



BIOrhythms

Washington University Biology Department Newsletter

September 2016

*To raise new questions,
new possibilities, to
regard old problems
from a new angle,
requires creative imagi-
nation and marks real
advance in science.*

—Albert Einstein

Helpful Links

Biology Home Page
Biology Course Listings
Faculty Listings

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

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Featured in this issue:

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Allan Larson

Course Spotlights: Bio 4183 Molecular Evolution

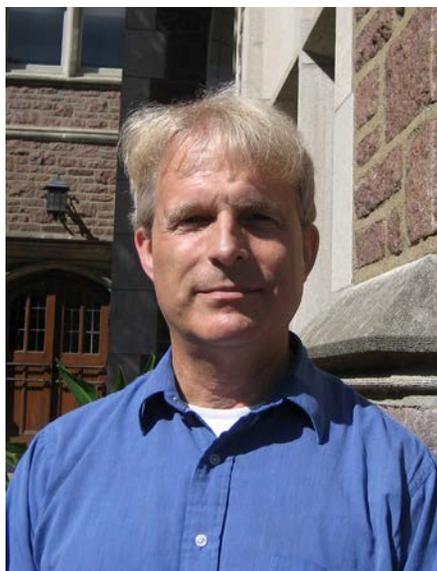
Student Clubs: JCUBES; Synapse

Calendar: Biology Events & links to event listings

PLUS: S.A.R.A.H. Recruitment; Undergraduate Research
Symposium 10/29/2016



Faculty Spotlight: Allan Larson



Professor Allan Larson is celebrating 30 years in the Biology Department of Washington University! He originally grew up in Silver Spring, MD (outside Washington DC), completing his undergraduate and master's degrees in Zoology at the University of Maryland, followed by his Ph.D. in Genetics at University of California at Berkeley. His early academic experiences fostered his interest in biology. As an undergrad, he became interested in combining evolution and biochemistry, working on molecular population genetics and phylogeny of salamanders in Dr. Richard Highton's lab, reinforced by his Ph.D. work with evolutionary biologist Dr. David Wake.

His post-doctoral work was also completed at University of California-Berkeley under biochemist Dr. Allan C. Wilson, who was one of the founders of the field of molecular evolution. Larson's work focused on applying DNA-sequence data to questions about evolution and population genetics. He came to Washington University in September of 1986 as an Assistant Professor to continue his research on salamanders and lizards and evolutionary theory, transitioning more recently to studying the history of evolution.

Allan Larson teaches the evolutionary portion of Bio 2970 annually in summer and fall. He also teaches Biology 4182: Macroevolution, which he started in 1988 —cont'd on page 2

S.A.R.A.H. Recruiting for Fall 2016

S.A.R.A.H. stands for the Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Helpline.

We are a student-run helpline that serves the Washington University in St. Louis community.

We offer counseling, resources and referrals on interpersonal violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, relationships, and sexual health.

We are confidential and available as a resource to members of the Wash U community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (excluding winter and summer break). Our Services:

Helpline available
24/7 314-935-8080:
<http://sarah.wustl.edu/helpline/>

Resources on and off campus: <http://sarah.wustl.edu/resources/>

SARAH Safe educational trainings:
<http://sarah.wustl.edu/sarah-safe/>



Allan Larson continued—

and has been offering every two (even) years in spring semester, and Bio 4183: Molecular Evolution, originally co-taught with Dr. Alan Templeton, every two (odd) years in spring semester. Larson taught a graduate seminar with Dr. Garland Allen on the history of evolution, and they are currently working with Olin Library on creating an online publication encompassing a collection of original writings spanning 100 years. The material includes Darwin's work in 1859 as well as the writings of many other scientists and philosophers that were stimulated by Darwin's work through 1959. This project makes available and encourages people to read more obscure writings, with commentary by Allan Larson and Gar Allen on the topics covered. This is one of many projects of Olin Library that will be free and open to the public.

Allan Larson is also the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Biology Department and the Biology Advisor for Overseas Study. He is both a four-year academic advisor for Arts & Sciences and a Biology major advisor. He is on the university's library committee, special majors committee for Arts & Sciences, and the faculty search committee for a professorship in Anthropological Genetics, housed in the Department of Anthropology. As director of undergraduate studies in biology, Larson maintains and updates the departmental handbook for majors and prospective majors: <http://www.nslc.wustl.edu/handbook/handbook.pdf>.

As the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Larson is working on moving forward with the creation of a brand new track in the Biology Department. Professors Joshua Blodgett, Arpita Bose and Petra Levin have been developing a set of guidelines for a new Microbiology major track that is expected to be available beginning in spring 2017. Check the Biology website for updates!

In his free time, Allan Larson appreciates art and photography, and enjoys collecting records and antiques.

Course Spotlight: **Bio 4183: Molecular Evolution**

A rigorous introduction to the study of evolution at the molecular level. Topics include the origin, amount, distribution and significance of molecular genetic variation within species, and use of molecular data in systematics and in testing macroevolutionary hypotheses. Prerequisite: Bio 2970, or permission of instructor. 3 units, offered every other year Spring semester (odd years). Taught by Allan Larson



Undergraduate Research Symposium

10/29/16

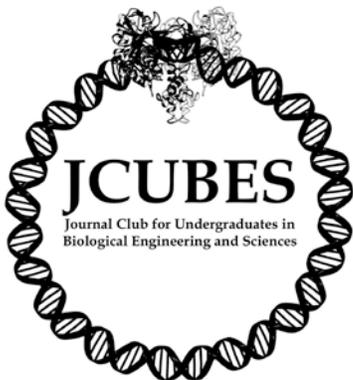
Twice yearly the Office of Undergraduate Research sponsors the Undergraduate Research Symposium. It is a forum for students to present their research findings and a celebration of the diversity of research that takes place at Wash U. We encourage students in all academic departments, programs and schools to present their original research. The event has included a keynote address, selected student talks, a poster session, and performances and demonstrations of projects. The Fall 2016 Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 29 from noon - 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA:

Opening Remarks- noon to 1:15 p.m. in Lab Sciences 300
Poster Session- 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in Olin Library

For students who are interested in getting started in research, the Symposium is a great opportunity to learn about the process from your peers. Meet researchers in your area of interest to find out about resources and opportunities. Everyone is welcome to attend the symposiums!

Student Clubs: JCUBES & Synapse



JCUBES is Wash U's undergraduate journal club, established with the goal of enabling students to bring the world of science and technology to their peers in an environment that fosters critical thinking and discussion. At each meeting, a student presents either their own research or current science of personal interest to the group, followed by an open Q&A session. Meetings are every other week at 6 pm in Life Sciences 311, with complimentary food provided. In addition, JCUBES will be sponsoring several speaker events this year. For more information, visit <https://wustljcubes.wordpress.com/> or email wustljcubes@gmail.com.



Synapse is WashU's premier neuroscience organization that focuses on nurturing neuroscience interest on campus and in the St. Louis community. We educate elementary school kids, volunteer with patients with muscular and motor disorders, shadow physicians and more! If you are interested in learning more please do not hesitate to contact us at: synapse@su.wustl.edu.

Also, we are having our first on campus event Oct 13th 6:30-7:30 in DUC 234. It will be a talk on the Human Connectome project by, Dr. Van Essen, who is currently involved with it. —by Smruti Rath and Brandon Baksh, Synapse Co-Presidents

Washington University Career Center

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

Main Office Hours in the DUC

Monday-Friday: 8:30-5:00

Contact Us:

Phone: 314.935.5930

Fax: 314.935.5905

E-mail: careers@wustl.edu

Website: careercenter.wustl.edu

For upcoming events, go to careers.wustl.edu/events.

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.edu

Biology Department Calendar



Links to General Calendars and Regular Events:

Washington University Record Calendar: <https://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, 4:10pm, Rebstock 322, check the website for topics/schedule: <http://wubio.wustl.edu/events/eepb-student-seminar-schedule>

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

Plant and Microbe Super Group Seminar Series, most Wednesdays at 12:00pm, McDonnell 412: <http://wubio.wustl.edu/events/pmb-supergroup-seminar-series>

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (DDPSC), Weekly Seminar Series—most Wednesdays, 3:45pm, AT&T Auditorium, check the website for topics: http://www.danforthcenter.org/the_center/events/seminars_symposia/

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

October 2016



15th FALL BREAK OCT 15-18—NO CLASSES

28th Parent and Family Weekend: October 28-30

29th Undergraduate Research Symposium: undergrads will present the results of their research from 12:00–3:00 pm in Olin Library, October 29

31st Advising Period Begins, October 31st-November 11th

November 2016

11th Spring 2017 online registration: undergraduates graduation class of 2017 or earlier

14th Spring 2017 online registration: undergraduates graduation class of 2018

15th Spring 2017 online registration: undergraduates graduation class of 2019

16th Spring 2017 online registration: undergraduates graduation class of 2020

23rd Thanksgiving Break, Wednesday, November 23th-27th—NO CLASSES

