



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 19 October 2012, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Omega-3 Fatty Acids and Lipotoxicity in Normal and Injured Nerve Cells”

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Conservation Law

CSUN Biology alumna **Ileene Anderson** (M.S. 1992) will be speaking to Dr. Polly Schiffman's Conservation Biology class on Thursday, 18 October at 3 pm in CR 5335. Anderson coordinates conservation efforts in urban wildlands and southwestern U.S. deserts for the Center for Biological Diversity, a non-profit organization. Her presentation will be about conservation laws and their implementation in the real world. All are welcome to attend.

Email: biotutor@csun.edu

We now have an email for biology students seeking tutorial help. The address is biotutor@csun.edu. Feel free to use it. It is also for non-majors taking Biology courses. Walk-in tutoring is available as well, and the hours are posted on the Department website. Tutoring is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

New Publications

Three students and three profs have a new paper in *Zygote*: “A role for polyglucans in a model sea urchin embryo cellular interaction.” It is authored by **Suprita Singh, Eddie Karabidian, Alex Kandel**, and Drs. **Stan Metzenberg, Edward Carroll**, and **Steve Oppenheimer**.

Dr. **Peter Edmunds**, former grad student **Hollie Putnam**, and former adjunct professor **Ruth Gates** have a paper in *Biological Bulletin*: “Photophysiological consequences of vertical stratification of *Symbiodinium* in tissue of the coral *Porites lutea*.”

Darren Brown and Edmunds have a new paper out in *Coral Reefs*: “Hermit crabs take refuge on *Millepora* in St. John, United States Virgin Islands.”

Acta Histochemica has published, “Adaption of *Synechococcus* sp. IU 625 to growth in the presence of mercuric chloride” by T.C. Chu, **Dr. Sean Murray**, J. Todd, W. Perez, **Jonathan Yarborough**, C. Okafor, and L.H. Lee. Yarborough was an undergraduate in the Murray lab when he did much of this work.

Community Service

Drs. **Robert Espinoza**, **Jeanne Robertson**, and graduate students **Alissa Luken** and **Jason Warner** answered questions at the “Stump the Chumps” table during the *Reptile and Amphibian Appreciation Day* at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It was estimated that more than 2100 members and visitors attended the event.

Dr. **Paul Wilson** recently gave a talk to the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society: “Species and hybrids of *Penstemon*.” The estimated number of souls in the audience was considerably more rarified.

Dr. **Robert Espinoza** gave a departmental seminar titled: “Small cold-climate lizards break the ‘rules’ of herbivory in reptiles” at Cal Poly Pomona.

New Research Funds Expand Coral Reef Research

Drs. **Robert Carpenter** and **Peter Edmunds** have received a \$49,931 supplement from the National Science Foundation to conduct research in Okinawa, Japan. This relationship with Japanese scientists originated from their efforts in East Asia and an exploratory trip they made to Okinawa in March. The new funds will be used for two purposes: (1) to send their postdoctoral researcher, Dr. **Steeve Comeau**, and two CSUN students to Okinawa to conduct research on ocean acidification next summer; and (2) to organize an international workshop in Okinawa on coral recruitment in an era of global climate change. The research will take place at the Sesoko Marine Station (which is part of the Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus). The workshop will have eight U.S. participants, and will include a CSUN graduate student.

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