



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 6 November 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Hairy Genomics: the Evolution of Metabolic Defenses in the Trichomes of Tomato and its Andean Relatives”

Robert Last, Ph.D.
Department of Plant Biology
Michigan State University

New Publication

Katherine Gould and Paul Wilson are the proud authors of, “Lack of evolution in a leaf beetle that lives on two contrasting host plants,” in *Ecology and Evolution*.

Winner of Faculty Development Award

Dr. **Kerry Cooper** is the winner of the Spring 2015 Faculty Development grant for probationary professors. Cooper and his colleagues are working toward understanding the transmission of certain types of *E. coli* that cause disease.

Schiffman on Sustainability

Dr. **Paula Schiffman's** invited presentation on “Backyard ecology in suburban Los Angeles” for CSUN's Sustainability Day program at the USU's Northridge Center attracted more than 200 students, faculty, and staff.

Portfolium Workshops

The University recently adopted Portfolium as our ePortfolio provider. ePortfolios are all the rage, a way to “show me your work” rather than just relying on a GPA and a résumé. In short, ePortfolio is just a really easy way to have a professional website.

We will host two Portfolium workshops in CR 5329:

- 12:30–1:15 pm Friday, 6 November
- 12–1 pm Wednesday, 18 November

Please bring a digital photo of yourself that would be easily recognizable (face shot, no sunglasses) and PDFs of papers and slideshows you've created, links to videos and photo albums, etc. Both undergrads and grad students are welcome.

Biologists attend Neuroscience Meetings

Biology was well represented at the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting. Members of Dr. **Lisa Banner's** lab presented two posters:

- “The role of TRPV4 in prediabetic obese peripheral nerve” was presented by **Christina Avoundjian** and **Benjamin Cooperman**.
- “Examining the effects of kale, arugula, and dandelion greens on memory in obese pre-diabetic C57BL/6 mice” was presented by **Bobby Tang**.

Members of Dr. **Randy Cohen's** lab presented two posters as well:

- “Evaluating the effectiveness of minocycline on reducing neurodegeneration in the spastic Han-Wistar rat, a model of ataxia” was presented by **Jackie Saenz**.
- “Chronic 17 β -estradiol therapy ameliorates progressive motor degeneration in the spastic Han-Wistar rat, a genetic model of ataxia” was presented by **Brandon Griess** and **Leah Streb**.

Park Service Guest Lecturers

Two of Biology's alumni, both now scientists with the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, will be giving presentations in Dr. **Polly Schiffman's** Conservation Biology class. On Thursday, 5 November, **Joanne Moriarty** (M.S. '06) will discuss ongoing projects involving local wildlife, particularly predators (bobcats and mountain lions). The following week, on Thursday, 12 November, **Joey Algiers** (M.S. '15) will talk about efforts to restore habitats that have been invaded by non-native plants. Both presentations will start at about 10:30 am. If you would like to attend but are not enrolled in BIOL 533, email Dr. Schiffman: paula.schiffman@csun.edu.

Grad Student Wins Scholarship from Associated Students

Nickie Cammisa has been awarded an Associated Students Scholarship (\$2000).

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Department of Biology

California State University, Northridge

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