



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 9 October 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Contextual Factors Associated with Overweight and Obesity Prevention Among Rural and Minority Children”

Lisako McKyer, Ph.D.
School of Public Health
Texas A&M University

Graduate Students Supported

Maria Akopyan was awarded the Dr. Bob Luszczak, D.D.S. Graduate Scholarship in Biology.

Nicole Cammisa won a scholarship from the Southern California Garden Club.

A Productive Summer

Last summer Dr. **Polly Schiffman**, **Cassidy Adlof** (M.S. '15), anthropologist and geographer colleagues, and interns from the Bishop Paiute Reservation spent five weeks doing research in California's Owens Valley. They surveyed vegetation composition and light reflectance at 119 sites, complementing the 88 sites surveyed in 2014. The vegetation and reflectance data will be correlated and matched to 40+ years of land satellite reflectance signals to describe regional vegetation changes over recent decades.

At Ichs and Herps

Students from the labs of Drs. Allen and Espinoza presented at the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Reno, NV.

- **Matthew Dickson, Sigfrido Zimmermann, Tanja Wolfmeyer, Gillian Larson**, Heather Liwanag, and Dr. **Robert Espinoza**: “Evolution in your ‘hood: rapid continental spread and local adaptation of a successful invasive gecko.” Dickson, who finished his B.S. in spring, won 1st place for his presentation in the category of morphology and physiology (beating out many grad students).
- **Rachel Rhymer**, Dr. **Jeanne Robertson**, Dr. **Gilberto Flores**, and **Espinoza**: “Testing the benefits of maternal care in a viviparous lizard.” Rhymer was declared runner-up for her presentation against about 20 competitors, most of whom were Ph.D. students.

- **Stephanie Benseman:** “Distribution, growth estimates, and ecology of young-of-the-year of giant sea bass off Southern California.”
- **J.R. Clark:** “The reproductive behavior of giant sea bass.”
- **Parker House:** “The return of the king: giant sea bass reproductive population assessment off Santa Catalina Island.”
- **Calvin Won:** “Spatial characterization of barred sand bass spawning aggregations using active acoustic technology.”
- **Brian Peña** presented a poster: “Variation in age and growth of vermilion rockfish along the U.S. Pacific coast.”

New Publication

Conservation Genetics has published, “Developing a genetic baseline for the yellowtail amberjack species complex to assess and preserve variation in wild populations of these globally important aquaculture species,” by Catherine Purcell, Dr. **Chris Chabot**, Matthew Craig, **Natalie Martinez-Takeshita**, Dr. **Larry Allen**, and John Hyde.

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Department of Biology

California State University, Northridge

Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza

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