



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium is on winter break but will return next semester!

### Dick Potter will be Missed

Emeritus professor Dr. **Richard Potter** passed away on 12 November. Dick, as everyone knew him, joined the Biology faculty in 1961, just two years after this institution was created as San Fernando Valley State College. Until he retired in the mid-90s, he taught an array of physiology courses. But perhaps his greatest impact on the Department of Biology was the creation (together with Dr. **Daisy Kuhn**) of the Pre-Professional Advising Office, which was dedicated to supporting student applicants to medical, dental, and other health-related programs. Many students who eventually became medical professionals were positively affected. Dick was remarkable for his solid knowledge and good humor. The family asks that [donations](#) be made to the Department of Biology in lieu of flowers. Dick will be deeply missed by those who he worked with.

### New Publications

Dr. **Peter Edmunds** and colleagues have a new paper out in *Coral Reefs*: "Using demographic models to project the effects of climate change on scleractinian corals: *Pocillopora damicornis* as a case study."

Dr. **Casey terHorst** had a paper published in *American Naturalist*, "Rethinking niche evolution: experiments with natural communities of protozoa in pitcher plants."

### MS Thesis Defenses

**Mari Ekimyan Salvo** shall defend her master's thesis on Tuesday, 2 December at 11 am in CR 3219. Her title is, "Evolution of primordial glial cells and glial genes in invertebrates."

**Homa Hemmati** shall defend her master's thesis on Wednesday, 3 December at 12 noon in CR 5102. Her title is, "Analysis of an ethanol inducible promoter in *Escherichia coli* and tobacco for production of cellulase."

**Edward Holmes** shall be defending on Friday, 5 December at 11 am in CR 5433. His title is, "The effects of sugar alcohols on sea urchin gastrulation in low calcium seawater."

### Grad Student Funded

**Danielle Amoroso** was awarded \$3000 from the National Park Service's Southern California Research Learning Center's grant program. She is studying rarity in a group of succulents that has radiated in the California Floristic Province.

## Biosketch of a Donor

Emergency-room physician Dr. **Julie Gorchynski** has set up an endowment that will allow Biology to award a \$1000 graduate research grant from time to time. Dr. Gorchynski also funds smaller awards associated with honors given to Biology students who have accomplishments in cancer research or developmental biology. These honors are in five categories:

- An undergraduate who has published an exemplary abstract or article.
- A graduate student who has published an exemplary abstract or article.
- A K–12 teacher who has published an exemplary abstract or article.
- A graduating senior with promise in research and teaching.
- A graduating MS student with promise in research and teaching.

Knowing Dr. Gorchynski's background helps us understand her generosity. Gorchynski received two bachelor's degrees from CSUN, one in Public Health and another in Biology. She then went on to do a master's thesis with Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer**. During the master's program she taught biology labs.

Says Gorchynski, "My mentoring of students began during that time and continued through my medical training."

After obtaining her master's in 1987, Gorchynski went to medical school at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. Then she returned to California for specialty residency training in emergency medicine at Loma Linda University

Medical Center. From there she moved to UC Irvine Medical Center, and from there to Texas A&M and the San Antonio UT Health Science Centers.

"As Professor and then Research Director in emergency medicine, for the past 20 years, I have mentored hundreds of high school, undergraduate premedical and preprofessional health students, medical students, and residents."

Dr. Gorchynski has been an invited speaker for local, state, national, and international emergency medicine conferences. She has written numerous papers in medical journals, mainly about clinical research in emergency medicine. One recent publication was in collaboration with Biology alum **Eddie Karabidian**, now a student at the USC School of Dentistry.

"Many of the students I have mentored in the past 20 years have later entered into professional postgraduate training in medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, law, and Ph.D. programs."

*Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology*

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