



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 22 November 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Global Mediterranean Invasions: One Plant’s Perspective”

Jolene Moroney, Ph.D. (and CSUN alumna)
Sapphos Environmental, Inc., Pasadena

Talk on Big Fierce Animals

Joanne Moriarty of the National Park Service will speak on her work with mountain lions, bobcats, and the like on Wednesday, 20 November. The talk is for the Conservation Biology class, but all are welcome. Come to CR 5335 at 10:30 am. Moriarty earned her M.S. from our Department a few years back, so the event is also a model for where to go from here.

Women in Science

WIS’s next meeting is Monday, 2 December from 11 am–12 noon in CR 5201, topic: *Negotiation*. All are welcome.

Biology Dominance at Meeting of Western Society of Naturalists

Biology sent a large contingent to the Western Society of Naturalists conference this year. Undergraduates, grads, and professors presented research in talks and posters. In addition, Dr. **Dawn Vaughn** brought her Marine Biology class to the conference on Friday, giving some undergrads a chance to learn about cutting-edge research.

Presentations

- **Jen Smolenski** won in the Organismal Biology session for “Spectral distribution of light has no effect on coral calcification In response to increased pCO₂”
- **Camdilla Wirth** won honorable mention in the Population/Community Ecology session, “Giant kangaroo rats influence spatial distribution and microhabitat use of the common sideblotched lizard”
- Drs. **Mia Adreani** and **Mark Steele**, “Fecundity, spawning frequency, and productivity of temperate reef fish: a comparison of natural and artificial reefs”
- Dr. **Larry Allen** and **Holly Hawk**, “Age and growth of giant sea bass”
- Dr. **Steve Dudgeon**, “Models predicting effects of ocean acidification on productivity of CO₂-using and bicarbonate-using seaweeds”
- Dr. **Pete Edmunds**, “Is acclimation beneficial to scleractinian corals?”
- **Nicolas Evensen**, “Altered competitive interactions between corals in a high pCO₂ environment”
- **Katherine Gould**, “Host plant use affects mate choice for a chrysomelid beetle”
- **Erica Holdridge**, “Trophic ecology of ariid catfishes in the Gulf of Mexico”

- Drs. **Janet Kubler** and **Steve Dudgeon**, “Prediction of ocean acidification effects on photosynthesis of macroalgae”
- **Beth Lenz**, “Gorgonians of the Caribbean: success in a changing sea”
- **Carolina Mor**, “Elevated CO₂ and temperature caused by ocean acidification and climate change can distress the processes of photosynthesis and calcification”
- **Corinne Paterson**, “The genetic diversity and population structure of barred sand bass”
- **Barbara Sanchez**, “Impacts of organic pollutants on the growth and fecundity of barred sand bass from Southern California”
- **Mike Schram**, “Effects of simulated size-selective harvesting on a protogynous temperate reef fish, *Rhinogobiops nicholsii*”
- **Lareen Smith**, “Genotypic responses of growth and form to hypoxia in *Hydractinia polyclina*”
- Dr. **Mark Steele**, “Growth and tissue production of temperate reef fishes on artificial versus natural reefs”
- Dr. **Casey terHorst**, “Genetic variation in invader response to direct and indirect species interactions”
- **Lauren Valentino**, “Effects of ocean acidification on bioerosion of burrowing bivalves in Moorea”
- **Alex Yarid**, “Effects of increased pCO₂ on the response of massive porites to damage”

Posters

- **Cassidy Adlof**, “How does harvesting impact white sage as a cultural resource in Southern California?”
- **J.R. Clark**, “Does size matter: A study on social behavior in female leopard shark”
- **Lauren Conroy**, “Mating assessment in a songless camel cricket”
- **Katherine Dao**, “Potential effects of ocean acidification on calcification and interactions among coral reef crustose coralline algae”

- **Craig Didden**, “Experiential ecological investigations as a vehicle coupling teaching and research in high schools and universities”
- **Sam Ginther**, “Potential biocontrol agents for an invasive freshwater mussel”
- **Parker House** and Dr. **Larry Allen**, “Fishing impacts on the trophic structure of kelp bed fishes in La Jolla”
- **Edwin Leung** and Dr. **Larry Allen**, “The influence of environmental variation on year-class strength in white seabass of Southern California”
- **Josh Sausner**, “Ecomorphology of storm petrels along the Pacific Coast of the Americas”
- **Berenice Tarango** and **Brenton Spies**, “Larval duration, size at settlement, and growth rates of the arrow goby and the endangered tidewater goby”
- Dr. **Dawn Vaughn**, “Effects of thermal stress on reproductive output in intertidal snails”
- **Sigfrido Zimmermann**, “Associational refuges across a stress gradient on the north shore of Moorea”

Lenz and **Edmunds** had two additional posters. “Experiential ecological investigations as a vehicle coupling teaching and research in high schools and universities” was the result of an NSF research experience for teachers. “Density-dependent recruitment of gorgonians in St. John” stemmed from a NSF research experience for undergraduates grant.

Also in Attendance

Shannon Bayliss, **Amy Briggs**, Dr. **Robert Carpenter**, **Ananda Ellis**, **Alexis Estrada**, **Justin Hackitt**, **Maureen Ho**, **Alexa Mutti**, **Stacey Virtue**, **Barbara Weiser**, and **Calvin Won**.

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
 For job opportunities: csunbio.wordpress.com