



Biosphere

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Professor, the new Jerome Richfield Scholar

Dr. Peter Edmuns has been named the *2017 Jerome Richfield Scholar*. The Jerome Richfield Memorial Fellowship, created for the late Dean Emeritus and Professor of Philosophy, is awarded each year to an outstanding faculty member engaged in high quality, high-impact research in the arts, sciences or humanities.

CSUN Master's Student awarded among doctoral students

Malachia Hoover, a graduate student in **Dr. Jonathan Kelber's** lab, won second place in the Graduate Student division of the Minority Affairs Committee's poster competition at the Annual American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Meeting. Malachia's poster "Identification of a Novel Cripto/Myosin II Interaction that Promotes Stem Cell Mediated Tissue Regeneration" was chosen among hundreds, of which the majority in the graduate division were authored by PhD students.

Strengthening Local Science Education

The San Fernando Valley Science Project has received an additional \$70,000 grant, totaling over \$1.2M for this project. **Dr. Virginia Vandergon**, the Principal Investigator on the project, and several colleagues across CSUN (**Dr. Matthew d'Alessio** from Geology, **Dr. Dorothy Nguyen-Graff** from Chemistry and **Drs. Brain Foley** and **Norm Herr** from Secondary Education) offer Professional Development opportunities to LAUSD teachers to use technology for science teaching during summer institutes and academic year follow-ups.

In a parallel effort led by **Dean Ramesh** of the College of Engineering, **Dr. Vandergon** is also part of a team that just received the Hispanic-Serving Institution grant from the US Department of Education for approximately 5 million dollars over the next five years. **Drs. Vandergon** and **Kellie Evans** from the Math department, are piloting innovative calculus labs that incorporate real life applications in science and engineering, so that students see the purpose of the math that they are learning for their futures. If successful at CSUN, the project will be expanded to local community colleges.

Microbiology Seminar

Dr. Summers will offer a Microbiology Seminar in the Spring, focused on prokaryotic gene regulation and tools available for its study. Through the analysis of the primary literature, students will explore DNA binding proteins, and gene regulation activators, repressors, sigma factors, DNA supercoiling, bending and methylation, transcriptional termination, antisense RNA, translational control and CRISPR systems. At the end of the course, students will have gained an understanding of these regulatory strategies, the techniques used to characterize them, and their use to create a molecular toolbox for molecular genetics.

Scholarships and Awards

An NSF program at UC Riverside offers over a dozen full 5-year PhD fellowships to study in the emerging field of Computational Entomology. Apply by **January 20** for priority consideration.

Visit the [UCR NICE](#) website for more information.

The California Garden Clubs, Inc (CGCI) offers two one-year scholarships (\$2,000) for juniors, seniors and graduate students (GPA 3.25 or higher) in the fields of Botany, Conservation, Plant Pathology, Environmental Concerns and several other related subjects.

Visit californiagardenclubs.com for more information.