



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

- **Biology Students Achieve Campus-wide and State-wide Recognition for their Research**
  - The *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual CSU Student Research Competition* was held at CSU LA May 1-2 showcasing excellence in undergraduate and graduate research throughout the twenty-three CSU campuses. **Joshua Shipp** (adv. Dr. Karels) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his talk in the Biological and Agricultural Sciences, Graduate Student Division. **Alexandra Forest** who works in Dr. Murray's lab but is a student in Chem & Biochem won 1<sup>st</sup> place for her talk in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Undergraduate Student Division.
  - The CSUN *2009 Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium* was also held May 1, 2009. For the graduate student session, **Wilber Escorcia** (Adv. Dr. Summers) and **Wyndee Haley** (Adv. Dr. Wilson) won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place respectively. For the Undergraduate session, **Navasha Singh** (Adv. Dr. Espinoza) and **Toni Uhlendorf** (Adv. Dr. Cohen) won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place respectively.
- **Biology Department Graduate Award Winners**
  - Outstanding Graduate Student Award: **Christina Vasquez** (Adv. Dr. Dudgeon)
  - Outstanding Graduate Research Award: **Yasuko Hirakawa** (Adv. Dr. R. Medh)
  - Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award: **Carri Musser** (Adv. Dr. R. Medh)
- **Faculty Research Funding** - Dr. Espinoza and colleagues at Virginia Tech and U. Idaho received a 3-year \$650K NSF grant to study the systematics and evolutionary and physiological ecology of geckos of the world. His research on gecko thermal biology will include research in 5 countries with undergraduate assistants.