



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 28 February 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Cripto/GRP78 signaling in stem cells and cancer”

Peter Gray, Ph.D.
The Salk Institute

New Publication

Maggie Johnson, Vincent Moriarty, and Dr. **Robert Carpenter** have authored a new paper, “Acclimatization of the crustose coralline alga *Porolithon onkodes* to variable pCO₂.” It was published in *PLoS ONE*. Johnson, a former grad, is now in UCSD’s Scripps Ph.D. program.

New Funding for Edmunds Lab

The National Science Foundation funded Dr. **Peter Edmunds** \$469,000 for, “Three decades of coral reef community dynamics in St. John, USVI: 2014–2019.” This 5-year award will support Edmunds’ Virgin Island project, extending his annually collected ecological data to 32 years.

Sex: An Anthropological Interest

Anthropologist Dr. Gilbert Herdt will be speaking on Monday 3 March at 4 pm in the Northridge Room of the USU on, “From Ritual Sex to Sexual Individuality.”

Winners at Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

Biology students gave more presentations than students from any other department on campus at the annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium. The following students won awards. Many other Biology majors also presented—too many to cite here.

In the genetics session, **Catherine Soliva** won 1st place for “Two markers isolate the dual progenitor for the epithelium and stroma in the human endometrium,” and **Michelle Mojadidi** won 2nd for “Modifying globin gene expression by genome editing strategies in sickle cell disease.”

In ecology and evolution, **Alexander Johnson** won 1st place for “Effects of habitat fragmentation on rodent species richness in southern California,” **Katherine Gould** won 2nd for “How a beetle benefits from a plant’s defensive weapons,” and **Joseph Algiers** won 3rd for “Resisting invasion by *Carduus*

pycnocephalus in a wildland–urban interface zone.”

In cell biology, **Yvess Adamian** won 1st for “Analysis of the cytoskeletal-associated protein RAI14 as a new molecular target in pancreatic cancer,” and **Malachia Hoover** won 2nd for “Methods for rapid extraction of high-quality RNA from FFPE cancer tissue.”

In the marine session, **Michael Schram** won 1st for “Effects of simulated size-selective harvesting on a protogynous temperate reef fish, *Rhinogobiops nicholsii*,” **Nicolas Evensen** won 2nd for “Altered competitive interactions between corals in a high pCO₂ environment”; and **Alexandre Yarid** won 3rd for “Effects of increased pCO₂ on the response of massive *Porites* to damage.”

The poster session was competitive throughout the University, but with separate graduate and undergraduate winners. Biology majors did well. **Jamie Lee** and **Nicole Cassel** won a 1st place honor for “Determination of the SigG regulon in *Nostoc punctiforme* using ROMA.” **Corina Calderon** won a 2nd place honor for “Role of a small heat-shock protein in the development of *Nostoc punctiforme*.” And **Alina Adamian** won a 3rd place honor for “Promoter region Isolation and characterization of miRNA-155.”

Congratulations to all!

Alumni News

Dr. **Diego Sustaita** (BS '00, MS '05) recently defended his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut and is now a postdoctoral researcher in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Brown University.

Wowing Provosts Nationally

Dr. **Mary-Pat Stein** spoke to a group of provosts from state colleges across the country at the [AASCU's](#) Academic Affairs Meeting. She shared the stage with our Provost and our Senior Director of Academic Technology.

Stein first warmed up the audience with a game of iPad Jeopardy. Then she reported on progress to date on the use of iPads in Biology—demonstrating techniques for classroom engagement and sharing assessment results.

Provosts and other high administrators from around the country peppered the CSUN delegation with questions about the role of tablets in teaching and learning.

Student Wins Scholarship

Barbara Weiser (Steele Lab) has been awarded the Dr. Bob Luszczak, DDS Graduate Scholarship in Biology.

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