



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 6 September 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “From the Study of DNses to Cancer Research: An Unexpected Scientific Journey”

Renato Aquillera, Ph.D.  
University of Texas, El Paso

#### Awards and Honors to Biologists

From the hundreds of Biology majors, the top students were recognized in May for special honors by the University, the College, or the Department.

The University's Mack I. Johnson Research Award went to **Darren Brown**. Graduate Fellowships for Research & Creative Activity were given to **Lauren Conroy**, **Katherine Gould**, **Dinesh Gupta**, and **Jacquelyn Saunders**.

Biology majors won five of the honors given out by the College of Science and Mathematics:

- **Jesse Tootell** was named Outstanding Graduate Student.
- **Behrod Katebian** was named the Heald Outstanding Graduating Senior.
- **Giancarlo Cardoza** won the Outstanding Junior Award.
- **Grant Weiss** won the Hugo & Irma Oppenheimer Award
- **Camdilla Wirth** was given the Leslie & Terry Cutler Scholarship.

- Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Research Promise were awarded to **Amy Briggs**, **Joshua Sausner**, and **Camdilla Wirth**.

The Department of Biology gives out a number of awards and scholarships:

- **Andrew Hill** was named the Outstanding Graduating Senior.
- **James Go** and **Yoo-Min Han** shared the Bennett-Bickford Biology Scholarship for promise as teachers.
- The Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Award went to **Darren Brown**.
- **Joseph Aldahl** and **Beck Wehrle** shared the Outstanding Graduate Research Award.
- **Beck Wehrle** won the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.
- The Oppenheimer Research/Teaching Promise Award went to **Ruslan Nuryyev**.
- The Ian & Kathy Leslie Scholarship in Biology went to **Alina Adamian**.
- The Newhall Land & Farming Company Southern California Ecology Grant went to **Joshua Sausner**.

• Peter Bellinger Student Research Awards were granted to **Victor Lewis, Mark Oliva, Joshua Sausner, Michael Schram, Catherine Soliva, Brandon Wallace, Camdilla Wirth, and Shannon Wood.**

## New Publication

**Larios Osvaldo and Aïda Metzenberg** have a new paper that appeared in a new journal, *International Journal of Life Sciences and Pharma Research*. The paper is titled, “The effect of genes and the environment on determining sex.”

## Grand Marshal Oppenheimer

Last May, Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer** served as Grand Marshal and Mace Bearer at the Investiture of Dr. Dianne Harrison, President of California State University, Northridge.

## EDITORIAL—Why iPad?

Leading a University-wide infusion of tablet technology in the classroom, this fall Biology Majors in BIOL 106, 106L, 107, and 107L are required to own or rent iPads. The tablets will be used not just for these courses and labs, but throughout the major. For example, courses like Evolutionary Biology (BIOL 322) and Cell Biology (BIOL 380) will include iPad-based learning experiences as well.

Although the initial cost may seem steep, iPads will be more cost effective in the long run. The major reason is that eTexts cost much less than books printed on paper. The second advantage is that iPads can capitalize on the advanced functionality (audio

and video clips, web-based learning modules, etc.) available in eTexts that do not exist in paper editions.

Students have been asking, “Can I just use my laptop/smartphone instead of buying an iPad?”

Answer, “We don’t know how well other devices will work for the curriculum that has been specifically developed for iPads.” In fact, most of the apps tested and selected for the campus-wide initiative will not work on other platforms.

Considerable research has gone into this initiation and at this point we think that (a) the educational apps for iPads are the best available on the market, and (b) iPads will fare well for the next four years compared to other tablets, which may become obsolete in their attempts to catch up.

And chances are you will find the iPads useful (and even fun to use!) in other courses and as general study aids. You may even find yourself in another iPad-based course on another part of campus. To learn more about the program, you can visit:

<http://www.csun.edu/it/mycsuntablet>.

### *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)