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Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research

## Summary

As part of an effort to move toward a paperless application process, we have developed a new web-based system for our REU Site, Plant Genome Research, at the Boyce Thompson Institute and Cornell University. Applicant information is automatically entered into a database by the prospective REU students. The evaluation committee, which consists of both faculty members and student mentors, is given access to the application database using a web-based menu that shows all application components. Student applications are ranked based on specified evaluation criteria and a free-form field for subjective comments. These evaluation summaries are projected onto a screen when the committee meets to choose the most qualified REU applicants. All applicant data are also exported into a database that allows tracking and retrieval of information related to recruitment efforts, application status, and student demographics. Future improvements to streamline the application process will include automatic email notifications sent to the students about the successful submission of key application components, e.g. recommendation letters, and provisions for electronic submission of transcripts.

## Administrator View

The program administrator checks applications for completeness and assigns reviewers from a pull-down menu. Both principal investigators and student mentors volunteer to review the applications

Select BTI REU program year: 2010 | All

View All Applicants | CSV | View Assigned Applicants | View Selected Applicants

Total applicants: 163. Total assigned: 132.

View Stats	Last Name	First Name	Interests	Assigned PI	Student Rank	PI Comments
+	Jane	Doe	Biochemistry Gene Regulation Crop Biotechnology	Assign PI Assign PI Klaus Apel	8 out of 9	very good letters, good grades in science-focused curriculum, wants to be a doctor
+	Brantley	Susanna	Gene Regulation Stem Cells Molecular Biology	Assign PI	out of 9	
+	Chen	Emily	Biochemistry Pathology and Resistance Stem Cells	Assign PI	out of 9	
+	Cheng	Cathy	Cell Biology Nutrient Enhancement	Assign PI	out of 9	



BTI Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research

BTI's Commitment to Education  
Promoting an Understanding of Plant Science

Education and Outreach  
Education Overview  
Plant Biology Internships  
Teacher Programs  
Science After School  
Educational Resources  
Contact Us

About PGR Summer Internships  
FAQ  
About BTI Summer Internships  
2010 Student Symposium  
Activities for an Internship

Since 2003, undergraduate students from across the country have been coming to the Boyce Thompson Institute and Cornell University to participate in our 10-week summer internship program. Selected local high school students also participate in a similar internship program for 6 weeks. For both undergraduate and high school students, the internship program involves students in laboratory-based Plant Genome Research Projects (PGRPs). By participating in their summer internship, students gain a broader knowledge of plant genetics, and develop a better understanding of genomic research and interact with others that are interested in careers in science and research.

Throughout the summer, interns work closely with graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and scientists to investigate current topics in plant science including plant defense against pathogens and insects, inheritance of primary and secondary metabolites, nutrient uptake, metal tolerance, light perception, seed dormancy, and abscisic acid function. These projects incorporate important crops such as maize, wheat, tomato, melon, and pepper, as well as genetic model plants such as *Arabidopsis thaliana* and the small cactus *Arboleda thurberiana*. Interns join one of the research teams according to preference and availability and will be mentored by a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow. In the lab, they learn the latest in molecular biology techniques, and depending on the lab, may also participate in fieldwork. All interns work on a supervised independent project within the framework of the mentor's research program. They also attend lab meetings, read and discuss recent literature relevant to their project, and attend a weekly plant science seminar with scientists from BTI, Cornell and the USDA.

Student Symposium  
The PGRP summer internship culminates in a Summer Student Symposium, hosted at BTI as the Colston's Cup Challenge. This is a full day event at which interns give either a presentation or a poster communicating their independent research projects along with what they have learned and accomplished during the summer. All presentations are judged by the PGRP committee. The posters and presentations are judged by a panel which determines the winner of the Colston's Cup for Best Presentation and the PGRP award for Best Poster. Please see the previous year's internship pages for lists of presenters, topics, names of awards, and photos from the event.

With these new skills and experiences, we trust that our summer interns will be even more prepared for the challenges of admission and their future career paths when they return from their time at BTI and Cornell.

Extracurricular Activities  
During the summer, the PGRP sponsors several events, such as our Welcome Banquet, for the summer interns. Undergraduate summer interns are housed together near the Cornell Campus and Collegiate Inn. College students will find many affordable restaurants, cafe, and shops as well as access to the Cassadaga Gorge trail which leads to the beautiful Ithaca Commons. The Ithaca Commons are home to many community events throughout the summer. Public transportation is readily available and there is a great deal to do in and around Ithaca, NY.

On-campus Internship Opportunities  
Cornell students interested in research internships in plant biology during the school year are encouraged to visit the [Office of Undergraduate Policy](#) in 216 Simson Hall.

Undergraduates and high school students begin the application process by accessing the program web page.

## Applicant Views



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Welcome to BTI Summer Internship Registration

The National Science Foundation supports this Research Experience for Undergraduates. As such internships are available only to U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens.

By checking this box , you certify that you are either a U.S. Citizen or a Resident Alien.

First Name:

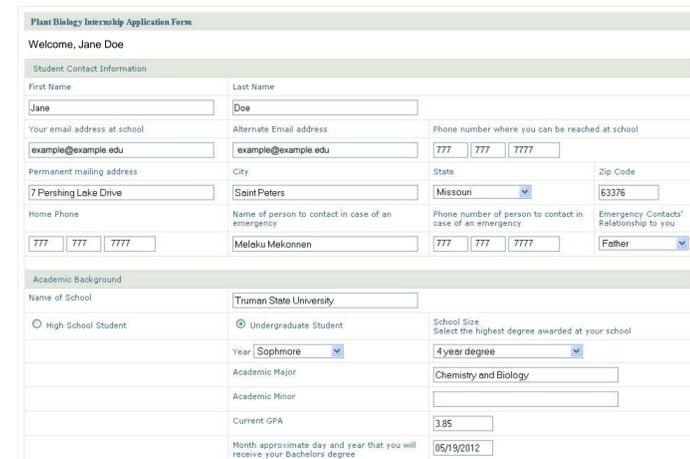
Last Name:

Email Address:

After submitting this information, you will receive a confirmation email with your application ID, and a link to continue your application.

Register

After the initial registration in the application system, students can enter additional information in the course of future visits to the web site.



Plant Biology Internship Application Form

Welcome, Jane Doe

Student Contact Information

First Name: Jane | Last Name: Doe

Your email address at school: example@example.edu | Alternate Email address: example@example.edu | Phone number where you can be reached at school: 777 777 7777

Permanent mailing address: 7 Pershing Lake Drive | City: Saint Peters | State: Missouri | Zip Code: 63376

Home Phone: 777 777 7777 | Name of person to contact in case of an emergency: Melaku Mekonnen | Phone number of person to contact in case of an emergency: 777 777 7777 | Emergency Contacts' Relationship to you: Father

Academic Background

Name of School: Truman State University

High School Student |  Undergraduate Student | School Size: Select the highest degree awarded at your school: 4 year degree

Year: Sophomore | Academic Major: Chemistry and Biology | Academic Minor: | Current GPA: 3.85 | Month approximately day and year that you will receive your Bachelors degree: 05/19/2012

Applicant information is entered by filling in blanks using a web form. Essays and resumes are also pasted into the web form.

Thank you for serving on the PGRP Intern Selection Committee. You have agreed to review, rank, and comment and then select top candidates for our summer internship program from the pool of applicants assigned to you. The first round of application reviews and selections will take place electronically. Hard copies of official transcripts and letters of recommendation will also be provided to you for each applicant that you review. Please read the [Application Review Guidelines](#) before Viewing and Selecting your Applicants.

View My Applicants | Select Top 5 Students

Total assigned applicants: 21.

View Stats	Last Name	First Name	Interests	PI Comments	Student Rank
+	Jane	Doe	Biochemistry Gene Regulation Crop Biotechnology	very good letters, good grades in science-focused curriculum, wants to be a doctor	8 out of 9
+	Lanza	Colleen	Epigenetics Biochemistry Stem Cells	4.0 in science-based curriculum, no desire to be a medical doctor, no particular plant interest, well-written essay	5 out of 9
+	Orozco	Jessica	Plant/Insect Interaction Gene Regulation Nutrient Exchange Environmental Stress Response	wants to get PhD, interested in research career, works full-time, excellent letters, 3.4 GPA in junior college, native American	8 out of 9

School: Truman State University | School size: 4 year degree | Email: example@example.edu | Email alt: example@example.edu | Phone: 777 777 7777 | HS GPA: | UG year: Sophomore | Major: Chemistry and Biology | UG GPA: 3.85 | Graduation: 05/19/2012 | Address: 7 Pershing Lake Drive | City: Saint Peters

Ranking Criteria: Please select all criteria that apply to this applicant.

Strong interest in plant biology and/or scientific research |  Academic preparation: some biology, chemistry, genetics, and/or lab courses |  Grade point average: 3.0 or higher |  Personal qualities: high motivation, intellectual curiosity, collaboration and strong work ethic. Evident in letters of recommendation |  Underrepresented status: African American, Hispanic, Native American, or other |  College size: school awards AA and BA only, not PhD |  First generation college student |  Previous lab experience |  Personal statement: demonstrates ability to write clearly

Comment Box:  
very good letters, good grades in science-focused curriculum, wants to be a doctor

Update

Reviewers automatically receive access to the applications that are assigned to them. A pull-down button for each application provides access to the applicant information, a list of key attributes to consider, and a free-form field for comments.

Once all applications have been evaluated, the reviewer has access to another screen in which the applicants are ranked. These rankings are projected on a screen when the admissions committee meets.

## Reviewer Views

Thank you for serving on the PGRP Intern Selection Committee. You have agreed to review, rank, and comment and then select top candidates for our summer internship program from the pool of applicants assigned to you. The first round of application reviews and selections will take place electronically. Hard copies of official transcripts and letters of recommendation will also be provided to you for each applicant that you review. Please read the [Application Review Guidelines](#) before Viewing and Selecting your Applicants.

View My Applicants | Select Top 5 Students

★★★★★ You have selected your top 5 applicants. You can continue to reorder as you wish, or simply **Submit** when you're satisfied with your choices.

Top Picks	Last Name	First Name	Interests	Assigned PI	Student Rank	PI Comments	Final Selection Order
1	Assella	Amare	Biochemistry Gene Regulation Crop Biotechnology	Georg Jander	8 out of 9	very good letters, good grades in science-focused curriculum, wants to be a doctor	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
2	Lanza	Colleen	Epigenetics Biochemistry Stem Cells	Georg Jander	5 out of 9	4.0 in science-based curriculum, no desire to be a medical doctor, no particular plant interest, well-written essay	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
3	Orozco	Jessica	Plant/Insect Interaction Symbiosis/Nutrient Exchange Environmental Stress Response	Georg Jander	8 out of 9	wants to get PhD, interested in research career, works full-time, excellent letters, 3.4 GPA in junior college, native American	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
4	Primmer	Irene	Biochemistry Nutrition Enhancement Gene Regulation	Georg Jander	5 out of 9	4.0 GPA in heavily science curriculum, some field research, no	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
5	Reidenbach	Andrew	Biochemistry Fruit Development/Ripening Molecular Biology	Georg Jander	6 out of 9	3.4 at U. Wisconsin in biochemistry, good research experience, amino acids, decent essay, will be co-author on publication, ok letters, problems with calculus	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>
0	Campas	David	Plant/Insect Interaction Pathology and Resistance	Georg Jander	7 out of 9	ok recommendations, no particular plant interest, some plant research experience, ok letters	1 2 3 4 5 <input type="button" value="Clear"/>