



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 4 May 2012, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “How to Make a Hematopoietic Stem Cell”

Hanna Mikkola, Ph.D.

Department of MCDB, UCLA

### New Publication

**Jolene Moroney, Dr. Paula Schiffman, and Dr. Christy Brigham** have a new paper in *Madroño*, “Invasive European annual plants impact a rare endemic sunflower.” The work was part of Moroney’s Master’s Thesis.

### Teacher & Students Present at Experimental Biology

A poster, “Quantitative Assay for evaluating anti-clumping reagents” was presented by K–12 teacher Greg Zem and student Adam Sabbaugh and co-authored by **Dr. Steven Oppenheimer** and 27 of his students.

### Marine Grad Receives Grants

**Michael Schram** received two grants to support his research on “The effects of size-selective harvesting on an unexploited protogynous temperate reef fish, *Rhinogobiops nicholsii*.” A *Sigma Xi* Grant-in-Aid yielded \$800 and a Memorial Award from CSUN’s *Association of Retired Faculty* yielded \$1500.

### Sigma Xi Student Symposium

CSUN’s chapter of *Sigma Xi*, the Scientific Research Society, recently held its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Student Research Symposium. Biology had another strong showing and several of our students were awarded prizes for their talks: **Joseph Aldahl, Jessica Cinkornpumin, Matthew Dickson, Ivan Dimov, Mari Gasparyan (1<sup>st</sup> Place, Undergrad), Armin Hojjat, Sarah Imam, Joshua Kaiser, Fadi Kandarian, Tasneem Koleilat (1<sup>st</sup> Place, Grad), Mary Kombazdjian, Alissa Luken, Christopher Nosala (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Grad), Ruslan Nuyyev, Scott Reichelderfer, Anu Sadhu, Jacquelyn Souders, Daniel Sivalingam (3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Undergrad), Lynnea Waters, Beck Wehrle (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Grad), and Shahab Younesi.**

### Citizen Science

**Dr. Robert Espinoza** co-led a hike at Malibu Creek State Park for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County as part of the *Lost Lizards of Los Angeles* citizen-science program. Twenty-five museum members, aged 4 to 64,

encountered four species of lizards, two species of frogs, and three species of snakes, including three rattlesnakes.



## Committee Work Yesterday & Tomorrow, White-House Lawn Today

—MariaElena Zavala

I'm on various committees with the *American Society of Plant Biologists* (ASPB). At our March executive committee meeting it was announced that we were invited to participate in the *White House Easter Egg Roll* (WHEER). As I was to serve on a panel at the NSF on the Wednesday before Easter, I volunteered myself, my husband Jim, and our daughter Daniela.

We woke up at 4:15 am to get to the gate by 5:15 am, where we were given our green "talent" bracelets and allowed in. It was cold. We could hear an early morning basketball game. We could not see who was behind a certain barrier, but the voice sounded familiar.

We were stationed right next to the First Lady's veggie garden. The children and their parents came into the garden in waves, several thousand over the course of the day. At the ASPB booth, the children made Lilliputian garden necklaces. Seeds were sown in small cups, moistened, and a transparent lid with ribbon attached was placed over the germination chamber. Children were given a chart to record the growth of their seedlings and instructions for their care.

At mid-morning the President and the First Lady greeted their guests from the White House. After a short while, the First Lady arrived at demo kitchen where we were standing. Daniela had a great spot for taking pictures, and when the cooking demonstration was completed, Mrs. Obama came down from the stage and shook Daniela's hand. Happy Easter.

As part of my responsibilities for the ASPB, I spearhead the evaluation of travel award applications. This year there were nearly 200, and the committee did a fine job getting all of this reading done on time. We are also planning an outreach meeting for tribal colleges in late September. We will use as the template the successful meeting that we held last spring at Cal Poly Pomona. I am also working on a session proposal for the annual meeting of the ASPB and arranging our luncheon speaker.

I also serve on the Minority Affairs Committee of the *American Society for Cell Biology*. On that committee I chair the Linkage Fellows program. That program provides support to faculty to conduct outreach activities at their institutions. The activities are as varied as the institutions supported, which include community colleges, urban and rural colleges, and universities.

I have helped to propose sessions at the upcoming annual conferences of SACNAS and of the ABRCMS. I continue to serve on the Finance Committee for SACNAS.

I served on a review panel for the Ford Foundation Fellowships program administered by the National Academies of Science in early March. We evaluated pre-doctoral, dissertation and post-doctoral applications. I am serving on a Ford Foundation Fellows committee that will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program. In addition, I am serving on the committee that is planning the annual Ford Fellows Conference. Last year I served as the co-chair of this planning committee.

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

Department of Biology  
California State University, Northridge  
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