



Finals are approaching! Are you ready?

TILT Workshops: Finals Frenzy and FINAL EXAM PREP!

Finals Frenzy Workshop

Assess where you are at in your courses and how to use study time until finals, effectively.

Date: December 2nd, 3rd, & 5th

Time: Monday at 4pm, Tuesday at 5pm, and Thursday at 6pm - 50 minutes

Location: TILT 221

Final Exam Preparation Workshop

Tips for different exam formats,

Date: December 9th, 10th, and 12th

Time: Monday at 4pm, Tuesday at 5pm, and Thursday at 6pm - 50 minutes

Location: TILT 221

No pre-registration required; however, you may want to arrive early to ensure seating as we will close the door after the designated start time of the workshop.

Are you registered for at least 12 credits? Registration is open for ALL students!

Fall 2013 Important Dates

December

2 - Classes resume.

13 - Last day of classes. University withdrawal deadline.

16 - 19 - Final Exams!

20 - 21 - Commencement.

24 - Grades available on RamWeb.

25 - 27 - University Holiday; University closed.

To learn more about what faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Biology are up to, check out our website: <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/>.

Error message	What it means	When you might get it	What to do
Class level	Only students in a certain class level (fr/so or jr/sr) can register for a given course.	Few (if any) Biology courses have this restriction but other departments' courses (e.g., Psychology) may have it.	If you NEED the course, contact the home department for access.
Multiple Components Required	In addition to the lecture, you have to register for another component (lab or recitation) <i>at the same time</i> .	Many biology, chemistry, and physics courses are commonly associated with this error.	Check boxes for each component PRIOR to hitting "register." Click the CRN for the lecture to see specifically which sections of lab/recitation that must be selected.
Major	You do not have the right major for a class.	Some classes are restricted just to students in that major (Business/Art are examples); other classes allow non-majors to register after a certain date.	Click on the CRN for details about major restriction—if the class opens to non-majors at a certain date, it will tell you that info here.
Prerequisite	You fail to meet at least one prerequisite for the class.	BZ310 is an example (though most biology courses have prerequisites). It requires a semester of organic chemistry as a prerequisite.	You'll need to take the prerequisite courses prior to registering for the course in question. If you think this is an error, contact your advisor.
Dept./Instructor approval	Registration for a certain class is limited and only approved on a case-by-case basis.	An example is BZ505 Cognitive Ecology - it requires permission from the instructor for undergrads to enroll.	If you seek access to a class requiring dept./instructor approval, contact the instructor listed or the department.
Stop enrollment	A department has stopped enrollment so that no one can register for the class until a problem is resolved.	Hard to say—stop enrollments can happen in any department due to unforeseen changes.	Try registering for a different section of the same class, or contact the department to find out more information.

WALK IN ADVISING FOR GRADUATING SENIORS!

Are you graduating in Spring 2013? Have you heard a rumor that there's a "contract" that you need to sign? The rumors are true! The registrar's office prints a contract for every graduating senior. The Academic Support Coordinators in the Biology Department will review each contract to ensure that all requirements have been completed. We then make those contracts available for seniors to review and sign.

In January, the Biology Department will hold walk in advising hours for all students graduating in Spring 2013. You do not need to make an appointment to sign your contract. Please come to A/Z E106 during one of the following times:

- Tuesday, January 21, 2013– 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- Thursday, January 23, 2013– 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- Friday, January 24, 2013– 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
- Monday, January 27, 2013– Friday, January 31, 2013– 9:00 AM-11:00 AM each day

Seniors may walk in at ANY TIME during the first two weeks for the semester to sign their contract but advisors will be available during the above hours for questions, etc.

Are you on Academic Probation 2? Have you started writing your Academic Dismissal Appeal?

All students on their second consecutive semester of probation who wish to return to CSU the following semester are urged to submit an academic dismissal appeal.

- Academic dismissal appeals are considered by the **Committee on Scholastic Standards**, a faculty committee representing the University's eight colleges and the Library.
- Appeals are considered in a special meeting of the Committee which is scheduled at least seven days before the beginning of the following semester.

Important!

Appeals must be *submitted online* (<http://appeals.casa.colostate.edu>) and must include a **well-written personal statement** and a **detailed plan of action for improving academic status**. **The committee strongly encourages students to include any and all relevant supporting documentation.**

- In your mandatory written statement, you need to identify the reasons why your academic performance has fallen below expectations and your plan must address the steps you have taken to address and correct any situations which have contributed to poor performance
- For your appeal to be considered for Fall Semester 2013, it must be submitted by **Monday, December 30th at 9:00 am**. **Late appeals are not accepted - you cannot start or edit an appeal after that point.**

If an academic dismissal appeal is granted, you will be permitted to register for one additional semester as a degree-seeking student. If your cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 at the end of that semester, you will be dismissed.

ATTENTION:
Prepare
for finals
early!!!



**Don't do
this!**



more awesome pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM

Advising Tip of the Month:

Prepare for Finals!

Go to study sessions, meet with professors and TAs, and go to tutoring sessions.

Use this time to prepare for your final exams!

You will have an entire month of sleeping in, eating, and hanging out with friends once winter break is here. So prioritize your time wisely these final few weeks of the semester.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS HAPPENINGS

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GOING TO MED SCHOOL IN THE CARIBBEAN?

Thomas Day Assistant Director of Admission at St. George's (Grenada) Med/Vet Summer Leadership Program will be available to meet with students on a walk-in basis on Wednesday December 4th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM in TILT 105.



To schedule an appointment with a Health Professions Advisor call the Center for Advising and Student Achievement (CASA) at 970-491-7095. For more information on Health Professions Advising visit <http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/>.

PLANNING TO TAKE THE MCAT IN 2014?

In the Spring semester the Health Professions Advising offers a:

- **12 week**
- **non-credit**
- **MCAT review course**

Information about registration, cost, dates and specific times for the CSU non-credit prep course is available at:

<http://www.online.colostate.edu/courses/HSCT/HSCT3080.dot?sel=482575>

If you are interested in health professions, we encourage you to sign up for the health professions electronic mailing list (at <http://hp.casa.colostate.edu/hpmailinglist.aspx>). Subscribing to this list enables you to receive email messages about Health Professions advising, workshops related to Health Professions and special events sponsored by the various Health Profession student organizations.

An Interview With the Biology Department's Newest Faculty Member, Dan Sloan

1. What attracted you to CSU and what has been the best part of your first few months here?

The same thing that will attract a lot of CSU students when they graduate – a job! The CSU Department of Biology is also a great fit for my research. Our department has a lot of expertise in fields like ecology, evolution, and plant molecular biology, and my lab fits nicely at the interface of those disciplines. My family and I are very excited about living in Fort Collins. Moving from the east coast (New Haven, CT) has been a huge change, but so far we have really enjoyed the mountains, the biking, and the beer.

2. Tell us a little bit about your background. How did you get interested in biology?

I grew up in Maine and always loved the outdoors, but I came to biology from what is probably a fairly atypical route. I was NOT the kid that was always fascinated by bugs or flowers or marine mammals. In fact, I had no intention of becoming a biologist when I went to college. I started out as an economics major, as I was always struck by the work of people like Adam Smith who were able to boil down something as complex as economic activity into a few elegant and intuitive rules. I eventually found that same logical beauty in the ideas of Charles Darwin, and it was really evolution that pulled me in to the larger discipline of biology. I ended up double-majoring in economics and biology, and, after trying out jobs related to each, I decided that academic biology was more my style.

3. What are your research interests?

My research investigates how the evolutionary process plays out at the DNA or genomic level. Just as living organisms are spectacularly diverse, the

way their DNA is organized into genomes is equally variable, and my work tries to identify the mechanisms that create and maintain variation in genome size, structure, and function. I work with a number of different organisms to address this question, including plants, insects, and bacteria. One common theme has been trying to understand how genomes evolve in the context of organelles and endosymbiotic bacteria that live exclusively inside the cells of another organism. I am particularly interested in how co-occurring genomes (for example, the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes in our own cells) are able to successfully interact and carry out basic biological functions.

4. What courses will you be teaching?

I am excited to partner with Dr. A.S.N. Reddy and begin teaching Molecular and General Genetics on a regular basis next semester. Dr. Reddy will be covering most of the molecular topics in the course, while I will teach the major principles of Mendelian inheritance, quantitative genetics, and population genetics. In collaboration with Dr. Rachel Mueller, I will also be developing an upper-level course on Molecular Evolution and Genomics that will be offered starting in Spring 2015. This course will address how the evolutionary process acts at the level of DNA and protein molecules.

5. Do you (or will you) include undergraduates in your research program, and will you be looking to add any undergraduates to your lab in the near future?

Absolutely. Working with undergraduate students has been an important part of my research both as a graduate student at University of Virginia and then as a postdoc at Yale University. I expect to have active undergrad-

uate participation in my lab, and I encourage students who are interested to contact me. Work in my lab has two major components to it. We maintain a “wet lab” for molecular genetic bench work for techniques like PCR, DNA sequencing, etc. There is also a strong computational or bioinformatic side to research in the lab. Opportunities are available for students interested in gaining experience in either (or both) of these areas of biological research.

7. What advice do you have for undergraduates in our department?

Sometimes the topics you enjoy in the classroom turn out to feel rather tedious when you try them out in “real life” and *vice versa*. A really valuable part of the college experience is sampling the many opportunities outside the classroom to find out what you do and do not like. In the context of the biological sciences, one of the best ways to do this is to get hands-on research experience. There are numerous research opportunities in labs at CSU and even more in national and international programs for summer undergraduate research in the summer. My biggest advice is to be proactive in seeking out these opportunities and get involved in different types of research early and often. Don't be shy about asking faculty about research opportunities in their labs or for suggestions for summer research programs.

