



# Biosphere

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

### Biology Colloquium

Friday April 28, 2-3pm, CR5125

Dr. Katrine Whiteson  
University of California, Irvine

*“If You Feed them, they will come”*

### New publications

**Edwin Leung** and **Dr. Larry Allen** recently published Edwin’s MS thesis work in a *California Fish and Game* article titled “Year-class strength predicts commercial catch 11 years later for white seabass, *Atractoscion nobilis*, off southern California”.

The journal *Copeia* also published **Dr. Allen**’s Presidential Address at the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), titled “GIANTS! Or...The Return of the Kelp Forest King”.

### Student-Faculty Research Collaboration Award

**Richard Rachman** and **Dr. Paula Schiffman** have been awarded the Outstanding Student-Faculty Research Collaboration Award. They will use dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) to investigate the cause of sagebrush mortality in Owens Valley, CA.

### Advocating for earlier science training

In a letter to the journal *Nature*, titled “Scientific methods: Teach children to spot fake facts”, **Dr. Steve Oppenheimer** advocates for introducing students to scientific thinking and methodology much earlier than college or graduate school. His letter has already prompted numerous science educators around the world to seek advice on implementing similar programs to the one that **Dr. Oppenheimer** and Nobel Laureate **Francis Crick** created decades ago to conduct properly executed research projects in middle schools. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has recently highlighted the program in the LAUSD [website](#).

In a related letter to the journal *Science*, titled “Science for Life”, **Dr. Oppenheimer** emphasized the value of training middle schoolers in using the scientific method as a way to improve their critical thinking skills and their ability to spot “fake news”.

## CSUN @ the March for Science

Last Saturday, many of our CSUN colleagues, classmates, family and friends attended the Los Angeles chapter of the **March For Science**.



Our own **Dr. Maria Elena Zavala** was one of the rally speakers at Pershing Square where she talked about “*The People’s Science: Working for the Betterment of All*”.