

OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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Application Process for Prospective Ag Advocates

Applications for new Ag Advocates is available online at <http://agadvocates.cas.psu.edu>. An information session will be held Tuesday, January 22, 6:00-6:45 PM, 118 ASI Building.



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 and Development functions, and also travel the commonwealth to visit high schools and Penn State campuses.

Applications are due February 28, 2013 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

Encourage students to come learn more about the organization by attending the information session on **Tuesday, January 22, 6:00—6:45 PM, 118 ASI Building.**

Fall 2012 Student Marshal

The College of Agricultural Sciences fall 2012 student marshal was animal sciences graduate Leanna Sollenberger. Leanna is from New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, and is the daughter of Laura and Nevin Sollenberger. She graduated with distinction with a bachelor of science degree in animal sciences. Leanna was active in undergraduate research and received numerous scholarships and awards. She was a member of the Block and Bridle Club, the Penn State gymnastics club, and the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society.



Leanna's future plans are to attend veterinary school and become a food animal veterinarian. Congratulations and best wishes to Leanna and her family.

Lunchtime Advising Seminars

The Division of Undergraduate Studies will begin its lunchtime seminars January 18, offering talks to the Penn State community on various academic advising topics. These lunch-and-learn sessions take place on the University Park campus and provide opportunities for professional development, networking and advising discussions. The sessions this semester will be held from noon to 1 p.m. January 18, February 11 and March 20, in 110 Henderson Building (The Living Center). All interested faculty and staff members are welcome to attend and may bring lunch to eat during the presentations.

-- Advising for Education Abroad, January 18

Hear about study abroad opportunities, get an overview of Study Abroad 101 (student information sessions), learn how to effectively navigate Web resources and get responses to questions about how best to advise students who are considering education abroad. Leading this session will be representatives from the Education Abroad office Kristi Wormhoudt, associate director; Kate Fox, adviser; and Amber Evans, records specialist.

-- Transfer Credits: What They Are and How to Use Them, February 11

Not sure what to do with transfer credits on an advisee's record? Wondering where they came from? Join us as we discuss transfer credit policies, how credits are articulated to a student's record and best practices for using them. Presenters will be Kathryn Gaylord-Miles, admissions counselor, - and Susan Sanders, academic adviser for Health Policy and Administration and interim director of the Women's Leadership Initiative.

-- Update on the Student Information System (ISIS) Replacement Project, March 20

Penn State's current Student Information System (ISIS) is more than 30 years old. Learn about the status of the

project to replace the system and what the next steps will be. Karen Schultz, University registrar, will present.

Entrance to Major Process

The entrance to major process is currently in progress for our sophomore students (students in the spring 2013 pool). The deadline for students to confirm their major is February 8 and the Registrar's office is sending email reminders to students who have not yet confirmed their choice of major. Although we have only a couple of majors that require anything more than a 2.0 CGPA and 27.1 credits, it is important for students to complete this process so they will be automatically changed into their desired 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." Scroll down on this new page to see selection criteria for finding various "types" of students. Put "sp13" in the box titled "Entrance to Major Sem" on the right side of the page and click the box toward the bottom of that column titled "ETM not confirmed." Next, 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. Use the "E-mail Advisees" module to send these selected students a reminder email to complete the etm process on eLion ("Entrance to Major" on their menu) by February 8. Some students ignore notices sent by the Registrar's office but are more likely to attend to a message sent by you.

Undergraduate Program Coordinator Meeting Schedule

The Spring 2013 Program Coordinator Meetings are scheduled at **1:30-3:00 PM** on the following dates and locations:

- Monday, January 21 Room 118 ASI
- Tuesday, February 26 Room 217 Forest Resources
- Monday, March 25 Room 118 ASI
- Tuesday, April 23 Room 217 Forest Resources
- Monday, May 20 Room 118 ASI

Please mark your calendars and note the room locations. We welcome your 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
Dennis Decoteau	HORT
Stephanie Doores	FD SC
John Ewing	AEE and AG SC
Tarah Geszvain	AGECO
Les Griel	VB SC
Leland Glenna	CED
Pamela Hankey	IID
Jude Liu	A S M
Ellen Manno	FORSC, W F S, and W P
Megan Marshall	B E
Robert Mikesell	ANSCI
Rob Shannon	E R M
Dan Stearns	LSCPE
Jack Vanden Heuvel	TOX
Andrew Mc Nitt	TURF

Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Graduate and Undergraduate Research Expo

This annual Expo provides both graduate and undergraduates with an opportunity to share their research with a larger audience--those not in the same areas of professional interest. The Expo's purpose is to communicate the value of science to a general audience in terms that the public can understand, enabling others to appreciate the significance of one's work to society and to those in other areas of professional interest.

Undergraduate and graduate students advised by a faculty member in the College of Agricultural Sciences are eligible to participate. About \$3700 in prize monies will be awarded.

Participant Guidelines:

- **Complete [on-line entry form](#) and submit by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 15.**
- **Display poster** by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, in the Life Science's Bridge.
- **Remain with poster** on the Life Science's Bridge from 4 – 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 13. During this period, each participant makes a five minute (maximum) presentation to a panel of judges.

- **Invite your friends and colleagues** to visit the Expo, beginning at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 13 through 3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14.
- **Attend Recognition Ceremony** at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, the Berg Auditorium, Life Sciences Building.
- **Remove poster** prior to 4:00 p.m. on March 14.

Follow-up:

The same abstract and poster may be used to participate in the University sponsored Research Expos!

Graduate Students

To enter the Penn State Graduate Research Expo submit an application, which is available at <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/exhibition/>

Undergraduate Students

To enter the Penn State Undergraduate Research Expo, submit an application, which is available at <https://undergradresearch.psu.edu/exhibition/index.cfm>

Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee Schedule

The Student Recruitment and Enrollment Committee (SREC) will meet on the following dates, times, and locations Spring 2013:

February 6	9:00-10:30 AM, 110 ASI Building
March 13	9:00-10:30 AM, 110 ASI Building
May 1	9:00-10:30 AM, 110 ASI Building



2013 Ag Sciences Career Day — Save the Date



The College of Agricultural Sciences will hold its annual career day on **Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Please mark this date on your calendars and fall course syllabuses, and encourage your students and industry connections to attend!



Nominations for the Presidential Leadership Academy

As the spring semester begins, we are in the process of selecting our new Presidential Leadership Academy class. I would like to ask you to identify students who may be candidates for the Presidential Leadership Academy's fall 2013 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.

Interested students may apply for membership in the Academy, or they can be nominated by members of the university community. Given your position on campus, and the likelihood that you may come in contact with current first-year students who may be interested in the Academy, I would like to invite you 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/> -- click on link for 2013 Nominations.

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 11, 2013**. Students nominated for the Academy will be asked to complete the application process, which includes a resume, one essay question, and one letter of recommendation. Students can apply until **Monday, February 25, 2013**.

Thank you for considering students for this exciting initiative and appreciate your continued support of the Academy. We look forward to introducing the incoming fall class in April. Please forward to any colleagues who are in contact with first year students.

Please feel free to contact me at mif3@psu.edu or 814-863-4589 if you have any questions.

Melissa Doberstein
Director

Spring 2013 Student Information Technology Fee Proposal

In an effort to further strengthen the educational experience of students in the College of Agricultural Sciences, the college has instituted an annual small grant program for distribution of a portion of the received student information technology fee allocation.

The Office for Undergraduate Education Agricultural is soliciting proposals for use of Information Technology Fees to strengthen the teaching and learning environment within the college; undergraduate and graduate courses qualify.

The proposal is a brief one-page form. Attachments may be submitted with the proposal form (commercial descriptor of technology requested, etc). A total of \$25,000 will be made available for the Spring 2013, with a set maximum of \$10,000 per proposal considered.

For this semester, a **2:1** (Tech Fee:Unit) match from the requesting unit or program is required for this grants program.

Proposal must be sent to: **Dr. Tracy Hoover, 101 Agricultural Administration Building, College of Agricultural Sciences, (tsh102@psu.edu)**

Proposal submission deadline is: **5:00 PM, Friday, January 11, 2013**

Please contact respective unit leaders for copies of the overview, guidelines, and proposal forms that were distributed in December.

College of Agricultural Sciences Instruction & Curricular Affairs Committee Calendar 2012-2013

Proposals Due to College Administrator in CSCS system**	Send to ACUE Deans (if necessary) Post in ANGEL & notify committee for review	College Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Dates and Location	Revisions Due back in CSCS and begin final approval process	*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. 26, 2012	Oct. 29-30-31	Thurs. Nov. 15, 2012 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng. Bldg.	Nov. 30, 2012	Dec. 14, 2012	for the Jan. 15, 2013 Issue	Jan. 29, 2013
Friday Dec. 14, 2012	Dec. 17-18-19	Thurs. Jan. 17, 2013 1:30 -3:00 p.m. 244 Ag Eng. Bldg.	Jan. 25, 2013	Feb. 6, 2013	for the Feb. 19, 2013 Issue	March 12, 2013
Friday Feb. 8, 2013	Feb. 11-12-13	Thurs. Feb. 28, 2013 1:30 -3:00 p.m. Room TBD	March 8, 2013	March 22, 2013	for the April 9, 2013 Issue	April 23, 2013
Friday April 5, 2013	April 8-9-10	Thurs. April 25, 2013 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Room TBD	May 13, 2013	May 24, 2013	for June 11, 2013 Issue	August 20, 2013

* Dates posted by Faculty Senate.

Course proposals need to be completely through all CSCS consultation and ready to be sent to the college administrator (K. Pletcher) by this date to be reviewed at the college committee meeting. **Hard Copies are not required for the Course Proposals submitted via CSCS. Once a course proposal has passed through the College's Instruction and Curricular Affairs Committee review process and been approved for submission to the Faculty Senate, the appropriate hard copies will be made by the college administrator and sent to the Senate for their review process. **A Hard Copy original and a PDF copy is required for all Program Proposals**—since they are NOT submitted via CSCS yet. Senate Newsletters are posted to their website at: http://www.senate.psu.edu/senate_activity/newsletters.htm

2013 USDA National Awards Program for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences

The review, selection and final submission of our institution's nomination will be processed through our college's Faculty Award Committee (Nicole Brown, Chair) and the Dean's Office, with the nomination process starting at the programmatic and unit levels. We have many talented faculty deserving of these awards so please share the nomination information that is listed below.



Submit packets to **Tracy Hoover by 5 pm on Monday, February 25th**. This will allow time for review by our college Faculty Awards Committee and our Dean's group. We want to give those faculty selected as college nominees time to make revisions (if needed) and meet the electronic submission deadline of March 15th.

NOMINATION INFORMATION:

Please begin to identify and prepare your nomination teams to submit eligible faculty to compete for the upcoming 2013 USDA National Awards Program for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Faculty nominations (submitted electronically) are due no later than March 15, 2013.

USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, reminds you this awards program recognizes and honors innovation and excellence in postsecondary teaching. Recipients receive a stipend, plaque, and recognition during the national APLU conference. For the 2013 competition, we will continue to use an electronic nomination submission process.

Teacher nominees must be employed by a college or university that: (1) confers a baccalaureate or higher degree in at least one area of the food and agricultural sciences for which the teacher is nominated, (2) has demonstrated a commitment to the food and agricultural sciences, and (3) attributes a high priority to its education mission. A teacher nominee must hold a full-time appointment as an active faculty member as of the nominee submission due date and have responsibility for higher education teaching in an area of the food and agricultural sciences.

A teacher nominees may be nominated in one of two award categories:

1. **Regional** - A teacher selected from any of the four regions, deemed by the review panel to exhibit sustained and meritorious teaching, and who has maintained at least eight consecutive years experience in higher education teaching. While a sustained pattern of meritorious activity is expected, this award does not recognize teaching longevity so much as the quality of recent achievements involving teaching philosophy, methodology, and self-assessment aimed at improvement.
2. **New Teacher** - A teacher selected from any of the four regions, who has demonstrated a commitment to a career in teaching and is deemed by the review panel to exhibit meritorious teaching, but who has no more than seven consecutive years experience in higher education teaching, as defined in this section.

For complete award program description, nomination guidelines, and nomination forms visit:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/other_links/serdteachaward.html

Note: Please ensure you consult the web address above for the most recent awards program nomination guidelines, including instructions for submitting nomination materials electronically to arrive no later than 5:00pm on March 15, 2013.

P. Gregory Smith
National Education Program Leader
Division of Community and Education
USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture
E-Mail: gsmith@NIFA.usda.gov<<mailto:gsmith@NIFA.usda.gov>>

FTCAP Evolves this Summer into Two-Day New Student Orientation



There's a new office on campus, revamping the way first-year students prepare for their Penn State careers. The Office of Student Orientation and Transition Programs, led by director Dan Murphy, is implementing a new two-day orientation called "New Student Orientation" to begin in summer 2013. It will replace the daylong First-Year Testing, Consulting, and Advising Program (FTCAP).

Murphy, who joined Penn State after leading first-year experience initiatives at Indiana University - Bloomington, said the change, something that had been in the works for quite a few years, was based partially on student feedback of FTCAP.

"Students wanted a chance to make a connection with other students. We were routinely getting comments saying they wish they had an opportunity to meet more people and make more connections," Murphy said. "With the overnight program we can provide social opportunities in addition to letting them sleep in the residence halls and eat in the dining halls."

Besides giving students an opportunity to socialize with each other, the expansion gives presenters more time to address the wide variety of topics covered at FTCAP. More time can be spent attending sessions about living on campus and commuter life, student aid and using eLion; visiting the Resource Fair that showcases support services and resources for Penn Staters; and going to college meetings for advising and course registration. Students also will have time to talk in smaller groups about transitional issues from high school, including personal respon-

sibility, diversity, alcohol use and abuse, resources for sexual assault prevention and academic support, undergraduate research opportunities, study abroad options and more.

"Penn State Reads," a program designed around a common book, also will be introduced at the New Student Orientation. Students will read the chosen book given to them during their summer visit, to complete before the start of the semester. Once on campus, they will participate in small discussion groups in their living communities, and also attend larger group activities, which might include a keynote lecture, guest speakers or musical performances.

While some universities believe a one-day orientation program is a good practice and others think the two-day format is better, Murphy said the reality is the best practice for orientation comes down to the culture of each school. At Penn State, the assessment data from previous years pointed out that student, staff and faculty thought a two-day timetable would be more beneficial. Penn State researched other first-year programs and found those lasting two days was the best fit. Murphy said this model is the one most widely used within the Big Ten.

The office also will add student jobs to the new program. Murphy and his office will choose 32 orientation leaders to facilitate small-group discussions and lead first-year students through some of the other activities.

The two-day structure will not add additional costs to students. Parents and family members wishing to stay in residence halls can do so, but will pay a fee. All new students will be expected to stay on campus for the two-day program but parents are welcome to find local lodging off-campus or at home, if they live nearby.



SNIDER AGRICULTURAL ARENA

2013 NACTA National Conference— Call for Abstracts



Call for NACTA/DOCE Abstracts for the 2013 Conference
Submission deadline: March 20, 2013

The 2013 NACTA conference will be held June 25-29 at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. This conference will be a joint meeting with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Division of Community and Education (DOCE).

The theme for the 2013 NACTA Conference is *"Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries."* Accepted abstracts that address the theme will be given first priority for oral presentations. 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 and timetabling of oral presentations. All other abstracts will be poster presentations.

The 2013 NACTA Conference will serve as a venue for faculty in agricultural, environmental, natural, and life sciences to share their information on the theme of *"Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries."* 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 three following topic areas: Innovative Teaching Approaches; Learning Outcomes; and, Scholarly Research Approaches.

View examples of poster/presentation titles from 2012 Conference at: <http://www.nactateachers.org/2012-58th-university-of-wisconsin-river-falls.html>.

As in the past, the Office for Undergraduate Education will continue to provide partial travel support for College of Ag Sciences' faculty/staff presenting papers (oral/poster) and/or participating in one of the NACTA Committees.

Additional information and link to submit abstract are available online at: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/nacta/>

PENNSTATE



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

Phone: 814-865-7521

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<http://agsci.psu.edu>

ThinkAgain



SPRING 2013 COLLEGE & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

January 21	Holiday—No Classes
March 3-9	Spring Break—No Classes
April 5	Late Drop Deadline
April 26	Withdrawal Deadline
April 26	Classes End
April 29-May 3	Final Exams
May 3-5	Commencement