



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 12 September 2012, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Towards Finding the World’s Most Endangered Forest”

Tom Gillespie, Ph.D.
Department of Geography, UCLA

Seashell Display with Audio

Lareen Smith has assembled a gallery of local bivalves and gastropods with highly informative labels in the display cabinet between CR 5124 and 5125.

You can listen to audio that accompanies the display in the form of an interview between Smith and **Dr. Paul Wilson**. To access the audio, turn on Wi-Fi, press [HERE](#), and press on the picture of the *Norrisia* shell.

The display is expected to be used by students in classes such as Life in the Sea, Marine Biology, Plants & Animals of Southern California, and Field Ecology.

Thesis Defense

Tiffany Smith shall be defending her thesis Friday, 12 October at 12:30 pm in CR 5201. Her title is, “Involvement of rhamnose in sea urchin gastrulation: a live embryo assay.”

New Publications

Dr. Dave Gray and colleagues have a paper in *Zootaxa* that might interest those who buy crickets from pet stores to feed to their lizards, frogs, etc. The paper is about

the cricket species used in the pet-feeder cricket industry, including two species that are commercially reared in the U.S. illegally. One of them was a species new to science, which is given a formal name in the *Zootaxa* paper. Both illegally raised species are considered potentially invasive ecologically. The pet-feeder cricket industry sells about 50 million crickets per week in the U.S. and has been severely impacted by recent outbreaks of a cricket densovirus, which is also characterized in the paper.

Nick Colvard and **Dr. Peter Edmunds** have a new paper out in *Bulletin of Marine Sciences*: “Macroalgae on shallow tropical reefs reduce the availability of reflected light for use in coral photosynthesis.”

Edmunds Participates in Nation’s Ecological Working Groups

In May, **Dr. Peter Edmunds** attended a week-long workshop at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, in Panama, that focused on the status of coral reefs in the Caribbean. This effort is being led by world-renowned coral biologists Dr. Jeremy Jackson, and is funded by the *Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network*.

In late August, Edmunds co-organized a working group at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis to further address the topic of the *Coral Reefs of the Future*. This was a culminating effort of nearly two years duration. The meeting sought to better understand the physiology of corals that might function as “winners” in the future. The meeting was attended by nine participants, and included CSUN graduate student **Chris Wall** and CSUN postdoc **Dr. Lorenzo Bramanti**.

Obituary

Fiona Field, MS, the former Associate Director of our Genetic Counseling Program, died this summer. She was mourned by the entire genetic counseling community, including the CSUN-GCP alumni. She was employed as a genetic counselor at USC at the time of her death, and was formerly an employee of Cedar Sinai Medical Center. She had a long and distinguished career as a genetic counselor, she was a dedicated educator, and will be much missed.

Contacts for Clubs

- The CSUN *Biology Club* meets irregularly. For forthcoming meetings check out their Facebook page: CSUN Biology Club.
- The *Marine Biology Graduate Student Association* meets every Tuesday at 11 am in EH 2102B. For more info contact President Amy Briggs: amy.briggs.962@my.csun.edu
- The *Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution Reading Club* meets on Fridays at noon in CR 5336. Interested parties should contact President Camdilla Wirth: camdilla.wirth.956@my.csun.edu
- The American Medical Student Association is led by President Edgar Barillas: edgar.barillas.515@my.csun.edu

- The *Sickle Cell Awareness Organization* is led by President Jackie Kembie: jackie.kembi.221@my.csun.edu
- The *Microbiology Student Association* is led by President Jonathan Yarborough (csun.msa@gmail.com). Their website is sites.google.com/site/csunmsa/home, where you can check out forthcoming events.
- *Chicanos for Community Medicine*: csunccm@gmail.com
- *Phi Delta Epsilon* (a co-ed pre-med fraternity): phidecatheta@gmail.com
- *Pre-dental Club*: csunpdc@gmail.com
- *Pre-optometry Student Association*: csunPOSA@yahoo.com; www.facebook.com/POSA
- *Pre-pharmacy Club*: csunprepharmacy@gmail.com
- *Veterinarians of Tomorrow*: vetsoftomorrow@gmail.com
- *Student Organization for a Holistic Approach to Health and Leadership*: sohhlcsun@gmail.com

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