CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

APRIL 18-27, 2014
Various Times & Locations
The Cambridge Science Festival, the first of its kind in the United States, is a celebration showcasing the leading edge in science, technology, engineering and math. A multifaceted, multicultural event every spring, the Cambridge Science Festival makes science accessible, interactive, and fun! An annual festival highlight, the Science Carnival & Robot Zoo will take place on Saturday, April 19th, at the Cambridge Public Library. Also be sure to check out ‘Science Meets Art’ at the Harvard Allston Education Portal on Wednesday, April 23. Harvard University undergraduates will host an assortment of hands-on activities and demonstrations to explore the intersection of art and science. For more information, visit cambridgesciencefestival.org.

ARTS FIRST

MAY 1-4, 2014
Various Times & Locations
Harvard invites you to four days of non-stop art. The annual ARTS FIRST festival celebrates student and faculty creativity at the University. Around half of Harvard’s 6,600 students participate in the festival each spring. More than 225 music, theater, dance, film, and visual arts events, most free of charge and open to the public, are on tap. Whether you are a fan of a cappella or bhangra, tap or Tchaikovsky, installation art or painting, improv comedy or pipe organ performance, ARTS FIRST has an arts experience for you. For more information, visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu/arts.
integrates current research findings from classrooms, and seeing firsthand what it’s like to be a college student at Harvard.

For Derjue-Holzer, the opportunity to bring classrooms into the museum is an opportunity to help raise the critical component to college readiness. To help.

“Engaging local students in the research that we do in a very effective way to earn the respect of the community,” he said. “To let kids in our community see what we do every day, and give them a chance to learn from it.”

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A ‘Mutually Beneficial’ Relationship in Harvard Labs

In a conference room of the BioLabs building, three high school seniors from Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (CRLS) considered the impact that their senior internship - working hands-on in a Harvard research lab - might have on their upcoming college careers.

“I’m thinking about a career in the physical sciences, either chemical engineering or biochemistry,” said Andre Dempsey, an intern who will be attending Harvard next fall as a freshman. “So it’ll be great to have that connection, and to have that lab experience even before I’m a student here.”

Another intern, Ariella Schear, who plans to attend Yale next year, said, “I’m really excited about it. The research is amazing, and we’re really lucky to have this opportunity.”

The students are members of the CRLS Marine Science Internship Program at Harvard that provides a transformative experience for local students, giving them hands-on experience in a lab working alongside Harvard graduate students and researchers on projects that have real-world applications. The program is a result of a partnership, forged in 2006 between Paul McGuinness, the marine biology teacher at CRLS, and Peter Girguis, the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of Natural Sciences of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard.

“It’s some of the best experience that students can have in their entire high school careers,” McGuinness said. “It’s a different level of academics: much more rigorous, intensive, and fun, where they can apply everything they’ve learned in high school.” In fact, he added, the internships have overwhelmingly influenced students to pursue careers in science – “almost all [former interns] are in the sciences, from undergraduate through postgraduate careers.”

Girguis studies microbes that live in the deep sea and develops instruments to help study those microbes, understanding how those microbes function and promote life across the planet. Working in his lab, the student interns will be paired with a grad student or postdoctoral student who will serve as a mentor throughout the internship, and they will conclude the their internship with a capstone project reviewing their work in the lab. Having students become “active and participating members of the lab,” Girguis said, has been both very rewarding and shown how effective working in the lab can be for young students.

Structured to be mutually beneficial for both interns and lab staff, the program allows graduate students the chance to communicate their research, connect with the next generation of scientists, and have hands-on assistance in the lab. “It definitely not just a one-way process,” McGuinness said. “We’re always looking for labs who are willing to take on interns.”

To read more about the CRLS Marine Science Internship Program at Harvard and more educational programs like it, visit community.harvard.edu.

Project Teach Readies Cambridge Students for College

An educational program designed for all 7th-graders in Cambridge Public Schools (CPS), Project Teach at Harvard began more than 25 years ago. The goal of the program is to provide an early on-campus experience to help raise the educational aspirations of CPS students, and the program includes visiting with current undergraduate students, touring classrooms, and seeing firsthand what it’s like to be a college student at Harvard.

This year, a newly enhanced Project Teach integrates current research findings from the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), with the support of two HGSE student interns. These improvements will increase students’ college-going identity, which research shows is a critical component to college readiness.

Students will also now have the opportunity to select and experience an interactive presentation in the area of science, the arts, history/social sciences, or English literature. In addition, 7th-grade teachers will receive Project Teach activities, similar to lesson plans, that provide in-classroom opportunities for reflection and discussion around college-going identities and the Project Teach experience.

One CPS teacher who accompanied her students to campus during Project Teach said, “We had a wonderful day at Harvard. The students said they enjoyed the entire visit but what they really liked was the question-and-answer session with the two undergraduate students. They had so many questions and were really intrigued by what the undergraduates were saying.”

Student participants also shared their thoughts. “I liked hearing from real college students,” said one. “I thought it was interesting. I found the concept of winter break studies fun and did not know you could take classes just for the fun of it.”

To read more about Project Teach and other educational programs offered to CPS at Harvard, visit community.harvard.edu.

Check out our redesigned website

The Community Connections website, community.harvard.edu, features news, information, programming highlights, and events in Harvard's host communities. Stories and information cover an array of topics - from educational programming, research updates, and public service activities in Cambridge and Boston, to resources for job seekers, professional development for schools and teachers, and family activities and opportunities. Stay connected through community.harvard.edu!