

# 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 November 29, 2010

Click to view our: [CLAS Academic Advising Center Pre-Professional Webpage](#)

- 1. Grand Valley Announcements and Events**
- 2. Programs and Open Houses**
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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 please do the following: *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*

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

##### **Volunteer Opportunities through Grand Valley**

**1. Into the streets:** One Friday each month during the afternoon, students volunteer for a 1/2 day service project. Transportation is provided! Stop in the Community Service Learning Center in Kirkhof for more information.

**2. President's 50 Hour Service Challenge, August 30, 2010 - April 1, 2011**

Celebrate 50 years of shaping lives with 50 hours of service to the community. Be part of the challenge and submit your hours now! (<http://www.gvsu.edu/service/president-s-50-hour-service-challenge-78.htm>)

**3. Go to the following links for one time volunteer opportunities or on-going volunteer opportunities:**

-One Time Volunteer Opportunities <http://www.gvsu.edu/service/one-time-service-opportunities-42.htm>

-On-Going Opportunities ([http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/6716ABB0-D789-E5FE7D0C9B84D6EB7C0/long\\_term\\_service\\_opps\\_for cms last updated 9.2.10.pdf](http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/6716ABB0-D789-E5FE7D0C9B84D6EB7C0/long_term_service_opps_for cms last updated 9.2.10.pdf))

##### **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The WRT 305 exam has been replaced by a new evaluation process.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.

#### **2. Programs and Open Houses**

### **Des Moines University Health Professions Advanced Summer Scholars ( P.A.S.S.) Program**

Deadline for applications is **February 1, 2011**

A few highlights are listed:

The DMU Health Professions Advanced Summer Scholars (Health P.A.S.S.) program is free to attend; students will be provided with travel reimbursement, housing, and meals.

The Health P.A.S.S. program is specifically geared toward students who are underrepresented in medicine and healthcare – this includes individuals who are racially/ethnically underrepresented, first generation college students, and/or students who come from low-income backgrounds.

Ideally, students will apply to attend the HealthPASS program taking place in the summer between their freshman and sophomore or junior and senior years.

Participants will have the opportunity to experience “a day in the life” of students in four areas of health professions: Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Podiatric Medicine and Surgery (D.P.M.), Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), and Physician Assistant (P.A.).

The DMU Health P.A.S.S. program will run from July 10-30, 2010. Learn more about the key features of the DMU Health P.A.S.S. Program online at [www.dmu.edu/](http://www.dmu.edu/) If you have questions contact Margie Gehringer at 515-271-7498 or [margie.gehringer@dmu.edu](mailto:margie.gehringer@dmu.edu).

### **University of Michigan Pre-Medical Scientist Training Program**

The University of Michigan Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) is accepting applications for its Pre-MSTP Program. The program will provide an opportunity for highly motivated and talented undergraduates to participate in a ten week summer research-focused program in the University of Michigan Medical School.

The MSTP is an NIH-funded combined M.D./Ph.D. training program; it takes students approximately 8 years to earn the two degrees. MSTP graduates typically establish careers in academic medicine focused on basic research relevant to human diseases. Clinical medicine generally is a small component of the M.D./Ph.D. career and serves primarily to inform and enhance the research.

For undergraduates potentially interested in the above career path, the Pre-MSTP summer program provides biomedical research experience and exposure to clinical medicine. This may help you decide if this is the right career for you, and could enhance your competitiveness when applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

A stipend of \$4200 and university housing will be provided. The program will cover transportation costs to and from Ann Arbor up to \$200. Students are responsible for providing their own meals.

Participants can expect to:

Perform full-time research in a faculty laboratory

Attend bi-weekly luncheon presentations where faculty discuss their research

Give short presentations of their summer accomplishments at the conclusion of the program

Obtain clinical exposure opportunities in the form of physician shadowing

Attend the three-day MSTP annual retreat at Higgins Lake

Attend formal MCAT instruction over an 8 week period by the Stanley Kaplan Review Center

To be Eligible Applicants must:

Come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in the sciences **OR** have experienced financial hardship as a result of family economic circumstances **OR** have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities

Be a current undergraduate (excluding those applying to Med/Grad School for 2011)

Be a US citizen or permanent resident

Have completed a science course with laboratory

Be able to show proof of their own health insurance coverage

The deadline for application submission is **February 12, 2011**. Please contact [mstp@umich.edu](mailto:mstp@umich.edu) or visit <http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/mstp/> with any questions.

### **Summer Medical and Dental Educational Program at the University of Louisville**

The Summer Medical & Dental Education Program (SMDEP) is a six-week intensive summer residential academic enrichment program, focused on integrated problem solving in the basic sciences, centered on medical and dental

applications. Applications will be available at [www.smdep.org](http://www.smdep.org). They will be accepting applications from college freshman and sophomore pre-medical and pre-dental students. Deadline for all application material is **March 1, 2011**. Please apply early. The program includes: Science Enrichment, Free Housing and Meals plus stipend, clinical exposure and clinical correlations, team based learning modules, exciting written/oral presentation component, financial planning workshop, individualized career planning, health disparities symposium, chance to meet and interact with current medical and dental school students and SMDEP Alumni and get to know faculty and staff from the School of Medicine and School of Dentistry. Please email [specprog@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:specprog@gwise.louisville.edu) or call 502-852-7159 with any questions.

#### **American University of Antigua College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (AUACVMBS)**

American University of Antigua College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (AUACVMBS) is hosting a series of Information Seminars.

AUA's program provides a solid foundation in pre-clinical veterinary sciences. Upon completion, students have the opportunity to transfer to Virginia-Tech to earn a U.S.DVM degree or one of AUA's other partner institutions. The pre-clinical campus is located on the safe and serene Caribbean island of Antigua. The campus is fully equipped with the most modern equipment and facilities. 360-tours of the new Wi-Fi enabled 17-acre campus and housing units will be shown at the seminars.

Veterinary Information Seminar Dates:

Saturday, December 4, 2010 - Boston, MA<<http://www.auamed.org/boston-ma-veterinary-information-seminar>>

If you have any questions about our program, please contact our Admissions Office at 888-AUA-UMED or visit our website [www.auamed.org/vetschool](http://www.auamed.org/vetschool)

#### **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 is 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**.

### **3. Research Opportunities**

#### **The Van Andel Research Institute**

Are you an undergraduate or masters-degree student with a passion for cellular, molecular and genetic biology in order to make a difference for human health? The Van Andel Institute Graduate School (VAIGS) provides an innovative Ph.D. program 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. VAIGS trains Ph.D. scientists to be leading scholars in cellular, molecular and genetic studies relevant to human diseases. Their innovative problem-based curriculum leads students to explore fundamental concepts in genetics, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, and bioinformatics through highly integrated courses based on current research questions. Graduate students conduct their dissertation research 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 2011, they seek 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 they believe the understanding of and passion for the life of a scientist is most critical for applicants. Those with a bold and pioneering spirit will make the most of this opportunity.

For more information and an on-line application see their website at [www.vai.org/Education/GraduateSchool.aspx](http://www.vai.org/Education/GraduateSchool.aspx). You may also contact the graduate school office at [gradschool@vai.org](mailto:gradschool@vai.org) or 616-234-5708.

#### **Summer Undergraduate Research Programs at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine**

There are various opportunities for summer undergraduate research at Case Western this coming summer. Please go to [http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/research/summer\\_programs.cfm](http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/research/summer_programs.cfm) for more information on these programs.

#### **Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine**

Summer undergraduate research program provides stimulating and rewarding research opportunities for undergraduates considering graduate education in biomedical research. Students admitted to the program conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a faculty member in one of seven programs. Funding includes a \$3,500 stipend for the 10-week program, plus \$500 for transportation and FREE campus housing. You may apply if you are a rising sophomore or rising junior enrolled in a regionally accredited college or university in the US.

International students are eligible to apply if currently in F1 or J1 visa status. Individuals from groups underrepresented in the sciences are encouraged to apply. Please visit [www.gradbiomed.pitt.edu](http://www.gradbiomed.pitt.edu) for more information.

#### **Interdisciplinary Research Experiences for Undergraduates in the Structure and Function of Proteins at the University of Michigan**

Student participants will be engaged in an intensive 10 week period of hands-on experimental training and independent investigation in the areas of biochemistry, biophysics, cheminformatics, computational chemistry, enzymology, marine biology, molecular biology and plant biology. The research projects featured in this program all involve studies of the structure and function of proteins. In addition to the research experience, students will participate in a series of weekly enrichment seminars focusing on scientific communication, graduate school admissions and scientific career options. Rising juniors and seniors majoring in biochemistry, biology, biophysics, chemistry, computer science, engineering (chemical/biomedical), mathematics or a related discipline will be eligible for participation in the program. Applications are available online at: <http://pharmacy.umich.edu/reu>. Application deadline is **February 15, 2011**. The program dates are June 6-August 12, 2011. Participants will receive a \$4500 stipend, on campus housing, a \$1000 meal allowance and a \$300 travel allowance. You must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident to apply. For further information, please contact Dr. Cherie R. Dotson (crdotson@umich.edu /734-615-6562) or Dr. Ronald W. Woodard at [rww@umich.edu](mailto:rww@umich.edu) /734-647-8429.

## 4. Scholarship Opportunities

### **The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship**

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship (<http://www.act.org/goldwater/index.html>) provides up to \$7,500 per year for educational expenses to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. The Goldwater Foundation seeks students in mathematics or the sciences, who display intellectual curiosity and intensity; and possess potential for significant future contributions in their chosen field. Candidates are expected to pursue doctoral degrees. Students who plan to study medicine are eligible for a Goldwater Scholarship only if they plan a research career rather than a career as a medical doctor in private practice. Sophomores awarded the scholarship receive two years of support; juniors receive one year of support. **Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.60 to be considered for the Campus Selection procedure.**

#### **How To Apply:**

**\*Supporting Documents are to be submitted directly to the GVSU Office of Fellowships, 120 Niemeyer Hall by Thursday, January 13, 2011.**

Supporting documents include:

\*Nominee essay-written by the student and relates to the student's chosen career.

\*Transcript from nominee's current institution, including fall semester

\*Transcript(s) from other institutions, that nominee attended with grades for courses taken.

\*Secondary school transcript (these can be requested from your high school)

\*Documentation for home school in lieu of secondary school transcript, if applicable.

\*Copy of the nominee's Permanent Resident card and letter of intent to become U.S. citizen, if nominee's citizenship status is permanent resident (this is only necessary should you receive UNC's nomination)

**If you are interested in applying for this award, please schedule an appointment with Amanda Cuevas, Office of Fellowships Director, right away by calling 331-3219.**

### **The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest 2011**

The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest 2011 is accepting submissions from students across the U.S. through **December 6, 2010**. The first prize winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize. As part of the submission of materials, students must submit a completed entry form signed by both the student and faculty sponsor and a letter from the Registrar's Office (on school stationary, verifying eligibility). Applicants should plan accordingly.

Full essay contest guidelines, FAQs, past winners and other helpful information can be found on-line at <http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org/prizeinethics.aspx>. Here is a link to the poster with more information: Poster: [http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org/CM\\_Images/000/10/EP%20Student%20Guidelines%20and%20Entry%20Form%202011%20Final%20Draft.pdf](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org/CM_Images/000/10/EP%20Student%20Guidelines%20and%20Entry%20Form%202011%20Final%20Draft.pdf)

### **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. They 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.

They 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

### **Pre-Med Opportunity in India**

Any undergraduate student that is interested in international community health should know about the Mabelle Arole Fellowship, awarded annually since 2002 through JSI Research and Training, Inc. Candidates must be admitted to medical school to be eligible. If awarded the Fellowship, they defer entrance to medical school for one year.

Applications are due in **mid-January 2011** and finalists are interviewed in mid-March at American Medical Student Association conference in Washington, DC. The Fellow departs US in late August and returns in early summer of 2012. The Fellow, who receives \$8,000 to cover all expenses, spends 10 months at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project at Jamkhed (in Maharashtra), one of the best examples of how mobilized/empowered communities can significantly improve their health/nutrition status. All relevant information is available on the AMSA website ([www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org), search for Arole) which has link to Jamkhed site and contains reports by previous Fellows. Any questions can be directed to Dr. David Pyle at [dpyle@JSI.com](mailto:dpyle@JSI.com) or 503-894-8546 (in Portland, OR).

### **Volunteering at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids**

If you are interested in volunteering at Saint Mary's in Grand Rapids, please fill out the application at the following link:

<http://gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6AC-C940CACB896B0C17/stmarysvolunteer.pdf>

You will need to complete the application, the background request form, two reference forms, and review the list of volunteer opportunities (which is included in the application). If you have any questions, contact Rachel Selgo at [selgor@trinity-health.org](mailto:selgor@trinity-health.org) or call at 616-685-1898.

### **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.

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. Other Information**

### **MCAT Preparation-ExamKrackers**

Find out why students across the nation are turning to Examkrackers to improve their MCAT scores. Examkrackers offers:

9 weeks of comprehensive MCAT review

4 classes each week

5 full-length simulated MCAT

Unique class format with each consisting of a 50-minute lecture, a 10-minute break, a 30-minute practice exam, and a 25-minute review of the exam

Timed and proctored testing in the MCAT format every class

A complete set of manuals covering everything tested on the MCAT including thousands of questions

Classes begin **February 12, 2011**. For more information and to register, please visit [examkrackers.com](http://examkrackers.com) or call 1.888.krackem

**MCAT Registration**

MCAT registration is now open for the January through May 2011 exams.

*A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.*

*-Francis Bacon*