



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 27 September 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “Breeding Ecology and Habitat Restoration for Seabirds Nesting on the Channel Islands”

Laurie Harvey  
California Institute for Environmental Studies

### Middle School Science Goes to China

Recently, Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer** served as master of ceremonies for President Harrison as she hosted middle school students who were the first place winners of the U.S.–China collaborative space flight program. The proposals were chosen by a scientific review team, led by Oppenheimer, which recommended proposals for a flight on a future Chinese space vehicle. President Harrison is going to China, where she will present the winning student proposals.

One winner proposed sending plant seeds into space to compare their germination rate with controls kept on Earth. The other winner proposed studying how water boils in space compared to controls on Earth.

The two teachers who mentored the winning students were Terri Miller (Holmes Middle School) and Stacy Tanaka (Portola Middle School). Both have had previous student work published in the *Journal of Student Research Abstracts*, which Oppenheimer edits.

The event was attended by about 20 reporters, as well as the students, their parents, and teachers. Oppenheimer noted that CSUN science programs are highly ranked by the NSF—we’re a great place for the next generation of scientists to go to college.

### Fishes, Amphibians, & Reptiles

Biology had a strong contingent at the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologist this July in Albuquerque, NM. Talks were given by:

- Dr. **Mia Adreani**, “Estimating fecundity, spawning frequency and growth rates of temperate reef fish; a comparison of natural and artificial rocky reefs”
- Dr. **Larry Allen**, “On the generic and species limits of *Polyprion* and *Stereolepis*”
- **Jeremiah Bautista**, “Reproductive biology of a severely depressed sport fish, the Barred Sand Bass from Southern California”
- **Matthew Dickson**, “Evolution on your porch: Rapid physiological adaptation by Mediterranean House Geckos to their introduced niches”

- **Holly Hawk**, “Age, growth and genetic diversity of Giant Sea Bass”
- **Corinne Paterson**, “The genetic diversity and population structure of Barred Sand Bass”
- **Brenton Spies**, “Temperature-mediated variation in larval traits of a seasonally closed estuary specialist fish: How much does latitude matter?”
- **Barbara Sanchez**, “Impact of organic pollutants on the growth and fecundity of Barred Sand Bass from Southern California”

Posters were given by:

- **Edwin Leung**, “The influence of El Niño-Southern Oscillation on cohort structure in White Seabass of Southern California”
- **Mark Oliva**, “Anthropogenic noise affects calling behavior in a bromeliad-dwelling treefrog”

Dr. **Larry Allen** was elected to serve as the 76<sup>th</sup> President of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He will serve as President-elect in 2014 and President in 2015.

## New Grant

Dr. **Polly Schiffman** and colleagues in CSUN's Anthropology and Geography departments along with others at the University of Nebraska have received a \$250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems Program) to fund two years of research on a new interdisciplinary project: “Coping with change: Water availability and rangeland management in the Eastern Sierra.”

## New Publication

Dr. **Dawn Vaughn** and coauthors have a new paper out in *Marine Biology*, “Sex-specific temperature dependence of foraging and growth of intertidal snails.”

## Alumni News

Dr. **Karoline Rostamiani** (MS 2005) finished a Ph.D. in Genetics, Cell and Molecular Biology/Neurogenetics from USC Medical School.

## Helping the Next Generation

Dr. **MariaElena Zavala** serves on the Minorities Affairs Committee of the American Society for Cell Biology. She was at their meeting in Chicago over the summer and participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows Career Development Workshop. This workshop was designed to provide information on publications, grant writing, mentoring, time management, professional development, lab management, and other topics critical for beginning scientists.

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