



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 22 February 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Sex on Six Legs: Lessons of Life, Love and Language from the Insect World”

Marlene Zuk, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota

Evolution for All Speaker

This week's colloquium speaker is brought to you by a group of profs from across campus, the [Interdisciplinary Evolutionary Studies Network](#). They sponsor “Evolution-for-All” talks that celebrate how systems accumulate history in ways most wondrous.

Dr. Marlene Zuk will be known to many Biology majors for her earliest publications on the interplay between parasites and hosts in affecting sexual selection. Others will know Zuk for more recent papers on comparing sexual and natural selection.

While producing a steady stream of technical papers, Zuk has also been popularizing her evolutionary insights in books like “*Riddled with Life: Friendly Worms, Ladybug Sex, and the Parasites That Make Us Who We Are*” and “*Sex on Six Legs: Lessons on Life, Love and Language from the Insect World*.”

Immediately following her colloquium, (~3 pm), there will be a gathering in CR 5201 with snacks. You can meet Dr. Zuk and/or chat with the clever people of CSUN from such programs as Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics, and Linguistics.

Wine Making This Friday

CSUN's Microbiology Student Association is having an event Friday 22 February at 3:30 pm in MG 4210. Dr. **Larry Baresi** will be introducing oenology, the science of wine making. Everyone is invited, not just club members.

New Publications

Drs. **Steeve Comeau**, **Robert Carpenter**, and **Peter Edmunds** have a paper out in *Marine Biology*: “Effects of feeding and light intensity on the response of the coral *Porites rus* to ocean acidification.”

Dr. **Jeanne Robertson** is a coauthor of a new paper: “Asymmetrical mate preference in recently adapted White Sands and black lava populations of *Sceloporus undulatus*.” It is in a special issue of *Current Zoology* on ecological speciation.

Did You Know ...?

Dr. **Sean Murray** started college at Montclair State University as a music major and played the clarinet and saxophone. In other news, this month President Obama

awarded Murray's postdoctoral mentor from Stanford, Dr. Lucy Shapiro, the National Medal of Science.

In 2011, Murray organized a symposium in Shapiro's honor, which was attended by scientists from around the world. Murray helped raise \$35,000 in corporate donations to cover the costs of the meeting.



Murray, **Anthony Daulo**, **Alexandra Forest**, and Lucy Shapiro at the *Caulobacter* Meeting in 2009. Daulo is currently a Ph.D. student at UCSD. Forest is currently a dental student at the University of Michigan.

Videos in *Scientific American*

Lena Coleman is a grad student working with Dr. **Paul Wilson** on the ecology of the mosses of Sequoia National Park. Their videos introducing mosses to the masses were blogged about in the widely read science magazine [Scientific American](#) last week.

Know a K-12 Student or Teacher?

Dr. **Steve Oppenheimer** is editor of [The New Journal of Student Research Abstracts](#). When kids do science projects that work, they (and usually their teacher) submit an abstract of the project. For more information, email [Oppenheimer](#). The deadline for receipt of research abstracts for the next volume is 1 June.

Research Experience for Undergrads Grant

Dr. **Peter Edmunds** was recently awarded a Research Experience for Undergraduates supplement from the National Science Foundation to fund a student to work with him in the U.S. Virgin Islands this summer.

Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Department of Biology
California State University, Northridge
Editors: Paul Wilson and Robert Espinoza
For past issues: www.csun.edu/biosphere
For job opportunities: csunbio.wordpress.com