



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Awards Ceremony

1 pm Tuesday, 22 May

Science and Mathematics Commencement Ceremony

3:30 pm Tuesday, 22 May on Manzanita Hall Lawn

Fall Grad Seminars

- Seminar in Biogeography (BIOL 615E) will be taught Monday evenings by **Dr. Fritz Hertel**. He says, "We'll read some early classic papers on why and where certain organisms occur where they do today. Students will also choose more recent papers that relate to these old classics and to their own research."

- Seminar in Genetics (BIOL 655D) will be taught Friday mornings by **Dr. Cheryl van Buskirk**. Students will survey the experimental methods of molecular genetics and their application to elucidating pathways of eukaryotic development and behavior.

- Seminar in Molecular Biology (BIOL 655G) will be taught Monday evenings by **Dr. Michael Summers**, on photosynthetic life on Earth. Students will give background lectures and lead discussions of research articles. The goal is to provide a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms and biochemical pathways that enable organisms to convert light into biological forms of energy.

- Seminar in Physiology (BIOL 655E) will be taught Wednesday afternoons by **Dr. Lisa Banner** on the obesity epidemic. Increased body weight is a risk factor for

many health problems. In this seminar students will explore the field of neuroimmunology by examining the role that obesity plays in inducing a state of chronic inflammation and the effect this has on the health of the nervous system. Students will present reviews and current literature.

New & Improved Biology Courses for Fall

- A revised Embryology course (BIOL 441/L) will be offered by **Dr. Maria Elena de Bellard**. In addition to the basics, new topics include genetic manipulation of embryos, transplants, immunofluorescence, and how to culture neural stem cells and embryonic fibroblasts.

- Curious about molecular tools? Molecular Markers in Evolutionary Studies (BIOL 511/L) explores the application of genetic tools to investigate natural populations of plants and animals. Topics include methods for studying genetic variation and application of molecular markers to research questions related to population structure, conservation, phylogeography, behavior, adaptation, migration, population bottlenecks, and

mating systems. Students will learn the relative merits of different classes of molecular markers, including the promise and limitations of next-generation sequencing.

This long-awaited class will be taught T/Th mornings by **Dr. Jeannie Robertson**, one of the department's most-recent hires. The course fulfills the Systematics/Comparative Biology requirement for B.A. students and is a selective course for Environmental and Marine B.S. students.

Faculty and Grad Students Awarded Grants

The University has announced this year's winners in the competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Grants. Biologists received eight out of 53 awards. Congratulations to **Drs. Steve Dudgeon, Robert Espinoza, Dave Gray, Fritz Hertel, Rheem Medh, Sean Murray, and Gini Vandergon**. Each award is worth about \$5000.

Five ecology grads have been awarded grants from the Newhall Land and Farming Company Southern California Ecology Endowment: **Lena Coleman, Sean Dunagan, Wendy Horn, Alex Johnson, and Camdilla Wirth**. The total awarded this year was \$2500.

Last *Biosphere* of the Semester

Have a nice summer break. Don't forget to check your CSUN email for important announcements and the *Biosphere* website for job ads and other opportunities.

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