Laboratory Journal.

Lab. No. 1. (08/25/05)
Library: Searching the Scientific Literature by Ms. M. Merril
This was done at the University library. Literature search and review forms an important part of research in the life sciences. This gives an indication of what information is available on the topic of interest. This helps in avoiding repetition of things already researched. Although I am already done with my literature review of the research that I am doing, I will be able to apply this knowledge to search for information during the write up period, and therefore this was a good exercise.

Lab. No. 2. (09/01/05)
Endnote: Computer-based Bibliography Technology by Mrs. V. T. Lock
This took place at the Vet. School library. Endnote is used to organize and maintain bibliographic data bases. Pubmed and Cabdirect can directly search for and save the searches into endnote. For our purpose we used Pubmed and saved the searches in files we created. The searches can also be formatted into a journal of interest style. This lab will help me to arrange my references when preparing my thesis and writing journal articles in future. It was a good practical.

Lab. No. 3. (09/08/05)
World Wide Technology by Dr. Brewster
It was an opportunity for me and probably others to get to know how the internet works. We tried to use dream weaver program to design a webpage. It was confusing for me and I had a tough time following the Instructor. However, my colleagues helped me through. I tried to use the program on my own and not much progress was made. Although I had some problems I think designing a webpage is a good thing and one can use it at work to help colleagues, especially in academic institutions.

Lab. No. 4. (09/08/05)
Photographic and Video Image Capture Technology by Dr. Mullins
Different kinds of old and new cameras were passed around. An overview of how a camera works was given. Some of them were old but still worked. This might be a good lab for those in entomology and other areas where cameras are used a lot. I don’t think I would want to get into the details of how a camera works. However, the exercise was well conducted.

Lab. No. 5. (09/22/05)
Digital and 35 mm Macrophotography by Drs. Mullins and Brewster
This was carried out at the Horticulture gardens. We took pictures of living objects such as plants and insects. Both the manual and digital cameras were used. We had plenty of pictures at the end and downloaded them to be used for our hard copy and electronic portfolios. It was a nice field exercise and allowed to experience life as a group.
Lab. No. 6. (09/29/05)  
Basics of Scientific Illustration an Introduction to Adobe Photoshop by Mrs. Mullins  
This was an introduction to adobe Photoshop, which is used for scientific illustrations. I had a few problems at the beginning, but could do it later on my own. This is a good program to produce teaching aids without having to call an expert to help with the illustrations.

Lab. No. 7. (10/06/05)  
Adobe Photoshop and Image enhancement by Dr. Fell  
This was a continuation of the lab 6. It was more of hands on exercise. I can now take photos with my digital camera and edit and enhance them with this program. I will recommend this kind of training to the life sciences students. It was such a good lab.

Lab. No. 8. (10/13/05)  
Geospatial Technology II by Dr. Brewster  
Conducted as a lecture and introduction to how remote sensing and geographic information systems work. The science and art of the two technologies and how they interact was discussed. Most of us think that the technologies are only used to acquire spatial data and use it to make some kind of maps. But these technologies have wider applications and I recommend that life scientists take one or two GIS and related courses. It was a good introduction.

Lab. No. 9. (10/20/05)  
Videography by J. Lockart  
A video was shown to demonstrate how videography can capture information, especially when one is not there to make a life observation. We were also taught how to edit a video and this was interesting. I don't think I will be involved in video editing in my future career, but was worth doing just to know how it is done. It was good.

Lab. No. 10. (10/27/05)  
Individually Arranged Laboratory: Microphotography by Dr. Mullins  
This was individually arranged laboratory and I had mine in the morning from half past eight. It was about obtaining pictures using some old pieces of equipment. They worked well and the films were later developed and digitized. The lab took longer than I had planned and took up to the regular lab time. It was quite a busy for me as it was my day to take samples from the greenhouse. So I worked from eight that day with a thirty minutes break.

Lab. No. 11. (10/27/05)  
The Poster Session by Drs. Mullins and Brewster.  
We used the Microsoft power point to design a poster from our GPS study. I have presented a poster before, but I had to hire some company to design and print my poster. It was very expensive and I don't think I will do so again. This lab gave
me the poster design and printing training I will always use for a long time in my career. I made a nice poster and will keep it.

Lab. No. 12. (1/03/05)
Scientific and Professional Presentation by Dr. Brewster
The lab coincided with my graduate seminar presentation semester. During preparations and presentation I tried to apply what I learnt in class. It was a good preparation and I did well in my seminar.

Lab. No. 13. (11/10/05)
Fluorescent and Confocal Microscopy by Ms. Decourcey/Fralin Biotechnology Center
The technique is applied in the study of fluorescent objects or molecules microscopically. It has applications in molecular and cell biology. I think it’s a good tool, especially if I were to study chloroplast and related developments in my research.

Lab. No. 14. (11/17/05)
Data Visualization by Dr. Sforza
This was done at the Torgerson in a facility known as the CAVE. It was a good experience for a life science student. We could observe insect structures and even plant cell organelle structures in more detail. These are usually observed by the use of advanced microscopes and it was fascinating to see them with a naked eye, although they were redrawn.

Lab. No. 00. (11/20-26/05)
Thanksgiving Holiday
A break and there were no school activities.

Lab. No. 16. (12/01/05)
Completion of the portfolio items with Instructors.
This involved printing and laminating our prints. It was a good lab since we could any question about any outstanding things in the course. I was the last lab of the semester and the course.