



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

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

### “Novel Antibody-Based Strategies Against Cancer”

Manuel Penichet, Ph.D.  
Department of Surgery  
UCLA

### New Publication

Drs. **Peter Edmunds**, **Robert Carpenter**, and **Steeve Comeau** have a paper in *Oceanography*, “Understanding the threads of ocean acidification to coral reefs.”

### Grad Students Win Mini-Grants

**Amy Briggs**, **Brian Clark**, **Erica Holdridge**, **Diana Jacinto**, **Leah Jacobs**, **Jing Liang**, **Charlotte Messineo**, **Carolina Mor**, **Rachel Rhymer**, **Dustin Sparr**, **Forough Taghavifar**, **Sabrina Uppal**, and **Calvin Won** have been awarded mini-grants from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Congratulations!

### New Grant

NSF Biological Oceanography has awarded Dr. **Peter Edmunds** a grant of \$646,000 over the next three years to support his studies of the ecology and functional biology of octocoral communities. This grant is in collaboration with Howard Lasker of the University of Buffalo. It provides a soft coral “overlay” to Edmunds’

ongoing stony coral project in the Caribbean, which has been running for 27 years. The funding will bring a postdoctoral researcher to CSUN and will support CSUN graduate students to conduct research in the Caribbean.

### Non-flowering Plants, a rarely offered spring class

Non-flowering Plants (BIOL 409/L/492J) is offered for the coming spring, the first time in four years. This class fulfills the systematics requirement for B.A. students, and it has a field studies. The class will be taking a trip on Spring Break. “We’ll get as far as the Redwood Forest,” says Dr. **Paul Wilson**, “We’ll see lots of beautiful mosses and ferns in a variety of plant communities.”

### Learn a Little Programming

Computer Modeling in Biology (BIOL 551/L) is a great way for biologists to learn computer programming for database mining and analysis, and for computer-based models and simulations in broad areas of biology. The class offered this spring will be pitched at the “beginner” level, but students with prior programming

experience will also be supported with challenging projects. Dr. **Stan Metzenberg** will be teaching the course and points out that programming is a key skill for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that will help students achieve rewarding careers in science and industry.

### **Directed Research with Oppenheimer**

Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer**'s research program currently involves testing several reagents for their ability to un-clump yeast cells. Yeast is a model organism, and reagents that un-clump yeast may prevent pathogen binding to human cells and may un-clump cancer cells in the bloodstream. The research is also relevant to heart disease and stroke.

Students who do research with Oppenheimer sometimes become co-authors on national presentations and published abstracts.

If you want to work with Oppenheimer, just fill out a BIOL 495D form in the Biology office for Oppenheimer to sign. Write "Oppenheimer" at top of the form. (Don't be concerned if another professor is officially the instructor of the course in the schedule of classes—that's just a mechanism for adjusting professors' workloads.)

### **Alumni News**

**Darren Brown** is now working on a Ph.D. at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México in the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología. He is studying coral ecophysiology.

### **terHorst Spoke**

Dr. **Casey terHorst** gave an invited seminar titled, "Rapid evolution leads to species coexistence" at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute for a working group on Rapid Evolution and Sustainability.

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

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