

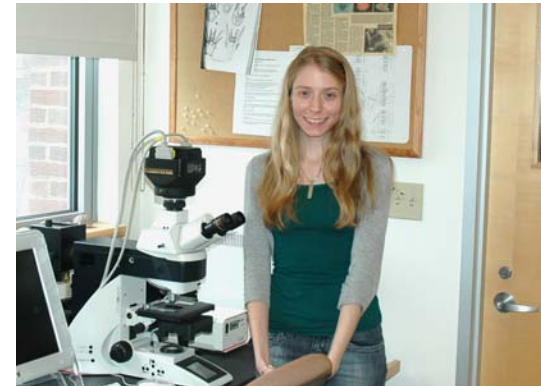
Senior Fellow Awards in the Department of Biology are based not only upon excellent academic performance and service to the department, but also the positive attitude and contributions brought to the classroom, research lab and the general environment of the major. The Biology Faculty view Senior Fellows as students who pursue biology for its own virtue and provide excellent role models for other students.



Erin Gorsich

The first thing I learned from the Biology Department is that there are loads of beetles: 350,000 species. That is about one quarter of all known animal species. On that first day, I was given an intriguing quote by J. B. Sanderson, a British geneticist and evolutionary biologist who was asked whether his studies had taught him anything about God that he might care to share. He derisively responded, "He seems to have an inordinate fondness for beetles." The next thing I learned is that beetles are not only ubiquitous, but they also are cool! Some glow in elaborate rhythms to attract mates, some fight with horns larger than their body, some are vicious visual predators, and others are devastating pests.

Beetles were not the most important lesson from this class. Rather, the faculty showed me that in studying biology, one can enjoy a lifetime of wondering and learning. Furthermore, Denison showed me that the process of asking how and why can be applied to any system. For me, the Biology Department means a place that teaches the satisfaction of asking questions—any questions—and answers them with detail and enthusiasm. Don't believe me, just ask Dr. Schultz (especially about damselfly mating).



Ariel Lee

Biology, from the Greek, is the study of life. I've always felt that to be deeply and personally true. For me there is nothing abstract about biology, nothing distant. I only have to look as far as my hand, the cells of my skin, and the flex of muscle beneath it, to see biology in action. For that matter, to see at all is biology. We all walk and talk and think, fantastic monuments to the incredibly intricate, incredibly beautiful processes that carry on like clockwork inside us everyday. The study of biology has been for me the realization that we, that every living thing, is a masterpiece.