



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 23 October 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Preference Functions, Signal Evolution, and Speciation in Field Crickets”

David Gray, Ph.D.
Department of Biology
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New “Tree of Life” App

Tree of Life: Explore is an app developed for Biology students to learn, practice, and play with the phylogeny of living organisms. This pruned tree currently contains about 100 taxa and 50 synapomorphies. The app contains four target trees with a basic and a challenge mode. Dr. **Jeanne Robertson** and Professor Harry Greene (Cornell University) provided the content, inspired by teaching classes for undergraduates, like BIOL 106. The app was produced by Dr. Greg Mena and developed by Kyle Shaver of CSUN’s Faculty Technology Center. From your iPad or iPhone, [CLICK](#) to download.

Service to Students Awardee

Dr. **Cheryl Van Buskirk** won CSUN’s 2014–15 *Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Award*. She gets relief from a large lecture class to do as she sees fit involving students.

New Publications

Fisheries Research has published, “Low contemporary effective population size detected in the critically endangered giant sea bass due to fisheries overexploitation,” by Dr. **Chris Chabot, Holly Hawk, and Dr. Larry Allen**.

The *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* has published a paper by Dr. **David Gray, Nick Gutierrez, Tom Chen, Christina Gonzalez,** and colleagues, “Species divergence in field crickets: genetics, song, ecomorphology, and pre- and postzygotic isolation.”

Grant to Study Coral Oases

Dr. **Peter Edmunds, R. Gates** (U Hawaii), and I. Kuffner (USGS) have been funded to form a working group at the [Powell Center](#) in Fort Collins, Colorado. The project is titled, “Local-scale ecosystem resilience amid global-scale ocean change: the coral reef example.”

The \$159,000 grant funds a two-year effort to evaluate the physical and biological conditions favoring the occurrence of rare coral reef “oases”— i.e., coral reefs that thrive while others around them die. The funds will support two synthetic workshops and pay a postdoc for 15 months.

This grant will promote the careers of current and former CSUN students:

- **Hannah Nelson** (current)
- **Beth Lenz** (M.S. '14)
- Dr. **Hollie Putnam** (MS '08)
- Dr. **Robin Elahi** (MS '06)

Grad Student Awarded Grant

Gillian Larson won a Gaige Award (\$500) from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists to support her M.S. thesis research, “Climatic adaptation of an invasive gecko: rapid adaptive evolution or developmental plasticity?”

The Summers Lab Presents

Students **Arsalan Ali**, **Nicole Fuentes**, **Hunter Geiger**, and research associate **Jenevieve Polin** presented posters with Dr. **Mike Summers** at the American Society of Microbiologists meeting.

Associated Students Support Grad

Zoë Scott received a \$2000 scholarship from CSUN’s Associated Students.

Halfway to 10⁵ Views

Dr. **Paul Wilson**’s YouTube account just passed 50,000 views. Says Wilson, “Not stratospheric by cat-video standards, but not bad for an academic.”

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