



# Biosphere

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

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### Biology Colloquium (Friday 2 PM in CR 5125)

Dr. Gregory B. Pauly

*National History Museum of Los Angeles County*

*“Reptile & Amphibian Discoveries from Southern California’s Citizen Scientist Army”*

### CSUN Biology Student Receives the President’s Leadership Award

**Roselva Merida** (Rose), a Cell and Molecular Biology major who was admitted to the Student Health Professionals Pre-Entry Program (SHP-PEP) in 2015, is the recipient of this year’s *Dianne Harrison Leadership Award*. Rose is a Producer with Associated Students and served as a New Student Orientation leader. *Congratulations Rose!*

### New Publications

*Oncotarget* published “A novel method for RNA extraction from FFPE samples reveals significant differences in biomarker expression between orthotopic and subcutaneous pancreatic cancer patient-derived xenografts”, by first co-authors **Malachia Hoover** and **Yvess Adamian** and supervision by **Dr. Jonathan Kelber**..

**Dr. Jeanne Robertson** and her group published two papers over the summer: L.R. Davis, K. Klonoski, H.L. Rutschow, K.J. Van Wijk, Q. Sun, M.M. Haribel, R.A. Saporito, E.B. Rosenblum, A. Vega, K.R. Zamudio and Dr. Robertson published “Host defense skin peptides vary with color pattern in the highly polymorphic red-eyed tree frog” in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*. Leah Jacobs, Vega, A., Dudgeon, S. Kaiser, K. Robertson, JM published “Local not vocal: assortative female choice in divergent populations of red-eyed treefrogs, *Agalychnis callidryas* (Hylidae: *Phyllomedusinae*)” in the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*.

**Dr. Maria Elena Zavala** co-authored an essay titled “Improving Underrepresented Minority Student Persistence in STEM” for *CBE – Life Sciences Education*.

**Dr. Casey terHorst** and postdoc **Dr. Peter Zee** published "Eco-evolutionary dynamics in plant-soil feedbacks" in *Functional Ecology*.

### **Biology Professor, a Role Model**

*Minority Access*, a non-profit organization committed to increasing diversity, decreasing disparities and reducing incidences of environmental injustices has accepted President Harrison's nomination of **Dr. Maria Elena Zavala** as a National Role Model.

### **The Robertson Lab on Tour**

The Robertson Lab attended and presented their research at two scientific meetings over the summer. At the *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists* in New Orleans, **Maria Akopyan** presented "Characterizing reproductive isolation across clinal populations of the red-eyed treefrog using population genomics"; **Nava, R** presented "Local Standard of Beauty: Non-clinal Assortative

Mating Along a Red-eyed Treefrog Cline"; **Leah Jacobs** presented "Sex In The Lab: Variation In Male Spermiation Response To Exogenous Hormones In Divergent Populations Of Red-Eyed Treefrogs" and **Rachel Rhymer** and **Maria Akopyan** presented "Life on the Rocks: Shallow Genetic Structure in a Narrowly Endemic Lizard from the Argentine Puna" from the Robertson and Espinoza labs. **Maria Akopyan** also presented "Interactive courtship behavior varies geographically in divergent populations of a Neotropical frog" at the *Evolution Meeting*.

### **Continued Support to RISE**

**Dr. Maria Zavala** and collaborators received \$1,765,109 to support the RISE program for another three years (2016-19).

### **The Richard Duenckel Garden Club Scholarship (application due by 5pm on Friday September 30)**

The Richard Duenckel Garden Club Scholarship Fund is searching for CSUN students interested in the study of plants (botany, horticulture, conservation, and related topics). The awardee will receive \$1,500 for fees and books, and will be expected to attend a meeting of the Richard Duenckel Garden Club to discuss his or her studies and projects.

For application requirements and coversheet [click here](#)

### **Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability 2016 Rapid Response Science Fellowship**

Research opportunities for graduate students from diverse academic disciplines and sociodemographic backgrounds. Selected Fellows will receive a stipend of \$5,000 and will be expected to present their contribution to the core mission and vision of the Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability in the Spring 2017.

**Applications due September 30** – results will be announced in October.

For full program details and application form [click here](#).