



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 8 March 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

**“Regulation of Stability and Cell Fate in Human Pluripotent Stem Cells”**

April Pyle, Ph.D.  
UCLA

### Post-Tenure-Review Seminars

On Tuesday, 5 March at 2 pm in CR 5126, Dr. **Larry Allen** shall speak on: “The ebb and flow of sea-bass fisheries off California.”

On Thursday, 7 March at 2 pm in CR 5126, Dr. **Randy Cohen** shall speak on: “Walking on the wild side: finding a cure for ataxia using an animal model.”

All are encouraged to attend.

### Fieldtrip Signup Noon Wednesday

The Behavior, Ecology, & Evolution Reading Club will hold an informational meeting this Wednesday at noon in CR 5336 regarding its much-anticipated 2013 Ecology Retreat (BEER-ER).

BEER-ER will be a local camping trip over the weekend of 23–24 March for undergraduates and graduates alike. The BEER Club faithful are looking forward to meeting new Biology students who are interested in field biology.

Please stop by on Wednesday to hear more about this event!

### Did you know ... ?

About a year ago, Dr. **Ray Hong** started practicing a Korean martial art called Hwa Rang Do? Wooden weapons are involved. Hong says, “This has helped me improve my teaching by being a student again in something very new.”

Drs. **Robert Carpenter** and **Peter Edmunds** have each made more than 5000 open-water SCUBA dives? Assuming each dive lasts about an hour, then that translates into >208 days underwater!

Dr. **Cindy Malone** will be starting her 21<sup>st</sup> season playing softball in the UCLA Medical Center Co-Ed Softball League?

Dr. **Mary-Pat Stein** was inducted into her high school Hall of Fame for Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball?

Dr. **Maria Elena de Bellard** is an avid rock climber? On most weekends you can find her chalking up at Stony Point.

Drs. **Robert Espinoza** and **Fritz Hertel** play roller hockey on CSUN’s G3 parking lot each Wednesday night (9:30 pm to midnight)? New teams are formed each week from undergraduates and graduates from Biology and across campus.

## A Night at the Museum

The BEER Club and the Marine Biology Graduate Student Association are reinstituting **First Fridays**. This Friday (1 March), they will attend the [Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's First Fridays](#). Every first Friday of the month, the entire Natural History Museum stays open until 10 pm and features live music, exciting scientific discussion, and behind-the-scenes curatorial tours. This is an awesome opportunity to have fun at the museum with your fellow biologists and other Los Angeles hipsters. All are welcome to join. Carpooling is being coordinated by [Camdilla Wirth](#).

## Ph.D. Funded & New Pub

Grad student **Denita Weeks** was recently awarded The Van Vleet Memorial Doctorial Award (\$16,000 renewable for 4 years with tuition waiver) from the University of Memphis, where she will begin her Ph.D. program this fall. Weeks plans to study the ecology of amphibian diseases. The fellowship was established in 1964 by the family of McKay Van Vleet, a Memphis civic leader and business executive, to attract outstanding doctoral students in the sciences.

The first chapter of Weeks's MS thesis is now in press in the *Journal of Thermal Biology*: "Lizards on ice: comparative thermal tolerances of the world's southernmost gecko." Dr. **Robert Espinoza** is her coauthor.

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

Department of Biology  
California State University, Northridge  
Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza  
For past issues: [www.csun.edu/biosphere](http://www.csun.edu/biosphere)  
For job opportunities: [csunbio.wordpress.com](http://csunbio.wordpress.com)