

The Biology Academic Peer Mentors for Fall 2020



Olivia (Liv) Medina, Lead Student Mentor. I am a senior biology major with a concentration in Pre-Medical Professions. I hope to go to graduate school to pursue a PhD in oncogenetics. I love biology because I'm very curious by nature, and biology helps me make sense of the world; also, I love explaining normally inaccessible science to my friends and family. A fun fact about me is that I can pogo stick while playing the ukulele!



Arpan Akbar. I am a junior here at Millersville University! I am a biology major with a pre-med concentration and I hope to attend medical school after finishing my biology degree. One of the reasons I love biology is because it is the study of life, and therefore it can easily be applied and seen in everyday situations. Some of my favorite hobbies include painting and playing guitar, which I have gotten much better at during our time in quarantine! I am excited about this school year and look forward to it!



Sarah Beiler. I am a junior studying biology education here at Millersville University. My hope is to teach a biology course at a high school in Lancaster County. I am interested in biology because it is a complex subject that provides insight about how life works. My special interests in the field include animal physiology and the process of cell division. In addition to my studies, my hobbies include playing soccer and reading a good book.



Sean Burke. I am a Junior here at Millersville. I have a concentration of Marine Biology with the hopes of pursuing a career in the marine conservation field. Some of my interests include hiking, biking, music, kayaking, swimming, gardening, and aquascaping. Biology is such a fascinating field of study and is extremely diverse. I'm so intrigued with Biology in its ability to tie all life together. My favorite hobby is fishkeeping! I have multiple aquariums at home, and it is such a great way to relax!



Emily Dalessandro. I'm a junior biology major with an interest in becoming a veterinarian. I love anything to do with animals, and I enjoy learning as much as I can about them, from their behavior to their physiology, which is why I was drawn to biology and chose it as my major. Outside of school, my favorite hobby is art, either drawing or painting or anything of the sort.



Katie Gingerich. I am a Junior majoring in Biology. Ever since high school, I have been fascinated by the complexities of how the human body works. I currently work at LGH as a Surgical Technologist and plan to continue a career in the medical field. When I am not studying or working, I love to de-stress by playing the piano.



Damia Gonzalez Akimori. I am a senior Biology major with no concentration. My interests in biology are the genetics, nematology, and bioinformatics. I plan on attending grad school to earn a PhD to study the genetic mechanisms of animal behavior and teach genetics related courses. I have always loved animals and so I love biology as it allows me to learn more about them. My hobbies include reading, art, dog training, and I've recently started to love fishing!



Danielle Oberdick. This is my senior year at Millersville. My major is in biology and I am also pursuing a minor in sociology. My interest is to attend graduate school and become a genetic counselor. Also, my favorite hobby includes looking on Pinterest to find DIY projects to do at home. One thing I love about biology is the physiology behind it all. Observing life not only at the organismal level, but as small as the molecular level helps give you a better understanding of the processes of life.



Michael Raucci. I'm a junior here at MU with a Molecular Biology major and Studio Art minor looking into a career of lab research. I enjoy making digital art and animations on the side. The reason I love biology so much is because it allows me to approach the sheer diversity of organisms from a practical design standpoint. I love figuring out intricate mechanisms from anatomical to molecular that all serve a role in the organism's survival. It's a living, breathing creative process to me. I'd love to help students understand concepts from a big-picture standpoint and in detail.



Gina Salerni. I am a junior environmental biology major with a minor in math and I'm interested in a career in conservation biology or ecology. I love biology because there are an endless amount of things to learn and it is a very interesting and unique subject. Currently I am training a puppy named Magenta to be a service dog, so that takes up most of my free time!



Trinity Young. I'm a sophomore majoring in biology with a concentration on animal behavior and a minor in chemistry. Currently, I want to be an animal caretaker in a zoo. I love everything about science. It feels like a puzzle, and I just want to find all the pieces and figure out how they fit together. My favorite hobby is singing and dancing.