



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 16 September 2011, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “From Species’ Traits to Biodiversity: Links between Functional Biology and Community Structure”

Sarah Kimball, Ph.D.

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona

#### Returning Star

One of our own alumni, **Dr. Sarah Kimball** will be this week's Biology Colloquium speaker.

Kimball was a grad student with **Dr. Polly Schiffman** and completed her M.S. in 2001. For her thesis she conducted a 3-year field experiment assessing how herbivory affects native and non-native plants in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. That work was published in *Conservation Biology*.

After CSUN, she went on to earn her Ph.D. at UC Irvine. Her dissertation was on the evolutionary ecology of Sierra Nevada penstemons. She then did a postdoc at the University of Arizona, which involved studying relationships between life-history traits and community ecology in desert annual plants. About a month ago Kimball returned to UCI as the new program coordinator for their Center for the Environment.

Kimball has published her research in several high-profile journals including *Journal of Biogeography*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Oecologia*, *Global Change Biology*, *American Journal of Botany*, *New Phytologist*, and *Oikos*. The achievements of such former students should gratify us all!

#### Admission to Professional Schools

—Dr. Terri Richardson

Here are the acceptance statistics for CSUN students who applied to health profession schools during the 2010–11 application cycle.

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**—17 undergrads applied and nine were accepted (52%); 11 postbac students applied and seven were accepted (63%). The national average of students accepted last year was 44%. The medical schools our students were accepted to are USC, UCLA, Meharry, U of Hawaii, U of Louisville, SUNY Upstate, George Washington, Creighton, Medical College of Wisconsin, U of Illinois, Chicago, Cornell, Loma Linda, U of Puerto Rico, U of Virginia, Touro University of Osteopathic Medicine, Ross University, and Michigan State School of Osteopathic Medicine.

**DENTAL SCHOOL**—24 undergrads applied and 12 were accepted (50%); 3 postbac students applied and one was accepted (33%). The national average of students accepted to dental school last year was 41%.

**PHARMACY SCHOOL**—23 undergrads applied and seven were accepted (30%);

one postbac applied but was not accepted. The national average of students accepted to pharmacy school last year is not known. Pharmacy schools that students were accepted to are UC San Diego, Western University, Loma Linda, University of the Pacific, and USC. While the pharmacy school data may seem a little disheartening, unless students return to tell me of an acceptance, my data are incomplete. In the case of medical and dental school, there are advisor databases where I can keep track of our students' progress in the application cycle. On the bright side, I have recently discovered that the Pharmacy College Application Service discloses matriculation information after each school year begins. Therefore, data are now complete on our students that gained acceptance to pharmacy school in fall 2010: 45 undergrads applied and 26 were accepted (57%); seven postbacs applied and three were accepted (42%). Schools our students were accepted to in fall 2010 are: USC, UCSF, Western, Loma Linda, Temple, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, California Northstate College of Pharmacy, Pacific University (Oregon), Touro University, Midwestern University (AZ), and Harding University.

**OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS**—One of our students was accepted to the Loma Linda University Physician Assistant program, and one was accepted into the Azusa Pacific Master of Science in Nursing Program.

I wish to thank all of the faculty who supported these students and helped them realize their dreams.

### Experimental Biology Meetings

The **Oppenheimer** lab had an excellent showing at this year's Experimental Biology meetings in Washington, D.C.

- **Danielle Robinson** presented "Anti-infection drug testing model; part 1, L-arginine" with coauthors Robinson, Dreyfuss, Zem, and Dr. Oppenheimer.
- K–12 teacher associate **Greg Zem** presented "Anti-infection drug testing model; L-arginine, part 2" with coauthors Dreyfuss, Yaghoobian, Robinson, Yakhszyan, Bokal, Muradyan, Sarkissian, Mesrkhani, Qubrosi, Zadori, Dzhambazian, Voskanyan, Bogan, Aleksanyan, and Dr. Oppenheimer
- **Hamid Davoudi** presented twice: "Lectin effects on microdissected cellular interactions" and "Sugar effects on microdissected cellular interactions" both coauthored with **Dr. Coyle-Thompson** and Dr. Oppenheimer.
- **Forooze Rashidi** presented "Quantitative drug testing model using living sea urchin embryos" coauthored with Yaghoobian and Dr. Oppenheimer.

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