



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 30 September 2011, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Genes and gene regulation involved in cyanobacterial spore formation”

—our own—

Michael L. Summers, Ph.D.

Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge

Free Tutoring

Tutoring is available for the large-enrollment courses commonly taken by Biology majors, like BIOL 107, 281, 360, etc., CHEM 101, 102, 333, 334, and PHYS 100A & B. This service is paid for through your campus quality fee and grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Grad student tutors are available in LO 1327 many hours of the week. Individual tutors are experts in different topics and courses. Check the door for details, which change from time to time.

Of course, professors are also available during their office hours, and you shouldn't be afraid to get your info from the horse's mouth!

New Publication

Oecologia has published “Benchmarks in organism performance and their use in comparative analyses” by **Dr. Peter Edmunds**, **Hollie Putnam**, R. Nisbet, and E. Muller.

Oppenheimer's Letter to the Editor

In early June, the *L.A. Times* ran a Sunday editorial critical of Cal State professors for doing too much research and

neglecting their teaching obligation. Our **Dr. Steve Oppenheimer** responded on 19 June, and the *Times* ran his letter under the headline “University's Purpose.”

The letter said that student involvement in research is perhaps the best form of real-world teaching and has resulted in the National Science Foundation ranking CSUN in the top five out of more than 500 similar universities in having its graduates go on to earn doctoral degrees in the sciences and social sciences.

The letter received many accolades, and CSUPERB invited Oppenheimer to give its keynote address this coming January at its 24th Biotechnology Symposium, recognizing his mentoring of a very large number of undergraduate research students.

Students Receive Awards & Research Funds

Daniel Ybarra won the Leslie Family Scholarship administered by the Department of Biology.

Lena Coleman received the Toluca Lake Garden Club scholarship (\$1500), and **Erin Avina** received a Southern California Garden Club Scholarship (\$1000).

Jennifer Gowan, Jason Warner, and Dona Wisidagama received Peter Bellinger Research grants (\$400 each).

The 2011–12 recipients of the Graduate Fellowships for Outstanding Research Promise in Science and Mathematics given out by the college were all Biologists: **Greg Avellis, Christopher Nosala, Jesse Tootell, and Jason Warner.**

MEDECOS Conference

The Schiffman and Wilson labs participated in the 12th conference on Mediterranean ecosystems and presented two talks:

- “Bryophytes from the Mediterranean climate to the high country in California” by **Lena Coleman and Dr. Paul Wilson.**
- “No Allee effects in Lyon’s *Pentachaeta*, a federally listed endangered sunflower” by **Jocelyn Holt** with Wilson and **Dr. Christy Brigham.**

New Researchers Team Up to Study Ocean Acidification

Two new researchers are on campus working with **Drs. Edmunds and Carpenter** on ocean acidification. **Dr. Steeve Comeau** is a new post-doc who comes to us from the Laboratoire d’Océanographique de Villefranche, where he studied the effects of ocean acidification on pteropods in the Arctic. He shall continue to study ocean acidification but now as it affects reef corals in Moorea. **Nate Spindel** is a new lab technician who shall also be working on ocean acidification. He received his B.S. from UC Santa Barbara and most recently worked as a technician on the marine mitigation project offshore of the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station.

Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge
Editors: Paul Wilson, Robert Espinoza
For past issues: www.csun.edu/biology