

Scientific Notation

March 2005

Spring Science Scramble

Purdue Science Student Council is reviving a tradition of having a five kilometer run on Saturday, April 16th, before Spring Fest begins. It is an opportunity for students, alumni and members of the greater Lafayette community to support education. Proceeds

will be split evenly between a scholarship and the Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County. The scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding student in the College of Science. The run, called the "Spring Science Scramble," will begin at 8am at Vawter Field on the West Lafayette campus of Purdue University. A \$10 entry fee is required for race participants, and those who pledge \$15 will be given a "Spring Science Scramble" tee-shirt. Registration forms and map are available on the

Purdue Science Student Council website <http://pssc.science.purdue.edu>. Check in and day-of registration will begin at 7:30am. Early registration (ten days prior to race) is encouraged since tee-shirts are not guaranteed for those who register the morning of the run. The top runners will be awarded prizes.

If you have any questions, please email: 5krun@pssc.science.purdue.edu

-John Schaibley
Sophomore in Physics

Spring Fest: A Weekend of Fun and Education for the Whole Family!

The annual Spring Fest provides a great experience of how fun and education can be incorporated together. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to learn about agriculture, animals, plants, engineering, food, management and forestry through hands-on participation and games. There will be exciting activities such as scavenger hunts, the Annual Entomology Bug Bowl, Purdue University Galleries, Spring Fest Showcase (a Saturday event only) and much more. The College of Science will give people a chance to cook pickles with electrodes, dig for dinosaurs, and play Palm Pipes! Come and bring your families and friends to the annual Purdue Spring Fest!

Times : Saturday, April 16
(9:00am-4:00pm)
and Sunday April 17
(10:00am-4:00pm)

Spring Fest Map: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/sfest/map.html>

Admission is free!
No pets are allowed.

The above information is provided by <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/sfest/>.
For more information, please refer to this website.

-Tracy Chow
Senior in Biology

Research Showdown

April 11th is a much awaited day for many of Purdue's undergraduate researchers. The Colleges of Science and Agriculture, along with the Purdue Science Student Council, are hosting an Undergraduate Research and Poster Symposium, open to the public, in the Memorial Union Faculty Lounges. Posters featuring the researchers' projects will be on display from 3:30 - 7:15pm. Before 5pm, you will have the opportunity to speak with researchers firsthand, and at 6:30, there will be a Q & A panel of students and faculty. For students who are considering research, this is an ideal opportunity to get your questions answered and discover the breadth of research conducted at Purdue. Henry Chou, Career Development Chair for PSSC, promises "This event will rock your socks off!"

-Shruthi Rajashekara
Editor, PSSC

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Benefits of Taking Summer Courses

If you do not have any internships or summer research planned, but you still want to learn something new and keep up in school work, taking some summer courses would be a good option. Taking courses in the summer is not as stressful as in the fall or spring semesters because you are limited to less credits. (For undergraduates, students are only allowed to take at most twelve credit hours through the whole summer semester). Also, it could relieve stress in the fall and spring semesters and could possibly allow you to graduate in

less than four years, or open room in your schedule for those courses you always wanted to take and never thought you would have room for. For those of you who did not do well in certain courses, this is a good chance to retake those courses and bring up your GPA so that you will be in good shape again in the coming fall. For those of you who don't plan on staying on campus but still want to take courses, some will be offered online; talk to your advisor for more information. You could also sign up for classes at other

campuses, such as IUPUI and Calumet.

Especially for science majors, taking summer courses will allow you more time to get involved with research that is related to your major during the fall and spring semesters, making you more competitive when you apply for graduate schools. For information on the summer course schedule, go to <http://www.courses.purdue.edu>, and search for classes in the Summer 2005 session.

-Wes Li
Sophomore in Physics



Are Genes and Behavior Really Linked?

The new course "Genes and Behavior" offered by the psychology department has sparked a lot of interest among science students for next semester. The questions of how genes influence behavior and if these influences can be manipulated by humans are just two topics that will be covered in this course. Psychology 422 will be taught by Professor Edward Fox from

9:00-10:15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He will explore how genes influence various parts of human behavior including mental illness, memory, learning and intelligence. Talk to your guidance counselor if this course sounds interesting to you.

-Amy Carpenter
Editor, PSSC

Shifting Design: Freshman Bio Labs Change Looks

The core is changing for incoming Biology majors. The department started changes with the curriculum during the fall semester. The four new "modules" consist of 1) quantitative and problem solving skills, 2) handling cells and tissues: microscopy, 3) information and communication skills and 4) measurements and basic solution chemistry. Students attend each module for 8 weeks, for three hours apiece. Dr. Iten, the director of the freshman

labs, feels that these labs will give students a better understanding of basic skills needed in upper division courses. As a biology major and a teaching assistant for the cells and microscopy module, I can say that the format of the labs has changed significantly since my freshman year. I believe the new focus will definitely give students a better grasp on the mechanics of working in other laboratories. I recently took a microbiology lab at Purdue and the

skills that I am teaching to freshman are skills that I had to learn for the first time in lab last semester. Although these changes are nowhere near complete, the students will definitely be better prepared for their curriculum here once they have completed these modules.

-Amy Carpenter
Junior in Biology