



# Undergrad Ed Updates



OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Advising Corner 2
- Coordinator of Experiential Learning 2
- Ag Advocates Applications 3
- NACTA 2011 Call for Abstracts 4
- 2011 WISE Day Camp 5
- Summer 2011 Teaching Case Studies in Science Workshop 5
- NEW** - College Curricular Corner 6
- 2011 Summer UG Discovery Grant Applications 7
- UG Program Coordinator Meeting 7
- OUE Campus Visits 8
- 2011 NACTA Call for Abstracts 8
- NBC Learn Pilot 9
- SREC Schedule 9

## 14th Annual Northwest Pennsylvania Grazing Conference

The Office for Undergraduate Education will sponsor (registration and transportation) up to 20 fulltime undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Pennsylvania Grazing Conference will be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2011, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM** at the Tri-County Church located just off of Interstate 80 in DuBois, PA (approximately 75 minutes from state College).

The primary goal of the conference is to present the latest in grazing technology and methodology so that producers can increase on-farm income by increasing production or reducing costs. This year, the conference will focus on pasture based systems and grazing livestock with sessions specific to the importance of improving cattle handling practices, mob grazing, equine pasture management, and renovation of pastures.



Our Keynote Speaker is Dr. Temple Grandin. She overcame severe autism as a child to pursue a career as an Animal Behavior Scientist. She single handedly redesigned livestock handling equipment from the perspective of how cattle view and react to their surroundings. Success in incorporating the animal perspective into her work has helped make her a much sought after consultant. She's a nationally known speaker at grazing conferences and with the release of a recent HBO movie about her life a large crowd is expected.



Interested students should email the following information to Ms. Vickie Clauer, [vcc2@psu.edu](mailto:vcc2@psu.edu), by **Tuesday February 8, 2011**: Your name, ID number, email, local address, cell number, major and semester standing. Additional details will be provided to those attending.

Additional Conference information can be found at <http://headwaterspa.org/Documents/Grazing%20Conf%20Brochure%202011.pdf>

## AN SC 100 Approved as a Natural Science (GN)

The Faculty Senate recently approved AN SC 100 as a GN (Natural Science) general education course for undergraduates. The course will cover the breadth of animal agriculture with emphasis on the biological bases for contemporary production practices. On-line offerings through the eLearning Cooperative and via World Campus will be available as early as Fall, 2011.



## Early Progress Reports Reminder for Instructors and Advisers

The Early Progress Report (EPR) system was designed to replace the paper-based “Mid-semester Report” system and is required for all first-year students in your classes. The College wants 100% compliance with this program so students don’t get the false sense that their grades are satisfactory because they did not receive an EPR!

### How EPR Works

The EPR has three groups of participants: faculty, students and advisers. Each one has an important part to play.

#### Faculty:

**Role:** Provide feedback to students on their performance as early in the semester as possible.

- Steps:**
1. Instructors with first-year students receive an email the 1st day of the 3rd week of the semester.
  2. Instructors log on to eLion, select “Early Progress Report” from the left menu and follow the instructions to indicate which students are not performing in a satisfactory manner.
  3. A reminder email will be sent on the 1st day of the 5th week of the semester reminding instructors they need to complete the report. Instructors must enter the report through eLion.

#### Students:

**Role:** Review EPR and take any necessary actions based on the information it provides. The report will be available through the seventh week of classes.

- Steps:**
1. Students will receive an email when an instructor indicates he or she is not performing well in a course.
  2. Students log on to eLion, select “Early Progress Report” from the left menu and receive all the reports submitted by instructors.
  3. Students should review the information, access resources referenced in the report, and meet with the instructor or his or her adviser as necessary.

#### Advisers:

**Role:** Review reports on advisees and help them seek the resources they need to be successful. The reports will be available for the duration of the semester.

- Steps:**
1. Advisers will receive an email when an instructor indicates that one of his or her advisees is not performing well. Advisers may use eLion to turn off this notification.
  2. Advisers log on to eLion, select “Early Progress Report” from the left menu, select a student from their advisee list or by entering the student’s PSU ID or user id, and review the reports.

**Just follow the instructions you receive in an email from the Registrar’s Office to complete your EPR’s through eLion between January 24 and February 21.**

## Coordinator of Experiential Learning for the College of Ag Sciences

We’re very excited to share with you that Ms. Catherine McGinnis has accepted the position of Coordinator of Experiential Learning for the College of Agricultural Sciences. In her role, Cathy is responsible for coordinating internships and career services, coordinating the undergraduate research program, Ag Career Day, Scholars in Action, and to provide career coaching through seminars and workshops. Cathy brings extensive experience in the areas of career planning, exploration, development, experiential learning, job and internship search, and professional workforce trends.

Cathy will be working closely with our academic units, public relations and development offices, our students, and University

Career Services, among others. With our economy slowing down, and its possible effects on the placement of students seeking internships and post-graduation employment opportunities, the timeliness for this change in assignments and duties was critical. We believe this move will better position our college and students, as well as the businesses and industries that depend on our graduates, for success now and later.

Cathy’s office is located in 110 Ag Administration Building and she may be reached at [cmm54@psu.edu](mailto:cmm54@psu.edu); 814-865-7522. Any and all inquiries, comments or questions regarding internships, employment, etc., for and from our students should be directed to Cathy.

## Entrance to Major Process

The entrance to major process is currently in action for our sophomore students (students in the spring 2011 pool). The deadline for students to confirm their major is February 11 and the Registrar's office is sending email reminders to students who have not yet confirmed their choice of major. Even though we have only a couple of majors that require anything more than a 2.0 CGPA and 27.1 credits, it is still important for our students to complete this process so we have a record of all students headed for our majors. You can help, and it's easy! Just go to eLion and select "Adviser Control" from the menu on the left (don't forget that you must log on as "Adviser" on eLion and not as "Faculty"). Your list of advisees will appear on the page. Under the box with this list, click the

button titled "Select other options." The next screen gives you options as well, and you should select "Go to Advanced Settings." If you scroll down on this new page, you will see selection criteria for finding various "types" of students. You should put "sp11" in the box titled "Entrance to Major Sem" on the right side of the page and then click the box toward the bottom of that column titled "ETM not confirmed." Then click the button "Display list with selected settings." You will now see a list of advisees who have not yet confirmed their choice of major. You can now scroll down the menu to "E-mail Advisees" and send these selected students an email to remind them to complete the etm process on eLion ("Entrance to Major" on their menu) by February 11. Many of the students ignore the notices being sent by the Registrar's office but are more likely to pay attention to a message sent by you.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CORNER  
(Continued)

## Application Process for Prospective Ag Advocates

Applications for Ag Advocates will be available starting January 15 at <http://agadvocates.cas.psu.edu>.

**Applications are due February 28, 2011 by 5:00 PM.** The Advocates are a select group of undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences. The Ag Advocates are a vital constituent in assisting the College in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified students. The Advocates work closely with the Office for Undergraduate Education and have the opportunity to develop communication skills, network with professionals and establish working relations with college and university faculty, students, staff and administrators across the Penn State system. The mission of the organization is to create an awareness of the academic programs and career opportunities in or related to food, agriculture, and the natural resource sciences. Advocates assist with prospective student visits to campus,

open houses, orientation programs, Alumni functions, and also travel the commonwealth to visit high schools and Penn State campuses.

Encourage students to come learn more about the organization and attend one of the following information sessions for more details: **Tuesday, February 8, 2011 or Tuesday, February 22, 2011, Room 118 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building, 6:00 - 6:45 PM.**





## Nominations for the Presidential Leadership Academy

Nominations requested to identify students who may be candidates for the Presidential Leadership Academy's fall 2011 class.

Established in spring 2009, the Academy is a three-year leadership development opportunity for a select group of students. Through the Presidential Leadership Academy, students will develop leadership fundamentals to thrive in an environment in which multiple dimensions of an issue are explored, diverse viewpoints are welcomed and heard, and a fully informed and respectful discourse ensues that leads to sound action. The curricular and extracurricular opportunities available through the Academy lead to further development of critical thinking abilities necessary for leaders to implement decisions with sensitivity to the circumstances that led them and the flexibility to rethink decisions and even change course along the way. A highlight of the Academy is a one-credit introductory seminar led by the President of the university.

*It is our responsibility to prepare students to understand that the most difficult decisions in today's world require the examination of all sides of an issue. It is in the gray area that the greatest challenges reside."*

Graham B. Spanier, president, Penn State

Interested students may apply for membership in the Academy, or they can be nominated by members of the university community. Given the likelihood that you may come in contact with current first-year students who may be interested in the Academy, you are invited to nominate any current students you feel would benefit from this kind of experience. You may complete the formal nomination on this Web site: <http://www.academy.psu.edu/>

Please note that the only requirements necessary for nominations are:

- ◆ Current status as a first-year student
- ◆ Demonstrated leadership skills, either in or outside the classroom
- ◆ Minimum GPA of 3.2

Deadline for receipt of nominations is **Monday, February 14, 2011**. Students nominated for the Academy will be asked to complete the application process, which includes a resume, one essay question, and two letters of recommendation. Contact Melissa Doberstein [mif3@psu.edu](mailto:mif3@psu.edu) or 814-863-4589 with questions.

## 20th Annual Undergraduate Exhibition

**Entry deadline: Friday, March 4, 2011**  
**Exhibition dates: Tuesday, April 12 (Performances)**  
**and Wednesday, April 13 (Poster Sessions)**

Penn State's annual Undergraduate Exhibition communicates and celebrates the participation of undergraduate students from across the University in research and creative endeavors. Undergraduate students from all Penn State campuses

are invited to enter poster or performance presentations to showcase their work to a general audience. The exhibition is open to the public. Entry guidelines and forms are available at [www.undergradresearch.psu.edu](http://www.undergradresearch.psu.edu)

**Faculty and graduate student volunteers are urgently needed to serve as Exhibition judges. Volunteers may sign up at <https://undergradresearch.psu.edu/exhibition/judgesneeded.cfm>**

## 2011 WISE Day Camp and Adult Conference Call for Proposals

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Penn State, University Park Campus

### Proposal Submission Information

**Who:** Faculty, Graduate and Undergraduate Students, Industry Professionals

**What:** 50-min hands-on workshops in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

**Sessions:** 10:00am – 10:50am, 11:05am – 11:55am, and 1:00pm – 1:50pm

**Audience:** Girls in grades 10, 11 and 12 **and** Adults (parents/guardians, teachers, counselors) Approximately 20 students or adults are estimated to attend each hands-on workshop

**When:** Deadline for submission is **Friday, February 11, 2011**

**How:** All proposals can be submitted at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/daycampprop>

**Payment:** Workshops are submitted on a volunteer basis. No compensation or reimbursement of expenses can be provided.



**Lunch is provided for all instructors and assistants.**

Please feel free to contact the WISE Institute at 814-865-3342 or [psuwisecamp@gmail.com](mailto:psuwisecamp@gmail.com) with questions.

For more details about the camp and adult conference visit, <http://www.equity.psu.edu/wise/k12-camps.asp>

## Summer 2011 Teaching Case Studies in Science Workshop



**Workshop Dates: May 16-20, 2011**

**Workshop Location:** University at Buffalo, State University of New York  
Registration Fee: \$800

**Workshop Content:** The case study method is a powerful pedagogical technique for teaching science because it humanizes science and effectively illustrates scientific methodology and values. Moreover, since many of the best cases are based on contemporary science problems featured in the news, the use of cases in the classroom makes science relevant to students.

The five-day workshop focuses on training science faculty (all levels) to teach with case studies, to write their own cases, and to assess their students'

learning with cases. During the final two days of the workshop, all participants are required to teach a case before a student audience using a case they have developed during the workshop. In addition, workshop participants are expected to produce a case study within six months of the workshop for our national, peer-reviewed case collection.

Past workshops have included faculty from biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, computer science, mathematics, geology, psychology, anthropology, nursing, science education, dentistry, engineering, medicine, and other science-related disciplines.

**Application:** Open enrollment through registration on a first-to-register, first-to-pay basis, limited to 35 people.

**Website:** Detailed information about the workshop, including online registra-

tion and housing options, will be available on February 1st at: <http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/training/workshops/>

**Questions:** Please contact our workshop coordinator, Carolyn Wright, at [nccsts@buffalo.edu](mailto:nccsts@buffalo.edu) or at 716-645-4900.

The College of Agricultural Sciences' Office for Undergraduate Education will partially support two (2) of our faculty wishing to attend this program, by agreeing to fund the registration fee for two participants (\$800.00 each) attending this summer's Teaching Case Studies in Science Workshop; the registrants' units would have to cover costs associated with hotel, per diem, and travel to and from Buffalo, NY. Please contact Marcos Fernandez ([jmf28@psu.edu](mailto:jmf28@psu.edu); 814-865-7521) if you are interested in or planning to attend this workshop.

**College Curricular Corner**

The College's Instruction and Curriculum Affairs Committee reviews curriculum proposals submitted by units within the College of Agricultural Sciences for eventual approval by the Faculty Senate. This committee meets regularly throughout the fall and spring semester. A complete list of committee meeting dates are listed below. Instructions on how to submit proposals, who your unit representatives are, etc. Are online at: <http://agsci.psu.edu/faculty-staff/teaching-and-learning/college-resources/icac>.



The following proposals were reviewed at the January 18, 2011, College Instruction and Curricular Affairs Committee (ICAC) Meeting. See your ICAC unit representative for more information.



Course of Program	Course #	Type of Action	Type of Review	Action
WILDL	106	Change	New	Revise and review again
VB SC	101	Add	New	OK with minor revisions
CED	375H	Add	New	OK with minor revisions
AG BM	Major	Change	New	OK with minor revisions
AG SC	Major	Change	New	OK with minor revisions

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

<b>** Proposals Due in CSCS System</b>	<b>College Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Dates and Locations</b>	<b>Revisions Due in CSCS System and Begin Final Approval Process (required signatories)</b>	<b>* Proposals due to Faculty Senate</b>	<b>* Curriculum Report Publication Date (on Blue Sheets for 30 days)</b>	<b>* Senate Committee Curricular Affairs (SCCA) all day meeting</b>
<b>Friday Dec. 17, 2010</b>	<b>Thurs. Jan. 13, 2011</b> 1:30—3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng Bldg	January 21, 2011	<b>February 4, 2011</b>	<i>for the Feb. 22, 2011 Issue</i>	March 15, 2011
<b>Friday Feb. 4, 2011</b>	<b>Thurs. Feb. 24, 2011</b> 1:30—3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng Bldg	March 4, 2011	<b>March 25, 2011</b>	<i>for the April 12, 2011 Issue</i>	April 28, 2011
<b>Friday April 1, 2011</b>	<b>Thurs. April 21, 2011</b> 1:30—3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng Bldg	May 13, 2011	<b>May 27, 2011</b>	<i>For the August 2011 Issue</i>	August 2011 Meeting

\*\*Course proposals need to be completely through all consultation and ready to be sent to the college administrator (K. Pletcher) thru CSCS by this date to be reviewed at the college committee meeting. Also, a PDF of the proposal must be sent to the College Administrator ([kjs8@psu.edu](mailto:kjs8@psu.edu)) by this deadline. Hard Copies are not required for the college review process. Once the proposal has passed through the College's Instruction and Curricular Affairs Committee review process, the appropriate hard copies will be made by the college administrator and sent to the Faculty Senate.

\* Dates posted by Faculty Senate. Senate Newsletters are posted to their website at: [http://www.senate.psu.edu/senate\\_activity/newsletters.htm](http://www.senate.psu.edu/senate_activity/newsletters.htm).

## 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](http://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](mailto:mbc5@psu.edu)).



## Undergraduate Program Coordinator Meeting Schedule

The Spring 2011 Program Coordinator Meetings have been scheduled on the following days, **1:30-3:00 PM:**

- ◆ Monday, **February 21**, Room 118 ASI
- ◆ Tuesday, **March 22**, Room 504 ASI
- ◆ Monday, **April 18**, Room 118 ASI
- ◆ Monday, **May 16**, Room 118 ASI

Please mark your calendars and note the room locations.

We welcome input and ideas for agenda items, so please feel free to add an item for discussion at these meetings.

Jim Dunn	AG BM, and 2 AGB
John Ewing	AEE and AG SC
Megan Marshall	B E
Jude Liu	A S M
Kate Butler	AGECO and ESOIL
Les Griel	ANBIO and VB SC
Harold Harpster	ANSCI
Jill Findeis	CED and E RRE
Rob Shannon	E R M
Stephanie Doores	FD SC
Ellen Manno	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)

## Office for Undergraduate Education Campus Visits



Once again the Office for Undergraduate Education will hit the road and visit several Commonwealth campuses this spring. Department participation is welcome! If you or a colleague would like to jump on the van, please email Debbie Little, [dxm16@psu.edu](mailto:dxm16@psu.edu), ASAP.

March 24	Penn State Altoona
March 30	Penn State Beaver
April 7 & 8	Penn State Brandywine and Abingdon
April 12	Penn State Altoona—Ag Awareness Day

## NACTA 2011 Call for Abstracts

The **2011 Annual NACTA Conference** will be held June 14 – 17 at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. This conference will be a joint meeting with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Division of Community and Education (DOCE-formerly SERD).

The theme for the 2011 NACTA Conference is **“Get Engaged”**. Accepted abstracts that address the theme will be given first priority for oral presentations. Approximately 90 oral presentations and 84 poster presentations will be scheduled throughout the conference. Authors will be given the option to request an oral presentation, but it will be up to the host committee to make the final selection & timetabling of oral presentations. All other abstracts will be poster presentations.

The 2011 NACTA Conference will serve as a venue for faculty in agricultural, environmental, natural, and life sciences to share their information on the theme of **“Get Engaged”** as well as to share innovative teaching or advising ideas, scholarship of teaching, and other pertinent information. Abstracts are to fall within one of the four following topic areas:

### **1. Engaging through Experiential Learning**

Learning opportunities that facilitate learner-centeredness, shared power, deep processing, student engagement, empowerment, and responsibility. Presentations

about new creative approaches to: field schools and field-based courses, co-ops and practicums, capstone courses, as well as integrating research into student learning, and engaging community and industry in student learning.

### **2. Engaging through Teaching**

Looking at teaching as a vehicle for engaging learners and teachers. Scholarly assessment of teaching methods, models for curriculum development, utilization of technology, interdisciplinary approaches and internationalizing the curriculum. Explorations of ways of engaging different generations of students, culturally and linguistically diverse students, and the new generations of teachers are also of interest.

### **3. Engaging Faculty and Students in Assessment and Performance Matters**

Assessment, evaluation and performance reviews are ways in to engage stakeholders in the continuous improvement of the teaching-learning process. Challenges, critical reflections, and effective applications of achievement or performance measures, program evaluation and review, accreditation processes, competency based and mastery learning, career development for faculty, and celebration of student and teacher success.

### **4. Engaging in Ethical Issues**

Critical reflections and effective application of ethics in learning, research, teach-



ing, partnerships with community and industry, and/or funders. Scholarly assessment of approaches to promote academic integrity by students and teachers and the ethical issues created by technology, social media, etc.

All abstracts must be submitted at this website: <http://nactaabs.expressacademic.org/login.php>

If you have any questions contact the NACTA Journal Editor, Rick Parker, at [NACTAeditor@pmt.org](mailto:NACTAeditor@pmt.org).

**Deadline: March 20, 2011.** The author submitting the abstract will be notified of its status three weeks after the deadline.

The NACTA website address is: [www.ales.ualberta.ca/nacta2011](http://www.ales.ualberta.ca/nacta2011)

## NBC Learn Pilot Offers Penn State Community Access to a Wealth of News Footage



NBC Learn is an archive of NBC news reels, broadcasts, and original education shorts from the late 1930s to the present. Penn State's Information Technology Services (ITS) is partnering with NBC in a pilot project to give the Penn State community access to this extensive video archive. The archive contains historical and current information on a wide variety of topics including science, politics, history, and more, which can serve as a useful re-

source for course content. NBC Learn has added features to its collection designed specifically for higher education. The videos are tagged with metadata in a classic citation style so they can be easily searched. In addition, the videos are accompanied by transcripts. ITS encourages faculty and staff to sign up for the NBC Learn pilot by visiting <http://nbclearn.psu.edu/> and selecting the "Join Pilot" link, then filling out a brief online form.

A free workshop entitled "Topics for Teaching: Using the NBC Learn Media

Archive" will be offered on both February 3 at 2:00 p.m. and February 24 at noon via an online Adobe Connect videoconference. The workshop will introduce attendees to the types of content within the archive, help them get started locating and using the videos, and cover best practices for using the material in the classroom. For details and to register, visit <https://register4its.psu.edu/Public/Contents.asp?display=list&sortby=1&mindate=1%2F26%2F2011&title=nbc&action=Search>

## Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee Schedule

Spring 2011 Schedule for Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee (SREC) will meet on the following dates from 10:30 – noon, in 101 Ag. Admin. Conference Room

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 1</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 5</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 3</b>



**PENNSTATE**  
1855

**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**

## Spring 2011 COLLEGE & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

March 6-12	Spring Break—No Classes
April 8	Late Drop Deadline
April 29	Withdrawal Deadline
April 29	Classes End
May 2-6	Final Exams
May 13-15	Commencement

