



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 5 April 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

**“The role of puberty, autonomy, and parent-adolescent conflict in predicting depressive symptomatology and timing of first sexual intercourse among Mexican-origin female adolescents”**

Mayra Bacama  
Penn State University

### Genomics Job Candidates

The Department is interviewing for a new prof who is an expert in genomics. The next job seminar will be on Wednesday, 3 April at 11:00 am in EH 2132. All are encouraged to attend.

### Women in Science, Next Gathering

CSUN Women in Science (WiS) meets once a month to discuss issues of gender and equality within academia and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and to provide resources to assist women's self-empowerment and achievement.

CSUN WiS welcomes participation from women in all STEM fields and at all stages of their academic and career development.

Please join WiS on Wednesday, 3 April at 11:00 am in CR 5201 for our next discussion on “The Current Status of Women in STEM and Strategies for Achieving Equal Representation.” In this workshop, we will identify the issues women face in their fields and discuss

practical measures for removing the barriers against the recruitment, progression, and retention of women in STEM.

Come share your perspective and experiences with other CSUN women in a supportive action-oriented environment focused on improving the visibility and participation of women in STEM.

### Benthic Ecology Meetings

Northridge students, postdocs, and profs put on a big show at last week's 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Benthic Ecology Meetings. Talks were given as follows:

- Drs. **Mia Adreani** and **Mark Steele**: “Estimating fecundity, spawning frequency and growth rates of temperate reef fish: a comparison of natural and artificial rocky reefs”
- **Anya Brown** and others: “Spatial variation in grazing intensity among microhabitats in Moorea, French Polynesia”
- **Darren Brown** and Dr. **Peter Edmunds**: “Differential effects of PCO<sub>2</sub> on calcification in scleractinians and a hydrocoral may

reflect the phylogenetic origins of these taxa.”

• Dr. **Steeve Comeau** and others:

“Differential sensitivities of coral reef functional groups to ocean acidification”

• Dr. **Steve Dudgeon** and others: “Time trumps space in driving distribution and abundance patterns on sheltered rocky shores”

• **Hillard Heather** and Dr. **Robert Carpenter**: “Can macroalgae mitigate the effects of ocean acidification on juvenile corals?”

• **Lareen Smith** and Dr. **Steve Dudgeon**: “The effects of hypoxic signals in a natural field setting on colony growth rates, overall colony form and genotypic responses in *Hydractinia polyclina*”

• **Lauren Valentino** and Dr. **Robert Carpenter**: “Effects of ocean acidification on bioerosion of burrowing bivalves in Moorea, French Polynesia”

Two posters were also presented:

• **Amy Briggs** and Dr. **Robert Carpenter**: “Photosynthesis affects the response of a tropical calcifying alga, *Porolithon onkodes*, to ocean acidification”

• **Carolina Mor** and Remy Okazaki: “Response of *Thalassia testudinum* to CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment and elevated temperatures”

## Curriculum Advice

—Paul Wilson

Whether a directed research experience or serious lab/field classes, hands-on study is the pearl of the CSUN Biology major. Very few other universities offer undergraduates as many hands-on experiences as CSUN.

Unfortunately, many students put off taking these plum courses until the their final semester, often enrolling in two or three at a time. Doing so creates unnecessary scheduling and academic challenges that can be avoided. Instead, I advise taking one each semester along with a rock-star taught core course. For example:

Vertebrate Biology + Genetics

Immunology + Evolutionary Biology

Plant Ecology + Embryology

## Next Week: Spring Break!

*Biosphere* takes a well-deserved vacation!

### *Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology*

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Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza  
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