



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Thanksgiving Break
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY of THIS WEEK

Guest Speaker on Cancer

Dr. Peter Gray will give a talk to the Biology of Cancer class on "Reproductive Cancers." The talk is at 5 pm on Monday 26 November in CR 5125. Gray is from the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Proseminar in Spring

Dr. **Ray Hong** will be teaching Graduate Proseminar (BIOL 691) this spring on Fridays from 9:30 am–12:15 pm. This course prepares graduate students for research, professional presentations, and other vital skills, and is a prerequisite for graduate seminars. Graduate students who are new to the program (started in fall 2012) and didn't take Grad Proseminar this fall, should sign up for this offering.

Will Van Buskirk go Viral?

Dr. **Cheryl Van Buskirk** was recently featured in the University's blog on academic technology, [digitalstories](#). Her innovative approach to teaching Introductory Biology for non-majors (BIOL 100), including summarizing her lecture notes into alternative lyrics for pop songs, which she sings—accompanied by guitar—to her class, has made her one of our most popular new professors.

Zavala on the Road

Dr. **MariaElena Zavala** was invited to participate in MARC/MBRS lecture series at Cal Sate Dominquez Hills. "It was a great opportunity to meet with their student participants," she says, "I also got to talk with Helen Chung, a professor at CSUDH, who worked in Dr. Oppenheimer's lab for a time."

Zavala also recently gave two invited lectures at conferences.

- She addressed the diversity luncheon at the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America. She says, "It was exciting to have been chosen for this honor."
- Her second presentation was for the 12th annual Health Disparities Research Symposium, "Reaping what you sow." This was at Loma Linda Medical College.

Finally, Zavala served on an NIH panel in October. Busy professor.

Presentation at Teacher Assoc.

Dr. **Gini Vandergon** and Geology prof Dr. Matthew D'Alessio presented a talk at the California Science Teacher Association annual meeting in San Jose titled: "CSCS II: How to use the Cloud for formative assessment in a science classroom, using a genetics example."

Marine Students, Postdocs, & Faculty Present at WSN

CSUN had a commanding presence at the annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists.

Talks were given by:

- Dr. **Robert Carpenter**: Nitrogen addition modulates the response of *Hydrolithon onkodes* to ocean acidification
- Dr. **Steven Dudgeon**: Temporal variability in mussel mortality in clearings and under canopies
- Dr. **Peter Edmunds**: Decadal-scale changes in the community structure of coral reefs in St. John, US Virgin Islands
- Dr. **Mia Adreani**: Reproductive ecology and fertilization rates of the temperate wrasse, *Oxyjulis californica*
- Dr. **Lorenzo Bramanti**: Effects of climate change on the population dynamics of scleractinian corals: A demographic model for *Pocillopora damicornis*
- **Jeremiah Bautista**: Reproductive biology of Barred Sand Bass from Southern California
- **Amy Briggs**: Spatial subsidies and habitat structure: The effects of seabird guano on island geckos in the tropics
- **Darren Brown**: Effects of heterotrophy on calcification of taxonomically diverse calcifying cnidarians in a high pCO₂ environment
- **Elizabeth Lenz**: The role of corallum morphology and light mediating the response of the coral *Porites rus* to ocean acidification
- **Jesse Tootell**: How structure, agonism, and vermetid gastropods affect herbivory on a coral reef, and implications for resilience
- **Christopher Wall**: *In situ* effects of low pH and elevated-DIC on the calcification and respiration of juvenile massive *Porites*

Posters were given by:

- **Corinne Paterson**: The genetic diversity and population structure of Barred Sand Bass in Southern California
- **Justin Hackitt**: Effects of lunar phase on settlement rate of two temperate reef fishes
- **Michael Schram**: The effects of simulated size-selective harvesting on a protogynous temperate reef fish, *Rhinobogiosops nicholsii*
- **Jennifer Smolenski**: Implications of using LED lights to test the effects of ocean acidification on coral calcification

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