



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 7 November 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Cellular Dynamics of Allergic Immune Responses”

Christopher Allen, Ph.D.
Cardiovascular Research Institute
University of California, San Francisco

CSUN Closed Next Tuesday

Take a day off in honor of armistice and veterans. May peace proliferate throughout the globe.

Distinguished Speaker

On Friday, 7 November at 11 am in LO 1124, Dr. William Gelbart is to speak on “The Geometry and Physics of Viruses.” Gelbart is from Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCLA.

New Publications

Dr. Hong’s lab has a new paper out with the first four authors having been CSUN students: **Jessica Cinkornpumin, Dona Wisidagama, Veronika Rapoport, James Go,** Christoph Dieterich, Xiaoyue Wang, Ralf Sommer, and **Ray L. Hong**, “A host beetle pheromone regulates development and behavior in the nematode *Pristionchus pacificus*.” The article appears in the open-access journal *eLife*.

Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology has published, “Forced copulation as a conditional alternative strategy in camel crickets” by **Lauren Conroy** and Dr. **Dave Gray**.

Dr. **Michael Summers** and **Anantha Peramuna** had a paper published in *Archives of Microbiology*: “Composition and occurrence of lipid droplets in the cyanobacterium *Nostoc punctiforme*.” The paper was part of Peramuna’s MS thesis work and is the first to document a new type of suborganelle in cyanobacteria.

Grad Wins 1st Prize at SACNAS!

Grad student **Cassidy Adlof** won first prize for her oral presentation about her on-going MS research at the annual national conference of the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

SPRING OFFERINGS

Evolutionary Reasoning Fulfills GE Critical Thinking Requirement

The General Education requirement in Critical Thinking can be fulfilled by taking Evolutionary Reasoning (PHIL 225), T/TH 9:30–10:45 am.

This course is cotaught by a philosophy professor and Dr. **Paul Wilson** with many guest lectures. Evolutionary ideas will be applied to topics in anthropology, pop culture, and computer science. Students will dissect the arguments presented.

“This is the second time we’re teaching the course,” says Dr. Paul Wilson, “it’s a really slick way to teach students how to have thoughtful academic discussions. We’ll explore how evolution has affected how we think about many sorts of things.”

Grad Seminars for Spring 2015

Dr. **Sean Murray** will lead a seminar (BIOL 655A) on adaptive changes that bacteria make to survive starvation. These processes are important for survival in various environments, from residing in freshwater lakes to inside white blood cells. The seminar will meet on Wednesdays from 5–8 pm.

Dr. **Randy Cohen**’s seminar (BIOL 655E) on Tuesdays from 5–8 pm will examine the role of the nervous system in regulating animal behavior—“Neuroethology.” Says Cohen, “The course will emphasize more of the brain (i.e., the “cause”) and less of the behavior (the “effect”).” Topics will include: walking, swimming, feeding, learning, auditory and sonar use in vertebrates, visual and sound

communication in insects, learning in invertebrates and vertebrates, and the neural components of pain, pleasure, and stress.

Dr. **Casey terHorst**’s seminar in evolution (BIOL 615F) will focus on how species evolve in a community context. Theoretical and empirical papers will examine how to measure selection and evolution in natural communities composed of many species, how contemporary evolution may affect interactions among species, and how eco-evolutionary feedbacks affect communities. Meetings are Fridays from 11 am–2 pm.

Get Research Experience

Research experience is expected for admission to many professional schools. Most professors offer Undergraduate Research (BIOL 495) to a few handpicked students, but Dr. **Steven Oppenheimer** provides opportunities for the masses. If you are interested in spending a semester working with Dr. O, visit the Biology Office to submit the BIOL 495D form (designating Oppenheimer as the mentor).

Oppenheimer’s team often produces publications of statistically evaluated research that involves identifying agents potentially useful in controlling infection, cancer, and the clumping of bodily fluids.

Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Department of Biology

California State University, Northridge

Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza

[BACK ISSUES](#) | [JOBS, ETC.](#) | [GIVE TO BIOLOGY](#)