



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 30 October 2015, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “Frozen in Time? Microbial Strategies for Survival in Ancient Permafrost”

Rachel Mackelprang, Ph.D.  
Department of Biology  
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#### New Publication

*Copeia* has published, “A tale of three tails: cryptic speciation in a globally distributed marine fish of the genus *Seriola*,” by **Natalie Martinez-Takeshita**, C. M. Purcell, Dr. **Chris Chabot**, M. T. Craig, **Corinne Paterson**, J. R. Hyde, and Dr. **Larry G. Allen**.

#### MARC Program’s Success Rate

For a quarter of a century, CSUN has hosted a program funded by the National Institutes of Health called *Minority Access to Research Careers*.

The students who have completed our MARC program, which trains undergrads for Ph.D. programs and ultimately research careers in the biomedical sciences, are well prepared for success. In fact, the students from our MARC program who go on to Ph.D. programs have a 90% completion rate. This is a fantastically high number. By comparison, only 56% of all Ph.D.

students in the US finish, according to the Council of Graduate Schools.

Our MARC program is run by Dr. **MariaElena Zavala**, who is also a recipient the U.S. Presidential Mentoring Award and CSUN’s Mentor Award.

#### Involving High Schools in Coral Research

Last summer, Dr. **Peter Edmunds** and his grad students took Viewpoint high schoolers and their teachers to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

They spent 10 days studying the pristine coral reefs at the Virgin Island Environmental Resource Station. This station is in a preserve that has not only reefs, but also mangrove swamps. Conditions at the station are no-frills natural.

Students helped with a study—now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year—monitoring the long-term changes in the coral community.

The trip was funded by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Teachers program.

## Salary Scales for Biology Grads

The University is studying the success of our alumni, an important complement to our obsession with improving graduation rates. The results are published [ONLINE](#).

Perhaps the happiest result for Biology majors is that the median CSUN alum from Biology who went on to professional or graduate school earned \$81,511 five years after finishing their education. Presumably, this number reflects the success of our students who go into the health professions.

The median student who stopped after a Biology bachelor's degree earned \$50,084 five years out.

For master's students the median student earned \$45,327 five years after the terminal degree. This lower wage may reflect pay rates for temporary college instructors, Ph.D. students, and post-docs.

## Grad Supported by Garden Club

**Nickie Cammisa** has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship from the Southern California Garden Club.

## Minigrants Available for Marine Undergrads—Apply by 15 Nov.

The CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) provides support for education, policy, and research related to marine, estuarine, and coastal regions aimed at promoting the public dissemination of knowledge gained to foster stewardship and sustainable use of our coast. To encourage research by undergraduates at CSUN, COAST has provided funds to support research with a COAST faculty

member. Selected students will be awarded \$500 to do research during the 2015-2016 academic year. The application process and requirements are given on the Biology [WEBSITE](#).

## New Genetics App

**Elite Gene Team** is an iPad app developed for upper-division Biology majors learning concepts surrounding genetic inheritance. The app contains three levels beginning with basic introductory concepts, then preparatory problem solving, and ultimately the ability to interpret the five extensions to Mendelian inheritance patterns. Hints are provided in the preparatory level, and students can review answers at each level. Students must repeat each level until they reach a mastery of at least 90% correct. Once students have conquered all levels, they will be part of the Elite Gene Team. Scientific content for the app was provided by Dr. **Cindy Malone**. The app was produced by Dr. Greg Mena and Regina Velasquez of CSUN's Faculty Technology Center. From your iPad or iPhone, [CLICK](#) to download.

## Alum in Pharmacy School

**Tanya Markary**, who conducted research in Dr. Summers's lab as an undergraduate, has entered Pharmacy School at USC.

### *Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology*

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