



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 21 October 2011, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### "Ecological Restoration in California's National Parks"

David Grabner, Ph.D.

National Park Service, Three Rivers, CA

#### Sophomore & Freshman Advisement Holds

To head off problems early in a student's passage, the Department requires that all Biology majors who have completed fewer than 60 units receive advisement. A "hold" has been placed on all such students' records and must be removed before they can register for classes.

**If you are a freshman (<30 units),** individualized advisement is mandatory. Call 818-677-4558 to make an appointment with the College of Science and Mathematics Student Services Center-EOP Office (EH 2126). Freshmen are welcome to attend a group workshop shown below if there is sufficient room to accommodate them.

**If you are a sophomore (30–59 units), you have two choices:** (i) *Attend a group workshop*—At the workshops, advisors will discuss a variety of issues relevant to academic success. Sophomores who arrive at a workshop on time and stay for the entire presentation will have their registration holds removed. (ii) *Meet individually with an advisor*—As in the past, sophomores may have a one-on-one session at the Biology Advisement Center

(CR 5104). Such advisement is on a walk-in basis. To facilitate the process, follow the instructions at:

[www.csun.edu/biology/advisement/hold.htm](http://www.csun.edu/biology/advisement/hold.htm)  
prior to your advisement.

**Advisement workshops.** You may attend one of five workshops:

- Mon, 24 Oct; 9:30–10:45 am, MZ 130
- Tues, 25 Oct; 6–7:15 pm, CR 5126
- Wed, 26 Oct; 12:30–1:45 pm, JD 3520
- Fri, 28 Oct; 9–10:15 am, SH 120
- Sat, 29 Oct; 9–10:15 am, CR 5126

Sophomores may reserve a seat by signing a reservation sheet in CR 5104. Others may crash a workshop if there are extra seats.

Workshops will explain:

- The various B.A. and B.S. options;
- Requirements, course sequences, and prerequisites;
- Special programs available to Biology majors;
- How GPAs are calculated, and why you need to know;
- How to use My Academic Planner and read your Degree Progress Report;
- The ins and outs of preparing for one of the health professions.

## Guest Speaker for Students Interested in Conservation

U.S. Forest Service ecologist and CSUN adjunct professor **Dr. Craig Rudolph** will be speaking to the Conservation Biology class on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in CR 5335. The lecture is open to all. Dr. Rudolph has conducted conservation-related research on a wide variety of rare birds, snakes, and butterflies including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Jamaican Boa, and Great Spangled Fritillary. His presentation will address how fire management affects populations of forest species in the southeastern U.S.

## NSF Supports Edmunds & K-16 Teachers & Students to Study Corals

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$10,000 for *Research Experience for Teachers* to support Mr. Dan McDonall, of Sun Valley High School, to work with **Dr. Peter Edmunds** in Moorea. This grant will be used to support outreach activities focused on the effects of ocean acidification on corals. McDonall will be working with the polyp lab in Moorea, and the polyp lab will be working with his high school students.

Also from NSF, a \$25,000 *Research Opportunity Award* has been granted to support Dr. Garen Bagdasarian of Santa Monica College, who will work with the polyp lab in Taiwan. This is attached to a grant to study the effects of climate change on coral larvae, and it will be used to further the polyp lab's research efforts and to develop ties and exchanges between Santa Monica College and CSUN, in the context of international collaboration between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Again from NSF, the *Research Experience for Teachers* program has granted \$25,000 to support teachers at

Viewpoint School to develop marine biology activities focused on invertebrate settlement in the Caribbean and Santa Catalina Island. As part of this effort, two teachers, Mr. Craig Didden and Ms. Katrina Fuller, and nine students from Viewpoint School traveled to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands to participate in research activities this past summer.

## Evolution Meetings

This summer a Department of Biology contingent attended the annual meetings of the *Society for the Study of Evolution*. Two posters were presented:

- **Ekaterina Kovacheva** and **Dr. Virginia Vandergon** on "Evolution of anthocyanin synthase in Hawaiian silverswords and California tarweeds"
- **Christian Rodriguez**, **Brett Smith**, and Vandergon on "Gene duplication of chalcone synthase in Hawaiian silverswords and California tarweeds"

**Dr. Paul Wilson's** lab was there too, but only to listen.

## Oppenheimer in D.C.

This month **Dr. Steve Oppenheimer** is serving on a National Science Foundation panel. The panel will be judging nominations for the *Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring*. CSUN generally, and the Department of Biology in particular, are remarkable in that we have had two winners of this award: Oppenheimer and **Dr. MariaElena Zavala**.

***Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology***

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For past issues: [www.csun.edu/biosphere](http://www.csun.edu/biosphere)