



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

STUDY EFFECTIVELY AND DO WELL ON FINALS!

Guest Speaker in Conservation

CSUN Biology alumnus **Ray Hernandez** (B.S. Environmental Biology 2003, M.S. 2009) will be speaking to the Conservation Biology class on Thursday, 6 December at 3 pm in CR 5335. Hernandez works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will discuss some of the projects that he has been involved with. Interested people are invited to attend.

MS Thesis Defense

Christopher Wall shall be defending his thesis on Tuesday, 4 December at 11 am in MG 4111: "The effects of ocean acidification and temperature on the physiology of juvenile scleractinian corals." All are welcome to attend.

Pooling Data Online: New Funding for K–12 Teacher Training & Curriculum Creation

A team of profs from across campus has been granted \$100,000 under the proposal, "Engaging learners in the scientific and

engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with Computer Supported Collaborative Science (CSCS)." Dr. **Gini Vandergon** is responsible for the biology portion.

The team's strategy is to use what they call a "Computer Supported Collaborative Science Model" to improve scientific instruction in K–16 classrooms. The CSCS model uses collaborative cloud-based technologies to provide students the opportunity to collect and analyze large sets of data from multiple lab groups and class sections.

The CSCS model emphasizes scientific inquiry in an evidence-rich collaborative environment that stresses data interpretation, evaluation, and explanation. It replaces traditional "cookbook" verification activities with collaborative and engaging discovery-based activities.

The money will mainly go to providing professional development for in-service science teachers in the LA Unified School District and developing CSCS lessons.

More Ecologist Candidates

Two more job candidates are interviewing for the Field Ecology professorship. Their seminars will be at 8 am in CR 5125 as follows:

- **Dr. Margaret Metz** on Wednesday, 5 December, “Pathogens, global change, and the maintenance of forest diversity.”
- **Dr. Casey terHorst** on Monday, 10 December, “Ecology and evolution interact to shape species interactions.”

Students are encouraged to attend the talks. Additionally, there is an hour on each day when students can meet the candidate: 4:30–5:30 pm in CR 5102. Cookies served!

Those who wish to file an opinion with the search committee may email that opinion to Dr. **Paul Wilson** (paul.wilson@csun.edu) by 2 pm on Tuesday, 11 December.

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Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge
Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza
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