduating Senior Survey

An e-mail was sent on December 1st to all the undergraduates currently on the college's Fall 2010 graduation list (incl. A B E / B E students) encouraging them to complete the college's online Graduating Senior Survey. As you know, the survey is an important evaluation and assessment tool for our college and most of the academic programs, so please encourage and remind your graduating seniors to complete the survey.

The deadline to complete the online survey (found at <http://SeniorSurvey.cas.psu.edu/>) is **December 17, 2010**. Please direct any survey-specific questions or technical problems to Ms. Kathy Pletcher in OUE (kjs8@psu.edu).

Finals and Submission of Grades Reminders



A note from Dr. Robert N. Pangborn
Vice President & Dean for Undergraduate Education
The Pennsylvania State University
417 Old Main, University Park Campus

A couple of reminders as we approach the final week of classes:

Please be aware of our University Faculty Senate Policy 44-20 regarding final exams and term projects, which stipulates that any end-of-semester examinations (with the exception of quizzes and narrowly limited tests worth no more than ten percent of the semester grade) are to be administered during the final exam period. Where end-of-semester examinations are not administered, term projects, reports and other integrative assignments worth more than ten percent of the course grade are to be due no earlier than the first day of the final examination period.

Please note that the University Faculty Senate policy does include a provision for exceptions to the ten percent criterion—granting them "for educational reasons and only as recommended by the faculty of the program offering the course and approved by the appropriate dean or chancellor." In addition, Academic Administrative Policy/Procedure F-2 provides for a procedure for students to follow if concerned about a particular class's final exam or end-of-semester assignment.

With regard to students, Senate policy governs the circumstances in which students can request an alternate exam time—those being either a direct conflict (two exams scheduled at the same time) or an overload conflict (too many exams within a prescribed time period). The official final exam week precludes the scheduling of other sanctioned activities that would normally represent excused class absences, like participation in scheduled athletic contests, so students should not be requesting make-ups for these reasons. There may be some circumstances involving serious illness or family emergency where some provision for make-up or alternative timing should be made, but that does not include a student having prematurely scheduled a flight home or the convenience of an early-week ride offer.

Finally, I would also like to use this opportunity to stress the importance of getting grades in promptly. Per Senate policy, deferred grades (DF) and no grades (NG) prevent students from graduating; timely submission of grades will avoid disadvantaging our students unintentionally.

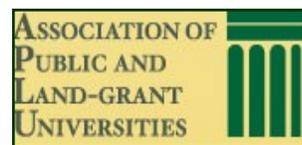
I appreciate your attention to these policies out of consideration for our students and faculty colleagues, both now and as you prepare your course designs for future semesters.

- Rob Pangborn

Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities Proceedings

The [proceedings](#) from last summer's (2010) APLU Academic Programs Section Summit, "[Creating Change: Building Human Capacity for a Sustainable Future](#)" is now available. Thanks to all who participated and to the planning committee. If you have made changes on your campus as a result of the summit, please send me your story.

The 2011 Summit will be held **August 3-5, 2011** at the Hotel Frontenac in St. Louis, MO.



Participation is limited for each institution. More information and details on the 2011 Summit will be released soon. www.aplu.org

Nominations for the Outstanding Adult Student Award

Nominations for the Outstanding Adult Student Award are now being accepted. to recognize an outstanding adult learner at University Park who has overcome obstacles and multiple roles in furthering his/her education, serves as a role model for other students and achieves academically.

Nominees should have begun/resumed studies at or after the age of 24 or after having been out of high school for four or more years. Nominees must be enrolled at Penn State's University Park Campus, through any delivery system, as either a full or part-time undergraduate status. Prior to nomination, undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of forty-five credits with at least thirty of these credits earned at Penn State, earned a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and demonstrate participation in co-curricular or community organization.



Completed packets are due January 31, 2011.

Packets and additional information is available at: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/adults/oasa.shtml>

Feel free to contact Leslie Laing (lal24@sa.psu.edu; 863-7378) for additional information.

The Teaching Professor Conference



**May 20-22, 2011
Atlanta, Georgia**

Now entering its 8th year, *The Teaching Professor* Conference is a must-attend for those dedicated to the art and science of teaching. Information on the 2011 Conference (to be held at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, GA, May 20-22, 2011) can be found on their website: <http://www.teachingprofessor.com/conference>.

This three-day conference of excellence in pedagogy brings together hundreds of faculty members from campuses nationwide, to:

- ◆ Explore the newest ideas in teaching and learning
- ◆ Hear the latest research
- ◆ Discuss the state of today's changing classroom

Each year, *The Teaching Professor* Conference tackles the issues of the moment ... the things that matter most to educators today. You'll hear leading speakers on topics like: Student performance; Mentoring; Academic integrity, Faculty development; Technology, Group work; Self-assessments; Rubrics; Motivating students; etc. Expect lively discussion, spirited debate and a rewarding exchange of ideas throughout all three days!

College teaching faculty interested in attending the conference, please note that four (4) grants (worth \$750.00 each) will be available in partial support of the 2011 *The Teaching Professor* Conference. Send an e-mail to Ms. Cindy Teeters (clt2@psu.edu), College of Agricultural Sciences Office for Undergraduate Education, indicating your (1) name, title, and academic unit, (2) your interest in attending this particular conference, (3) anticipated total cost of attending the conference, and (4) where the balance of funding supporting your attendance will come from. Please send this by **5:00 PM Friday, February 4, 2011.**

Weather Delays and Cancellation Information



Penn State Classes and Activities: Weather Delays
A note from Dr. Robert N. Pangborn
Vice President & Dean for Undergraduate Education
The Pennsylvania State University
417 Old Main, University Park Campus

In years past, weather events caused a delay in the start of activities and classes at University Park campus. When a delay is announced at University Park, classes and activities that begin before the announced time are canceled.

Those classes or activities beginning at or after the conclusion of the announced delay time will be held as originally scheduled. For example, a two-hour delay until 10 a.m. due to snow or ice would mean that all classes that begin before 10 a.m. are canceled and will not be held. Classes beginning at 10 a.m. or later will continue on their regular schedule.

At their discretion, faculty who teach classes that run across multiple periods may decide to hold their class starting at the announced delay time and continuing through the end of the period. For example, if a two-hour delay is announced, a faculty member whose class normally runs from 9 a.m. to noon could elect to start class at 10 a.m. and continue through noon. Faculty who wish to do this need to inform their students of their decision in advance of bad weather, as this option will not be included in the delay announcement put out by the University. This information can be added to the class syllabus or communicated through Angel prior to a University cancellation.

Faculty are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety, and should review “Handling Weather Day Absences” (Human Resources Guideline 10) on the web at <http://guru.psu.edu/policies/OHR/hrg10.html> for specific information on how time missed for weather situations is handled. For information on how the University deals with inclement weather and where information related to class and activity cancellations can be found, go to <http://live.psu.edu/story/48847>

Instructors Needed for AG 160

AG LEAP 2011

Instructors are needed for Summer 2011 LEAP for **Intro to Ethics & Issues in Agriculture** (AG 160) For more information, please contact Karen Vines (kav11@psu.edu)

Identifying Fulbright Experience Within Faculty

To assist with Penn State’s efforts in promoting student interest in the Fulbright program, faculty who were student Fulbrights (for the U.S. or internationally) are requested to contact Dr. Ruth Mendum, Director of the University Fellowships Office, at rmm22@psu.edu. The plan is to call on these individuals now and again to connect with students regarding this unique opportunity.

Thank you for your help in Penn State’s efforts to increase Fulbright opportunities for our students.

Curricular Affairs Committee—College of Agricultural Sciences Calendar 2010-2011

** Proposals Due in CSCS System	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 Oct. 29, 2010	Thurs. Nov. 18, 2010 1:30—3:00 p.m. 105 Forest Resources	December 3, 2010	December 15, 2010	<i>for the Jan. 11, 2011 Issue</i>	Jan. 25, 2011
Friday Dec. 17, 2010	Thurs. Jan. 13, 2011 1:30—3:00 p.m. Room location TBA	January 21, 2011	February 4, 2011	<i>for the Feb. 22, 2011 Issue</i>	March 15, 2011
Friday Feb. 4, 2011	Thurs. Feb. 24, 2011 1:30—3:00 p.m. Room location TBA	March 4, 2011	March 25, 2011	<i>for the April 12, 2011 Issue</i>	April 28, 2011
Friday April 1, 2011	Thurs. April 21, 2011 1:30—3:00 p.m. Room location TBA	May 13, 2011	May 27, 2011	<i>For the August 2011 Issue</i>	August 2011 Meeting

**Proposals need to be completely through all consultation and ready to be sent to College Administrator by this date to be reviewed at College Committee Meeting.

* Dates posted by Faculty Senate.

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://agsci.psu.edu>

ThinkAgain

FALL 2010 COLLEGE & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

December 10	Classes End
December 11 - 12	Study Days
December 13 - 17	Final Exams
December 18	Commencement



SNIDER AGRICULTURAL ARENA