

SCIENCE DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY

UTAH, IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO VISIT U. OF U. CAMPUS

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Topic: Utah and Idaho high school students attend a full-day of science workshops and get academic advice about college at the University of Utah.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Olpin Union Building and various classrooms on lower campus, University of Utah.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Hundreds of Utah and Idaho high school juniors and seniors will get an introduction to education and research opportunities at the University of Utah - particularly in the sciences and engineering - during the 18th annual Science Day at the U this Saturday, Nov. 11.

The event is hosted by the university's College of Science and College of Mines and Earth Sciences.

Science Day is the university's largest student recruitment event. There is no cost to students, parents or educators who attend. Lunch is provided.

Most students were invited because they expressed an interest or teachers nominated them. However, any Utah and Idaho high school senior or junior - and any high school teacher or counselor - may attend simply by registering at the Olpin Union Building's main foyer on Nov. 11.

News media representatives are invited to cover the event in the Olpin Union Building and science buildings on lower campus.

Science Day at the U begins with a welcoming session featuring a keynote talk by Mary C. Beckerle, professor of biology and executive director of the University of Utah's Huntsman Cancer Institute, followed by academic advice about specific majors, science-related careers and undergraduate research offered by each department. Parents and educators may attend a presentation given by the Office of Student Recruitment and High School Services titled "How to Prepare Your Student for College."

After lunch, students attend science workshops in their areas of interest presented by faculty from the College of Science, the College of Mines and Earth Sciences and the Utah Museum of Natural History. The following presentations may be of particular interest to news media:

- Noon to 12:45 p.m., "Using Soundwaves to Cool Hot Chips," by physics Professor Orest Symko in the James Fletcher Building, Room 103. Students will learn how sound waves are being used to refrigerate tiny devices such as computer chips. This groundbreaking technology harnesses excess heat by converting it into electricity.
- Noon to 12:45 p.m., "Conotoxins and Your Brain," by Baldomero "Toto" Olivera, distinguished professor of biology, in the Aline Wilmot Skaggs Biology Building, Room 210. Conotoxins are extremely potent chemical poisons produced by ocean-dwelling cone snails to capture and kill prey. Find out how these toxins affect the neurotransmitters and ion-channels in the brain and how they are being developed into useful medications such as Prialt.
- 1 to 1:45 p.m., "High Performance Computing Visualization," by chemist Anita Orendt, in the INSCC building, Room 294. The university's Center for High Performance Computing has a new 3-D visualization "wall" that measures 7.5 feet by 10 feet and includes nine screens. Students will view examples of life-sized 3-D crystal structure models, renderings of biological systems and fire simulations.
- 2 to 2:45 p.m., "Physics in Action!" by physics lecture demonstration specialists Ziggy Peacock

and Adam Beehler in the James Fletcher Building, Room 101. Students will be treated to a special array of experiments that will educate and entertain. Topics will include gravity, velocity, electromagnetism and properties of air. A ping-pong ball will be shot through three soda cans.

Every year, Science Day at the U attracts hundreds of students, parents and educators from as far north as Soda Springs, Idaho, and as far south as Blanding, Utah. It often is the first experience these students have on a university campus. Last year, attendance records were set with 762 participants.

"We continue to draw large numbers of students from rural areas in the state – students willing to travel several hours each way to attend Science Day," says Jim DeGooyer, program coordinator. "This event is very worthwhile. We are offering 30 workshops and eight academic advice sessions presented by some of our finest faculty members."

Information tables will be hosted by academic departments as well as the Financial Aid and Scholarships office and the Office of Residential Living.

For more information, please contact the College of Science at (801) 581-6958 or visit <http://www.science.utah.edu/cosdayedu.html>

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