

From: evoldir@evol.biology.mcmaster.ca

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Subject: Job: ArizonaStateU.Undergraduate.AvianEvolution

Reply-To: brian@helix.biology.mcmaster.ca

SEEKING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR STUDY OF AVIAN COLORATION AND SEXUAL SIGNALING

We are seeking a qualified undergraduate to participate in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) opportunity, funded by the National Science Foundation, to study coloration and sexual signaling in birds.

The research experience will involve up to 10 weeks of full-time work during the summer of 2009 (approx. June-August) at Arizona State University. The REU student will work closely with Professor Kevin McGraw and Dr. Melissah Rowe (post-doctoral associate) on this project. The program includes a weekly stipend, and some travel funds will be available to help defray the cost of traveling to Tempe, Arizona.

The research project will involve working with captive populations of two species of waterfowl iV mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and northern pintail (*Anas acuta*). The student will gain hands-on experience working with birds and will utilize a suite of biochemical, immunological, nutritional, and color-analysis techniques in the lab. In addition, the student will be involved in data entry, analysis, and interpretation. The student is also strongly encouraged to develop an independent research project throughout the summer.

We seek students with strong credentials, a general background in biology and chemistry, and an interest in ecological, evolutionary, physiological and/or immunological research. Preference will be given to students planning to attend graduate school in animal behavior or a related field. Women and ethnic minority students are especially encouraged to apply.

Interested students should submit the following application materials electronically (as attachments, preferably in a single PDF) to Melissah Rowe (melissah.rowe@asu.edu):

- i. Curriculum Vitae
- ii. Grades (unofficial transcripts are fine) and a list of relevant courses

- iii. names and contact details for three references
- iv. a cover letter that describes any previous research and a brief statement explaining your interest in obtaining research experience in animal behavior.

Melissah Rowe

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