



PRE-PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

MSU College of Natural Science

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Upcoming Events

- **Classes Start**
1/9/17
- **Last day to add**
1/13/17 by 8 PM
- **Martin Luther King Day**
(classes cancelled)
1/16/17
- **Middle of the semester**
3/1/17
- **Spring Break**
3/6/17—3/10/17
- **Summer Enrollment**
Begins 3/13/17
- **Fall 2017/Spring 2018**
Enrollment Begins
4/1/17
- **Final Exams**
5/1/17—5/5/17
- **Commencements**
5/5/17-5/7/17

School Spotlight: University of Detroit Mercy Physician Assistant Program

Since 1972, the University of Detroit Mercy has been home to one of six Physician Assistant programs in the state of Michigan. Located in Detroit, the Master of Science degree in the Physician Assistant field successfully prepares students for a career in medicine and direct patient care. Upon graduation, those who complete the program will be able to conduct physical exams, prescribe medications, diagnose patients, and assist in surgery.

The first year of the program is strictly classroom based education where students can expect to learn topics such as anatomy, pathophysiology, and pharmacology. The second year of the PA program consists of clinical interactions and hands on learning, where students will complete their rotations. Classes take place in fall, winter, and summer semesters in order to complete the degree in 2 years.

While the program is rewarding without a doubt, getting accepted is extremely competitive. Every Physician Assistant



program varies when it comes to prerequisite courses and UDM is no exception. Applicants must complete courses in developmental psychology, medical ethics, nutrition, physiology, microbiology, and statistics. In addition, a minimum of 1,000 hours of direct patient contact is required. Many students fulfill these hours by working as phlebotomists or certified nursing assistants, but there are numerous ways that applicants can receive patient care hours.

If this school interests you, feel free to schedule an appointment with a preprofessional advisor or find out more information at:

<http://healthprofessions.udmercy.edu/programs/paprogram/>

Career Corner with Brian Telfor

You can schedule an appointment with Brian Telfor concerning internship and career resources through Handshake! <https://msu.joinhandshake.com/>

Here is a short list of upcoming events! Be sure to also check out Handshake for more career fairs, internships, and job opportunities.

Career Fairs**Diversity Career Fair**

January 18th, 2017 from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Breslin Center

MSU's largest spring semester event for students of all majors and colleges. This event attracts well-known employers representing a variety of industries and full time, internship, and co-op opportunities for students.

Science and Health Career Boot Camp

February 18th, 2017 from 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Biomedical Physical Sciences Building

This event is designed for undergraduate students so that they can learn more about the career paths offered to them in science and health. They will be able to interact with alumni and professionals in the field, and will be exposed to industry. This is perfect for any student who wants to explore their options in science or health.

Summer Job and Internship Fair

March 14th, 2017 from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: Breslin Center;

With more than 120 employers attending, this popular event is for students in all majors looking for part-time jobs and internships over the summer.

Internship and Research Opportunities**2017 MSU Organic Energy Storage Laboratory Summer Research Intern**

Deadline: February 28th, 2017 Job Code: 500917

A paid research internship position for summer 2017 in Holland, MI for chemistry students who would like to perform research in fields such as organic synthesis, analytical chemistry, electrochemistry and spectroscopy. Please visit <https://oesl.bioeconinst.msu.edu/> and <http://bioeconinst.msu.edu/about> for more information.

Takeda 2017 Summer Internships

Deadline: April 03rd, 2017

Job Code: 526045

This paid summer internship in Deerfield, IL for summer 2017 allows students to get real and hands-on experience in the pharmaceutical industry. There are various planned events and activities that also provide you with the opportunity to network with people at Takeda. You must be graduating December 2017 – May 2019 to be able to apply.

NASA Internship Programs (students with disabilities)

Deadline: March 02nd, 2017

Job Code: 526772

These summer 2017 paid research-based internships for NASA are flexible in location and in focus, such as biomedicine, planetary science, astrophysics, and engineering. Students with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, and for where to apply, go to the OSSI website:

<https://intern.nasa.gov/ossi/web/public/main/>.

Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)

Deadline: February 02nd, 2017 Job Code: 458241

This summer program is for students who want to gain valuable research experience, refine their critical thinking skills, increase their social and professional networks, and become acquainted with various disciplines of science. This opportunity is paid, and participants are provided fully-furnished housing accommodations if needed.

Research/Conservation Science Internship

Deadline: March 01st, 2017 Job Code: 477351

Unpaid research position with fees at Para la Tierra in Paraguay. This research position allows you to begin your own research project and write a literature. The results will be presented to other interns and volunteers. In you are interested in helping research the biodiversity of Paraguay, you can email your CV to paralatierra@ymail.com.



Brian Telfor, College of Natural Science Career Services Consultant

Meet Your Academic Advisor: Kate Thome, Preprofessional Advisor**Q: Where are you from and where have you gone to school?**

I grew up in Milford and now live in Grand Rapids. East Lansing is right in the middle of the two! I went to Grand Valley State University for both my bachelor's and master's degrees.

Q: What made you want to become an advisor?

My bachelor's degree is in English for elementary education. I started my career teaching middle school and then became supervisor for an after-school program for at-risk students at an elementary school near Grand Rapids. I realized how much I valued education and the feeling of making a difference in students' lives, but wanted a job with a healthier work-life balance and more opportunities for working as a team with colleagues. I really enjoyed supervising my staff of college students while working for the after-school program. I liked seeing them grow into their positions and go on to use the skills they had learned there in their future careers. I found out that I could earn a degree in higher education and that there were a lot of different options within this field. During graduate school, I tried several different internships, and found I liked advising best. I really enjoy being able to hear each student's story and use my teaching experience each day as I help guide students through their college experiences.

**Q: What is your favorite thing about MSU?**

It's fun being at a large school with so many opportunities. I also like all of the energy and school spirit—green is starting to grow on me!

Q: What kinds of things do you help students with?

I help students with choosing classes and making sure that they take all of the classes required by the professional schools to which they want to apply. Since you can choose any major for most professional health care careers, I help them explore majors and think about a parallel plan. I also talk with students about the things they are doing outside of class and help them find resources for gaining community service, clinical, leadership, and research experience. I also talk with them about how classes are going and make sure that they are aware of all of the academic resources to help them at MSU.

Q: What is your favorite flavor of Dairy Store ice cream?

Sesquicentennial Swirl—I love birthday cake flavor ice cream and was so excited to discover they have it at the dairy store!

Meet Your Academic Advisor: Kaitlin Peterson, Human Biology Advisor

Q: Where are you from and where have you gone to school?

I went to Michigan State and majored in Family Community Services, and then I got my Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration from



Georgia Southern University.

Q: What made you want to become an advisor?

I started working at MSU as a student worker in the Admissions Office, and I

fell in love with working with students. After I graduated, I moved to Georgia to begin working

with students in enrollment, and then afterwards I started working more in terms of advising students in career development, curriculum/scheduling courses, and extracurricular activities.

Q: What are you most looking forward to as the new Human Biology Advisor?

I am looking forward to advising students on pre-health requirements and looking at other things outside of the classroom that they can do to enhance their applications to pre-professional programs.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

I played varsity golf.

Student Spotlight: Vani Bhatia

Q: What's your major? Do you have any minors or specializations?

Human Biology

Q: What has been your favorite class at MSU thus far?

HDFS 238-Personal Finance. I am in the class right now and I absolutely love it! I have learned so many life skills that I will be able to continue to use throughout my life as I build my finances. Preparing for dental school also entails preparing to finance it and this class has given me the confidence to do so.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy cooking, baking, hanging out with my friends, and photography

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

My plans are to attend dental school but I'm not sure if I want to specialize yet or go into general dentistry.



Student Spotlight, Continued**Q: What is your most memorable experience at MSU?**

It's hard to pick just one moment but I would have to say my first pre-dental club meeting my freshman year. The president announced that there was an e-board position open and asked if anyone was interested. No one raised their hand so I looked at my friend said "YOLO" and volunteered. Immediately after doing so, 6 other people raised their hands. I went up in front of 40 people and said "So this is my first meeting and I don't know what this club is about, but I like teeth!" The position was for webmaster so I went on to talk about my skills with computers and how I could provide a unique perspective, being a freshman. I was fortunate enough to get the spot! This is something I will always remember because I took a risk that has continued to give me countless opportunities.

How are you involved here at MSU and in the community?

I am the president of the pre-dental club, a position I have held for the 3 years, and I am now the pre-dental representative on the Pre-Health Council. I started an organization on campus called Volunteers Around the World-Dental Outreach.

With this organization, I lead a group of 20 Spartans on a dental outreach trip to the Dominican Republic. Locally, I volunteer at Care Free Dental Clinic, which provides dental care to the uninsured and less fortunate in the greater Lansing area.

Q: What advice do you have for other preprofessional students that you wish you had known before?

Take classes that you find interesting, not just classes you are required to take. This is the only time in your life where you will be able to get such a diverse education and I wish I had taken advantage of that. Something I was lucky enough to experience is networking; I advise pre-professional students to network with other students by joining clubs, study groups, asking questions, and finding mentors. Learn from others' experiences because you will be able to learn from their mistakes without having to make them yourself. You would be surprised how much others are willing to guide you, all you have to do is ask! It is never too early or too late to get involved! Even if you're not on the e-board of a club, you can still have a prominent role; all you have to do is take the initiative!

MSU Pre-Health Council

The Michigan State University Pre-Health Council is a unique student organization that consists of Executive Board members from invited preprofessional student clubs on campus. Several different health professions are represented within

the Pre-Health Council, whose purpose is to unite various pre-health professional organizations in a common goal. The overall goal of this organization is to collaborate on ideas in a cooperative environment, promote relationships, and to host their annual fundraising event, Strike Out MD, in April of each school year. Members of the Pre-Health council work towards promoting and incorporating teamwork within various healthcare professions. The idea of this club originated from Mo Gerhardt, who is one of the preprofessional advisors within the College of Natural Science.

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Faculty Spotlight: PSL 311L Professor, Dr. John Zubek, PT, MS, DPT**Q: How did you end up teaching at MSU?**

When I applied to this job it was sort of on a whim, and they were looking for a clinician. Since I'm not a physiologist per say, but I've been teaching physiology for years and being that I'm a part of the in the clinical world, they hired me. They just thought that somebody with that experience would be better than a research physiologist. For me the timing was right, physiology and anatomy is where everything started for me and this job is the perfect fit!

Q: How do you like it at MSU?

I love it! For me this is a dream job and it's what I have always wanted to do. But it's nice to have that

clinical aspect and still get to see patients; I enjoy that part especially the older people. I always thought I'd be in sports medicine.

Q: What is an interesting fact about yourself?

I grew up playing accordion in polka band. My parents are both music teachers so we had a family band. My siblings and I had to take piano and violin at first to learn theory, then we could branch out into a different instrument in 2nd or 3rd grade. I chose the accordion of all things. I can still play to a degree and still have my accordion!

Continued on next page

Faculty Spotlight, Continued
Q: What is one piece of advice you have for preprofessional students?

Things are changing really fast, so find a field that you can thrive in by asking a lot of questions. Ask a lot of questions and be ready for honest answers. Don't be afraid to ask tough questions! I think health professionals want people to be successful, and most professionals are willing to answer questions and help. There are so many other aspects that people don't know, even I didn't know what I was getting into until I was there.

Q: What was your favorite class as an undergrad?

I had a Theoretical physics course that was one of my favorites. It was because the instructor was very non-traditional and he made physics more real to me than any class I've ever been in. I've probably succeeded the most in that class out of any class, but I still love physiology and anatomy more.

Q: Can you give a brief description of PSL311L and why students should take this course?

This course is not only building physiologic concepts but a professional culture. If students are interested in just nuts and bolts and just the info, they'll miss a piece that we're trying to build. This is a good time for people to understand that there is more than just learning physiological concepts; I'm trying to build a culture of professionalism, and interprofessionalism within healthcare. We're all a big team, we need to

work as a team and not just be individual professionals. In the end it's about the other person it's never about you. You're not going to get the pats on the back, or

your name in the newspaper. You make enemies when you do your job right sometimes, and it's never easy. Not everybody is arm in arm and always telling each other "good job." Some of that is just part of any profession, but incorporating some of that professionalism in PSL311L is good.

Q: So what are your favorite things about this class?

In a lab environment, you actually find the problem with the student and work together to correct it. In lecture, you convince there is a problem and tell them how to correct it. This class is more intuitive of how the professional world really works. The lab environment is very interactive and I love that portion of it- we are doing, creating, moving and correcting



MSU Pre-Health Council, Continued

What makes the Pre-Health Council so exclusive is that this student organization is partnered with the Greater Michigan Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Muscular dystrophy affects people of all ages; The Pre-Health council chose to partner with MDA because there are Michigan State students, families, and faculty that are affected by muscular dystrophy. Strike Out MD is the annual large scale fundraising event that the Pre-Health Council hosts, which is in partnership with the MSU Baseball team and MDA.

The idea of this event came from Major League Baseball, which teams up with MDA and other associations to raise awareness for Lou Gehrig's disease. Pre-Health Council members thought, "why not do this at MSU with our own baseball team!", and thus Strike Out MD was created. The Pre-Health Council will be hosting their third annual Strike Out MD game in April, which is free to MSU students with a valid identification card. There are free and accessible carnival games for children, service announcements made over the loudspeaker throughout the game, t-shirts are given to children and families living with muscular dystrophy. It is a very fun time for students, children, and families to support a great cause and watch a good, old fashioned ball game!

Profits from the charity event, including ticket costs and concessions, are donated directly to MDA. Perhaps, the most rewarding component of the event for the members of this organization is the closed meet and greet with the MSU Baseball team, that is held for children and families that are living with muscular dystrophy. Running the bases, playing catch with the baseball players, and hitting baseballs are just some of the fun things that these children and their families get to experience during the meet and greet. Throughout the year, there are several fundraisers held around East Lansing, including fundraisers held at delicious restaurants, to help cover costs of the event, and to make a large scale donation to MDA on behalf of the Pre-Health Council. More information about Strike Out MD will be available in March when the game date is confirmed. If you are planning on being involved in this event, be sure to use the hashtag, #StikeOutMD to raise awareness for muscular dystrophy and the Strike Out MD event!



PPA Spotlight: Meet your Preprofessional Peer Advisors!**Sydney Daviskiba**

Hometown: Walled Lake, MI

Majors: Human Biology (Pre-Med)

Minors: Economics and Bioethics, Humanities, and Society (BHS)

Childhood Dream Job: Pastry Chef

Co-curricular Activities: Volunteer at Sparrow, Haven House, and Cass Clinic. Vice President of the Preprofessional Society for Health Careers of Alpha Epsilon Delta. Medical Scribe in the Emergency Department.

Fun Fact: I have watched every season of Parks and Rec at least twice and can pretty much quote every line.

**Samantha Mandel**

Hometown: Canton, MI

Majors: Human Biology (Pre-Dental)

Minors: Health Promotions

Childhood Dream Job: Anesthesiologist

Co-curricular Activities: Volunteer at Mott Children's Hospital, and at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Member of the Pre-Dental Club, and National Society of Collegiate Scholars, previously involved with UAB.

Fun Fact: I enjoy going canoeing in the Red Cedar River!

Anna Risukhina

Hometown: Farmington, MI

Majors: Human Biology and Psychology (Pre-Med)

Minors: French

Childhood Dream Job: Firefighting Ballerina

Co-curricular Activities: Traveling Team Member at the MSU Fencing Club, Volunteer at Sparrow, Welcome Center Assistant at MSU Union, research, previously did competitive dance.

Fun Fact: I love being creative! I do a lot of creative writing and sketching/painting in my downtime.

Bailey Begley

Hometown: Westland, MI

Majors: Microbiology (Pre-Dental)

Minors: Global Public Health and Epidemiology

Childhood Dream Job: Balloon Sales Person

Co-curricular Activities: Gamma Phi Beta sorority (previously philanthropy chair), Student Health Advisory Council (Director of Leadership Development), Volunteers around the world - Dental Outreach (Secretary), research, previously volunteered at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan

Fun Fact: I love to sculpt! I once sculpted a portrait bust of Albert Einstein.

Make an appointment with a
Preprofessional Peer Advisor at
<http://natscippas.setmore.com>

Email: natsci.preprof@msu.edu

Phone Number : 517-884-6841

Course Spotlight: ANTR 485 - Directed Study of Human Prosection

One of MSU's hidden gems lies on the second floor of Fee Hall in the Prosection Lab. Unlike many other universities, undergraduate student at MSU are given the opportunity to do hands on work with human cadavers. In ANTR 485: Directed Study of Human Prosection, students work independently to complete prosections of various areas of the human body throughout the semester. They can come and go from the lab as they please during open hours and there are no set class periods. While the assistance of lab assistants and faculty advisors is available, all of the assignments are very independent and self-motivated. For me personally, I enjoyed the class because of the flexibility, which allowed me to accommodate my busy schedule, as well as the independent, hands-on nature of the

projects. In the lab you are given the protocol for the particular project you are working on, but other than that it is completely self-guided. Unlike many anatomy labs, ANTR 485 actually allows students to dissect the cadavers, rather than just identifying structures on already dissected bodies. This style really allows students to gain an interactive insight and critical analysis of the anatomy of the human body, as well as learn the self-discipline it takes to succeed.

Pre-approval by written course application to Beth Clarke (clarkem@msu.edu) is required for enrollment in ANTR 485

By: Sydney Daviskiba

Check Us Out on the Web!

Facebook, Twitter and Blogs:

NatSci4U Blog

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/blog/>

MSU PreHealth Facebook

<http://facebook.com/MSUPreHealth>

NatSci Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MSUCNS>

Twitter for MSU Preprofessional Students

http://twitter.com/msu_preprof

Twitter for NatSci Students

http://twitter.com/msu_natsci

Additional Resources:

Preprofessional Student Website

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/preprofessional/>

Undergraduate Student Resources

<https://natsci.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/degree-programs/>

Career Exploration

<https://natsci.msu.edu/students/career/>

Study Abroad

<https://natsci.msu.edu/academics/undergraduate/study-abroad/>