



November 2016

*Biology Club
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2016/17:*

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XMAS PUB CRAWL

In preparation for Santa's big night (or student's exams), Mrs. Claus has prescribed a night to blow off steam! Flying down from the North Pole with his reindeer, he needs some elves to make him feel at home!

Starting at the Scuz we will be hopping on his sleigh and riding through Outlaws, Rain, and The Hose & Hydrant!

December 3rd, be there and make your case to get on the nice list (I heard buying the exec team a drink works wonders!)

- \$10 for bio club members

- \$20 for newcomers

See you there, bear!



BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CLOTHING

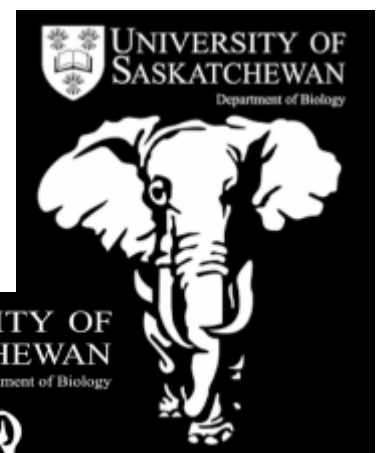
Join us all week right outside the biology student lounge to place orders for this years clothing! Choose your colour, style, and size with available try-ons for reference!

Pick either the classic Bio Bear or this semester's special – an elephant!

Choose between black with white designs or grey with black designs!

T-Shirts - \$20

Hoodies/Zip-ups - \$35





A hadrosaur tail in the East Block of GNP!

Featured Grad Student of the Month:

JILLIAN KUSCH

M Sc Student

Lane Lab

jillian.kusch@usask.ca

Tell us about your research:

I study black-tailed prairie dogs in Grasslands National Park (GNP). They are listed as threatened by COSEWIC and GNP is the only place in Canada they can be found. These little guys are related to the gophers (Richardson's ground squirrels) that run around on campus. They live in colonies together and have special social interactions. I spend my summer observing their social behaviours like kissing, yipping, and grooming. My research is measuring the variability in their sociality and the correlation with body condition and reproductive success.



A prairie dog with a unique mark on its back



My lab mate, Andrea, on the right, learning to trap prairie dogs!

How did you get your position?

I started looking for a Masters position during my last year of my undergrad program. I saw a posting on Dr. Jeff Lane's door looking for a Masters student to study the prairie dogs. I sent him an email to set up an informal interview. Once we had established that I would be a good addition to the lab in September, we also applied for an undergrad NSERC to do research in the summer beforehand. It was useful to gain ideas for my thesis.

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

Get involved in research during your undergrad. Approach your professors about assisting with research in the summertime to gain experience and to try out different fields of study. This looks attractive to potential graduate supervisors. Also consider an undergrad honours project. Your undergrad supervisor can be an academic reference for your applications. For example, I started in limnology in my undergrad and have moved into terrestrial ecology. Be open to opportunity and apply to more than one program. You won't know until you try!

A STUDENTS PERSPECTIVE: Why did you choose Biology?

ROBYN TRISCHUK

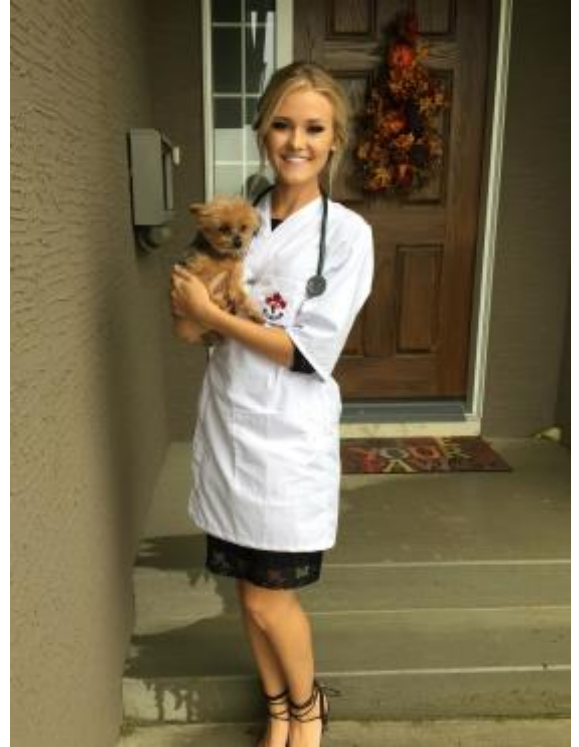
Western College of Veterinary Medicine

My love and fascination for biology started at a young age when my parents bought me my very own microscope. You could find me inspecting hair follicles, skin cells, the occasional blood cell (if I accidentally cut myself on a cover slip), and little organisms living in pond water. Throughout high school, I thrived in biology which was apparent in my academic grades.

As I started university, I had one end goal in mind and that was to become a veterinarian. I took my first year at an off-campus site in Prince Albert where I was taught by some of the most wonderful biology professors who got me excited to learn more. They made studying biology enjoyable and I spent countless hours doing so. It was an easy decision to choose it as a major as I continued on.

The biology program, labs, extra informative tutorials offered and all the supportive people involved, not only helped me to maintain my academic average but also gave me a solid foundation for classes I am currently taking.

This year I was accepted into the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and I am on my way to fulfilling my dream of becoming a veterinarian. Thank you to my high school biology teacher and all my biology professors at the University of Saskatchewan for helping me succeed.



PRAIRIE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (PUBS)

PUBS is a student run conference running here at the UofS during the February Reading Week!

Planning for the symposium is off to the races! If you're still 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



CONTACT US!

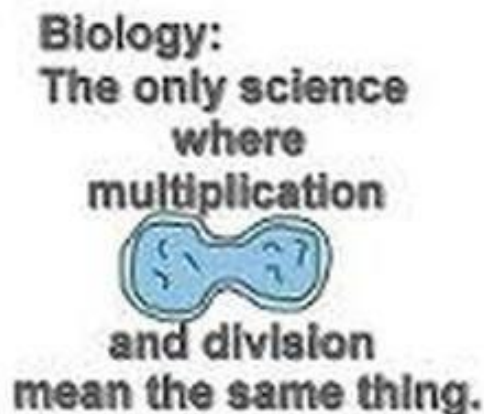
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Biology Department

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LOUNGE HOURS
10:00AM – 4:00PM



BIOLOGY 120/121 TUTORIALS

First year biology classes – we have got you covered! Tutorials for your lab exams are in the works! Keep on the lookout during your pre-lab slides for some more information before your lab finals! We are here to help you all with some of the tricky concepts within Biology!