



BIOrhythms

Washington University Biology Department Newsletter

February 2016

*“Support bacteria,
it’s the only culture
some people have.”*

— *Bumper sticker*

Helpful Links

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*BIOrhythms is a publication of
the Washington University
Biology Department for
Undergraduate Majors*

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Featured in this issue:

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Course Spotlight: BIO 171: Neuroscience Futures 1

Undergrad Opportunities: Women in STEM Day, Biotechnology Mentors, Goldman Fellows Program, Career Center

Student Groups: JCUBES

Calendar: Biology Events and links to event listings



Faculty Spotlight: Mitch Kundel



Dr. Mitch Kundel, born in Iowa City, grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His early interest in science stemmed from enjoyment of the outdoors and family vacations in the mountains along with a middle school science teacher at Kalamazoo Academy who made even the most basic scientific concepts seem exciting and interesting. Dr. Kundel attended Kalamazoo College, a small liberal arts school, for his undergraduate degree, where he became more focused in his studies and enjoyed a teaching assistant position for the course Cell Biology during his senior year. From that point on, he knew he would have a career in science education.

Dr. Kundel completed his Master’s degree, and PhD work at Yale University in the Cell Biology department. He studied under David Wells, whose research looks at the ways in which neurons regulate growth during development. Laboratory research did not hold the same fascination for Dr. Kundel as the idea of conveying the concepts and methods of that research to students. He remembered the excitement and satisfaction of grasping scientific concepts early on, and knew the important role teachers played in his understanding, and so he completed his postdoc work in science education at Yale.

Dr. Kundel joined the Biology Department at Wash U as an instructor in Fall 2014 after spending two years at the Wash U Teaching Center working with graduate students and postdocs on their teaching and professional development as educators. —*cont’d on page 2*

Women in STEM Day

February 26th/February 27th

The Society of Women Engineers is hosting its annual Women in STEM Day to introduce high school women to STEM opportunities on Friday February 26th and Saturday February 27th; the Friday portion of the event includes an overnight stay portion for these students, for which we need girls living on the 40 with a STEM major/minor, or on a pre-health track, to host students in their dorm/suite. The girls will be bringing their own things, so you'll only need to host them in your room/suite between 10 pm and 7 am on Friday night/Saturday morning.

The **volunteer response form** can be filled out for the shifts you'd like to help out with for the day event as well.

Please email women.in.stem.day@gmail.com for more information!



As a member of the Biology Department, he is a major advisor and teacher, using both lecture style and hands-on lab instruction. He teaches the labs for Bio 2960 and 2970, co-teaches the Bio 404 Laboratory of Neurophysiology and teaches two seminar courses, Bio 171: Neuroscience Futures 1: How do we learn about the brain? and Bio 4934: Neuroscience Futures 2. The seminars are discussion and writing-based, allowing the students to talk about Neuroscience research in small groups.

Dr. Kundel's personal hobbies include spending time outdoors with his family at playgrounds and parks, and visiting St. Louis attractions such as the zoo and botanical garden. He is also very active in the running community, regularly participating in meetups and races.

Course Spotlight: Bio 171: Neuroscience Futures 1: How do we learn about the brain?

In this seminar course for first-year students, students learn about how neurobiologists conduct and communicate research. We focus our discussion on primary research papers written by WUSTL neurobiologists, who visit the class to present their work. Discussion then focuses on the formulation of scientific questions, evaluation of evidence and interpreting data within the context of a broader field. Students meet neuroscience colleagues in two joint class periods with participants in a neurobiology seminar for 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.

JCUBES: The Journal Club for Undergraduates in Biological Engineering and Sciences

JCUBES is Wash U's own undergraduate journal club. We hold bi-weekly meetings during which Wash U undergraduate research enthusiasts come together to discuss cutting edge research in the life sciences. **We will be meeting the following dates in Life Sciences 310 at 6PM: 2/25, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, and 4/21.** All are welcome to join! You do not need to be doing research, nor do you need any special background. We are open to everyone who has an interest in the biological sciences. You can check out our blog to stay updated: www.wustljcubes.wordpress.com and email us for more information at wustljcubes@gmail.com. Join us! And enjoy some free pizza provided generously by the departments of Biology and Biomedical Engineering.

Goldman Fellows Program—Application Deadline: April 8 Info Session: March 2, 4-5pm, DUC 233

The Goldman Fellows Program is a unique opportunity for undergraduates to spend a summer in St. Louis with other WashU students who care about the St. Louis community. The program supports undergraduates who secure unpaid summer internships at non-profit, community, or governmental organizations in the St. Louis region. Goldman Fellows receive \$5000 summer stipends for community-based internships in the St. Louis region. Applications and more information can be found at: <http://gephardtinsttute.wustl.edu/goldman-fellows/>.

Career Center Events in Spring 2016

FRESHstart- Feb. 24, 8pm in South 40 House, College Hall

Welcome Class of 2019!* This program will help you in your next steps towards a meaningful summer experience. We will provide 5 minute overview of resources before breaking out into small groups. In your small groups, you'll get start on where you are in your process:

- Work on your resume and LinkedIn profile
- Develop your list for networking and informational interviews
- Create an action plan for summer 2016
- Explore pre-health, pre-law, and pre-grad resources and what you should do over the next 4 years to be set

We will also provide pizza, so come hungry!

In addition to FRESHstart, stop by the Career Center, DUC 110, for a 15 minute visit with a career advisor. Feel free to bring a friend or come without a question in mind. We're happy to get to know you or help you in the next step of your career journey.

*Transfer students are also encouraged to attend this program.

Career Interest Groups

The Career Center invites all Washington University students to join our Career Interest Groups. Learn about potential careers, make industry connections, and get the inside scoop on breaking in. Sign up today!

Explorers For students exploring career options, email to join: exploringcareers@wustl.edu

Pre-Health For students with an interest in med school and other health careers, email to join: prehealth@wustl.edu

Pre-Law For students considering law school, visit to join: college.artsci.wustl.edu/prelaw_emailist

Pre-Grad For inquisitive minds who want to solve problems and advance knowledge in academia and beyond. visit to join: college.artsci.wustl.edu/pre_grad

Government & Public Policy For policy wonks and change agents, email to join: GPPcareers@wustl.edu

Sustainability For students interested in sustainability related jobs, email to join: sustainablecareers@wustl.edu

Strategic Communications For students into advertising, marketing, and PR, email to join: stratcomcareers@wustl.edu

Finance For students who love the world of finance, email to join: bankingcareers@wustl.edu

Consulting For students wanting to know more about consulting, email to join: consultingcareers@wustl.edu

Engineering For students who want to turn their love of engineering into a career, email to join: engroups@wustl.edu

Locations:

Danforth University Center, Suite 110 with satellite offices in Lopata Hall and Steinberg Hall

Main Office Hours in the Danforth University Center:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Us:

Phone: 314.935.5930

Fax: 314.935.5905

E-mail: careers@wustl.edu

Website: careercenter.wustl.edu

Rockwood School District Looking for Biotechnology Mentors

The Rockwood School District has 5th grade gifted students at their Center for Creative Learning who are working on biotechnology projects. The teachers are looking for mentors, whether students or faculty, who could visit the classrooms and give feedback to individual students.

As a background, students are learning about the Human Genome Project, DNA structure, Tools of Biotech, Biotech Applications, and issues surrounding the Human Genome. After learning about these topics, students will research a topic of personal interest and include ethics and controversies as they work on projects.

These classes meet Monday through Friday with different students each day.

Time: 10:30-12:30

Monday: Either April 11, 18 or 25

Tuesday: Either April 12, 19 or 26

Wednesday: Either April 13, 20 or 27

Thursday: Either April 14, 21 or 28

Friday: Either April 15, 22 or 29

Rockwood Center for Creative Learning
265 Old State Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63021

For more information on how to get involved, contact Hilary Kulik at kulikhilary@rsdmo.org or (636) 733-2129.

Do You Have...

An announcement you'd like to make?

An interesting story or fun fact you'd like to share?

A professor or course you'd like to suggest for a spotlight?

We want your input! Send ideas and information to:

gerrity@biology2.wustl



Biology Department Calendar



Links to General Calendars and Regular Events:

Washington University Record Calendar: <http://news.wustl.edu/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

Biology Department Seminars, Mondays, 4:00pm, Rebstock 322, check the website for topics/schedule:
<http://wubio.wustl.edu/events>

Evolution, Ecology, & Population Biology Seminars, Thursdays, 4:00pm, Rebstock 322, check the website for topics/schedule: http://wubio.wustl.edu/events?field_event_tags_tid=18

History & Philosophy of Science Seminar Series: <http://pages.wustl.edu/hpbm/events>

PMB Super Group: most Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 in McDonnell 412:
<http://wubio.wustl.edu/events/pmb-supergroup-seminar-series>

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (DDPSC), Weekly Seminar Series—check the website for event details and topics: <http://www.danforthcenter.org/events/scientific-seminars>

Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences (DBBS), all lectures and seminars: <http://dbbs.wustl.edu/Pages/index>

March 2016

14th Spring Break: March 14-18

April 2016

30th Advising Period Begins

18th Registration Begins

29th Last Day of Spring classes

May 2016

5th Final exams begin

19th Arts & Sciences Recognition Ceremony

20th Commencement