



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 19 September 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### All the Hip Whales are Doing it: The Evolution of Pelvic Bones and Mating Strategies in Cetaceans

Jim Dines, Ph.D.  
Department of Mammalogy  
Natural History Museum of LA County

#### New Publications

Dr. **Casey terHorst** and colleagues have a new paper out in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*: "The relative importance of rapid evolution for plant-microbe interactions on ecological context."

Dr. **Peter Edmunds** and coauthors have a paper in *Marine Ecology Progress Series*: "Long-term changes in *Symbiodinium* communities in *Orbicella annularis* in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands."

#### NSF \$ Begets More NSF \$

Dr. **Peter Edmunds** been awarded a \$15,000 supplement to his NSF project "Ecology and functional biology of octocoral communities." This supplement paid for outreach activities with teachers at Viewpoint School and Calabasas High School. Three teachers worked with the Edmunds lab in the Virgin Islands. Students from Viewpoint took a weeklong field trip to St. John.

#### College Grad Fellows Announced

The College of Science and Mathematics supports a few graduate students each year via the *Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Research Promise*. This year, against considerable odds, all four are in Biology: **Shannon Bayliss**, **Tom Chen**, **Erica Holdridge**, and **Rachel Rhymer**.

#### Students Spend Summer at other Institutions

The following Biology students participated in summer research experiences elsewhere:

- **Brandon Griess**: NIH, National Institutes of Aging
- **Caroline Arellano-Garcia**: Harvard University, Stem Cell Institute
- **Thu Duong**: University of Minnesota
- **Jesus Fandino**: Brown University
- **Emaan Madany**: UC Los Angeles
- **Julien Pham**: MIRT, England

- **Mujahid Ryan**: University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- **Sigfrido Zimmermann**: Moorea, French Polynesia
- **Bryant Oliva**: UC Los Angeles

The time to apply for these programs varies, but deadlines run from mid-January to mid-March. The programs, which last from 8–10 weeks, typically provide air travel to and from the site, room, board, and a small stipend.

### Grad Wins Scholarship

Graduate student **Charlotte Messineo** won the Southern California Garden Club Scholarship.

### Presentations at Ichs & Herps Meeting

Biology had an excellent showing at the *Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists* in Chattanooga, TN:

- **Leah Jacobs**, **Andres Vega**, and Dr. **Jeanne Robertson** presented on, “Female mate choice in divergent populations of the Red-eyed Treefrog”
- **Mark Oliva** on, “Mate recognition and attraction in an Ecuadorian treefrog”
- **Stephanie Benseman** and Dr. **Larry Allen** on, “Distribution and growth estimates of young-of-the-year Giant Sea Bass off Southern California”
- **Parker House** and **Allen** on “Direct and indirect impacts of fishing on the trophic structure of kelp forest fishes off Southern California”
- **Edwin Leung** and **Allen** on, “The influence of environmental variation on year-class strength in White Seabass off Southern California.”
- **Corinne Paterson** spoke on, “The genetic diversity and population structure of Barred Sand Bass”
- Dr. **Chris Chabot** gave a poster and a talk, both about population genetics of Smoothhound Sharks. He presented a second poster with **Holly Hawk** and **Allen**, “Low genetic diversity and effective population size in the critically endangered Giant Sea Bass”
- **Jason Warner** and Dr. **Robert Espinoza** presented on, “Comparative cold-hardiness capacities of lizards living along an elevation gradient in Argentina”
- **Matthew Dickson** and others in **Espinoza’s** lab gave a talk, “Rapidly adapting to the neighborhood: physiological responses of Mediterranean House Geckos to their introduced climates”
- **Rachel Rhymer** and Drs. **Jeanne Robertson**, **Gilberto Flores**, and **Robert Espinoza** gave a talk, “Why do parents care? Testing the roles of maternal care in an Argentinean lizard”
- **Michael Schram** and Dr. **Mark Steele** presented on, “Effects of simulated size-selective harvesting on a protogynous temperate reef fish, *Rhinogobios nicholsii*”
- **Brenton Spies** and **Steele** on, “Effects of temperature and latitude on larvae traits of two estuarine fishes in differing estuary types”

#### *Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology*

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