



# Department of Biology Newsletter

April 25, 2014

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## Honors Theses Defenses April 2014

The Faculty and Staff at the Department of Biology would like to congratulate the following students on their Honours Defenses, presented during the month of April, 2014.

### **Samantha Green**

Title: Generation of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells from Type II Gaucher Disease Fibroblasts Using the Nonintegrating Sendai Virus for Future Disease Modelling

### **Jared Stoochnoff**

Title: Characterization of the Putative Anthocyanin Regulators In Poplar

### **Talveen Gill**

Title: Generation of Control Vectors from a Construct Carrying a Bi-Directional Promoter

### **Kevin Robb**

Title: Assembly and Expression of  $\alpha 7\alpha 4$  and  $\alpha 7\beta$  Heteromeric Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors Assessed with Fluorescently Labelled Nicotinic Subunits in HEK293T Cells

### **Robert Izett**

Title: Ecophysiological responses of marine phytoplankton communities and cultured diatoms to induced ocean acidification

### **Nick Slater**

Title: Modulation of the innate immune system by the condition of beta-thalassemia

### **Scott Bell**

Title: Effects of Probenecid on the Neural Precursor Response to Stroke (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

### **Devin Roberts**

Title: Naivete in an Island Mesopredator

### **Scott Sawchuk**

Title: Exploring reduced glutathione levels in the dentate gyrus of rats following prenatal ethanol exposure in the context of homocysteine metabolism

### **Nathan Bird**

Title: Effects of a novel trypanosomatid parasite on its *Drosophila* host

### **Marissa Davies**

Title: Holocene vegetation history and peatland dynamics at Port McNeill Bog, Vancouver Island, British Columbia

### **Alexandra Shapka**

Title: Towards Single Cell RNA Extractions from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells, Neural Aggregates and Neural Progenitors

### **Mairin Deith**

Title: Is an ecosystem driven by its species or their traits?

### **Spencer Thomson**

Title: Nothc Intracellular Domain forms a complex CVC Paired-Like Homeobox proteins

### **Olivia McMillan**

Title: Effects of summer temperature increase and food deprivation on the behavioural ecology of juvenile ocean-type Chinook salmon

### Inside this issue:

HONORS THESES  
DEFENSES 2014

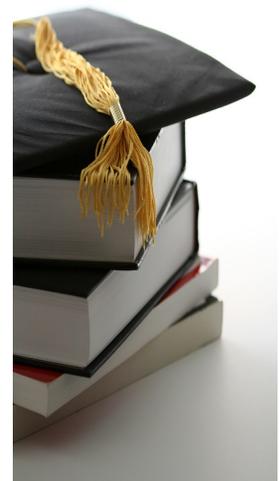
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## Announcements



Congratulations to Annette Alber and partner Oliver for the birth of their daughter: Mathilda was born on Sunday April 6th , 2014, weighting 3580 g and 50 cm tall

## Calendar

### Important Dates:

Friday, April 25	Winter Session and Spring Term Exams end
Wednesday, May 7	Summer session begins
May 2 - June 27	Biology Courses Term 2
July 03 - August 20	Biology Courses Term 3



## Workshops

### University of Toronto

#### Careers and Research in Ecology & Evolution: A Weekend Workshop for Undergraduates.

Are you interested in pursuing a career in ecology and/or evolutionary biology? U of T's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology will be holding a weekend workshop for outstanding and enthusiastic undergraduates during which students will:

- learn about some of the leading current research in ecology and evolution
- receive advice on how to succeed in academic and non-academic career routes related to these fields.

This is the only Canadian workshop for undergraduates interested in ecology and evolution featuring some of Canada's best scientists in the field.

Undergraduates from any university are encouraged to apply. To learn more about the workshop, please visit :

<http://www.eeb.utoronto.ca/news-events/CREE.htm>

## Upcoming Seminars

### Biology

**Dr. Angelica Gonzalez**

University of  
British Columbia



*"A Chemical approach to biodiversity: from organismal traits to ecosystem functioning"*

Friday, April 25, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. CUNN 146

### Biochemistry Microbiology

**Dr. Craig Slingsluff**

University of Virginia School of  
Medicine

*"Clinical Development of peptide vaccines for melanoma"*

Friday, April 25, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. Medical Sciences Building Room 150

### Biochemistry Microbiology

**Austin Hammond**

BCMB 580 Grad Student  
Department of Biochemistry  
and Microbiology

*"Environmental Temperature Influences Thyroid Hormone Signalling Pathways in Rana catesbeiana tadpoles"*

Friday, May 2, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. Engineering/Computer Science Bldg. Room 124

### Biology

**Dr. David Park**

PhD, Director Brain and Mind  
Research Institute  
University of Ottawa

*"Mechanisms of action of genes linked to Parkinsons disease"*

Friday June 13, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. CUNN 146

\*Please note change in location from regularly scheduled seminars

## Grants/ Awards

### **Canadian Cancer Society — Conference Travel Awards**

The Canadian cancer Society provides travel funding for PhD students to defray costs associated with making a scientific presentation (paper or poster presentation) on a cancer-related project as a first author or presenter at a conference, symposium, or other appropriate professional meeting. Funds are awarded 3 times per year. Visit CCS for more information.

Next application deadline: May 15, 2014

### **DADD Research Grants. Germany**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers Research Grants to highly qualified PhD candidates. Applicants at North American institutions applying for short term grants (1-6 months) must have ABD status by the time of the application deadline, but no more than 4 years before applying. Students applying for long term grants (7-10 months) must have reached ABD status by the start of the grant period, but no more than 4 years before applying. Visit DAAD for more information.

Application deadline: May 15, 2014

## Student Opportunities

### **CAPI ( Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives) UVic**

#### **STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS**

##### **Language Fellowship - \$2500**

Available to undergraduate (3rd year and above) and graduate students. This funding can be used for travel and tuition to a language program in the Asia-Pacific Region.

##### **Research Fellowship—\$2500**

Available to graduate and PhD students. This funding can be used for travel and for other expenses pertaining to research done in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

CAPI offers a \$500 prize every year for the best essay focusing on the Asia-Pacific region. The paper must be an original, self-authored work, completed for a UVic course during the current academic year.

#### **THE ANAND-UVic FUND**

##### **Anand-UVic Scholarship- \$1650**

This fund was established in 1996 in honour of H.E. Anand Panyarachun, UVic's Honorary Patron in Thailand. This Awards is for Thai Students undertaking graduate and professional studies at the University of Victoria.

Application deadline: May 1, 2014 \*Full details on how to apply: [www.capi.uvic.ca/opportunities](http://www.capi.uvic.ca/opportunities) or call 250-721-7020

#### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

BC Cancer Agency—Deeley Research Center

A postdoctoral position is available in the Watson lab, located at the Deeley Research Center, BC Cancer Agency in Victoria, BC. The program currently focuses specifically on the biology of biomarkers of risk of early tumour progression and biomarker response to endocrine therapies.

Qualified individuals should have recently obtained a Ph. D., experience in molecular biology or immunology and a record of productivity. The candidate must have experience with cell lines and murine models. Ideally this experience would be specifically with breast cancer research, generation of cell lines expressing transgenes introduced by viral transduction and related techniques, and establishing tumor xenograft models and their analysis, but related models and experience would be considered.

Application deadline: April 30, 2014

Interested candidates should submit their application to Ms. Siao Yong syong@bccancer.bc.ca with the following information:

\*Letter of interest

\*CV

\*Names of 3 references

\*For further information: <http://www.bccrc.ca/dept/drc>

## Scholarships

### **BOB WRIGHT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

One or more scholarships are awarded to outstanding undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science who have demonstrated an interest in oceans through course work, co-op experience or work experience.

For more information go to <http://www.uvic.ca/science/assets/docs/BW Undergrad Scholarship.pdf> and submit your application to the office of the Dean of Science.

Application deadline: April 30, 2014

## Conferences

### **4th Banff Conference on Plant Metabolism**

Major Themes for 2014:

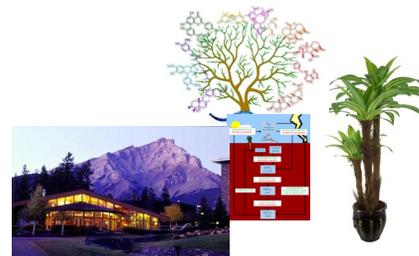
Plant Metabolism and Human Health Genomics and Metabolism of Fruits Crops,  
Nitrogen and Phosphorus Metabolism,  
Plant Specialized Metabolism,  
Synthetic Biology

June 26-30, 2014 The Banff Centre, Banff ,Alberta

[plantmet@ucalgary.ca](mailto:plantmet@ucalgary.ca)

[www.ucalgary.ca/plantmetabolism](http://www.ucalgary.ca/plantmetabolism)

\*Conference Chair: Peter Facchini



### **7th Annual Canadian Conference on Ovarian Cancer.**

One Trainee Day at the BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver Island Center, involving expert interactive lectures on topics such as etiology, pathobiology, genetics, clinical management, and emerging therapies. Talks by leading ovarian cancer researchers from across Canada, the US, and Europe.

Main conference takes place at the Delta Ocean Point. May 24-27, 2014

\*Visit the conference website: <http://ccocr.org/>



### **3rd International Euroasian conference on Mathematical Sciences and Applications Vienna-Austria**

The main aims of this conference is to contribute to the development of Mathematical Sciences and Applications and to bring together the members of the Mathematics community, interdisciplinary researchers, educators, mathematicians, statisticians and engineers

### **IECMSA-2014 3rd. international Euroasian Conference on mathematical sciences and applications Vienna-Austria**

The main aim of this conference is to contribute to the development of Mathematical Sciences and Applications and to bring together the members of the Mathematics community, interdisciplinary researcher, educators, mathematicians, statisticians and engineers from all over the world.

Some of the topics are: Applied Mathematics, Algebra and its Applications, Geometry and its Applications, Probability, Statistics and their Applications, Mathematical Physics, analysis and Its Applications, Topology, Logican and its Applications.

The organizing committee invites you to submit an abstract and participate to this conference. The conference will present new results and future challenges, in series of invited and short talk and poster presentations. The presentations can be done in the language of English and Turkish.

Please visit the conference web page for information of registration and prices : [www.iecmsa.org](http://www.iecmsa.org)

## Other Institution Info Session

### University of Waterloo Graduate Studies in Nanotechnology

Waterloo's unique Collaborative Nanotechnology Graduate Program is for students interested in interdisciplinary research spanning Engineering, Science and Mathematics. Nanotechnology is a diverse and exciting field encompassing biomedical technology, information and communications, energy and advanced materials.

At Waterloo, you can receive a \$10,000 Nanotechnology Scholarship, or Nanofellowship from the Waterloo Institute for

Nanotechnology (WIN) on top of research and teaching assistantships provided by the department.

Application deadline: April 30, 2014



Find out if the UW Collaborative Nanotechnology program is right for you and how to apply for WIN's Nanofellowship competition: [www.nano.uwaterloo.ca/students/graduate-program](http://www.nano.uwaterloo.ca/students/graduate-program) and [www.nano.uwaterloo.ca/students/nanofellowships](http://www.nano.uwaterloo.ca/students/nanofellowships). Or, contact us at [win@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:win@uwaterloo.ca).

## Internship Opportunities and Programs

### Intern with the South African Shark Conservancy – positions available!

SASC is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine resources through research, education and outreach. Since its inception in 2007, SASC has developed partnerships with academic and conservation organisations around the globe, and has become well-known in South Africa for its inclusive and holistic approach to conservation and management initiatives.

SASC offers interns the opportunity to become involved in a unique and exciting approach to marine conservation. Interns may be involved in field research, outreach and educational programmes as well as desktop studies and organisational development projects. Our research and outreach projects are specifically designed to promote a well-rounded approach to conservation, working with various fishing sectors, research institutes and governmental organisations. We are looking for interns with a biological background or interest in shark biology and conservation for a period of one to three months. Join our internship programme and gain valuable insight into the conservation management of sharks and other living marine resources.

For more details and an application form, please send an email to [intern@sharkconservancy.org](mailto:intern@sharkconservancy.org).

Visit [www.sharkconservancy.org](http://www.sharkconservancy.org) for more details about current projects and events.

### Practical DNA Training Program, The Paleo-DNA Laboratory

Located in Thunder Bay Ontario, offers students the opportunity to participate in their Practical DNA Training Program all year round! During this hands-on laboratory program, students are taught various extraction, purification, and amplifications methodologies and provided instruction in data analysis, and much more.

For more information, please visit their website: [www.ancietaDNA.com](http://www.ancietaDNA.com) or email [paleodna@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:paleodna@lakeheadu.ca)



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