



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 10 May 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Mechanisms of Airway Epithelial Repair and Regeneration”

Brigitte Gomperts, M.D.
UCLA

Commencement 2013

The College of Science and Mathematics Commencement Ceremony will take place at 3 pm on Tuesday, 21 May on the Manzanita Hall Lawn. As usual, Biologists are the dominant majors of the approximately 500 students in this term's graduating class. Please join your favorite professors and fellow grads for this exciting culminating event.

Alumna to Speak on Jellies

Dr. **Lisa-ann Gershwin**, former CSUN Biology student, will give a talk at 11 am on Wednesday 22 May in CR 5335: “Jellyfish, Planetary Doom, and other Trivia.” Gershwin has a new book out: *Stung! On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean*.

Tropical Biology Semester in Ecuador, Spring 2014

The Department of Biology is pleased to offer the Tropical Biology Semester, a package of concurrent coursework totaling 16 units that is appropriate for upper-division undergraduate or graduate credit.

Three courses and a seminar address biodiversity, zoology, ecology, and conservation by integrating a strong field component with lectures, labs, and discussions of relevant literature. Students will conduct field projects that will incorporate experimental design, field techniques, and the presentation of results as a scientific paper and as a poster.



We estimate the cost to be \$4000 or less for the semester— with the price decreasing with higher enrollment and grant success. This estimate does not include CA resident CSU fees, but does include round-trip airfare to Ecuador, in-

country transportation, and room and board in Ecuador.

Weeks 1–4 will be spent at CSUN with lectures and laboratory activities introducing tropical biology. Weeks 5–11 will be spent in Ecuador visiting a diversity of localities (Andean Cloud Forest, Amazon Jungle, and Galápagos Islands—we hope). Weeks 12–15 will be spent back on campus analyzing data and writing up the results.

For course descriptions, requirements, and the application, go visit the [Biology](#) webpage. For questions, contact either: Dr. **Fritz Hertel** (CR 5321; 818-677-3353) or Dr. **Tim Karels** (CR 5320; 818-677-2990).

New Publications

The *Journal of Phycology* is publishing: “Reproductive effort of *Mastocarpus papillatus* along the California coast,” by **Stacy Krueger-Hadfield**, Dr. **Janet Kübler**, and Dr. **Steve Dudgeon**. The work was part of Krueger’s master’s thesis.

The *Journal of Comparative Neurology* is publishing: “Characterization of the trunk neural crest in the Bamboo Shark, *Chiloscyllium punctatum*,” by **Marilyn Juarez**, **Michelle Reyes**, **Tiffany Coleman**, **Lisa Rotenstein**, **Sothy Sao**, **Matthew Jones**, **Darwin Martinez**, Dr. **Rachel Mackelprang**, and Dr. **Maria Elena de Bellard**.

Student Research Symposium

Biology students were out in full force presenting at the annual CSUN Sigma Xi student research symposium.

- **Soyeon Kwon** won 1st place in her session for, “Human ESC-derived corneal endothelial cells for the treatment of cornea dysfunction.”
- **Anu Dimashkie** won 1st place in her session for, “Epigenetic barriers of the X chromosome in reprogramming to pluripotency.”

- **Camdilla Wirth** won 2nd place in her session for, “Effects of ecosystem engineering by the Giant Kangaroo Rat on the Common Side-Blotched Lizard.”

Others who presented on biological topics were: **Georgina Aguilar-Portillo**, **Eduardo Bernal**, **Anjelica Cardenas**, **Angelica Crus**, **Anthony Cuccia**, **Sandra Escobar**, **Yesai Fstkhyan**, **Maria Lavarreda-Pearce**, **Victor Lewis**, **Saba Mirza**, **Daniel Sivalingam**, **Richard Swan**, **Shannon Wood**, **Shahab Younesi**, and **Sania Zaidi-Merchant**.

Zavala Hosts 3rd Graders

Dr. **MariaElena Zavala** recently hosted a group of 3rd graders from Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists. She had them doing experiments with magnets, ultimately creating a compass from a magnet and a leaf.



Summer Research Experiences

Biology prides itself in offering research opportunities for students. Email steven.oppenheimer@csun.edu if you are interested in his open lab. Ask your other favorite professors too.

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