



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 20 February 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Amphibian Population Declines: Invasive Diseases and Consequences for Global Salamander Biodiversity”

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Speed Mentoring with Alumni

This Wednesday, 18 March, in the East Conference Center of the USU, the Biology Alumni Association is holding its inaugural Speed Mentoring Event.

Ten mentors from a variety of fields related to biology will be at the event, and students will have the chance to meet with each one. Mentors will share their success stories and career path since graduating from CSUN, and students will have the opportunity to discuss their aspirations and strategies.

Registration is online:

www.csunalumni.com/biology and attendance is free to students and alumni.

Do not miss this chance to gain insight and career advice from professionals in veterinary medicine, dentistry, nursing, education, biotech, industrial microbiology, and genetics.

Meet-the-Researchers Potluck for Salty Undergrads

The Marine Biology Graduate Student Association frequently hosts workshops for undergrads. The next one is on Thursday, 18 March at 6 pm in MG 4111. It will be a “Meet the Researchers” series. **Stacey Hilborn** from Dr. **Steele**’s lab has volunteered to kick it off. Researchers can talk about the work that they do in an informal manner. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share.

Distinguished Visitor Hosted by BEER Group

This Friday’s speaker will be at CSUN for a few days.

On Wednesday at 12 noon in CR 5201—at the weekly BEER Group meeting—Dr. Karen Lips will lead a discussion on careers in conservation, public policy, and teaching.

On Thursday there will be a field trip to the desert. To participate in the trip,

email robert.e.espinoza@csun.edu.

New Publication

Dinesh Gupta, a graduate student from Dr. **Chhandak Basu**'s lab, and researchers from South Dakota State University are authors of a paper in the journal *Plant Signaling and Behavior*: "Biochemical analysis of 'kerosene tree' *Hymenaea courbaril* L. under heat stress."

Argentine Collaboration Funded

Dr. **Robert Espinoza** and his collaborator Dr. Eduardo Sanabria have received (£1500, ~\$2300) from the Linnean Society of London—Percy Sladen Memorial Fund, for "Cold-blooded strategies for life in cold climates: physiological adaptations of the world's highest elevation toad."

Why Judge Science Fairs?

—Nickte Mendez

Do you want to make a memorable impact on a young person's life? Do you want to share your love of science with today's youth? If so, you too could be a science fair judge.

I recently served as a judge for the Portola Middle School's Second Annual Science Fair. There were more than 100 students in 7th and 8th grade who participated in the fair. The judges consisted of scientists, engineers, and educators. The students presented short summaries of their projects to their judge and judges assigned a score based on the student's originality, presentation, and their ability to answer questions.

I volunteered for the entirety of the science fair and judged a total of 27 projects. Delight was on many student faces as they explained their projects and the inspiration behind them. Afterwards, students had a time to ask the judges questions.

Judging the science fair was a bit difficult because many students had great projects and answered questions well. Judging aside, I had fun interacting with the students (and did I mention the table full of goodies made for the judges?).

I would encourage those who are seeking an opportunity to make a positive impact on a young potential scientist to judge at a science fair. It'll be a rewarding experience.

Thesis Defense

Heather Hillard will defend on Friday, 20 March, 10:00 am in CR 5102. Her title is, "The role of *Sargassum pacificum* in ocean acidification effects on corals.

Dreamer Alumna to be a Dentist

Angie Celis (B.S. Cell and Molecular Biology '11) has been admitted to dental school at UC San Francisco. Celis came to the U.S. when she was two years old and qualifies under the new DACA rules.

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Department of Biology

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