



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 4 April 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Experimental Studies of the Interaction Between Ecology and Evolution in a Natural Ecosystem”

David Reznick, Ph.D.
UC Riverside

Want to know more about the Marine Biology Program?

The Marine Biology Graduate Student Association is hosting a series of workshops. The next one is, “Preparing and Applying for Grad School.” Come learn about different types of grad programs, how to get research experience, how to apply, GREs, and how to get letters of recommendation that impact committee decisions at 5 pm on Thursday, 3 April in MG 4111. All undergraduates are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. For more info contact Justin Hackitt (jhackitt@hotmail.com).

New Publication

California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Reports has published a paper by **Holly Hawk** and Dr. **Larry Allen**, “Age and growth of the Giant Sea Bass, *Stereolepis gigas*.”

Drought Impacts Curriculum

Three straight years of extremely low rainfall in Southern California have far reaching effects. Biology courses that depend upon finding organisms, such as plants and insects, in wild habitats have been especially hard hit.

Without sufficient winter and spring moisture, seeds haven’t germinated and lots of species have failed to produce new leaves and flowers. There is even evidence of stress among native trees and shrubs, which can normally tolerate low levels of soil moisture.

“This means that there hasn’t been much for my Plant Ecology students to study this semester,” laments Dr. **Polly Schiffman**. “And without greenness, it’s difficult to turn students on to the magnificence of California’s plant diversity.”

January and February are typically the months during which Southern California gets the most rainfall. However, we have had only one significant period of storms this season

(in March), so the wildland vegetation still looks much the way it did in August. Dr. Schiffman's class celebrated the

March storm after encountering some remaining snow on Mt. Pinos last weekend (see class photo below).



Student's Poster Awarded

Recent CSUN graduate **Andrew Hill**, from the lab of Dr. **Cheryl Van Buskirk**, received an award for his poster at the Gordon Research Conference on *Sleep Regulation and Function*. His poster was titled, "Cellular stress induces a protective sleep response in *C. elegans*."

Women in STEM

Faculty in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Geology taught a workshop for Faculty Development on STEM research.

Grant-writing Coaches Announced

Drs. **Robert Espinoza** and **Michael Summers**, and other members of the College of Science and Mathematics faculty, were selected by CSUN's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects to mentor other faculty in grant writing this summer and/or fall. This program is part of a broader campus-wide effort to double extramural funding at CSUN.

Biosphere Break

No *Biosphere* next week: Enjoy Spring Break!

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