

# CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)

## Pre-Professional E-Bulletin

### Week of September 20, 2010

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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.

#### **1. Helpful Information for First-Year Students**

1. Be sure to stay on track in your classes. It is much easier to establish and maintain a solid GPA than to rebuild it after a tough semester or two. The average GPA of a student entering a M.D program is a 3.65. Utilize the resources on campus. Visit the tutoring website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/tc/> to get more information.
2. Attend class, take notes, do assigned homework and keep up with class readings. This seems simple enough, but it is very easy to fall behind. Be sure to talk with your professor regarding any concerns or problems you may be facing in your classes.
3. SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH JO ANN LITTON (littonj@gvsu.edu) KELLY McDONELL (mcdoneke@gvsu.edu) OR NATALIE CLARK (clarnata@gvsu.edu). Call our office (the CLAS Academic Advising Center) at (616) 331-8585 to do so. It is very important to be on the right track as you embark on your journey as an undergraduate. Setting up an appointment will give you insight on what will be expected of you, what your options are and the application process for different paths.
4. Be sure to eat healthy and do not skip meals. It is easy to be writing a paper, only to realize it has been 4 hours and you missed dinner. Along with this, do your best to get appropriate amounts of sleep and exercise. This will be beneficial both for success in class and staying healthy. If you are living in the dorms, keep a bottle of hand sanitizer at your desk and use it regularly.
5. Allow time for extra-curriculars. They are important. Find the pre-professional group that is of interest to you. Also, find something that is of interest to you outside of your major and future goals. It is

important to take a break from studying and academics, whether it is through exercise and sports, a social organization, religious organization or service and advocacy groups. They all can be beneficial in some way and will compliment your educational experiences. (Don't over-book yourself. Manage your time and you will be successful! )

## **2. Grand Valley Announcements and Events**

### **Health Care Experience-Meet with Hospital Representatives**

103 Loutit Hall

Tuesday, September 28, 4:00-6:00 pm

Representatives from Spectrum Health and Saint Mary's Health Care will be joining us. Find out more about the process of applying for hospital volunteer positions and job shadowing. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

### **Student Research: Answering Research Questions in BSM Faculty Labs**

Lake Ontario Hall 174 and 178

Thursday, September 30, 5:45-7:30 pm

BMS Faculty members will provide summaries of their research interests and the opportunities available for students to get involved in independent research here at GVSU (and beyond).

Pizza and Poster Session of past student research at 5:45pm

Faculty presentations at 6:15pm

Come when you can!

### **Undergraduate Research Fair**

Kirkhof Center Pere Marquette Room

Tuesday, October 5, 6:00-8:00 pm

Participating in research and creative projects at GVSU will expand your academic experience and provide you with another way to look at the world. Research is a process of careful inquiry leading to the discovery of new information. Research is not limited to certain majors, but occurs in all disciplines.

For more information contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at 616-331-8078

### **Writing 305**

The WRT 305 exam has been replaced by a new evaluation process. Grades in WRT 150 and SWS will be used as an initial placement mechanism, and students who wish to appeal their initial placement may submit an appeal portfolio for evaluation by GVSU faculty.

The process is described at the Testing Services website: <http://gvsu.edu/testserv/>. Please click on "WRT 305 Placement" for details.

### **GVSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pre-Professional Day**

Save the Date! We will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pre-Professional Day on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Please watch for more information to come!

### 3. Programs and Open Houses

#### **University of Michigan Program in Biomedical Sciences (PIBS)**

##### PIBS Open House

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Registration Deadline: **October 18, 2010**

This one-day event offers all prospective PIBS students the opportunity to interact with faculty and current graduate students, as well as learn more about graduate programs, faculty research, admissions and student life.

##### PIBS Preview

Thursday-Saturday, October 21-23, 2010

Application Deadline: **September 27, 2010**

Students who are traditionally under-represented in the sciences and interested in pursuing a Ph.D. are encouraged to attend the Preview event, which includes the PIBS Open House on Saturday. This all-expense-paid event includes travel, lodging and on-campus meals funded by the University of Michigan. Here you will find the new pdf overviews of both [PIBS](#) and [Ann Arbor](#) as well as a [Preview flyer](#).

Don't forget to check out the latest news in the [PIBS Point](#)!

#### **MD/PhD Training in the NIH MD/PhD Intramural Partnership Training Program**

This innovative program allows MD/PhD students to obtain all or part of their research training in one of the more than one thousand biomedical research laboratories in the NIH intramural research program and maintain eligibility for MSTP-funding if admitted to many of the MD/PhD programs around the country. The program web site, which new this year is at <http://mdphd.gpp.nih.gov>

For most students in this program, the Ph.D. is obtained from one of NIH's graduate partnership Ph.D. Programs. The NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Ph.D. Program <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov> has been particularly popular among students pursuing MD/PhD training at NIH. This accelerated doctoral program allows students to set up dual-mentored Ph.D. research projects involving laboratories at NIH and at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities in England. This program is also compatible with holders of Rhodes, Marshall, Gates or other international scholarships to study in the U.K. Other Ph.D. programs that fit well for MD/PhD students are listed on their web site. The program has grown considerably, and they now have sixty MD/PhD students who are doing research at NIH in partnership with thirty medical schools across the country. Approximately forty of these students are in the NIH Oxford-Cambridge scholars program. Graduates have gone on to top residencies at institutions such as New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Boston. While students are on campus for their research, they have arranged for longitudinal preceptorships in the clinical center, the nation's largest and most advanced research hospital.

If you are applying to MD/PhD program for Fall 2011 admission you should apply for NIH Ph.D. training in parallel with your current applications to medical schools. Interested students should read the information for prospective students on their website

<http://mdphd.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/prospectiveStudents.asp> including an important listing of which medical school MSTP programs participate in the NIH partnership. Applications are accepted through the NIH GPP application portal at <https://gpp-nih.symplicity.com/> with no application fee. Applicants not currently enrolled in medical school should select track 1 of the NIH MD/PhD partnership training program in addition to their choice of Ph.D. program. The program web site explains the different training tracks supported by this program. This year's application deadline is **January 3, 2011**.

### **The Illinois Medical School Admissions Seminar**

Registration and contact information is listed below. This is a free event for pre-medical students. All eight Illinois medical schools will be represented, and each of the planned sessions will be presented by a medical school representative. Students may register individually. Space is limited. Please contact Evan Wilson if you have questions about the event. Program highlights include: Medical School Recruitment Fair, Current Medical Student Panel, Applying to Medical School, Financing a Medical Education, How to Write an Effective Personal Statement, and Interviewing Tips.

When: Saturday, October 30 from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Where: Illinois State University, Bone Student Center, Normal, IL

Register on-line at [http://forms3.createforms.com/98759/form\\_1\\_1.html](http://forms3.createforms.com/98759/form_1_1.html)

For more information contact Evan Wilson at [ilmedschoolseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ilmedschoolseminar@gmail.com)

### **4. Scholarship Opportunities**

#### **James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship**

The James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Fund is offering its scholarship again this year. It is an essay contest open to all college students. The essay subject concerns cancer and the scholarships are \$5,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. Students can receive more information and request an application packet at this website:

<http://www.cancermonthly.com/scholarship.asp>

#### **Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program**

The Whitaker International Program is a competitive grant that sends emerging leaders in biomedical engineering (or bioengineering) overseas to increase international collaboration in the field. The Whitaker Program was funded by The Whitaker Foundation (now closed), and is administered by the Institute of International Education.

Whitaker International Program grants are awarded based on an activity/project proposal that is relevant to biomedical engineering. We hope to offer about 50 grants annually, but only the highest-quality applicants are awarded. In the last three competitions, 15, 20 and 35 grants have been awarded.

We are looking for at least 150 qualified applications this year, so all students who are even thinking of this type of option are encouraged to apply.

Awards have included research in heart blood flow, improved prosthetic leg design, and development of affordable oral cancer screening tools. Projects occur worldwide, including the UK, Chile, Denmark, India, South Africa, and many more.

#### **Types of Grants**

The Whitaker International Program has two categories

- \* Fellows - Graduate-level applicants, from graduating seniors through current PhD students. Fellows receive a stipend for one year, and are eligible for tuition reimbursement.
- \* Scholars - Post-doctoral applicants, who recently received their PhD. Scholar awards can be for as little as one academic semester or as long as two years of funding, depending on their needs. Second year funding is contingent upon demonstration of progress made during the first year.

#### **Website & Online Application**

<http://www.whitaker.org/>

<http://whitaker.usapplications.org/>

The online application is now open with a **January 24, 2011** deadline. The website listed above has all the information pertaining to the program, including eligibility requirements, potential host institutions, and former grantee profiles.

Whitaker Program On-line Forum

<http://www.whitaker.org/forum/>

A new Whitaker on-line forum has been created for applicants to interact with former grantees and ask them questions about grant projects, tips on the application, securing host affiliations, and the general grant experience. Additionally, the forum has answers to many Frequently Asked Questions on the Whitaker Program.

## 5. Global Health and Volunteer Opportunities

**The Global Health Corps**

<http://ghcorps.org/>

### **Mission**

Global Health Corps (GHC) aims to mobilize a global community of young leaders to build a movement for health equity.

### **The Problem**

The extreme disparity in health outcomes and access to healthcare that exists today between the world's rich and the world's poor is unjust and unsustainable. These global health challenges are embedded in a diverse set of social, political and economic contexts that require strong leadership and innovative approaches. The complexity and scope of these challenges necessitate participation from a wide range of fields beyond medicine. Individuals with skills from supply chain management to computer programming to monitoring and evaluation will be essential in remedying the unacceptable inequity of today.

Opportunities for individuals with backgrounds outside of medicine to use their unique skills in public health are scarce. Too many skilled and ambitious young professionals are unaware of or unable to achieve their potential impact in the health field, prolonging the creation and implementation of innovative solutions.

### **GHC Vision**

GHC believes that a global movement of individuals and organizations fighting for improved health outcomes and access to healthcare for the poor is necessary in order to change the unacceptable status quo of extreme inequity. GHC works to build this movement by recruiting, training, and supporting the movement's future leaders and by diversifying the pool of young people working in global health.

GHC provides opportunities for young professionals from diverse backgrounds to work on the frontlines of the fight for global health equity in year-long fellowships. Their fellows will have a measurable impact on the health of the communities in which they work, and draw upon that experience and the GHC alumni network, to deepen their impact throughout their careers.

GHC will create a pipeline of young leaders for the global health equity movement, and at scale will play a central role in sustaining and consistently reinvigorating this movement for change. This infusion of young, passionate, skilled leaders will help to tip the balance towards a more equitable and just global distribution of health services.

### **International Service Learning**

International Service Learning Health Teams <http://www.islonline.org/programs/health/> provide valuable hands-on patient care experience for students. They are making a difference in the lives of those in need of essential health services and are now accepting applications for Christmas and Spring Break teams!

Serve – Travel – Learn: Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, The Dominican Republic, Tanzania

Health Teams Schedule <http://www.islonline.org/schedule/december-2010/>

Well Child International <http://www.islonline.org/well-child-international/>

Hike for Humanity <http://www.islonline.org/programs/hike-for-humanity/>

For more information on general health, dental, optometry, veterinary, physical therapy, and public health trips, contact Pepper at [Info@ISLonline.org](mailto:Info@ISLonline.org) or visit the website: [www.ISLonline.org](http://www.ISLonline.org)

Well Child International is the newest program, dedicated to providing OB/GYN and pediatric care to women and children in underserved communities. Receive a discount on your trip by recruiting others to join you in this life-changing experience. Contact [Diannah@ISLonline.org](mailto:Diannah@ISLonline.org) for more information.

Additional financial aid is available through the GSM Financial Sponsorship Program

[http://app.streamsend.com/c/?redirect\\_to=http%3A%2F%2Faboutgsm.org%2Fsponsorship\\_program.html](http://app.streamsend.com/c/?redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Faboutgsm.org%2Fsponsorship_program.html)

Thanks to the students helping staff these teams, it is estimated that approximately 35,000 of the underserved with varying levels of health care will be served.

More info at [www.ISLonline.org](http://www.ISLonline.org)

ISL sends medical/dent/opt/public health/PT/vet/pharmaceutical teams to countries in Latin America, Central America, and Africa. They include pre-health students on their teams as a way of preparing the next generation of international medical caregivers. Students receive supervised hands-on experience, health related seminars, and financial sponsorship.

Listings of university, professional, and student references are available upon request. Over a 15 year period they have fielded over 500 hundred teams and annually provide health care for 15,000 of the underserved.

## **6. Upcoming Conferences**

### **Southeastern MD/PhD Conference 2010**

Please join ASPA for the first regional meeting of MD/PhD programs in the Southeastern US. Information will be forthcoming on the APSA website ([www.physicianscientist.org](http://www.physicianscientist.org)).

Date: October 9, 2010

Time: 9am-9pm

Location: Children's Harbor Building, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Sponsors: UAB, Emory, Vanderbilt, APSA

Goals for the meeting will include: Dialogue and networking among MD/PhD trainees at a national level, opportunities to present research beyond a school wide setting, and providing information for undergraduate students interested in MD/PhD programs.

For more information please contact: [cuddapah@uab.edu](mailto:cuddapah@uab.edu) [hnakaha@emory.edu](mailto:hnakaha@emory.edu) [carrieccb@gmail.com](mailto:carrieccb@gmail.com)

### **SNMA Region V Conference**

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Student National Medical Association Chapter is excited to host this year's SNMA Region V Conference in the beautiful city of Grand Rapids in Michigan,

home of the MSU College of Human Medicine's new medical campus, the Secchia Center October 1-3. For more information please go to <https://www.msu.edu/~snmachm/conference.html>. The conference will include: Workshops for medical and premedical students, a keynote speaker, discussion panels, residency and medical school fair, USMLE Step 1 Prep and more!

For more information about the conference, please contact Nina Joy Butler at [snma.chm@gmail.com](mailto:snma.chm@gmail.com) or one of the conference co-chairs: Angela Andrews ([angela.renaa@gmail.com](mailto:angela.renaa@gmail.com))

Nina Joy Butler ([snma.chm@gmail.com](mailto:snma.chm@gmail.com)) Chinonyerem Eleweke ([elewekec@msu.edu](mailto:elewekec@msu.edu)) Jamila Goldsmith ([goldsm44@msu.edu](mailto:goldsm44@msu.edu))

***Without inspiration the best powers of the mind remain dormant. There is a fuel in us which needs to be ignited with sparks.***

***-Johann Gottfried Von Herder***