



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Edmunds Receives University's Top Honor

Dr. Peter Edmunds received CSUN's highest honor: *the Outstanding Faculty Award*. This award is bestowed on the best all-around professors each year.

Pete's teaching is superb. For many years he taught a heavy load of Principles of Biology, Physiological Ecology, Invertebrate Zoology, various biostatistics courses, and graduate seminars. His teaching is known for great clarity, zeal, and a long, steep learning curve. Much of his teaching has been in field courses. Many times, he has even taught extra classes during the summer for the East/West Marine Biology Program.

Edmunds is now teaching a more reasonable load because of his great success at attracting external funding associated with one-on-one training of students who collaborate on research projects. He is a co-principle investigator on a long-term site grant studying coral reefs in Moorea, French Polynesia, an international collaborative grant with colleagues in Taiwan, and a grant on the implications of ocean acidification.

Even when his teaching load was high, Edmunds headed a vigorous student-training program. Most of that research was in the Caribbean, and that work continues with annual check-ups of ecological sites in Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Edmunds is particularly noteworthy for his mentoring of CSUN students, both master's students and undergraduates, who have gone on to graduate school.

Large numbers of alumni from his lab have been very successful. Clearly, he provides the right combination of expectations and training in the formative years.

Edmunds has also been extremely successful at recruiting students from across the nation to work in his lab. This has elevated CSUN's standing as one of the top institutions to receive an education in Marine Biology.

Accompanying all this collaboration with students and colleagues from around the world is a great deal of analyzing and writing up his work for publication. In fact, Edmunds has published more papers than anyone else in the department in the last decade. Nearly all of these publications have had student coauthors.

Congratulations, Pete, on this well-earned recognition!

Student Awards

On graduation day in May, the best Biology students were honored at a ceremony for the truly elite. The awards from the Department of Biology were as follows:

- **Scott Reichelderfer** was honored as the Outstanding Graduating Senior.
- **Lynnea Waters** won the Bennett-Bickford Biology Scholarship.
- **Joshua Shipp** won the Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Award.
- **Gregory Avellis** won both the Outstanding Graduate Research Award and the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.
- The Hugo and Irma Oppenheimer Award

for a student with an interest in teaching went to **Christopher Nosala**.

• Julie Gorchynski Awards went to **Jasmin Abdulla** and to **John Samuel Sukumar Palukuri**.

• **Cameron Harrison** won the Ian & Kathy Leslie Scholarship in Biology.

The College of Science and Mathematics also gives out awards annually, and **Dona Wisidagama** was honored as the College's Outstanding Graduate Student.

New Chair, Associate Chair

Dr. Larry Allen has become Chair of Biology. Dr. Allen was previously chair in the mid 2000s.

Dr. Mary-Pat Stein has become Associate Chair of Biology.

Please be nice to them.

New Publications

The cover of the March issue of *American Laboratory* has an image taken by **Mark Armitage**, our microscopist.

Wyndee Guzman (née Haley) and **Dr. Paul Wilson** have a new paper in *Journal of Pollination Ecology*: "Hummingbirds at artificial flowers made to resemble ornithophiles versus melittophiles." The work originated in Guzman's thesis.

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