

CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Pre-Professional E-Bulletin

November 2012

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The purpose of this newsletter is to share information that may be of interest to you. By posting information, it does not mean that we endorse the organizations or services enclosed. **To unsubscribe from the listserv** click the appropriate list below to send the unsubscribe email.

Premed2013	Dental2013
Premed2014	Predental2014
Premed2015	Predental2015
Premed2016	Predental2016

If the link above does not create an email for you, email the GVSU listserv (listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu) using the email address you used to subscribe - leave the subject blank! In the message area type the command "unsubscribe" - without quotation marks followed only by your listserv name.

If your timeline for when you will begin professional school has changed, please change your listserv affiliation.

Are you a pre-med student?

Check out <http://www.premedlife.com/> for articles geared specifically toward pre-medical student life.

Program & Scholarship Announcements

GVSU Events

- **Majors Fair:** On **Wednesday, November 7**, from **11:00 am to 2:00 pm** in the **Grand River Room** of the **Kirkhof Center**. The Majors Fair offers an opportunity for students to **explore major choice options with faculty** from various departments across the University. This event provides an **informal way for students to engage with faculty members** to discuss major choices and future career opportunities. GVSU alumni are invited to participate which gives students an opportunity to **network** and learn about the world of work. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/undecided/majors-fair--12.htm>.
- **Biomedical Sciences Research Night:** The Biomedical Science department will be holding their own research night on **Wednesday, November 14**, from **6.30 to 8.30 pm** in the **Henry Hall Atrium**. If you are interested in **research** at all, stop by to talk about the research being done and how you can become more involved yourself!
- **A new course for Cell and Molecular Biology for Winter 2013 is available!** This **3 credit** course, **CMB 480-20 Titled “Drosophila Genomics: Research Explorations in Drosophila Genomics”** will be held on **Tuesday and Thursday 6:00-8:50 PM and Wednesday 9-10 AM**. **Dr. Martin Burg** will be teaching the course and is **urging students to sign up today!** The following is the course overview: The **need for students in genetics and medicine** to be able to **interpret and utilize genetic information** is fast approaching. This course will provide students experience in working with **DNA sequence information in the area of Genomics**, and is comprised of **2 parts: (1) DNA sequence finishing and (2) genome annotation**. This course will provide undergraduate students a **unique opportunity** to participate in a **research project** that is currently being carried out in **over 85 undergraduate institutions across the United States**, with the support of the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Genomics Education Partnership**. A **lecture component (one/week)** will be interspersed with the **laboratory component (two 3 hr labs/week)**. Note: **Students who fully participate in all aspects of the course will be eligible for publications derived from the research conducted as part of the class**. See <http://www.gep.wustl.edu/> for projects and student comments. **Interested students are encouraged to discuss the course with Prof. M. Burg** (burgm@gvsu.edu). If you are interested in gaining understanding and experience in the application and practice of genomics, this course is for you! **Please sign up today as space is limited!**
- **DO Day** (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) is the **one day each year** when **osteopathic medical students** from across the country all journey to **Washington D.C.** to **advocate for their profession to members of congress and the senate**. Pre-Med students are also welcome to attend. The **DO Day on the Hill Scholarship** is a **\$500 scholarship** which is awarded to **two Pre-SOMA** (Students of Osteopathic Medicine Association) members to help them fund the costs of traveling to **Washington D.C. for DO Day** which is taking place **on March 14, 2013**. **Hotel arrangements are also included, separate from the money award**. The hotel arrangements also last through the weekend, which is when the **SOMA**

Spring Convention is held in the same location. (If you are interested in this application please contact **Erin Lowe** at Loweer@mail.gvsu.edu with your request.) Please complete the application and e-mail it to her at presoma@student.com by **December 15th, 2012**. For more information on DO Day, check this link out <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/events/Pages/do-day-on-capitol-hill.aspx>

Non-GVSU Events

- **Need a Volunteering Opportunity or Work-Study Job? Shawmut Hills Elementary** has a great program for you! On **Tuesdays and Thursdays** throughout the school year, **tutors** are needed to help **1st through 3rd Graders in their reading skills**. Located about **10 minutes from GVSU's Allendale campus**, Shawmut has a convenient location right off of M-45. Tutoring training is provided by United Way's Schools of Hope program. There is a **great need** for tutors and they are **willing to work around your schedule** to get you students! Shawmut is known for its flexibility with its tutors, and they have a great need for as many tutors as they can get. Along with **bettering the community by bringing literacy to disadvantaged children**, the experience is a **great resume builder** and a networking opportunity for Education students and others alike. If you are **AT ALL interested**, contact **Rosa Smith** at smithro@grps.org. Office: 616-819-3055 Direct: 616-819-2132
- **The AAMC's Aspiring Docs program** has been updated! Click [here](#) to read about **Devon Taylor**, a first year medical student at Harvard's medical school. Born in **Flint, Michigan**, Devon's story is one of overcoming seemingly insurmountable adversity through hard work, diligence, dedication, and effective mentoring. Although dropping out of high school for a period of time, Devon reengaged in his education, finished high school within four years, had a distinguished career in the Navy, completed college in 2 ½ years, and gained acceptance to medical school. The most recent update is titled "**The Transition**," and is all about the **differences in studying** that Devon is now experiencing in medical school.
- **Interested in Optometry?** The **Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO)** has a blog for pre-optometry students: <http://optometryadmissions.com/>. The blog discusses various topics related to the admissions process: **OAT preparation, interviewing tips, applicant competitiveness and more**. There is also a [portion of the blog](#) where students can post ads for used OAT preparation resources in "OAT Preparation Materials For Sale."
- Are you a **senior student** majoring in a **STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math)** field and wondering what you might want to do **after graduation**? Have you **considered teaching**, but are not yet on a teacher certification track? The **WK Kellogg Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship program** is currently recruiting candidates for possible admission into its third cohort, and applications are due in **mid-January**. Fellows receive a **\$30,000 fellowship to help pay their educational expenses in exchange for teaching science or math related courses for 3 years in a high needs school in Michigan**. Complete details can be found at <http://www.gvsu.edu/teachingfellowship/>. Students are encouraged to **contact Dr. Caryn King, Project Director** (kingc@gvsu.edu) 616-331-6654 or **Dr. Barb LaBeau, Project Assistant Director** (labeaub@gvsu.edu) 616-331-6693.

- Are you a **young scientist** with a real **passion** for harnessing the tools of **molecular and genetic biology** for improving **human health**? The **doctoral program of Van Andel Institute Graduate School** provides an innovative developmental path for students with the capacity and motivation for careers in **biomedical research**. The Van Andel Research Institute, located in **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, conducts **biomedical research** with an emphasis on translating **scientific results into clinical applications**. The Van Andel Institute Graduate School trains **Ph.D. scientists** to be leading **scholars in cellular, molecular and genetic studies** relevant to **human diseases**. This unique doctoral program prepares researchers for effective careers linking the **discoveries of basic science with the applications needed for improved human health**. Their innovative curriculum leads students to explore fundamental concepts in **genetics, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology** through highly integrated, problem-based courses based on current research questions. They seek **effective independent learners** who work capably in a **collaborative team environment**. A **solid foundation in cell biology, molecular biology and genetics** will be important, but **more essential is an understanding of and passion for the life of a scientist and the exploration of cutting-edge scientific questions**. Those with a bold and pioneering spirit will make the most of this opportunity. More information is available at their website <http://www.vai.org> or by contacting the graduate school office at gradschool@vai.org or (616) 234-5708.

Summer Enrichment Programs

Summer Enrichment Programs are being posted everyday now and application **deadlines** are already fast approaching! These programs are a great way to **supplement the education, volunteering, and shadowing experiences** that you are already currently participating in. This testimony from a **GVSU student** that participated in one such program last summer had this to say about his experience:

"The six week program provid[ed] essential information and planning skills that will help any determined pre-medical student on their path to medical school and beyond. From clinical experiences to lectures on current issues in the medical field, this program [taught] its students what it really means to be involved in the medical profession. [We spent] five days a week in their medical school lecture hall, learning from their most brilliant MD, DO, and PhD professors. As [I] meet students with similar goals and aspirations, [I] learned that the path isn't just one big competition against others. Most importantly, [I left] the program with the confidence and necessary tools that will help [me] succeed as a pre-medical student."

- **Hospital based work experience abroad!** **Gap Medics** have announced the launch of two exciting new hospital placement destinations for pre-health students in **Zanzibar and Central Europe!** In addition to the programs currently available in **Tanzania and Thailand**, Gap Medics are now also offering students the opportunity to join them for hospital based work experience in these two incredible new destinations. This is a unique opportunity for **American pre-health students** working towards studies in **any** area of medical specialization including **pre-medical, pre-nursing, pre-midwifery, pre-physician's assistant or pre-dentistry** to gain **real work experience!** Students will join an amazing program of **2 to 6 week medical placements** where weekdays are spent **immersed in a working clinical**

environment; assisting and learning from professional physicians as they go about their usual consultations, treatments and surgeries in the hospital. They are offering pre-health students from colleges across the states an extra special summer vacation opportunity starting on **Sunday the 26th of May or Sunday the 9th June 2013!** **Places are very limited** so click here www.gapmedics.com for more information and to reserve a place on the program!

- **International Service Learning (ISL):** seeking inspiration through service! ISL strives to enhance academic learning through **service experience**, while providing quality health care and other services for the underserved. They utilize in-country professionals and offer practical experience through socially responsible programs which observe the highest ethical standards and inspire students to a lifestyle of service. The ISL is **now accepting** applications for **summer 2013** global health teams. There are 9 to 14-day opportunities available in **Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic & Haiti, Jamaica, and Tanzania!** Access the ISL schedule from www.islonline.org for **dates and costs**. Don't see what you're looking for? Contact info@ISLonline.org to request a specific date, location, or program.
- **UC Davis Health System Department of Surgery Pre-Medical Surgical Internship & Mentorship Program:** This unique opportunity is **open to all pre-medical students** to be mentored by faculty, residents, interns, and medical students in the nationally recognized **UC Davis Health System Department of Surgery**. The program takes place on the **UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, CA**. This 650-bed hospital is the major teaching affiliate for the UC Davis School of Medicine. The Hospital serves an area of tremendous diversity in both cultural and socioeconomic background. It is a Level 1 Trauma Center, and home to the only burn center, children's hospital, and transplant center in Northern California. Furthermore, it is the only institution of its kind in Northern California. It is **one of the five busiest Trauma Centers in the country** and has been featured in multiple television programs. Their focus of service to those most in need underpins the teaching activities in this setting. **The Department of Surgery** consists of the following surgical subspecialties:
 - Trauma & Emergency Surgery
 - Cardiothoracic Surgery
 - Gastrointestinal Surgery
 - Bariatric Surgery
 - Neurosurgery
 - General Surgery
 - Burn Surgery
 - Pediatric Surgery
 - Otolaryngology Surgery
 - Plastic Surgery
 - Surgical Oncology

- Urological Surgery
- Transplant Surgery
- Vascular Surgery

This is **not a volunteering or shadowing** program. This is a **mentorship** where students will be interacting with multiple physicians in the Department of Surgery. Participants will be working directly with physicians every step of the way, from seeing patients in the intensive care unit, to pre-operative, post-operative, bedside, trauma bay, operating rooms, clinics, conferences, journal clubs and rounds. Students will experience the duties physicians perform on a daily basis and will be part of the team and regarded as such. This program is under the supervision and guidelines set forth by the Chairman of Surgery at the UC Davis Health System. This is an extraordinarily unique opportunity. **Maturity, attentiveness, and being able to follow directions are imperative**. This is a fast-paced environment where life and death are on the line every second of the day. **Professionalism and maturity are expected**. The surgeons voluntarily participating in this program are enthusiastic about having pre-med interns since they were once pre-medical students. Their goal is to give students the best learning experience possible.

- **Spring 2013 Application Deadline: November 30, 2012.**
- **Program Date: January 18, 2013-May 4, 2013**

For more information and application: <http://www.premedsurgery.org/>
Have questions? Please contact: <http://www.premedsurgery.org/contact/>

- **NIH Summer Internship Program:** Are you an outstanding undergraduate student (U.S. citizen or permanent resident) who has been actively engaged in undergraduate research and is looking for a summer research opportunity beyond GVSU? The NIH Summer Internship Program is a paid internship opportunity for highly qualified undergraduates to spend a summer working at the NIH conducting biomedical research. The application process is competitive. Last year, the NIH received over 7,000 applications for approximately 1,100 slots. The application deadline is **March 1**; however, students are **strongly encouraged** to identify and make contact with potential principal investigators/research mentors at the NIH **now** and **submit their applications at the start of the application cycle in mid-November** as slots are filled on a rolling admissions basis. For complete details, see <https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/sip>. Students are welcome to contact the **Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships**, <http://www.gvsu.edu/fellowships/>, for assistance with the application process.

Ethical Decision Making



- Pre-professional students have many things to juggle throughout their college experience: **maintaining strong grades, graduate school entrance exams, shadowing, volunteering, and extra-curricular activities**—just to name a few! But along the way, you more than likely will be **faced with**

some ethical dilemmas, and the decisions made during these situations will take part in shaping you as a person and as a future medical professional.

- Although the majority of pre-professional students typically make good decisions and are able to avoid problems with the police or the university discipline committee*, it still is important to develop ethical decision making skills early on to thrive in the medical profession. Also, with more and more professional schools using Multiple-Mini Interviews as part of their admissions process (*click [here](#) for an example of MMI*), it is important to develop strategies on how to think critically about handling ethical dilemmas.

**Students who do encounter problems with law enforcement are encouraged to consult with a pre-professional advisor on how this could impact applying to professional schools.*



Here are examples of questions you can ask yourself when faced with an ethical dilemma:

- Might any of my choices result in harm or suffering to my friends, family, or roommates; campus or community; the earth?
- What family values might guide my decision?
- What personal beliefs (i.e. religious, spiritual) do I hold that might apply to this situation?
- What are the potential consequences for me?
- How might one of my ethical role models resolve this situation?
- If my actions were to become widely known, would I be proud or embarrassed and ashamed?

Social Media Etiquette:



In this day and age, it is also important to make good decisions online. Professional schools have been known to “Google” or “Facebook” applicants to see what they find! Be careful what you and your friends put online. Would you want your parent/professor/professional school admissions representative to see it? For more social media tips, click [here](#).

Resources for more information on ethical decision making:

Bioethics Topics: <http://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/topics/index.html>

Things to Ask Yourself: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/finance/accountability/ethics/ask.html>

Ethics Awareness in the Workplace: http://www.ehow.com/info_8218093_ethics-awareness-workplace.html

GVSU Resources:

CLAS Advising Center (Pre-Professional Advising): <http://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/>

Counseling and Career Development Center: <http://gvsu.edu/counsel/>

Facebook & Twitter

- Did you know that the **CLAS Academic Advising Center is on Facebook and Twitter?**! By [liking](#) our Facebook page and [following](#) us on Twitter, you can get **updates and reminders** about important information as **pre-professional and GVSU** students. Check out the profiles and then let us know what you think!



Keep Up Your Hard Work!

- We here at the CLAS Academic Advising Center just wanted to encourage you all **to keep up your hard work!** We know it has been a long semester but the end is in sight! **Don't let your focus on your studies slip.** You may be tired from the weeks of work you've put in, but remember, you're **chasing your dreams.**

There is no telling how many miles you will have to run while chasing a dream.

Author Unknown

