

Every year, we are inundated with requests for our majors in the physical sciences (Physical Science and Forensic Science majors) to attend graduate school. I try to post these to the bulletin board in the hallway opposite my office, but I get so many of these things that they usually do not stay up for long. Both as a means to help you better plan for the future, as well as to get the idea across that our physical sciences majors are truly sought after, I'll keep a running list of these places here as well. Listing in this document is not an endorsement; it is purely informational.

Here is an important note about graduate programs: in the physical sciences, they are ALL FREE. Yup, you can actually get your masters or doctorate in chemistry or physics free of charge. Well, to be perfectly honest, it's better than free, because you will also be paid. Essentially, they need graduate students to teach labs and do research, so it is extremely rare (to the point that I have never known of an exception) that anybody pays for their own graduate school. But, be careful; some of these places brag about their "stipend" (that is the amount they pay you for living expenses). There are two models; either you get complete tuition remission (that is, you do not pay for tuition) plus stipends, or you get larger stipends but have to pay your own tuition. Ultimately, the two models typically are a wash; the larger stipend looks better, but after paying for tuition, you are making about the same amount.

OK, and off we go.

#### **Friday, September 28, 2007**

OK, here are a few more opportunities that came across my desk this past week. First, our neighbors to the north, uh, the east, uh, the northeast, well, whatever; **South Dakota State University** sent us a dull poster promoting their program in chemistry and biochemistry. They offer masters and doctorates in analytical, biochemistry, chemical education, environmental (yes, this is chemistry, not biology), inorganic organic and physical chemistry, which pretty much covers all of the major subdisciplines of chemistry. Anyway, [www.chembiochem.sdstate.edu](http://www.chembiochem.sdstate.edu) has more information if you are interested.

The **University of Missouri** in Columbia sent a biochemistry poster. They boast that their "department ranks in the top ten in research grants among biochemistry departments in the nation's public medical schools", so I guess if you are interested in biomedical research, you might want to check them out. You can find more information at [www.biochem.missouri.edu](http://www.biochem.missouri.edu) if you like, or check out their poster along with all of the other grad school posters that I get on the bulletin board in the hallway across from my office.

The **University of Michigan** in Ann Arbor sent a large poster for their doctoral studies in chemical biology field. Is it just me, or do all of the sciences seem to be converging on chemistry? Anyway, they claim to be one of the largest free standing programs in the nation, with faculty coming from the departments of chemistry, biological chemistry, medicinal chemistry, biophysics, pharmacology, molecular cellular and developmental biology, and physics, so if you are interested in medical chemistry research, you might want to find them at [www.chembio.umich.edu](http://www.chembio.umich.edu) as well.

#### **Friday, September 21, 2007**

They always start slow, but it will pick up (BELIEVE me!!!). This is an odd one, though; they did send it to the right person (addressed to the physical science program). **Loyola University in Chicago** sent us a poster for, of all things, their microbiology/immunology program. Now, this might seem strange, but I have said all along that one of the most powerful things about a physical science degree is its flexibility. In fact, one of my earliest, and most successful, majors did just that; with his bachelor's degree, he walked right into the microbiology program at SDSU, and now has his Ph.D. in microbiology, and a very well-paid job. Anyway, if you would like more information on Loyola, you can visit their website at [www.lumc.edu/microimmuno](http://www.lumc.edu/microimmuno) at your leisure.

#### **Monday, September 10, 2007**

This is an odd opportunity, because it is not for any specific graduate program, but the **National Physical Science Consortium** is seeking physical science majors interested in pursuing doctorates, and it looks like they are offering what amounts to a research stipend worth up to \$200,000. They are looking primarily for women and "historically underrepresented minorities" but it is open to all US citizens. This is an interesting deal; if you get it, essentially you can go to any university you like since you are essentially bringing your own money. If you are interested, check [www.npsc.org](http://www.npsc.org) for more information.

#### **Friday, August 24, 2007**

The **University of Iowa** is off to an early start this year, with their very standard and very old poster promoting their program in biochemistry. This includes the disciplines of biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, molecular biology and molecular biophysics. This runs the gambit from the physics perspective of biochemical systems, through the chemical perspective and finally to the purely biological perspective. It is an interesting indication of where science is moving today. Anyhoo, you can get additional information at <http://www.biochem.uiowa.edu>.