

**Monday, April 26, 2010**  
**ASTROBIOLOGY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION**  
**10:30 a.m. Crystal Salon C**

*This session will discuss and analyze communication  
and collaboration between astrobiologists across disciplines.*

**Chairs: Shawn Domagal-Goldman**  
**Katherine Wright**

- 10:30 a.m. Shostak G. S. \* Bentley M.  
[Reaching the Masses: How We Make a Weekly Science Radio Show](#) [#5056]  
 How the SETI Institute produces a weekly, one-hour radio show about the science of astrobiology.
- 10:45 a.m. Wright K. E. \* Domagal-Goldman S. D.  
[The Astrobiology Primer](#) [#5426]  
 A group of early-career astrobiologists are updating the Astrobiology Primer, a basic introduction to astrobiology. We are seeking feedback from the community on the Primer's content.
- 11:00 a.m. Som S. M. \* Anderson R. Antonio M. Cash M. C. Claire M. Cowan N. Ewert M. Goldman A. Snowden D. Stüeken E.  
[The 2009 Astrobiology Graduate Student Conference \(AbGradCon\)](#) [#5511]  
 The 2009 AbGradCon was held at the University of Washington in July 2009. It brought together 67 participants from 8 different countries and 34 different universities. AbGradCon also took place in the virtual world of Second Life.
- 11:15 a.m. Haqq-Misra J. \*  
[Astrobiology, Sustainability, and Outreach](#) [#5338]  
 The search for life has implications for the long-term sustainability of life on Earth by viewing humanity in the context of the biosphere. Outreach techniques that span science and philosophy are necessary to approach the public in a relevant way.
- 11:30 a.m. Goldman A. \*  
[The Shortcomings of a Phenomenological Semantic System in Origin of Life Research](#) [#5273]  
 I examine the features used to define origin of life terminology and show that they are dominantly phenomenological. I propose an ontology-dependent semantic system and apply it the debate over 'metabolism first' and 'replicator first' models.
- 11:45 a.m. Schrenk M. O. \*  
[Relating Life to Planetary Scale Processes: A Case Study of Training Undergraduate Biology Majors to Think Astrobiologically](#) [#5632]  
 This work describes efforts to teach astrobiological topics effectively to undergraduate science majors.
- 12:00 p.m. Horodyskyj L. B. \*  
[Collaborative Learning in an Astrobiology Class](#) [#5038]  
 Students learn through a variety of techniques. Use of collaborative exercises, with individual homework components supplemented by group classroom components building on that work, may assist in concept comprehension in large classrooms.
- 12:15 p.m. Brazelton W. J. \* Sullivan W. T. III  
[Historical Context for the Question: What is "Interdisciplinary" Research?](#) [#5184]  
 We discuss the history of discipline formation in order to examine the meaning of interdisciplinary research and address the questions: Is astrobiology becoming a specialized discipline? and Should we wish it to become a discipline?
- 12:30 p.m. LUNCH