



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 25 September 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Using Landscape Genetics and Genomics to Inform Conservation and Management in Southern California”

Amy Vandergast, Ph.D.
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Students Put Programming Skills to Work in Genomics

Forough Taghavifar and **Yasamine Modarresi**, graduate students in Dr. **Aïda Metzberg**'s lab, participated in the “Bruins in Genomics” workshop at UCLA this summer. They were very well prepared, having learned to program in Perl and in Python at CSUN in BIOL 551 (to be offered again next spring on MW 9 am–1 pm). One requirement for this workshop was to construct a poster describing their summer research project and Taghavifar and Modarresi won an award for this work.

New Publication

Oikos has published, “Intertidal community responses to field-based experimental warming,” by **Rebecca Kordas**, Dr. **Steve Dudgeon**, Stefan Storey, and Christopher Harley.

Garden Club Scholarships

Two local garden clubs have raised funds (though amazing effort) for student scholarships: **Toluca Lake Garden Club** has been funding students for some time, and now the **Sherman Oaks Garden Club** has established a scholarship. Awards will be made to students studying gardening, botany, etc. Details and application forms are on the [WEBSITE](#). Applications are due by 5 pm 2 October in the Department of Biology office.

Mandatory Spring Advisement for Freshmen and Sophomores

In an effort to identify students with potential academic problems early, Biology requires that all majors who have completed fewer than 60 units receive advisement before registering for spring classes. A registration hold has been placed on the records of such students, which can only be removed by an academic advisor.

The rules for freshman and sophomores and for those who have previously attended an advising workshop differ:

- **If you are a freshman** (≤ 29 units) **AND you are in your first year at CSUN** (you first attended classes at CSUN during the spring, summer, or fall semester of 2015), you should seek advisement in the College of Science and Mathematics Student Services Center/EOP office. To schedule an appointment, stop by Eucalyptus Hall 2126 or call: (818) 677-4558; walk-ins are not allowed. After your advisement session, the advisor will lift your registration hold. These advisors are in high demand, so schedule your appointment well in advance of your registration date.

- **If you are either a sophomore** (30–59 units) **or a freshman** (≤ 29 units) **in your second or later year at CSUN**, read parts A and B to determine what you must do to have your hold removed:

A. If you previously attended a workshop given by the Biology Advisors (Drs. Dole and Richardson) **or if you received credit for watching a workshop video and demonstrated that you understood the information by passing an exam**, you **MUST** schedule and attend a one-on-one advisement session with a Biology Advisor in CR 5104. (Advisors have a record of your workshop attendance.) After you have been advised, your registration hold will be lifted.

If you wish, you may attend a workshop again, **but attending a second time does not constitute advisement.**

To meet with an advisor, make an appointment on-line at:

<http://www.csun.edu/science-mathematics/biology/students>; phone or walk-in appointments are not allowed. Time slots fill quickly, and at this time of year wait times are commonly 2–3 weeks. Make your appointment early to avoid registration delays.

Arrive prepared or your appointment will be cancelled. Log into your My Academic Planner (MAP) and enter all the major *and* GE courses that you plan to take for the next **two semesters**. The advisement workshop you previously attended trained you to do this, but if you'd like a refresher, visit: <http://www.csun.edu/biosphere/bioadvic/e/> and watch the short video: *How to use My Academic Planner*.

B. If you have not yet attended an advisement workshop given by the Biology Advisors, you **MUST** register for and attend one this semester. At each workshop Drs. Dole and Richardson will discuss a variety of issues relevant to your academic success including:

- Differences between the BA and BS degrees;
- Biology BS options and what each entails;
- Courses, proper course sequencing, and prerequisites in the Biology core;
- Special programs available to Biology majors;
- How GPAs are calculated and why this should concern you;
- Key university policies that students must follow;
- Important tips for registration;
- Using your MAP and DPR (Degree Progress Report); and
- Tips for preparing for health professions.

Attendance for the full workshop constitutes advisement. If you arrive on time and stay for the entire presentation (1 hour, 15 minutes), your registration hold will be removed. Anything short of full attendance (i.e., arriving late or leaving early) will result in your hold not being lifted.

Only students attending a workshop for the **first time** will have their holds removed. If you attended a workshop previously, attending again does **NOT** constitute advisement. Instead, you **MUST** seek individual advisement with a Biology advisor (see section A above).

The schedule for the advisement workshops is listed below. To assure a seat at a workshop, you must register at: <http://moodle.csun.edu>. Click on “Lower Division Biology Advisement.” If you show up at a workshop without registering, we will accommodate you if seats are available.

If you do not see the Lower Division Biology Advisement option on your Moodle page and you are a Biology major, use the enrollment key “bioadvise” to register for the workshop.

Session	Location	Date	Start Time
1	CR 5125	M, 28 Sept.	5 PM
2	CR 5126	W, 30 Sept.	2 PM
3	CR 5117	Th, 1 Oct.	8 AM
4	CR 5125	Sa, 3 Oct.	9:30 AM
5	CR 5117	W, 7 Oct.	8 AM
6	CR 5126	Th, 8 Oct.	7 PM
7	CR 5126	F, 9 Oct.	12:30 PM
8	CR 5126	M, 12 Oct.	2 PM
9	CR 5126	W, 14 Oct.	5:30 PM

A 10th workshop will be offered in November; time and place to be determined.

Although we are offering many workshops at a variety of times, we understand that an occasional student may find it impossible to attend. Students unable to attend a workshop will be required to view an online video

of a workshop. However, **this option will not be available until the last of this year’s workshops has past** (by which time spring registration may have begun). To demonstrate that you have mastered the information provided in the workshop, **students who take the video option MUST also pass an exam on its contents.** The exam may be repeated, if necessary, but only after the video has been viewed again and after a 24-hour wait. In past years, about 50% of the students found it necessary to view the video and attempt the exam more than once to earn a passing score; questions are different on each repeat exam.

Students with unique questions or concerns are encouraged to make a one-on-one appointment with an advisor. All appointments are made online at <http://www.csun.edu/science-mathematics/biology/students>. Be aware, however, that during the class-registration period advisors are in great demand and wait times for an appointment can be long.

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