



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Have a great winter break!

MS Thesis Defense

Anasheh Ghazarian shall defend a thesis titled, "Sugar inhibition of yeast binding to lectin beads," at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 17 December in CR 5201. Everyone is invited to attend.

OBITUARY: Dr. Paul Tomasek

Dr. **Paul Tomasek** passed away, at age 60, on 30 November after a long struggle with diabetes and heart disease. His devotion to the art of teaching will be sorely missed.

Tomasek taught microbiology and other subjects at CSUN for 19 years. He led Introductory Microbiology, an important component of the Nursing Program. He was a major contributor to Principles of Microbiology, which is required for the CSUN Microbiology Option. He also taught Microbial Ecology, a course that introduces students to the roles that microorganisms play in the environment. And he taught Food Microbiology, a favorite course on the role of microbes in the production of cheese, beer, wine, bread, etc. In one of his more creative yet light-hearted efforts, he generated a teaching module dubbed "The Microbial Lava Lamp."

Tomasek's research was focused on the use of microorganisms for bioremediation to detoxify chemical waste. Bioremediation has the potential to improve the environment and reduce energy consumption.

Tomasek is survived by his wife and two children (9 and 11). His memorial service will be held at 12:00 noon on Saturday, 14 December at Forest Lawn of Hollywood Hills-Old North Church. A luncheon will follow at Calvary Bible Church's Multi-Purpose Room (1101 S. Main Street, Burbank, CA 91506).

NSF Graduate Fellow

Elizabeth Lenz has received a highly prestigious NSF GFRP award to support her Ph.D. studies, which will begin soon at the University of Hawaii.

New Publications

Anya Brown and Dr. **Robert Carpenter** have a paper out in *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, "Water-flow mediated oxygen dynamics within massive *Porites*-algal turf interactions."

Christopher Wall, TY Fan, and Dr. **Peter Edmunds** have a paper out in *Coral Reefs*, "Ocean acidification has no effect on thermal bleaching in the coral *Seriatopora caliendrum*."

Malone & Hosch: CSUN Mentors of the Year

Dr. **Cindy Malone** and Ms. **Parthenia Hosch** were recently recognized for excellence in mentoring by the University: they have each won the *Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Award*. This award is presented to faculty, staff, administrators, and/or students who have made exceptional contributions to mentoring at CSUN.

At the awards ceremony, Hosch had a few words for the assembly, and they came out so well that we are [HERE](#) sharing the recording.



Parthenia Hosch and her daughter Ana at the mentoring awards ceremony.

Malone, on the other hand, was uncharacteristically speechless! She was honored not only for the type of mentoring that most Biology professors throw themselves into—a one-on-one collaboration with a student who is working on a research project in one's lab—but also for her enormous work with students being trained on her stem cells grant and working in labs at UCLA. In addition, Malone was noted as a charismatic lecturer and guide to the

masses in Introductory Biology for non-majors (BIOL 100).

Alumni News

Chris Wall (MS '12) spent the spring teaching biology at Santa Monica College. He has now started a Ph.D. program at the University of Hawaii.

Georgina Aguilar-Portillo (MS '13) is now a part-time lecturer at College of the Canyons and Dr. Ray Hong's lab tech.

Veronika Rapoport (MS '13) is working at the biotech firm Entrogen.

Kristina Stott (B.S. '10; M.S. '12) is now employed at Fisher Thermo Scientific in Canoga Park.

K-12 Science Projects Published

Volume 18 of the *New Journal of Student Research Abstracts* has been issued. This publication is filled with abstracts of science projects that have been conducted by middle and high school students and their teachers. It is a source of ideas for future projects.

It is available on the [Web](#). For a paper copy, [email](#) the editor, Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer**.

If you have friends or relatives with middle school or high school students, the deadline for submission for next year's volume is 1 June 2014. Email [Oppenheimer](#).

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