

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

December 2011

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1. General Announcements
2. Program & Scholarship Announcements
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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.

Premed2012	Dental2012
Premed2013	Dental2013
Premed2014	Predental2014
Premed2015	Predental2015

*If the link above does not create an email for you, email the listserv using the email address you used to subscribe - **leave subject blank!** In the message send the command "unsubscribe" - without quotation marks followed by the listserv name.*

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

1. General Announcements

- January is National Blood Donor Month! Spread the word to your friends and family.
- January 12 is National Pharmacist Day. Thinking about a career in pharmacy? Keep reading the eBulletin to learn more.
- There is a **new class** being offered during the upcoming winter semester: WRT 380 section 07: **Writing for Professional School**. This class is geared toward students who plan to pursue future study in Masters, PhD, and professional programs.
- Another **new class, BMS 380 - Sensory Systems: Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology**, is being offered this winter semester. It will be taught by Dr. Bergman and will investigate sensory mechanisms, the evolution of senses and how they are used in daily life, and constraints on sensory systems. This course can fulfill a **BMS upper division elective!**
- Are you looking for ways to **get involved** on campus? See [Stuey](#) for more information about GVSU's 350+ registered student organizations.
- **Tuition** for the Winter 2012 semester is due **Friday, December 16 at 5 p.m.** You can access your bill through your Banner account.
- GVSU will be closed from December 23 through January 2.
- Winter 2012 classes being **Monday, January 9.**
- Are you working on your **personal statement**? Please email your personal statements to pre-professional advisors JoAnn Litton (littonj@gvsu.edu) or Kelly McDonell (mcdoneke@gvsu.edu) if you would like them to edit your work. Personal statements received before the beginning of second semester will be given priority attention.

2. Program & Scholarship Announcements

- Attention: students with a passion for researching cellular, molecular and genetic biology in a way that makes a difference for human health! The **Van Andel Institute** (VAI) Graduate School provides an innovative Ph.D. program for students with the capacity and motivation for careers in biomedical research. Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the VAI 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. Its innovative problem-based curriculum leads students to explore fundamental concepts in genetics, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology through highly integrated courses based on current research questions. Thesis research is conducted in state-of-the-art laboratories within a beautiful, award-winning building. Other components of the program help develop the professional skills needed in future research leaders. For the entering class of Fall 2012, the VAI seeks effective, independent learners who work capably in a collegial 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 and on-line application are available at their website, www.vai.org/Education/GraduateSchool.aspx, or by contacting the graduate school office at registrar@vai.org or 616-234-5708.
- The **National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program and MD/PhD Partnership Training Program** is a highly prestigious and extremely competitive program for the very best and brightest students across the nation who are interested in pursuing

MD/PhD training in the biomedical sciences. The application deadline is **January 3, 2012** for next academic year. Students admitted to the program choose a research project from a pre-existing list of collaborations or are free to design their own project, often bridging different disciplines. They write a detailed research proposal during their first summer in the program and begin their thesis research immediately. Scholars must spend two years at the NIH and two years in the UK, working in the labs of their chosen mentors. They earn the doctoral degree from whichever UK institution they select for their doctoral work. More information can be found at the program website: (<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov>)

- **Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Warm-water Aquatic Ecology:** Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA Summer 2012: May 20 to July 29 (<http://wilsonlab.com/reu/>). Undergraduate students are invited to participate in the National Science Foundation supported summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program focused on the ecology of southeastern ponds, rivers, reservoirs, and estuaries. Ten undergraduate students will work closely with Auburn University faculty (Fisheries, Biology, and Forestry) to explore aquatic ecosystems, complete a student-driven research project, and share their research findings in a symposium at the conclusion of the program. Participants will work closely with mentors to develop projects on a variety of disciplines, including community ecology, limnology, evolution, fisheries management, population modeling, conservation, molecular biology, and microbiology. The program will run from May 20 to July 29, 2012 (10 weeks). To stay up-to-date with the 2012 selection process and to learn about last summer's program, check them out on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_176698215717304&ap=1

Eligibility: Undergraduate freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors graduating no earlier than December 2012 are encouraged to apply. Participants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

Support: Participants will receive a stipend (\$4,500) plus food and housing, financial assistance for travel to and from Auburn, and support for research expenses.

Application: For full consideration, on-line applications and supporting recommendation letters must be received by **January 15 2012**. The application is available at <http://wilsonlab.com/reu/application.html>

For more information about the REU Site, visit <http://wilsonlab.com/reu/> or contact Alan Wilson at wilson@auburn.edu

- The **American Medical Student Association at Georgia Tech** cordially invites you to the **6th Annual Pre-Health Conference** on Saturday, February 18, 2012 in the College of Management building from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The conference will consist of informative workshops, admissions panels, mock interviews, a keynote speaker, and a health school fair. Representatives will have the option of serving on the workshops and panels as well as conducting mock interviews, if interested. Georgia Tech has become the largest AMSA chapter in the state of Georgia and the third largest AMSA organization in the southeast region with over 500 members. The organization has received critical acclaim in the past, including the national AMSA Paul R. Wright Award for Excellence in Medical Education and the Georgia Tech "Organization of the Year" for 2011. Although the conference is planned by AMSA, it is done in collaboration with the Pre-Pharmacy Student Association, Pre-Dental Society and Pre-Veterinary Medical Association. Over 250 students, faculty, and representatives from over 70 various health schools around the nation are expected to be in

attendance at this conference. To learn more about previous conferences, please visit www.amsa.gatech.edu. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Kimble at jennifer.kimble@carnegie.gatech.edu or at 404-385-2475.

- **The University of Michigan's Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)**, (which is an MD/Ph.D. program) is sponsoring The "Pre-MSTP" summer program, which is designed to provide an opportunity for highly motivated and talented undergraduates interested in careers as physician scientists to enhance their science and academic skills. The program is targeted towards students who are from geographically, culturally or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, students who have experienced financial hardship, and students with disabilities. Applicants should have completed at least their freshman undergraduate year. The main focus of the program is laboratory biomedical research, but the program also includes physician shadowing, an MCAT prep course, and an opportunity to attend bi-weekly seminars and a 2 day MSTP retreat on Lake Erie in August. Should you have any questions about the program, please contact the MSTP Office at mstp@umich.edu. The deadline for application submission is **February 1, 2012**
- **The University of Pennsylvania's Post Baccalaureate Pre-Health program** is designed to broaden and enrich academic preparation for health professional school curricula, foster academic excellence, promote success on the admission tests, and enhance acceptance into professional school. Students will have the benefit of studying at an Ivy League university where world-class science faculty will help them develop the key academic strengths, research skills, and healthcare experiences necessary for admission to the nation's most prestigious medical, dental, and veterinary schools. Penn's Pre-Health program offers two unique pathways to success. [Pre-Health Core Studies](#) supports career-changers who need to take basic science courses. [Pre-Health Specialized Studies](#) is geared to students who need to complete or enhance their existing science credentials. Students benefit from individualized advising and the flexibility to create a full- or part-time schedule. Evening classes devoted to Post-Bac Pre-Health students allow them to work, volunteer, or do research during the day to enhance their application and diversify their interests and knowledge. Students accepted into this highly selective program join a strong community of determined individuals in a challenging yet supportive Ivy League learning environment. Visit the program [web site](#) or call a recruitment specialist at 215-746-6902 to find out more.
- **University of Michigan's MPREP**: This is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) - funded Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP). Its objective is to provide individuals from underrepresented groups experience in research and sometimes additional academic enhancements in order to strengthen their candidacy for admission to PhD programs. MPREP benefits include:
 - One-year academic and research program starting July 1 each year
 - Financial package, including tuition, salary (\$21,000) and benefits
 - Over 150 potential faculty advisors from 6 schools and colleges
 - Possibility to enhance the program with UM coursework as advised
 - Preparation course for the GRE
 - Funding to travel to and participate in a professional conference

- Participation in seminars, journal clubs and social activities
- Peer support and advising by graduate student organizations
- Workshops to enhance preparation for graduate school applications
- Invitation to career development events
- Regular meetings with PREP Directors to present research and discuss career development

Visit www.med.umich.edu/prep for more information.

- **Summer 2012 Undergraduate Research Opportunities** are available at the **Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine** in Cleveland, Ohio. The web site includes numerous research opportunities at the [School of Medicine](#), [University Hospitals Case Medical Center](#), [Cleveland Clinic](#), [Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital](#), and [MetroHealth Medical Center](#). Additionally, the site includes information about the Summer Medical Dental Education Program ([SMDEP](#)) and the Heart, Lung, and Blood ([HLB](#)) Summer Research Program for minority and disadvantaged students.

Undergraduate Summer Research

Link: http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/research/summer_programs.cfm

Information about Case Western and their Three MD

Tracks: <http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/>

- **AACOM offers scholarships for underrepresented minority students.** Interested 2012 AACOMAS applicants and continuing students are encouraged to make applications. 2012 Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarship: This award, named after former AACOM Executive Director Sherry R. Arnstein, recognizes two osteopathic underrepresented minority students at AACOM's member colleges of osteopathic medicine (one newly accepted student and one continuing student). **Eligibility:** To be eligible, an applicant must be an underrepresented minority (*African-American; Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian; mainland Puerto Rican, or Hispanic*) student in good academic standing and currently enrolled in his or her first, second, or third year at an AACOM member college of osteopathic medicine OR an underrepresented minority student who has been accepted and is planning to matriculate at one of the AACOM member colleges. Previous Arnstein Scholarship awardees are ineligible. **Deadline:** Entries must be post-marked by **March 31, 2012**. All entries must include the required Cover Page, with all appropriate signatures, in addition to the required essay. Incomplete entries will not be considered. Awardees will be notified by July 21, 2012. **For details, please visit:**

<http://www.aacom.org/InfoFor/students/finaid/Pages/ArnsteinScholarship.aspx>

3. Focus on: Pharmacists

Each edition of the e-bulletin will be focusing on a specific professional career. This month, we are focusing on pharmacists. Pharmacists are licensed professionals who provide information about medications to patients and other health professionals. Pharmacists dispense medications and are concerned with medication distribution and proper use. They provide information that is vital to patient care. Pharmacists are increasingly more involved in counseling patients and in creating drug therapy programs. Because most medications are actually compounded or "mixed" by pharmaceutical companies, the main focus of a pharmacist's job is advising and assisting with the monitoring of patients' health. Most

pharmacists work in retail settings (e.g. Walgreen's, Rite Aid, etc.) or hospitals. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for pharmacists is excellent, and employment is expected to increase faster than average.

See www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/9/Pharmacy and <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos079.htm> for more information on this career, or <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org> to investigate other careers within the health field that might interest you.

Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat.

[Unknown]