Department of Biological Sciences

Featured Biologists: The DSU MARC Scholars and Dr. Anthea Aikins (MARC Director)

Congratulations to Dr. Anthea Aikins and ALL of the MARC Scholars! All four student representatives received awards for their presentations at the 2015 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Seattle, Washington. The NIH-funded MARC U*STAR program provides support for high-achieving undergraduate students who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences to improve their preparation for high-caliber graduate training at the Ph.D. level. Representing the DSU MARC U*STAR Program are:

- Gabriel B. Mpilla; Developmental Biology and Genetics
- Xenia Davis: Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Marissa L. Arnell: Molecular and Computational Biology
- Yassmine S. Zerrad; Developmental Biology and Genetics

The **Department of Biological Sciences** provides a strong foundation in both traditional and modern areas of biology for students preparing for careers in the biological sciences. Careers for our typical graduates span the spectrum from professional study at graduate, medical, dental, or other health-related schools to technical positions in biology-related fields in industry or government. In partnership with the College of Education, we also prepare students for teaching careers in the field of biology. All majors in

Biological Sciences are afforded the opportunity to focus their education on their specific career goals through the selection of elective courses while affording the flexibility to adjust that goal with all curricula having common core courses and requirements. Each student is expected to perform a research project as a graduation requirement (Capstone) and to participate in journal clubs, summer internships, and attend seminars.

The goals of the Department enable students:

1. To develop a clear and unbiased method of investigative thought;
2. To develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the natural world;
3. To develop a knowledge of biological principles that a modern citizen needs to make intelligent and effective decisions and adjustments to the demands of life;
4. To be competent in communicating ideas and concepts;
5. To succeed in advanced study and diverse careers requiring bioscience expertise.

Curriculum Options in Biology

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MAJOR (BS): Biology is the study of living systems and includes how they are organized, how they function, how they grow, and how they interact with their surroundings. The organizational structure of our degree program provides the same foundation for all our concentration areas and utilizes electives to provide the flexibility to prepare students for their specific career. The concentration areas include: Health Professions [1], Biomedical Research, and General Biology [2].

A unique component of the BS degree in the General Biology concentration is the ability to teach biology on the secondary level. At DSU, you complete your biology (BS) degree by selecting biology electives that meet the teacher preparation requirements so that you become "highly-trained" and then complete a one-year Masters degree in teaching (student also receives an MAT degree with teaching certification).

FORENSIC BIOLOGY MAJOR (BS): Forensic Biology is the application of the scientific principles, methods and techniques to situations of legal importance. The DSU Forensic Biology degree is a cross-campus partnership to provide the diverse skills required of an investigator and requires students to take the 5 core courses in biology, 2 courses related to criminal justice, 5 courses in chemistry, one course each of statistics, psychology and digital photography in addition to their general education requirements. The DSU Forensic Biology degree is based on a foundation of biological principles that is overlaid with 6 forensic courses that will provide students with the theoretical background and basic laboratory skills needed to pursue a career in forensic biology and related fields.

*****Note:***

All students in the Biological Sciences pursuing a bachelor's degree (BS) at DSU are required to complete the General Education program as required of all students. In addition, all majors in Biological Sciences must complete core courses in Biology 101-102, 210, 215, 310, a research project, and biology-based seminar courses. The specialization is in the flexibility of an additional 18 credits of student-selected advanced Biology courses (see specific degree concentrations). These elective courses are chosen with close faculty advisement. A grade of "C" or better is required in all Biology courses and any courses within CMNST. In addition, the biology major must complete 5 courses in Chemistry, 2 in Physics, and meet Mathematics requirements.

MINOR in BIOLOGY: For a minor in biology, eighteen (18) hours are required, distributed as follows: Biology 101-102, 210 and six (6) hours of electives.

MINOR in FORENSIC SCIENCE: At DSU, a Minor in Forensic Science is available across most departments in the University. Depending on the student's major, a varied number of courses need to be taken. In principle, this minor will require students to take courses in biology, forensic science, courses related to criminal justice, a course in statistics, and courses in chemistry (the specific courses will depend on the student's major).

DEPARTMENTAL CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: The department has three student run clubs, each with different missions: Health Professions Student Organization, Forensic Biology Club, and Biology Club. All biology majors are encouraged to participate in at least one of these organizations.

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: The department has very active full-time and part-time graduate students in multiple research disciplines. Click **HERE** [3] to view their profiles.

Links to Affiliated Websites

Grant Writing Strategies [4] (website created by Dr. Harrington)

Delaware Chapter, Society for Neuroscience [5]

Useful Links for Biology Majors

Biology Degrees and Careers in Biology [6]

Back to CMNST Home Page [7]

Source URL: http://desu.edu/mathematics-natural-sciences-and-technology/department-biological-sciences

Links
[1] http://www.desu.edu/health-professions
[2] http://desu.edu/mathematics-natural-sciences-and-technology/general-biology-concentration
[3] http://www.desu.edu/mathematics-natural-sciences-and-technology/graduate-students-department-biological-sciences
[4] http://www.grant-tutor.org/
[5] http://www.delawareneuroscience.org/Pages/sub_Two.htm
[6] http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/science-technology-careers/biology/
[7] http://www.desu.edu/cmnst