



**January 2011  
Undergraduate Newsletter**  
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**Spring 2011 Important Dates**

January

- 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – University Closed
- 18 – Classes Begin
- 26 – Student Involvement Fair – LSC Main Ballroom: 10am-3pm

February

- 2 – Last day to Add/Drop (most classes – check class schedule for individual course deadlines)
- 2 – Career Fair – LSC Main Ballroom: 10am-3pm
- 4 – Study Abroad Fair LSC Main Ballroom: 10am-3pm
- 4 – Graduation Contract (Undergraduate) due

March

- 4 – Fall 2011 Class Schedule available online
- 12 – Spring Recess begins
- 21 – Individual course withdrawal period ends (Note: University withdrawal ends May 6)
- 21 – Repeat/Delete Requests due (last day)
- 22 – Summer Session Registration begins

April

- Fall 2011 Registration begins – dates coming soon

May

- 6 – Classes End and Last day to complete University Withdrawal from all classes
- 9 – 13 – Final exams week
- 13-14 – Commencement ceremonies

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**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/>.

**Welcome Back!!** We hope you had a restful and relaxing winter break. As a Biology or Zoology major, you will be receiving this newsletter once a month to keep you informed and aware of important dates and opportunities you may want to take advantage of.

**New Academic Support Center** ~ In Fall 2010, the Department of Biology launched a new Academic Support Center and staffed it with three Academic Support Coordinators. Kayla Nuss, Justin Reeves, and Rebecca “Becky” Villalpando joined the department and all three are committed to helping you succeed. They look forward to working with you one-on-one in the weeks ahead so be sure to schedule an advising appointment soon. Advising appointments are scheduled online at <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/advising-scheduling>.

**Walk-In Advising Hours** for Spring 2011 start Tuesday, January 18 – In order to better serve you, the advising staff will have regularly scheduled walk-in advising hours during the entire semester. **Please note** that this is **not** a time to expect a full-service advising appointment! Please come with the intention of limiting your time to 10 minutes so others do not have to wait too long. If you think you’ll need longer than 10 minutes, please visit <http://www.biology.colostate.edu/advising-scheduling> to schedule an appointment.

**Walk-in academic advising hours for this semester** will be held on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in E-113 Anatomy/Zoology Building.

**Advisors will also be available** for walk-ins on the first day of classes (Tuesday, January 18) from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in E-113 Anatomy/Zoology Building.

**Academic Probation** ~ If you were placed on academic probation at the end of Fall 2010, schedule an advising appointment today! We would like to discuss your options for repairing your GPA as soon as possible. Academic probation is defined by a student's cumulative GPA being below a 2.0. If you have an **advising code** on your account because you are on probation, you must schedule an advising appointment and meet with an advisor in order to obtain your advising code.

**Seniors Graduating in Spring 2011:** Be sure to come by the Biology Department Main Office (located in E-106 Anatomy/Zoology Building) to review and sign your **GRADUATION CONTRACT**. **That is your last double check** to make sure that you're taking the right courses and number of credits to graduate in May 2011. **Graduation contracts will be available starting January 18.** If you plan on graduating at the end of the Spring 2011 semester, please come by to review and sign your contract no later than February 3, 2011.

**Spring 2011 Commencement Information** can be found online at <http://www.natsci.colostate.edu/students/commencement.cfm>.

**The CSU Scholarship Application (CSUSA) is available** on-line via RAMweb and is due March 1, 2011. There are several scholarships available through the department and college as well as those available university-wide. We recommend you check out the Student Financial Services Scholarship Information web site at: <http://sfs.colostate.edu/scholarships/index.aspx>.

To complete the CSUSA application, go to RAMweb at [ramweb.colostate.edu](http://ramweb.colostate.edu) and login using your eID (eName and ePassword). Then select the CSU Scholarship Application link. Be sure to complete the College of Natural Sciences section of the CSUSA.

**Deadline:** The deadline for all CSUSA online applications is 11:00 p.m. MST on March 1, 2011. All applications must be completed by that time. **However**, all supplemental materials required for department and college scholarships, including transcripts and letters of recommendation, must be received in the **CNS Dean’s Office, 117 Statistics Building, 1801 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins CO 80523-1801 by 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2011.** Post-marked dates will not be honored and late deliveries will not be accepted. For more information on the CNS Scholarship Application process visit: <http://www.natsci.colostate.edu/students/scholarships/scholapply.cfm>.

**Spring 2011 Lab Schedule**

Labs that **DO** meet the first week of classes:

- Life 103
- BZ 111
- BZ 120
- BZ 214
- BZ 310
- BZ 350

Labs that do **NOT** meet the first week classes:

- Life 102
- BZ 105
- BZ 311
- BZ 335
- BZ 450

## Faculty Corner

Each month we will be interviewing a professor in the Department of Biology so you can get to know the faculty on a more personal basis. This month, we sat down with Dr. Joe von Fischer.



**How long have you been at CSU and what has been your fondest memory since you started your career here?** I started at CSU in 2003 as a Research Assistant Professor. In 2007 I was awarded a tenure-track position. My fondest memories would probably be the lighthearted moments I create in my courses. I do not like to see students stress out too much before an exam or class project, so I often like to tell jokes or anecdotes in class to lighten the mood and ease students' minds.

**What courses do you teach and what are your research interests?** I teach LIFE320 (Ecology), ECOL610 (Ecosystem Ecology), the plant portion of LIFE103 (Biology of Organisms), and half of BZ353 (Global Change Ecology, Impacts, and Mitigation). I consider myself an ecosystem ecologist. I am interested in how ecosystems are impacted by the physical environment and how microbial diversity may (or may not) be important in regulating ecosystem processes. One of my primary research areas is methane uptake in Colorado grasslands and if microbial diversity is important in driving this process. I am also congruently interested in methane release in Alaska.

**Do you include undergraduates in your research program, and will you be looking to add any undergraduates to your lab in the near future?** Yes! I encourage undergraduate participation in my lab, and I have even published two papers with undergraduate students. I have recently received a grant to study methane uptake in Colorado grasslands and examine if microbial diversity plays a role (or not) in the uptake process. I will be looking to hire multiple undergraduate students the next few semesters to assist in these projects. *If you are interested in joining Dr. von Fischer's lab, email him at [joe.von\\_fischer@colostate.edu](mailto:joe.von_fischer@colostate.edu).*

**What is something that students do not know about you?** I have four children, ages seven, five, two, and four months. Also, Dr. Colleen Webb (an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology) is my wife. When I was in college, I got a "C+" in my second semester of organic chemistry, though my research interests now have me using lots of chemistry. I moved on to have a happy and successful career as an ecologist, so not doing spectacularly well in organic chemistry isn't the end of the world.

**Do you have any advice for students in our department?** I have three bits of advice that I like to tell students:

1. Take more writing courses than are required for your degree. Writing is an essential skill, especially for scientists, and any extra writing practice or training one can receive will greatly improve professional development and success in future careers.
2. Take more math courses than are required for your degree. More math training will mean higher paying, more exciting career opportunities, especially in the sciences.
3. Boil yourself in a test tube. One needs to analyze themselves carefully to make good career choices. In other words, be introspective and make sure you are taking appropriate courses and aiming for a career that really fits your personality, interests, and skills.

Thank you Dr. von Fischer!

## Student Success

### An Interview with Senior Biology Major, Helen Sims

**Hometown:** Boulder, CO

**Interests:** Competitive Horseback Riding and Tae Kwon Do

**Future Goals:** Attend Veterinary School at CSU

**How did you decide to major in Biology at Colorado State?** I've always known that CSU had a fabulous biology department. In high school, I got interested in possibly going into Vet Medicine. I knew the program at CSU is great. When I was looking into CSU, I was very impressed with the opportunities available to undergraduates. At other schools I considered, getting involved with good professors seemed challenging.



**Tell us about some of the resources you've used on campus or in the Biology Department that have helped you to be successful.** I know that a lot of people say talking to your professor is really important. I didn't really do that in my first few years here. In my upper division classes, though, I've gone and gotten to know my professors. I'm taking two 400-level classes and, while I'm not struggling in them, it's been nice to go talk to them one-on-one. I've loved learning more about their research interests because I find them fascinating. Also, there is a test file available in the Lory Student Center that I've utilized for almost all of my classes. Some professors release their old tests so students can see what type of questions have been used before. It's helpful to be able to figure out what's important to the faculty member and it helps a lot when studying for exams. Every semester, I go get the tests for my class to make sure I understand the test format and the material that may be important.

**What advice would you give someone coming out of high school into the biology major?** I would tell them that it's going to be hard work, but it's worthwhile. New students need to start off strong. During the first few semesters when they are in Life 102/103, they need to take the courses seriously. If you get the material down the first time you take it, it will be easier when you take the upper division courses. The first classes I think are the hardest in some ways because they cover so much material. If you really understand the material, it's so much easier to build on than trying to relearn things you didn't learn the first time around.

**What challenges have you had as a biology major?** Balancing the classes I'm really excited about and the ones I'm not so excited about is always a challenge for me. If I love the class, I want to spend more time studying for it. That's probably the hardest thing for me – balance. Balancing time to ride horses, working in a vet clinic, and keeping grades up is a challenge for anyone.

**What are your plans for the future?** This is my third year as an undergrad here because I came in with 63 credits from IB and AP classes. So, I applied to vet school here at CSU in October. If I get in, I'm going to graduate this summer and start vet school in August. If not, I'll finish my fourth year here and take some more classes. There are so many classes that I'd love to take but I'd rather go to vet school a year early if possible. But, if not, I'll reapply next year.

Good Luck Helen! We know you can do it!!

## Involvement Opportunities



**Join the Biology Club!** Interested in biology but not sure where your degree will take you? Let the Biology Club help you out! We are a student-run club focused on providing career ideas for students majoring in biological sciences, or who are just interested in learning some cool things about the world around us. We have monthly meetings with speakers from different biological fields, as well as field trips and community service opportunities. Please contact Claire at [willis.c7@g.com](mailto:willis.c7@g.com) with any questions. We are also looking for some new officers, so let her know if that sounds like something you'd be interested in! To stay up-to-date with the club's happenings, visit our website at <http://rydberg.biology.colostate.edu/bioclub/>. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

**Join the Zoology Club!** Zoology Club is for those passionate about animals of any major (not just Zoology)! We meet every other week and host guest speakers ranging from zookeepers to professors here at CSU. We also provide an average of 3 trips a semester. Last semester's trips included camping at an Emu Ranch, and behind the scenes tours at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Downtown Aquarium in Denver! With summer internships on the way we will also be providing resources for those looking to get involved in research, wildlife, zoos, aquariums, etc! To be part of our mailing list, which will allow you updates on meetings and trips please contact us at [csuzoologyclub@gmail.com](mailto:csuzoologyclub@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!



## Career Connections

- **Need help planning your future?** Looking for a new adventure? Look no further! Judy Brobst, the Career Center Liaison for the College of Natural Sciences can assist you with all aspects of your career development!  
**Drop in Career Counseling with Judy Brobst:** Every other Friday starting February 18 in E-108 Anatomy/Zoology Building from 9 – 11:45 a.m. – No Appointment Necessary.  
Services offered: Internships & volunteer experiences, resume development, choosing/changing majors, graduate school, on-line assessments, job search skills, etc. **To set up an appointment** contact Judy at [judy.brobst@colostate.edu](mailto:judy.brobst@colostate.edu) or 970-491-1190. General walk-in hours for the Career Center are Monday – Friday from 8:30 – 4:30 in 116 Lory Student Center.
- **Spring 2011 Job Fair - Wednesday, February 2** ~ 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Lory Student Center Main Ballroom. Gain visibility at the Spring Job Fair on February 2. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect employers and CSU students and alumni in hiring for full-time, part-time, internships, or summer/seasonal positions. For more information visit <http://www.career.colostate.edu/find-a-job-or-internship/career-fairs/spring-job-fair.aspx>.
- **Are you interested in a health professions career?** If so, you need to get connected to Health Professions Advising at CSU! Health Professions Advisors at CSU offer advising for students interested in careers in: Chiropractic, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Podiatry, and Veterinary Medicine. These advisors will work with you to prepare for a professional program and set you in the right direction!  
**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/>.
- **Health Professions Happenings** ~ 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. Upcoming events include:
  - ★ The Pre Physical Therapy Club will be coordinating GRE study groups this spring semester. Meetings are all in TILT 21 (in the basement):
    - February 1- March 15 (Tuesdays) from 7:15-9 PM
    - January 31 to March 14 (Mondays) from 5-7 PMStudents who are interested and/or need more information can email [ptclub@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:ptclub@rams.colostate.edu)
  - ★ On February 18 an admissions rep from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), which has campuses in Erie, PA and Bradenton, FL will see interested students on a drop-in basis from 10:00 to 12:30 (location to be determined).

## Campus Resources

**FREE tutoring available!** Do you want to start the semester off strong and get the grades you want? TILT (The Institute for Learning & Teaching) offers free tutoring services! For more information or for study group schedules visit: <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring.cfm>. All tutors have earned outstanding grades in the course(s) for which they tutor and are participants in an ongoing tutoring training process. They know what it's like to be taking challenging introductory courses where a small number of exams and assignments have a large impact on your overall grade.

TILT also offers a variety of learning programs and workshops designed to teach you strategies for being a more successful student while also having fun. All workshops are FREE, last 50 minutes, and snacks are provided. For a complete list of programs and workshops visit: <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/>.

**The Campus Writing Center** can help you with starting, drafting, revising, researching, and polishing your papers. While they will not proofread or edit a paper for you, they can help you develop your ideas and improve your paper's organization, clarity, and cohesion. The Writing Center is located in Willard O. Eddy Hall Room 6. No appointments necessary and services are free. For more information visit <http://writing.colostate.edu/>.