



February 2017

*Biology Club
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2016/17:*

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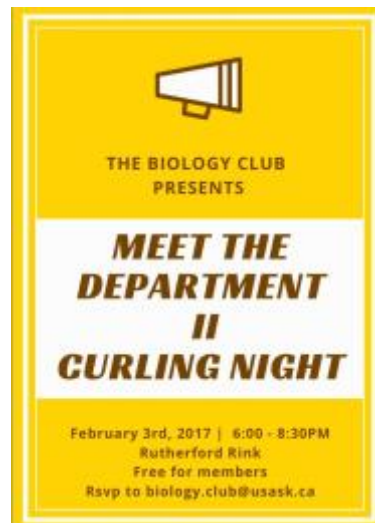
Kelton Braun

Ryan Rice

Steph Witham

Zach Balzer

DON'T MISS OUT ON:



Do you want to do an honours project? Get a biology related summer job? Chat career advice, opportunities, and more while learning (or showing off) at our curling night! We have invited biology professors, lab coordinators, grad students, and more to give our undergrads the chance to mix and mingle!

Where: Rutherford Curling Rink, on Campus

When: Friday, February 3rd

Price: FREE for Bio Club members!



Come get to know fellow Bio nerds at our cheap beer night! First four drinks are FREE with the purchase of a ticket, and after that drinks are CHEAP till midnight!

Loosen your tongue, calm those nerves, and study the effects of alcohol on the human body with friends old and new!

Where: Dino's Bar and Grill (906 Central Ave, Saskatoon)

When: Saturday, February 11th

Price: \$15 for Bio Club members, \$20 for non-members

CONTACT US!

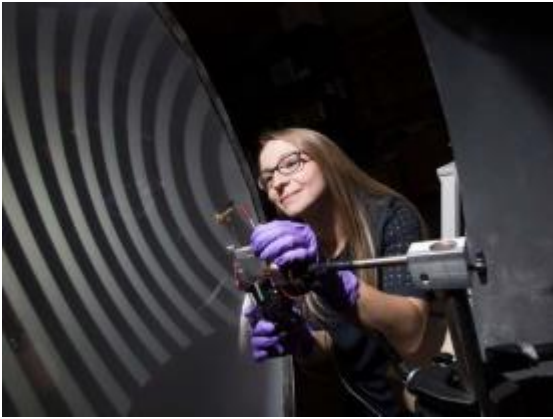
Room 248
Biology Department

PHONE:
(306) 969-4459

FACEBOOK:
University of Saskatchewan
Biology Club

E-MAIL:
Biology.club@usask.ca

LOUNGE HOURS:
10:00AM – 4:00PM



Featured Grad Student of the Month:

RACHEL PARKINSON

M Sc Student

Grey Lab

rachel.parkinson@usask.ca

OR jack.gray@usask.ca

Tell us about your research:

I am looking at the effects of a neonicotinoid pesticide on visual processing and collision avoidance behaviours in the locust. Neonicotinoid pesticides are used widely to pre-treat various crops grown here on the prairies, despite being highly toxic to many non-target species, including bees and aquatic invertebrates. These pesticides are known to have many behavioural and physiological effects on wild and domestic bees, and it is thought they might be contributing to the recent decline in these populations. I record electrophysiological data from the locust's central nervous system, before and after treating them with the pesticide, while these animals are mounted in our virtual reality flight simulator and confronted with the images of objects approaching on a direct collision course. I've found that a sublethal dose of the pesticide greatly impairs their ability to detect object movement. I also tested their ability to steer while flying in a wind tunnel. Low neonicotinoid doses, which do not affect their ability to fly, impair their ability to steer and avoid collisions. I now want to understand the mechanisms of these effects, and will do so carrying on with my PhD.

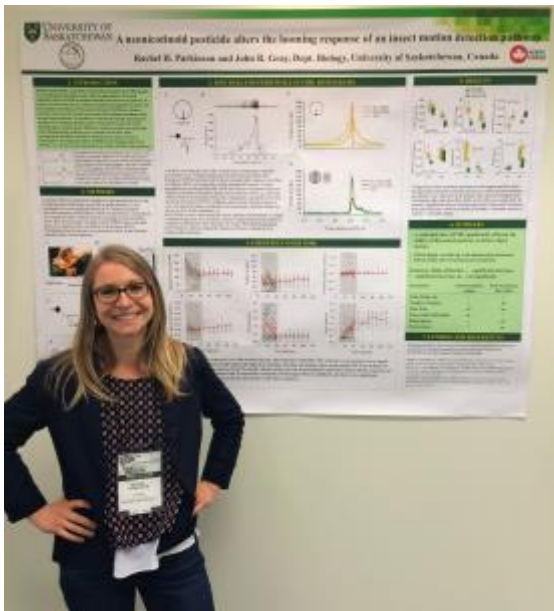


How did you get your position?

I was first introduced to the lab during my third year of undergrad, while taking Biology 317 that was taught in part by Dr. Gray. He mentioned that he had some openings for undergraduate research projects. I spent a summer in the lab as a research assistant, then did a Biology 481 project, and eventually started my Masters... I recently transferred to a PhD, so you might say I'm hooked.

Any general tips for undergrads wanting to pursue future studies in biology?

The best thing I can suggest is to just put yourself out there and get into research. Even if your first experience doesn't align exactly with what you hope to become, it will show you what research is all about and you will gain insight about what you are interested in doing. You never know when or where you'll find the right fit.



USURJ – Call for Papers!

If you wrote either a review paper or a primary research paper in your undergraduate degree, consider submitting it to the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal!

USURJ is a peer-reviewed, open access journal. That means all published papers would look wonderful on a CV/resume, and if you have already put in the work, it is relatively pain-free!

Graduated students have two years to submit, so you might still be within the confines. Remember too that no results is a result in science so make that research work double time for you and don't let it grow moldy in your basement!

Papers can be submitted year-round, so wait for a lull and send it in!

Good luck, we cannot wait to read your article!



The poster features a grid of 20 lightbulb icons in the top half, with one lightbulb in the second row, fourth column glowing white. Below the grid, the text reads: "An online peer-reviewed journal, USURJ is an opportunity for U of S undergrad students & recent alumni to publish their original work." It then asks "why submit your paper?" and lists three benefits: "Develop your writing and revision skills", "Learn about the publication process", and "Gain excellent experience in preparation for graduate studies and professions". At the bottom, it says "University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal" and "usask.ca/urj". The acronym "USURJ" is written vertically on the left side.



PRAIRIE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

PUBS is a student organized conference running here at the UofS during the February Reading Week, 23rd-25th! Check out our special issue of the newsletter all about it!

If you're looking to get involved or just for some more information about PUBS itself, contact Jillian Kusch (jillian.kusch@usask.ca)

To learn more and stay up-to-date, follow the process on Facebook and Twitter: @PUBS2017SK

The **last day to register is February 11th**, so get on it!
<http://pubs2017.wixsite.com/home>

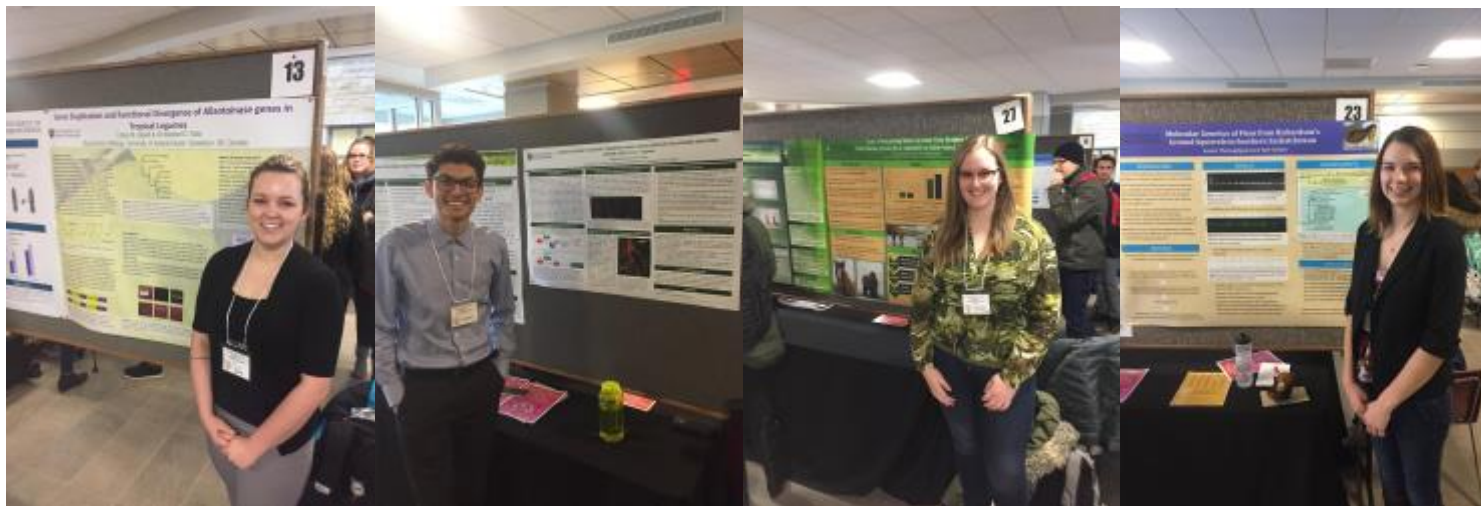
Speakers include: Dr. Jeff Lane, Dr. Tracy Marchant, Dr. Hugo Cota Sanchez, Dr. Karen Machin, and Dr. Ryan McKellar



Photo: Ryan McKellar/Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Featured Students of the Month:

Congratulations to Biology Club members Cassy, Waqar, Joanna, and Jessica for showcasing their studies in the USSU Undergraduates Project Symposium January 26th. All of the hard work they have done this year was evident by their excellent presentations.



MY PATH FROM BIOLOGY

Christine Miller

College of Law

Now that I am a law student, people are often surprised that I have a biology degree. Granted, it wasn't my original intention to go into law when I began with biology, but I am thankful every day that I ended up taking the path I did. First of all, biology is one of my greatest passions and always will be. I am happy that I chose to study a subject that truly fascinates and excites me, because loving what you do makes your path a lot easier. And second, the thing I want to impart to those considering their future career, is that a degree in science will leave you with skills that are life-long assets. For example, conducting scientific studies and writing research papers has given me a keen attention to detail and effective researching skills. Something that I didn't fully appreciate until I took the biology honours field course (which I HIGHLY recommend) is that the scientific method itself is one of the best teachers you will ever have. The ability to gather evidence, recognize biases, and come to your own conclusions is invaluable not only in a career, but in life in general.

You can take two years of pretty much anything to get into law, but keep in mind that the LSAT is a very difficult test. If getting into law school interests you, my advice is to study something that challenges your analytical and logical reasoning skills. But also, to reiterate: take something that you enjoy! I can attest to biology being an excellent way to meet both criteria.

I chose to study law because I am interested in ecology and the environment and want to specialize in environmental law. But other driving factors behind my decision were my passion for writing and my desire to make a difference in the world. I think my own experience illustrates that you can use the skillset that studying biology has equipped you with to explore a wealth of diverse opportunities.

