



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 27 February 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“*Bacillus* as a Biological Control Agent Against Human Pathogens on Produce”

Julieta Aguilar, Ph.D.
UC San Diego

Women in Science next Monday

Join Women in Science at 11 am on 2 March (the first Monday of the month) in CR 5201. We'll be critiquing CVs and learning how to develop a professional web presence. To make the most of the meeting, bring questions, a current CV, and a LinkedIn or ResearchGate profile. Snacks will be provided.

For Prospective Teachers

Are you a Math, Science, or Engineering major? Have you thought about teaching K–12? CSUN Noyce Scholars is an NSF-funded scholarship program for students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The scholarships are for undergraduate senior STEM majors or for students who will be enrolling in the teaching credential program at CSUN. Scholarships are offered twice a year for up to \$6000 a semester. The deadline is Friday, 17 April. Visit the [Noyce website](#) for more information and an application. Interviews will be held

during the first two weeks of May. For more info, email Dr. [Virginia Vandergon](#).

Alumni Challenge Peers to Donate to Undergraduate Research Awards

Biology alums have established new awards, and the founders of these awards invite other Biology alums to “make a real difference in the academic life of current CSUN Biology students.”

Two of the new prizes will be awarded this year:

- \$500 Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology—Ecology, Evolution, Ethology, Systematics
- \$500 Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology—Cellular, Molecular, Physiological, Developmental Biology

However, continuation of these awards in subsequent years will depend on future contributions. To that end, an endowment has been set up so that, *with additional contributions*, The

Endowment for an Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology—Ecology, Evolution, Ethology, Systematics will be available in perpetuity.

Likewise, someone with deep pockets could create an alumni endowment for the prize in Cellular, Molecular, Physiological, Developmental Biology. [Hint, hint.]

To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check payable to “CSUN Foundation” specifying the award you wish to support. Mail to: College of Science and Mathematics, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8238. Or make a secure online donation at: givenow.csun.edu.

Winners at CSUN’s Symposium

At the 19th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, the following Biology students won 1st place in their session for talks:

- **Jennifer Smolenski**, “The effect of temperature on the calcification of *Porites rus* does not explain the distribution of its color morphotypes”
- **Carli Opland**, “Advancement of neural stem cell-derived culture maturity by the addition of chemical compounds”
- **Erica Holdridge**, “Effects of global change on the eco-evolutionary dynamics of species in carnivorous plant inquiline communities”
- **Richard Mansfield**, “Heat-induced sleep in *C. elegans* depends on a thermosensory circuit”

The 2nd place winners were:

- **Nicolas Evensen**, “The effects of ocean acidification on competitive

interactions among corals in a simulated coral community”

- **Courtney Button**, “Do sea hares improve seaweed growth?”
- **Sean Dunagan**, “Prey abundance and habitat occupancy of bobcats in an urban fragmented landscape”
- **Megan Agajanian**, “PEAK1 kinase controls TGFbeta response in breast cancer”

For posters, the winners were:

- **Joseph Long** 1st place for, “The characterization of endonuclease-induced chromosomal rearrangements at the beta- and delta-globin gene loci in human CD34+ hematopoietic stem cells”

Stefanie Kapucija 2nd place for, “Targeted metagenomic analysis of nitrogen cycle genes of native and cultivated prairie soils of the Midwestern United States”

- **Hannah Nelson** second place for, “Effects of coral mortality on reef invertebrate communities”

New Publication

Rigoberto Ramirez, Brian Espinoza, and Dr. **Ernest Kwok** have a paper in *Acta Histochemica*, “Identification of two novel type 1 peroxisomal targeting signals in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.”

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Department of Biology

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