Critters, habitat shown off at Tucker open house

Meg Sandquist, director of the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary, removes Bob, a corn snake from his cage to show the visitors.

The Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary held its annual Open House event on Dec. 28. Attendees participated in free, guided hikes, nature-themed arts and crafts sessions, and consumed hot cider and cookies while learning about the sanctuary’s programs and services.

The Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary is operated and managed by the Cal State Fullerton College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The 12-acre nonprofit nature preserve is situated in Orange County's Modjeska Canyon.


Brothers Wyatt Abrahamson 4, and Nolan 2, create a bird feeder during the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary’s annual open house. Meg Sandquist takes a group on a walking tour and explains that furry-looking cactus can cause the worst injury.
Titan voice Marie C. Johnson:
Invisible thread links explorers of the natural world.

In the hallway outside the Dean's Office in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Cal State Fullerton is a display called “Hall of Heroes.” The display includes portraits and short biographical sketches of scientists and mathematicians, often from underrepresented groups, who achieved great heights in their professional careers.

Underneath the portraits is part of Isaac Newton's famous quote “... standing on the shoulders of giants.” The display reminds those who pass that a rich tapestry of thinkers has contributed to our understanding of the natural world and that we who are now engaged in this effort are linked by an invisible thread to the ones who came before and to the ones who will come after.

Our Hall of Heroes includes Edward Alexander Bouchet (1852-1918), who was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from an American university (Yale University 1876) and the sixth person in the Western Hemisphere to earn a Ph.D. in physics. And Inge Lehmann (1888–1993), who, in 1936, discovered that the Earth has a solid inner core inside a molten outer core. She later became the first woman to receive the William Bowie Medal, the highest honor of the American Geophysical Union.

The Hall of Heroes is full of inspiring scientists and mathematicians. If we are very lucky, however, we may have our lives transformed by giants with whom we interact every day. For students, these giants often take the guise of faculty mentors who change how we see both ourselves and our futures. Often the catalyst for these life-changing experiences is a research project.

You may find the article in its entirety at:
http://www.ocregister.com/articles/students-743525-college-professor.html
NSM in the News

National Science Foundation Honors CSUF Physicist Geoffrey Lovelace Receives Early CAREER Award

For his supercomputer simulations modeling cataclysmic events in the universe — such as colliding black holes that create gravitational waves — Cal State Fullerton physicist Geoffrey Lovelace has received the National Science Foundation’s prestigious CAREER award.

The award, granted through the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, is given to support faculty members early in their careers who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

A theorist specializing in numerical relativity, Lovelace is part of the CSUF faculty-student science team that contributed to the breakthrough discovery of gravitational waves, announced Feb. 11, 2016 — a century after Einstein predicted their existence in his general theory of relativity. Lovelace and his team of student researchers developed computer simulations and visualizations to better predict the sources of gravitational waves, such as colliding black holes or a black hole tearing apart a neutron star. Lovelace, an assistant professor of physics who began teaching at CSUF in 2012, is expected to receive a total of $400,000 for his five-year project, "CAREER: Computational Gravitational-Wave Science and Education in the Era of First Observations”.

See more at: http://news.fullerton.edu/2017wi/glovelace-career-award.aspx
Cal State Fullerton science and engineering students and their faculty mentors participated in the California State University’s 29th annual Biotechnology Symposium, which was held Sunday Jan. 5 through Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Santa Clara Marriott.

Student researchers presented their projects, with several scholars nominated for competitive CSU research awards. This year, 290 research posters from 22 CSU universities, including CSUF, were accepted for presentation. With more than 700 participants registered, was also is the largest symposium yet, organizers said.

The annual event brought together students, faculty members and administrators, as well as biotech professionals working in academia, government and industry. Sponsored by the CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB), the symposium is designed to broaden student exposure to the latest biotechnologies, innovations and career paths in the life sciences.

Four CSUF undergraduates were among 10 contenders for the 2017 Glenn Nagel Undergraduate Student Research Award. The students, their major and faculty mentors are:

- Saumya Jani, biological science; faculty mentor is Marcelo E. Tolmasky, professor of biological science.
- Carolina Mendoza Cavazos, biological science; faculty mentor is Esther Chen, associate professor of biological science.
- Sandra Rodriguez Beltran, chemistry; faculty mentor is Nicholas Salzameda, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry.
- Carina Sandoval, biological science; faculty mentor is Melanie Sacco, associate professor of biological science.

The CSU established this award in honor of the late Glenn Nagel, a CSUF chemistry professor who received the University’s Outstanding Professor Award in 1987 and the CSUPERB Andreoli Faculty Service Award in 1996.

Biology graduate student Noopur Dave, whose faculty mentor is Veronica Jimenez, assistant professor of biological science, was one of seven CSU student finalists for the 2017 Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award.

The 2017 award winners from CSUF were: Carina Sandoval, biological science, Glenn Nagel Undergraduate Research Award Noopur Dave, biology, Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award David Hsu, biology, Crellin Pauling Student Teaching Award.

See more at: http://news.fullerton.edu/2017wi/biotech-student-researchers%20.aspx
NSM in the News

CSU Annual Biotechnology 29th Symposium
January 5-7, 2017 at the Santa Clara Marriott

Chemistry graduate student Michael Pang and freshman Biochemistry major Jose Moscaira teamed up at the 2017 CSU PERB Symposium to present their research poster, “Electron Transfer Systems Investigation of Oxidoreductase Enzyme involved in Tetrahydromethanopterin Biosynthesis.”

Cal State Fullerton science students won top awards from Cal State University’s Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) for their research projects on understanding how plants fight viruses, parasites affect humans, as well as for outstanding student teaching. The student researchers were recognized at the CSU Biotechnology Symposium in Santa Clara Jan. 5-7, where students, faculty mentors, alumni, administrators and partners gathered to share how they are advancing innovation in the life sciences. With more than 700 participants, including from CSUF, this year’s symposium was the largest yet. The 29th annual event received 290 abstract submissions from 22 CSU campuses, representing research from faculty-led labs across the state. CSUPERB’s annual awards were presented to the students and faculty who reflect the best of research, teaching and service in biotechnology and related fields.

http://news.fullerton.edu/2017wi/csu-biotech-winners.aspx#sthash.x8UImHu3.dp
Study of Extinct Seabirds Reflects Climate Change in OC, California

Until a few million years ago, penguin-like seabirds once dominated California’s coasts. But due to climate changes in the state between 5-17 million years ago, this flightless seabird or “mancalline” became extinct, and other seabirds changed drastically, a student-led Cal State Fullerton study has found.

Geology graduate Peter Kloess studied over 500 seabird fossils from across the state, including 242 fossil seabirds from Orange County, mostly specimens housed at the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center.

“By studying seabird fossils from around California, we were able to observe the effects of changing climate on past seabird communities along the coast,” said Kloess, who conducted the study for his master’s thesis, under the mentorship of James Parham, assistant professor of geological sciences.

“This study shows how animal groups change through time in response to climate and can help to predict the impact of future climate change on them.

Publications and Presentations

**Biology**


Prof. Jochen Schenk received an award from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s “Innovative Conservation Program” in the amount of $29,952 for a project entitled “Water savings in avocado orchard achieved by measuring sap flow and soil moisture to determine irrigation needs”. The research is conducted in collaboration with the California Avocado Commission and Dynamax Inc. in Houston, TX.

**Dr. Eenisse Lab Attended the 21st Annual SCUM**

Members of the Eernisse Lab who attended the 21st Annual SCUM Meetings in Santa Barbara (L to R): Dr. Eernisse, Shawn Wiedrick, Newton Hood, Kim Coombs, Jess Hughes, and Dara Olagbaju.


In January, Dr. Doug Eernisse (Biology) presented a talk co-authored by his Chilean colleague, Dr. Christian Ibáñez, at the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), held in New Orleans. Dr. Eernisse and Dr. Ryan Walter (Biology) were also co-authors on a talk delivered by University of Chicago Ph.D. student, Kathryn Silliman: “Population genomics and phylogeography of the Olympia oyster.” Later, Dr. Eernisse traveled to Santiago, Chile where he co-taught in a workshop on chitons presented a seminar at Dr. Ibáñez’s university, completed field work with Dr. Ibáñez in southernmost Chile, and completed research at the National Museum of Natural History, Chile in Santiago.

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Dr. Michael Groves co-authored two articles. Which can be found on the below links.
The psi-k highlight webpage: http://psi-k.net/highlights/ and the article itself: http://psi-k.net/download/highlights/Highlight_134.pdf

Mathematics

Dr. Derdei Bichara, professor of Mathematics recently published the following:


NSM Student Spotlight

Name: Noopur Dave  
Major: Master Student Biological Science  
Expected Graduate Date: 

I would like to nominate my student Noopur Dave for a Student Spotlight at the NSM newsletter. Noopur is a senior Graduate Student in my lab that has received multiple awards for her research both at local and national level.

Noopur was also the 2015 HHMI Scholar and is currently a finalist for the CSU-wide Eden Award.

Veronica Jimenez Ortiz  
Assistant Professor of Biological Science

Tell us a one thing that you are interested in.

I am in a research career studying infectious diseases caused by protozoan parasites.

What kind of research have you done?

During my undergraduate career I was part of Dr. Walker’s research lab where I was able to learn how to work in a research lab. I learned that research projects begin with an unanswered question and through reading primary literature; experiments can be designed to answer those questions. I also learned to increase my patience when experiments did not give fruitful results, and how to troubleshoot in this case. These skills carried over to my graduate career, when I joined Dr. Jimenez’s lab.

How has the College of NSM prepared you for your future career plans?

My future career plans consist of obtaining a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences with an emphasis on infectious diseases. I would like to eventually enter academia as a professor at a four-year institution. I hope to be given the opportunity to teach students in a classroom and lab setting. The College of NSM has helped me to define these goals by giving me the opportunity to teach at as a supplemental instructor for the biology department. As a graduate student, I was hired as a teaching assistant for the genetics course and for the microbiology course. Both of these teaching experiences inspired me to pursue a career in teaching at the collegiate level. The College of NSM also gave me the opportunity to work closely with amazing mentors including Dr. Sean Walker, Dr. Merri Lynn Casem and Dr. Veronica Jimenez Ortiz.
NSM Student Spotlight

What have been your major awards or accomplishments as a CSUF student or NSM major?

I won the Jack L. Bradshaw Scholarship in Immunology, was selected as the MHIRT summer 2015 graduate research scholar and the HHMI graduate research scholar for the year 2015-16. I also was given the opportunity to attend and compete at local, state and national conferences. Through these conferences I won several awards for my research including:

• Best turbo talk at the molecular parasitology meeting held in Woods Hole, MA September 2016.
• Best poster presentation at the Cabscon Symposium held at California State University, Fullerton October 2016.
• Best poster presentation at the Southern California Eukaryotic Pathogens Meeting held at UC Riverside November 2016.
• Don Eden Graduate Research Award at the 2017 CSUPERB biotechnology conference.

Name: Noopur Dave

What campus involvement have you been apart of?

During my undergraduate and graduate career at CSUF I was a part of several different on-campus organizations. They include the following: Biology Graduate Students Club California State University, Fullerton.

August 2014-Current

• 2016-current: NSM ICC Representative: Represented BGSC in the college inter-club council (ICC).
• 2015-2016: President: Worked with a team to plan and execute volunteer, social and fundraising activities, as well as acted as a club representative for the university; worked closely with the faculty and staff of the WW biological science department to organize educational fairs for local K-12 students; worked closely with the department to provide funding and teaching assistantships to BGSC members; hosted guest speakers and panels to introduce BGSC members to various Ph.D. programs and potential PIs.
• 2014-2015: NSM ICC Representative: Represented BGSC in the college ICC, acted as a liaison from student government to the club; was part of the advertising committee for the college-wide science symposium; worked with a team to plan and execute the college-wide science symposium; educated BGSC members about on-campus funding opportunities.
NSM Student Spotlight: Noopur Dave

What campus involvement have you been apart of?

Chemistry and Biochemistry Club California State University, Fullerton
August 2010-May 2013
• 2012-2013, President: Worked with a team to plan and execute volunteer, social and fundraising activities, as well as acted as a club representative for the university; worked closely with the faculty and staff of the chemistry and biochemistry department to help them host educational and/or career fairs.
• 2011-2012, Secretary: Worked closely with the President and Vice President in informing all cabinet members of meetings and assigned duties; maintained the club email list.
• 2010-2011, Public Relations Officer: Advertised club activities and provided members with details of club events via email, flyers, and posters.

Up 'til Dawn- St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital
• August 2011-May 2012
California State University, Fullerton
• Sponsorship Chair - communicated and collaborated with both on and off campus organizations to raise funds for the St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital.

What has been one of your favorite moments at CSUF?

There have been so many favorite moments at CSUF. I think the most memorable moments have been when Dr. Jimenez and I have gotten excited at the same time when our experiments have worked. This shared sense of enthusiasm, curiosity and pure excitement that we both shared towards our studies in lab really made those moments memorable, and overall inspires me to become a researcher, professor and mentor like Dr. Jimenez.

What advice would you give to your fellow NSM Students?

The advice that I would give to all NSM students is that the opportunities are there, it is your job to be proactive about getting them. As an undergraduate student in the Biological Science department many of my professors and mentors had suggested different programs, but I never applied for the programs thinking that I wouldn't qualify. This attitude changed as I entered the graduate program at CSUF, where Dr. Jimenez highly encouraged me to apply to several programs including the MHIRT Summer research-training program, the HHMI graduate research scholar program and the departmental scholarships. Along with Dr. Jimenez's encouragement, I gained support from Dr. Sean Walker and Dr. Merri Lynn Casem.

What are your plans for after you graduate and how have you come to this decision? (Graduate school, medical school, career plans)

Both my undergraduate and graduate experiences have led me to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis of on infectious diseases. I hope to eventually enter academia as a professor at a four-year institute. I hope to also inspire students like my professors and mentors at CSUF have inspired me.
Spring Semester Drive-Thru Advising Days

January 31, February 1 & 2 - Thank you to the 63 students who came out to the NSM Student Success Drive-Thru Days in the McCarthy Hall breezeway to meet your NSM Success Team of Advisors, Sam Barrozo, Retention Specialist, Tatiana Pedroza, Graduation Specialist, and Michelle Levy, Career Specialist, about the following: Spring 2017 registration, GEs, Academic Policies (i.e. Repeatable Units, Grade Forgiveness Withdrawal deadlines, possible course changes/swaps), applying for graduation, & career center resources. Remember, we are here to support NSM student success!

NOTE: April 21st is the FINAL DEADLINE to WITHDRAW from classes with a grade of “W” for serious and compelling reasons.
1. APPLY FOR GRADUATION
   - CHOOSE CORRECT GRAD DATE:
     - Spring 2017 CANDIDATES will GRADUATE May 2017. (Deadline to apply: 1/29/17)
     - Summer 2017 CANDIDATES will GRADUATE August 2017.
     - Fall 2017 CANDIDATES will GRADUATE January 2018.
     - Apply & Pay $115 Grad Fee

2. ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT REVIEW
   - Major department will conduct GRAD CHECKS and indicate their approval. Approved students will change to CANDIDATE status. Grad fee must be paid.

3. CANDIDATE STATUS
   - Student's responsibility to meet ALL grad requirements by ANTICIPATED GRAD DATE (found on TDA) or run the risk of being deferred.

GRADUATION = DEGREE COMPLETION
STUDENTS CAN GRADUATE SPRING, SUMMER, OR FALL

GRADUATION IS BASED ON COMPLETION OF ALL GRAD REQUIREMENTS BY ANTICIPATED GRAD DATE ACCORDING TO TITAN DEGREE AUDIT (TDA)

COMMENCEMENT = CEREMONY
ANNUAL CEREMONY TAKES PLACE IN MAY

- SPRING 2017 Candidates
  - MAY 2017 Graduates
  - WALK IN MAY 2017

- SUMMER 2017 Candidates
  - AUGUST 2017 Graduates
  - WALK IN MAY 2017

- FALL 2017 Candidates
  - JANUARY 2018 Graduates
  - WALK IN MAY 2018

PLAN AHEAD! Contact NSM GRADUATION SPECIALIST
Book appointment: nsmgradspecialist.youcanbook.me
Titan Connection is your one stop shop to look for on campus, full/part time, internship and research positions available to Cal State Fullerton students and view/register for Career Center workshops and events.

Go to (www.fullerton.edu/career) and click on “Students” and then “Jobs & Internships” to get started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Science and Math Career Connections Panel”
Wednesday, March 8th, 5:30pm-7:00pm, TSULegislative Chambers, RVSP Here: https://goo.gl/kHvb2m
Panelists include:
• Chemist at Edwards Lifesciences
• Assistant Biologist at Chambers Group Inc
• Software Engineer/Data Analytics at MIND Research Institute
• Regional Business Manager at QDx Pathology Services

“HEALTH PROFESSIONALS EXPOSED”
For more information and to register for Health Professions Exposed go to:
http://www.fullerton.edu/career/students/hpe.php

- How to Be a Competitive Applicant, Monday, March 13th, 12pm–1:30pm
- Writing a Health Professions Statement of Purpose, Monday, March 13th, 3pm–4pm, LH-210G
- Get Involved with Cope Health Scholar Program, Tuesday, March 14th, 2pm–3pm, LH-210G
- Get Involved with ScribeAmerica, Wednesday, March 15th, 11am–12pm, LH-210G
- Exploring Healthcare Professions Panel, Wednesday, March 15th, 4pm–5:30pm, H-412
- Resume Clinic, Thursday, March 16th, 9am–11am, LH-210G
- Preparing for PA School, Thursday, March 16th, 1pm–2pm, LH-210G
- Hear it From Your Peers: How to Get Into Professional School, Thursday, March 16th, 4pm–6pm, MH491
- Interviewing Strategies for Health Professions Schools, Friday, March 17th, 10am–11am, LH-210G

Visit the Opportunity Center to meet with Michelle Ajemian Levy, NSM College Career Specialist, for a quick 10 minute walk in appointment. Topics can include but are not limited to résumé and cover letter review, starting your Statement of Purpose, exploring graduate and professional school, quick job search, an interview help, and referrals for additional resources.

CAREER CENTER HOURS

Need help applying to graduate school, summer research experiences or internships? The Career Center is open Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm. To make an appointment call 657.278.3121 or email Michelle Levy (miley@fullerton.edu).

• Major/Career Exploration
• Graduate and Professional School PreparationExploration
• Statement of Purpose
• Interview Preparation-Mock Interviews
• Resume/CV and Cover Letter Review
• Job/Internship Search Strategies
• LinkedIn Set Up and Profile Review
### SPRING 2017 TUTOR SCHEDULE

**SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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**OCSAMS Closed**
NSM CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
NSM.fullerton.edu/student-resources/get-involved

Contact any of the organizations below to find out their meeting and activity information.

American Medical Student Association (AMSA): Is committed to improving health care and healthcare delivery to all people; promoting active improvement in medical education; involving its members in the social, moral and ethical obligations of the profession of medicine; assisting in the improvement and understanding of world health problems; contributing to the welfare of all pre-health professional students. AMSA@fullerton.edu

Biology Graduate Club (BGSC): Offers opportunities for association and interaction between students, faculty, and the administration of CSUF. bgsc.csuf@gmail.com

Chemistry and Biochemistry Club (CBC): provides information pertaining to opportunities and careers with the fields of Chemistry and Biochemistry, familiarizes students with department opportunities, and conducts community outreach. csuf.cbc@gmail.com

Geology Club: Unites geology majors and others by providing related information and volunteer activities on and off campus. geologyclub@fullerton.edu

Latino Medical Student Association Pre-Medical Latino - Undergraduate Society (LMSA PLUS): For Anyone interested in medical school can join LMSA, you do not need to be of Latino/Latina heritage! lmsa.plus@exchange.fullerton.edu

Math Club: Encourages students to start joint research projects with each Faculty and attend conferences nationwide for observation and / or presentation. csufmathclub@gmail.com

NSM Inter-club Council (NSM-ICC): NSM clubs and students collaborates with each other and Associated Students (ASI) to provide events and travel funding to all NSM and CSUF students. The NSM – ICC organizes the NSM Symposium, Meet and Eat with the Deans and Chairs. nsmicc.csuf@gmail.com

Physics Club: organizes lecturers from guest speakers as well as several events a year. All CSUF students are welcome. Physicsclub.csuf@gmail.com

SMART Girls Support Group (Sisters in Mathematics and Academic Relations in Teaching): holds monthly meetings, study sessions, and provides access to advisors. Learn how to be successful in math courses, relate undergraduate courses to high school teaching connect to school tutoring in schools and networking. Males may join as associate members. csufsmartgirls@gmail.com

STEM Outreach Club: Build a community with your peers. Form study-groups. Get involved in the community. Help promote science. And much more! ALL MAJORS WELCOME! csufmentor1@gmail.com

SUCCESS (Students United with Community Collaborators to Enhance Success in Science): consist of students from all STEM disciplines who are interested in undergraduate research who collaborate together to hold workshops and events for CSUF students. SUCCESSatCSUF@gmail.com