



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 28 October 2011, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Coral Reef Ecosystems from Darwin to the Beatles: Corals get by with a little help from their friends”

Andrew Brooks, Ph.D.

Department of Biology, UC Santa Barbara

Alum to Speak, now at Nat'l Park

National Park Service restoration ecologist **Dr. Irina Irvine** will be speaking to **Dr. Polly Shiffman's** Conservation Biology class on Thursday 27 October. Irvine earned her B.S. in Environmental Biology at CSUN in 2005 and went on to U.C. Irvine to earn her doctorate. Her presentation will address habitat restoration projects that she is currently spearheading in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. If you would like to attend, her presentation will begin at about 3:15 pm in CR 5335.

New High-Profile Publication

An illustrious group of marine biologists has recently published an article in the lead journal *Public Library of Science One*: “Connectivity and ecosystem resilience: Response of a coral reef to a large-scale perturbation.” Our **Drs. Peter Edmunds** and **Robert Carpenter** are among the authors.

Vandergon's New Grants Support LAUSD Teachers & Students

In the past few months, **Dr. Gini Vandergon** has received several education grants.

- 125 new laptops and tablets supplied by Hewlett-Packard for use with our CSUN classes and LA Unified School District teachers.
- \$9700 from the 3M company to expand the number of teachers that can participate in our teacher professional development program. The College of Science and Mathematics Director of Development, **Barb Caganich** helped secure these funds.
- \$210,000 from California State Subject Matter Projects for our *Computer Supported Collaborative Science* project.
- \$20,000 from Google to disseminate the use of technology in science teaching.

By the way, don't be alarmed if you see short persons roaming the halls of Chaparral. No, the students are not getting younger here at CSUN, rather the *Tomorrow's Scientist* program has begun. Vandergon's BIOL 102 students are designing and implementing fun science-based activities for an after-school program for local 7th graders.

Students & Faculty Present at Benthic Ecology Meetings

CSUN marine biologists, both past and present, delivered eight presentations at the Benthic Ecology meetings in Mobile, Alabama:

- **Maggie Johnson:** “Elevated pCO₂ and temperature decrease calcification and increase susceptibility to grazing in the crustose coralline alga *Hydrolithon onkodes*.” She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.
- **Stella Swanson:** “Species-specific effects of echinoids on coral reefs.” She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, UC Santa Barbara.
- **Cait Cameron:** “The effects of simulated fish predation varying in type of damage and number of lesions on the growth of small corals in Moorea.” She is currently a Coral reef technician for NOAA and the University of Miami.
- **Nick Colvard:** “Changes in macroalgal cover influences the light microenvironment on tropical reefs.” He is now in a Ph.D. program at the University of South Carolina.
- **Lareen Smith:** “Hydromechanical and oxygen-dependent regulation of colony form in hydrozoans.”
- **Anya Brown:** “Flow-mediated outcomes of coral–algal competition.”
- **Jenny Gowan:** “Coral–algal interactions along sedimentation gradients.” She received 3rd place in the Student Presentation Awards.
- **Dr. Steve Dudgeon:** “Mussels in patches and under canopies: variability in patch size-dependent rates of predation.”

Oppenheimer Talks Cancer to Campus Group

Dr. Steve Oppenheimer delivered the culminating address at an event last week. His topic was “Cancer Biology and Prevention.” The University Student Union’s Grand Salon was full. The talk was part of the *Stop Cancer Drive* sponsored by the United Sorority Fraternity Council.

BEER Club

The *Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution Reading Club* provides a forum for discussing the literature and project ideas in the fields of behavior, ecology, and evolution. All students and faculty with an interest in these areas are encouraged to attend. BEER Club meets Fridays at 11 AM in CR 5336. Pizza and drinks are available for a small charge and proceeds benefit BEER Club (sponsoring guest speakers, funding student travel, etc.). For more information, or if you’d like to be placed on the BEER Club listserve, contact **Dr. Dave Gray** (dave.gray@csun.edu).

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