



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 2 November 2012, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Gene Therapy Using Hematopoietic Stem Cells”

Donald Kohn, M.D.
Department of Microbiology, UCLA

Visiting Scholar Lecture

Dr. Katell Guizien, a visiting professor from France, will be giving a special seminar: “Biodiversity protection and dispersal: application to the Gulf of Lions” on Wednesday, 31 October at 10:30 am. Dr. Guizien’s research is on larval connectivity in marine systems. The lecture will be in CR 5012.

Special Courses for Spring 2013

Practical Skills: Microscopy

This spring, Dr. **Ernie Kwok** will be teaching Biological Imaging with Lab (BIOL 575/L) (T/TH 8–11:45 am). The course is open to undergraduates and graduates who want to learn all the ins and outs of light microscopy.

Students will receive hands-on experience with brightfield, darkfield, phase contrast, differential interference, and fluorescence microscopy. They will also get to use the department’s new laser scanning confocal microscope. Other topics include basic optics, digital imaging, and image processing and analysis.

Full Immersion Research Experience

Dr. **Cheryl Van Buskirk**, lyricist in the Singing Biology Profs, shall be teaching BIOL 447/L T/TH 1–4:45 pm. Click on the [course website](#), and as you read the lyrics let them play to the tune of “*Ring of Fire*,” a la the late great Johnny Cash:

FIRE is the name; Full Immersion REsearch is the game.

In the spring I'm gonna teach, this lecture-lab, 2 units each.

This is no cookbook lab; it's new research—not prefab.

If BIOL 380's in your past, you've got the prereq for this class.

If elective credit you need to acquire, and neurogenetics is something you admire then you'll learn, learn, learn to take it higher when you take FIRE.

There's a lot that we can learn by studying the lowly worm.

300 neurons is enough to mate and sleep and stress about stuff.

To find genes that have a role in stress behavior is our goal.

We'll scan the genome for candidates; their expression we'll manipulate.

If a career in health professions you desire, research experience is something they'll admire. And you'll learn, learn, learn to take it higher when you take FIRE.



Trametes versicolor is a fungus native to the Los Angeles area and is used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Field Studies and Systematics: Biology of Fungi

Dr. **David Bermudes** will be teaching a new course on fungi. Biology of Fungi (BIOL 437/L/492V) will immerse students in the study of this important, yet poorly appreciated major taxon of eukaryotes. The course will combine a lecture and laboratory with observations in nature through local fieldtrips. The course will be taught T/TH in EH 2202 from 9 am–12:50 pm. This course can be taken to fulfill the systematics and field studies requirements of the B.A. It has a prerequisite of Principles of Microbiology.

Another New Publication from the Murray Lab

Alex Schredl, Yannet Perez Mora, Anabel Herrera, M.P. Cuajungco, and Dr. Sean Murray have a new paper out in the journal *Microbiology*: “The *Caulobacter crescentus* ctrA P1 promoter is essential for the coordination of cell cycle events that prevent the overinitiation of DNA replication.” Schredl was an undergraduate and then a graduate student in the Murray lab. He is currently a manager at Monsanto. Perez and Herrera were both undergraduates in the Murray lab. Cuajungco is a collaborator from CSU Fullerton.

Returning to Give a Guest Lecture

CSUN Biology alumna, Dr. **Irina Irvine** (2005 Cum Laude B.S. Environmental Biology and B.S. Biotechnology) will be speaking to Dr. Polly Schiffman's Conservation Biology class on Thursday 1 November at 3 pm. Irvine is a National Park Service restoration ecologist and her presentation will be about projects that she has been working on in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge
Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza
For past issues: www.csun.edu/biosphere
For job opportunities: csunbio.wordpress.com