Imagine emerging from your tent this summer surrounded by glacier-covered mountains while your friends enjoy another sweltering day in College Park. College Park Scholars–Life Sciences invites you to spend two weeks in Alaska this summer exploring the natural history and arts of Alaska with UMD faculty. Alaska is an amazing and enchanting place with immense proportions and stunning scenery unlike any other place in the United States. We begin in Anchorage, Alaska’s largest city, with a trip to the Alaska Native Heritage Center to explore the histories and cultures of the various aboriginal groups still pursuing their traditional ways of life in Alaska. Then it is on to Seward, a small fishing village in geologically active, south-central Alaska still recovering from a devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck in 1964.

In Seward, we will experience global climate change first hand as we trace the retreat of Exit Glacier and hike to the edge of the expansive, but shrinking, Harding Ice Field, a scene reminiscent of the predominant landscape of the last ice age. We will kayak in a glacier-carved fjord loaded with salmon returning to their natal streams while bald eagles watch from their high perches and occasionally dive to the water to snatch fish in their talons. We will take an all-day, wild-life cruise into Prince William Sound to view killer whales, humpback whales, endangered steller sea lions, seals, Dall porpoises, river otters, black bears, and countless sea birds. During the trip, we will cruise up to a tidewater glacier and watch as massive chunks of ice calve off the main glacier and fall into the water with a thunderous roar. The adventure is capped off with a salmon buffet on a private island.

During the next leg of the trip, we will drive to the Alaskan interior to Denali National Park, where we will view Denali, the highest mountain in North America, from our campsite. We will hike to the top of mountains, raft through a glacier-fed river, and camp within sight of moose, caribou, and grizzly bears. Next it is on to Fairbanks and a trip to the gold mining district. Everyone comes home with gold that they panned themselves. We then head south, paralleling the Alaskan oil pipeline, toward Valdez. We will tour a salmon hatchery and end the trip hiking on Matanuska Glacier before returning to Anchorage for our return flights to Maryland.

**Credit:** Students completing this Alaska travel–study experience will earn 3 credits (BSCI 339K) in the Fall 2018 semester. If you are a Biological Sciences major, then these credits may be applicable to your Advanced Program either as an Area Course or as Enrichment. For other majors, you will need to check with your advisor.

To earn the credits, students will attend several pre-trip meetings in late spring where various relevant topics will be discussed, keep a detailed daily journal on the trip, present 1–2 oral reports on assigned topics, be engaged and cooperative throughout the travel–study experience, and complete an exam once we return on topics covered before and during the trip. Meeting dates, times, and location are TBA.
**Cost:** Students are responsible for their airfare (Round trip from DC currently estimated to cost $800–$1000) plus the program fee. Life Sciences will book a group flight leaving from the Washington, DC, metro area. All students are expected to travel on the group flight, although there is some flexibility. The program fee ($2300.00) will cover all lodging, admissions fees, transportation within Alaska, and most meals. Lodging will consist of a mixture of 1/3 motel/hostel stays and 2/3 camping in remote (and sometimes primitive) state and national parks and camping areas.

Students should also bring additional personal spending money. In the past, students have spent $200–$400 on their own for meals, snacks, souvenirs, etc.

**Trip Leaders:** Dr. Reid Compton (Biology; College Park Scholars–Life Sciences) has 16 years of experience leading travel–study programs to domestic and international locations. This will be his 5th trip to Alaska with the Life Sciences Program. Dr. John Merck (Geology; College Park Scholars–Science and Global Change) has participated in 5 previous Alaska trips. Harold Burgess (College Park Scholars–Arts) will be making his first trip and serve as our guide to some of the dance, music, and visual arts of Alaska Natives. As always, Jess Wilke, Assistant Director of the Life Sciences program, holds everything together and makes the magic happen. Together, we will touch on the geology and biology of Alaska along with the historical interplay between aboriginal and European cultures and the current struggles between interests that want to exploit Alaska’s natural resources and those that want to preserve them for ecotourists and future generations.

**Admission:** This travel–study experience is sponsored by the College Park Scholars–Life Sciences Program. It is open to any undergraduate at the University of Maryland, but students in CPS–LS will have priority. Please note that space is limited and admission to the program is competitive and rolling. We will contact you with an admission decision no later than one week following the application deadline.

**To Apply:**
1. Complete the application information below and return completed form to Ms. Jess Wilke.
2. Include a $250 deposit (the deposit will be refunded only if you are not accepted into the program); checks should be made payable to the “University of Maryland.”
3. Provide the name and contact information of a University faculty or staff member who is willing to serve as a reference.

**The application deadline is Monday, March 5, 2018**

Please direct all questions and application materials to:

Ms. Jess Wilke  
College Park Scholars–Life Sciences  
1212 Centreville Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
Phone: 301-405-0528  
FAX: 301-314-9843  
wilke@umd.edu

Once you have been accepted, you will be asked to make a commitment to participate and submit complete program fee payment in several installments over the course of the spring and early summer.
Alaska 2018 Application

Name: ___________________________________ UID #: __________________________

Campus/Current Address: ______________________________________________________

Campus/Current Phone Number: ________________________________________________

Current E-mail Address: _________________________________________________________

Permanent Address: _____________________________________________________________

Permanent Phone Number: ______________________________________________________

Sex: ______________ Date of Birth: ____________________________________________

Student or Alum in College Park Scholars? ___ YES ___ NO  Program: ____________

Class Year: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior  Major: ____________

Any Dietary Restrictions? (e.g.—Vegetarian, Vegan, Kosher, Gluten-Free) _____________

Name & Contact E-mail for Faculty/Staff Ref.: ______________________________________

Contact Information for Parent, Guardian, or Other Person In Case of an Emergency:

Name: ___________________________ Relationship to you: __________________________

Phone (Home and Work or Cell): _________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Has disciplinary action been initiated or taken against you at any of the institutions attended, including the University of Maryland? ___ YES ___ NO If you answered yes, then please attach a statement describing the incident and its resolution.

I realize that without approval from my advisor, dean, or provost, this program may not be applicable to my degree program, and I accept full responsibility for my registration under this condition. I also realize that acceptance into this program is limited. Further, the University of Maryland reserves the right to cancel the program if there is insufficient enrollment.

I have read and understood the conditions of this application. I hereby certify that the information given above is complete and accurate. If not, I understand that cancellation of admission and registration may result.

______________________________Signature of Applicant _________ Date

______________________________Signature of Parent/Guardian (if under 18) _________ Date
# Alaska 2018 Tentative Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/1/18</td>
<td>MD to Alaska</td>
<td>Bent Prop Hostel: Midtown</td>
<td>Fly to Anchorage; Arrive Early afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/2/18</td>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>Bent Prop Hostel: Midtown</td>
<td>Native Alaska Heritage Cultural Center; Explore Local Trails and Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8/3/18</td>
<td>Seward</td>
<td>Forest Acres Campground (Group Site)</td>
<td>Food Shopping, Drive to Seward, Stop at Beluga Point; Set up Camp; Hike Tonsina Point trail or Marathon Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8/4/18</td>
<td>Seward</td>
<td>Forest Acres Campground</td>
<td>Kenai Fjords Wildlife Cruise with Dinner at Fox Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8/5/18</td>
<td>Seward</td>
<td>Forest Acres Campground</td>
<td>Exit Glacier Hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>8/6/18</td>
<td>Girdwood</td>
<td>Hostel</td>
<td>Half-Day Sea Kayaking; Drive to Girdwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8/7/18</td>
<td>Denali</td>
<td>Savage River Campground</td>
<td>Drive to Denali; Food Shopping in Wasilla 4.5 Hours of Driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8/8/18</td>
<td>Denali</td>
<td>Savage River Campground</td>
<td>Mount Healy Hike and Sled Dogs Demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>8/9/18</td>
<td>Denali</td>
<td>Savage River Campground</td>
<td>White Water Rafting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8/10/18</td>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>Hostel</td>
<td>Drive to Fairbanks; Large Animal Research Station Creamer Migratory Bird WR Tanana Valley State Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>8/11/18</td>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>Hostel</td>
<td>Gold Mining/Panning; Oil Pipeline; Museum of the North</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8/12/18</td>
<td>Tonsina Creek Area</td>
<td>Squirrel Creek or Blueberry Lake State Recreation Area</td>
<td>Drive toward Squirrel Creek or Blueberry Lake 4.5–5.5 Hours of Driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>8/13/18</td>
<td>Valdez</td>
<td>Squirrel Creek or Blueberry Lake State Recreation Area</td>
<td>Valdez Salmon Hatchery and Worthington Glacier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8/14/18</td>
<td>Matanuska and Anchorage; MD</td>
<td>Return to Maryland (Leave Late Evening, Return Mid-day to MD 8/15/2018)</td>
<td>Matanuska Glacier; Return to Anchorage for Flight to MD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>