

Paleo-DNA Laboratory

Practical DNA Training Program

Testimonials

“This course covers the absolute essentials of DNA analysis. The instructors provided me with protocols for every step involved in DNA profiling (sample collection, DNA extraction, PCR, etc.) and they taught me different methods in each step. The duration of this course is just right as everything is covered with extra time for a two-day project in the clean lab. The content of the course is perfect for individuals interested in a career as a Forensic Biologist, Researcher, Laboratory Technician, and for anyone who is interested in expanding their knowledge or is simply curious about how DNA analysis is done in the lab. The instructors are highly enthusiastic and love teaching what they know resulting in a comfortable work environment. Moreover, the instructors made the lab sunny on rainy days. Stephen and Reneé were extremely patient guiding me throughout and working with me at my own pace. This course is crazy fun and undoubtedly one of a kind!”

Daniel Soerensen, University of Toronto, May 2012

“The Practical DNA Training Program provides a unique ‘hands-on’ lab experience for those intending to pursue careers in forensic or ancient DNA, updating technical skills or just interested in how DNA analysis really works. The course was rigorous, with instructors Reneé and Stephen packing every second with lab work, computer analysis or research anecdotes. Each participant was responsible for their own lab station where they collected, prepared, extracted and purified their personal tissue samples for DNA profiling using state-of-the-art equipment. No group work here! After we mastered the protocols (and equipment!), we ‘suited up’ for the clean lab during the second week to collect samples from animal and ancient human bone, hair and plants, and with a new self-confidence began the process again. Those contemplating careers in DNA analysis will no doubt be seduced by the precision of lab work and the exhilaration of obtaining clean results. Those seeking to upgrade their lab skills, considering aDNA as part of their research program, or simply satisfying a curiosity will also leave with a new appreciation of the time investment and meticulousness of DNA analysis. Thanks again Reneé and Stephen for this invigorating and upbeat course!”

Margaret A. Judd

Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, May 2012