Biology Colloquium: Friday, 24 October 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“The Language of Plants: From Research to Industry”

Ivette Guzman, Ph.D.
Vitality Works, Inc.
Albuquerque, NM

New Publications

Kylla Benes and Dr. Robert Carpenter have a paper out in Ecology: “Kelp canopy facilitates understory algal assemblage via competitive release during early stages of secondary succession.” Benes is now in the Ph.D. program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Irvine.

Dr. Peter Edmunds and co-authors have a new paper out in Marine Biology: “Molecular characterization of symbiotic algae in soritid foraminifera and a scleractinian coral from St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Biology and Open Archives

In an effort to make the products of scholarship widely available, the CSUN Faculty Senate approved an open-access resolution promoting free access to published works. Scholarworks is CSUN’s repository for peer-reviewed articles, preprints, graduate theses, newsletters (including Biosphere), presentations, and archival data sets.

Biology professors who have already placed documents in Scholarworks include Drs. David Bermudes, Maria Elena de Bellard, Steve Dudgeon, Ray Hong, Tim Karels, Steve Oppenheimer, Mark Steele, Mary-Pat Stein, Cheryl Van Buskirk, and Paul Wilson.

Those interested in depositing files to be available to the world for as long as CSUN stands should send a CV to librarian Andrew Weiss. The library does much of the work thereafter.

Biologists at Behavior Meetings

Students in Dr. Gray’s lab attended the 2014 Animal Behavior Society meetings.

- Lauren Conroy presented “Forced copulation as a conditional alternative strategy in camel crickets.”
- Mark Oliva presented “Executing the perfect call: mate recognition and attraction in the Executioner Treefrog.”
Pre-Tenure Seminar

Dr. Ernest Kwok is to speak on Monday 27 October 1:00 in Juniper Hall 1230: “New destinations for proteins in plant cells.”

Major Funding to Train Teachers

Dr. Gini Vandergon is the PI on an $874,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. This is a Noyce grant, which offers scholarships, workshops, and teaching assistantships to undergraduate and credential students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The goal is to produce high-quality middle and high school STEM teachers who are prepared to teach in high-need districts, like LAUSD.

Co-PI’s include Drs. Kellie Evans from Mathematics, and Brian Foley and Norm Herr from Secondary Education. The CSUN faculty aim to encourage students who are on the fence about teaching to try it out, with funding!

This represents a phase-II expansion on the lessons learned from an earlier Noyce grant. More focus will be placed on giving early field opportunities to undergraduate students, as well as continued support for first-year teachers who were Noyce scholars during their credential program.

Faculty give Invited Presentations

Dr. Peter Edmunds gave an invited plenary address at the Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium: “The role of ecophysiology in a warmer and more acidic world.”

Dr. Larry Allen gave an invited talk at CSU Fullerton: “Return of the giant sea bass off California.”

A CSUN Pedigree Produces

Eddie Karabidian, who did his Master’s thesis with Dr. Oppenheimer, had a paper published in The Journal of Emergency Medicine, coauthored by Julie Gorchynski, M.D. and Michael Sanchez, M.D. It is titled, “The syringe technique: a hands-free approach for the reduction of acute nontraumatic temporomandibular dislocations in the emergency department.”

While a student, Karabidian worked with Gorchynski, who is an alumna and one of the department’s top donors. Gorchynski also did her Master’s thesis with Oppenheimer. This is a chain of academic progeny making good.

Karabidian is now attending dental school at USC.

Marine Talks at Sustainability Day

Three marine biologists gave presentations paired with movie screenings at CSUN’s Sustainability Day:

• Dr. Peter Edmunds for “A sea of change” on climate change
• Dr. Larry Allen for “End of the Line” on overfishing
• Dr. Janet Kübler for “Bag It” on ocean pollution