$5.8 Million Federal Grant Helps Raise the Bar in STEM Education

Cal State Fullerton has been awarded a five-year $5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a project partnering with eight regional community colleges to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income transfer students who complete bachelor’s degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and enter careers in these fields.

CSUF is partnering with Citrus, Cypress, Fullerton, Golden West, Mt. San Antonio, Orange Coast, Santa Ana and Santiago Canyon community colleges for the “Regional Alliance in STEM Education: Raising the Bar in Transfer, Retention and Graduation Rates,” called Project RAISE. CSUF is receiving about $1.2 million in first-year funding.

“The objective of Project RAISE is very clearly to help low-income students and specifically Hispanic students, since they are underrepresented in STEM fields, to be successful in completing their STEM bachelor’s degree and either go on to graduate or professional school or into the workforce in Orange County,” said Mark S. Filowitz, associate dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and interim associate vice president for academic operations.

The federal funding was awarded under the U.S. Department of Education’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM Program, which aims to develop activities to improve and expand an institution’s capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students. CSUF and the community college partners are all HSI institutions.

Cal State Fullerton was named a Hispanic-Serving Institution in 2004. The designation is given by the U.S. Department of Education to nonprofit institutions with at least a 25 percent Latino student population, and half of those students are at or below the poverty level. More than 40 percent of CSUF’s student population is Hispanic.

For additional information: http://news.fullerton.edu/2016su/STEM-HSI.aspx
Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Applied Biotechnology Studies presented an Oct. 22, conference at the Titan Student Union, featuring student and faculty researchers and industry scientists.

On Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 am – 5 pm at the Student Union’s Portola Pavilion, Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Applied Biotechnology Studies (CABS) hosted its first biotechnology conference featuring industry scientists and faculty and student researchers involved in this emerging field, which aims to improve human health and life.

“Biotechnology has reinvigorated the quest to improve human health with the potential of new diagnostic and therapeutic tools against diseases and conditions — from developing new antibiotics and antivirals to tissue regeneration through stem cell research,” said Marcelo Tolmasky, professor of biological science and director of the Center for Applied Biotechnology Studies, who studies bacteria’s resistance to antibiotics.

“We expect to incentivize discussions on the advances in different disciplines within the framework of biotechnology,” added Tolmasky, recipient of both the CSUF Outstanding Professor Award and L. Donald Shields Excellence in Scholarship and Creativity Award. “Going beyond the traditional boundaries of biotech research, this meeting welcomes people interested in applied mathematics, engineering, physics, as well as chemistry, biochemistry and biology.”

ASCEND STEM, a project to foster success among all science and technology majors with an emphasis on first-generation students, has entered its final semester of the pilot project. The project has developed the overall Science, Technology & Society (STS) Pathway to provide science and math majors a selection of general education courses that relate to their majors. CNSM 100, Introduction to Learning and Thinking in Science and Math, was created to be part of the first-year experience for entering science and math majors and kicks off the STS Pathway. CNSM 100, which offers a collaborative, project-oriented learning environment and orients students to campus culture and opportunities that support student success, was approved for GE Area E credit last term.

This semester two sections of CNSM 100 students are honing their quantitative reasoning and academic learning skills to improve their chances for success in STEM majors. The students recently completed an earthquake preparedness project in which they used quantitative reasoning to determine their water and nutritional (calories, protein, carb, and fat) needs for two weeks. Students were required to select 4 shelf stable products and calculate how many of each they would need to survive.

Next week, students will begin their Campus-as-a-Living Lab projects. They will be assigned a campus problem to investigate with guidance from Facilities Operations staff. Students will collect data, conduct research, analyze results, prepare, and present conclusions. Posters detailing their process and results will be displayed at the Campus-as-a-Living Lab event in the TSU, on December 2.

During Spring 2017, the Science, Technology & Society Pathway will offer other general education courses.

For additional information, see the ASCEND STEM website www.fullerton.edu/ascend_stem/
**NSM in the News**

**New Concentration Offered in Plant Biology**

Beginning this fall semester, biology majors interested in studying plants can now enroll in the new bachelor's degree program in plant biology. The new concentration includes 12 units of course work and covers the whole spectrum of plant biology, including plant molecular biology, plant cell biology, plant physiology, plant ecology, evolutionary plant biology, and phycology, which is the study of algae. Careers in this field include plant biotechnology, pharmaceutical science, food science, agricultural and horticultural science, forestry, plant ecology, climate change biology, restoration ecology, conservation biology, environmental consulting, and teaching. Courses offered include plant biology, field botany, plant cell physiology, plant molecular biology, and plant ecology, among others. Several courses and independent research projects for this concentration take advantage of the college's greenhouse facilities and the Fullerton Arboretum, which students will use as outdoor laboratories. For a capstone experience, students who choose the new concentration will be able to complete independent plant biology research projects under the guidance of faculty members Joel Abraham, Jennifer Burnaford, Amybeth Cohen, Joshua Der, Melanie Sacco, Darren R. Sandquist, and Jochen Schenk.

Inquiries about the new concentration should be directed to Jochen Schenk (x 3678, jschenk@fullerton.edu).

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**Seminars and Workshop Dates for the Fall Semester:**

- **Thursday November 3 at PM.** Presentation by Dr. Jose Alberto Cumineto from Institute of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, University of São Paulo - Brazil
- **Friday November 4 at 2 PM.** Software Workshop by Mr. Michael Vegitable from UC Irvine.
- **Friday December 2 at 3 PM.** Software Workshop by Dr. Dwight Wynn from the Math Department.

Prior registration is required for the November and December workshops. Please email your reservation to ccam@fullerton.edu
Kyle Gunther poses next to his award winning poster at SACNAS 2016. Kyle was awarded Best Botany Poster for his research entitled, “Possible allelopathic potential of a non-native perennial herb, Foeniculum vulgare”.

Tilly Duong poses next to her poster on her independent research on possible management strategies to deal with legacy effects of Foeniculum vulgare on CA native plants.

Nhu Vu, Dr. Paula Hudson student, won an outstanding poster award in Chemistry.
Graduate student Gabriel Santos and undergraduate Isaac Magallanes (both work with Dr. James Parham) presented award-winning research on Cooper Center fossils at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Meetings in Denver. They were invited because they won FIRST PLACE in the graduate and undergraduate student poster competitions at the Cordilleran Section of GSA earlier this year. Their research is on a 40+ million year old fossil bone bed (Santos) and fossil walruses (Magallanes).

University Awards Program

CNSM Faculty & Staff were honored for their dedicated years of service at the University Awards Program.

Dawn Hendricks
Christa Johnson
Michael R. Karg
Brock A. Pennington
Irene Robinson
Nicholas Salzameda
Gulhan Bourget
George Arthur
Cherlyn Converse
Armando Martinez Cruz

Robert E. Fulton III
William Hoese
Anna Matthew
Yvonne Moar
Theodore T. Nguyen
Matthew D. Wilken
Tony Lo
Fuming Tao
Marcelo Tolmasky
Stephen J. Karl
**Math**

Two of Dr. Todd CadwalladerOlsker former Math students, Christina Tran (now a grad student at Portland State University) and Kelly Hartmann (now teaching at Brea Olinda Middle School), have published an article in The Supplemental Instruction Journal along with Dr. Marty Bonsangue and myself. The full citation is:


**Biology**

Dr. Adam Glesser was invited to talk on October 8 at the AMS Western Sectional Meeting at the University of Denver. The talk was titled “Representations of Fusion Systems”.

Dr. Ryan P. Walter published, and had three peer-reviewed papers accepted this fall.


The first of these is coauthored with Biology faculty member, Misty Paig-Tran and highlights the discovery of a new genetic group of Manta rays new found in the Gulf of Mexico. These Mantas are literally new, evolutionarily speaking, as estimates of the time of speciation suggest a split from other Atlantic Mantas within the last 100,000 years

**Geology**


Grad co-author/Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral fellow Duccini, K. ‡ and Clemens-Knott, D., 2016, Olivine-plagioclase-pyroxene cumulates associated with the hornblende-rich Summit Gabbro: Early stages of differentiation within the Late Jurassic Sierra Nevada arc, Geological Society of America, Abstracts with Programs, v. 48, n. 7, 257-319.

NSM Student Spotlight

Name: Joshua Phelan
Major: Biological Sciences
Expected Graduate Date: Spring 2019

Tell us a little about yourself…

My name is Joshua Phelan and I am a third year biological sciences major. One of my interests is microbial communities and how they interact with their environments. Microbial communities are ubiquitous across the surface of the earth and play a significant role in the biogeochemical cycling of elements.

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

I initially fell into a science degree because of interest only. I never had science minded individuals backing me and pushing me in the right direction. I joined the major with low expectations; I thought it would be impossible to be involved in research or teaching and I wasn’t sure if I could complete my degree. Once I joined, I found so many people with similar interests and became involved in the community. Almost immediately I found myself teaching supplemental instruction and doing research; it was a surprising and encouraging turn of events. With faculty and peer involvement I became more directed in my interests and decided to pursue a PhD. NSM programs and organizations such as RCP, BURST, and SUCCESS have given me insight into professional research and allowed me to develop the scientific temperament needed to continue in future degrees.
Student Spotlight: Name: Joshua Phelan

What kind of research have you done?

I started my undergraduate research experience working in Dr. Jennifer Burnaford's marine ecology lab over summer. I worked with undergraduate Brittany Garces on her project studying the feeding preferences of turban snails on stressed Egregia menziesii. In the following fall semester I found Dr. Johnson’s group and began working with her in the spring semester. In late spring I was accepted into the CSUPERB president's commission scholars program for summer research funding. I began my own project on isolation and identification of new manganese oxidizing bacteria from little hot creek (a hot springs in the Long Valley Caldera, near Mammoth). I worked at my summer project with vigor; it was a great introduction to real research. Over the course of the summer I plated environmental soil and water samples on plates (169 total from 5 of our 7 little hot creek samples). We subsequently identified suspected manganese oxidizing colonies and attempted to obtain pure isolates through standard culture techniques. We then amplified the 16S rRNA gene for sequencing and BLASTed the sequence to identify the isolate. Summer research resulted in 7 isolates, 5 of which were sequenced, and 2 very novel isolate.

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

The biggest award I’ve received was the CSUPERB president's commission scholars program which granted $8000 dollars to our student-faculty mentor team, $6000 of which I was able to use for living expenses over the course of the summer. I still remember how the acceptance letter made me feel as if I were dreaming. A personal award was watching myself go from academic probation to the dean's list shortly after switching to a subject I enjoyed.

What challenges have you faced as a college student?

When I arrived at CSUF I had no idea why I was attending university or what I wanted to do in life. In the course of failing nearly half of my first year I found Biology 101 and supplemental instruction; it was the first time I deeply engaged in understanding course material. Once I had switched to the biology program I felt direction and excitement. The hardest part was realizing I should be studying something that really interested me.
Student Spotlight: Name: Joshua Phelan

What campus involvement have you been apart of?

Besides hosting study sessions with friends, I have been a supplemental instruction leader for biology for 5 semesters now. I started with Biology 101 in fall 2014 and moved up to Biology 152 in spring 2016. I was also involved in SIRE (Society for Interdisciplinary Research on Evolution) a student led club that had roots in the Psychology department. The clubs main focus was discussing evolution in a journal club-esque format. As most club members were psychologists we found ourselves mostly discussing psychology studies.

What has been one of your favorite moments at CSUF?

One of my fondest memories was attending the 2015 WCBSURC (conference) at Point Loma Nazarene University funded by BURST. It was my first conference and BURST provided a fantastic experience. Our group had meetings with Dr. Dickson and Dr. Hoese before and after the conference. We all drove down together and spent the day at the conference. Point Loma was a beautiful university and I mingled well with other undergraduates. The impression this conference left on me is probably the reason I overly enjoy attending conferences to this day.

What advice would you give to your fellow NSM Students?

I think it is important to invest fully in the study and to strive for an understanding of the material. The importance of attending every lecture and frequent office hours cannot be overstated; combined with study groups, these are all things students often neglect. I feel every science class should change how we see the world and we should take satisfaction in understanding more of nature.

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

After graduation I plan on continuing my studies and research professionally at other institutions or in industry. I will be applying to PhD programs and I hope to conduct long and interesting post-doc research afterwards. I find the scientific process challenging but fulfilling and accompanied by a healthy sense of discovery. My experience working on my project was the main prompt for me to pursue further study.
CAREER CENTER

Upcoming Events, Panels & Workshops

UPCOMING EVENTS, PANELS & WORKSHOPS

Skills You Need Beyond STEM Panel, Wednesday, November 2nd, 12:30pm-2:00pm, MH-341, RSVP Here: https://goo.gl/BKqFii

Research and Graduate School Opportunities at City of Hope, Monday, November 7th, 12pm-1pm, LH-210G, RSVP Here: https://goo.gl/MYpHk2

A Day in the Life of a Senior Actuarial Analyst, Wednesday, November 9th, 11am-12pm, LH-210G, RSVP Here: https://goo.gl/Wk95fD

View all Career Center events, panels and workshops by going to:
http://www.fullerton.edu/career/students/workshops-info-sessions.php

NSM DROP IN HOURS

Tuesday: 11:00am – 12:30 pm, Opportunity Center MH488

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 and interview help, and referrals for additional resources.

TITAN CONNECTION

Check out the below positions (and even more) on Titan Connection today!

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.

- Data Analyst Intern at The Mogharebi Group, Titan ID: 135858
- Research Intern at Zymo Research Corp, Titan ID: 128918
- Safety, Health, Environmental Intern at Nestle Waters, Titan ID: 125913
- Quality Systems Administrator at Bioseal, Titan ID: 136396
- Staff Engineer/Scientist at Deeper Systems, Titan ID: 136237
- Healthcare Data Analyst at Principled Strategies, Inc., Titan ID: 136147

CAREER CENTER APPOINTMENTS

Schedule your appointment with Michelle Ajemian Levy, NSM College Career Specialist, at the Career Center by calling 657.278.3121.

Appointment Types
- Major/Career Exploration
- Graduate and Professional School Preparation
  - Exploration
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Interview Preparation/Mock Interviews
- Resume/CV and Cover Letter Review
- Job/Internship Search Strategies
- Interview Preparation/Mock Interviews
- LinkedIn Set Up and Profile Review
On October 5-8, 2016, Sam Barrozo (middle), Retention Specialist, Dr. Maria Dela Cruz (right), (STEM)$^2$ Director, and Lillybeth Sasis (left), former NSM Graduation Specialist, presented at the 2016 National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining: From Grant to Institutionalization. This presentation discussed how (STEM)$^2$ - “Strengthening Transfer Education & Matriculation in STEM” at California State University, Fullerton supported transfer student success in the STEM fields. Participants got an overview of the grant, with particular focus on the outreach program and the Academic Transition Program, which included an Early Warning System to support transfer students’ academic success. As the grant ended in 2016, some of the components of the program have become institutionalized by integrating the advising roles with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Success Team. Evidence-based approach and theory utilizing the Geometric Model of Swail, Redd, and Perna (2003) on Student Persistence and Achievement was presented, including data indicators of success on retention rates.

NSM Student Success Center hosts a REAL TALK

On Friday, October 21st, the NSM Student Success Team members, Michelle Levy, Career Specialist, Sam Barrozo, Retention Specialist, Tatiana Pedroza, Graduation Specialist, and Dr. Colleen McDonough, Assistant Dean, hosted the workshop: “Real Talk: Keys to NSM Student Success” in McCarthy Hall 488 (NSM Student Success Center). NSM students attended the workshop to learn what it takes to be a successful NSM student, what they could do more to take full advantage of their NSM college experience. Current NSM undergrad and grad students, Susan Hipkins (Biology), Sarah Khair (Math Grad student), Sean Zulueta (Biology), Nancy Chen (Geology Grad student), shared their stories, strategies, and advice. They shared their tips and tools used to be where they are today. Thank you to our panelists and students who attended the workshop.
# Student Success Center

**Opportunity Center for Science and Mathematics Students**

**McCarthy Hall 488**

**Facilitating Success for students in the sciences and mathematics**

**FALL 2016 TUTOR SCHEDULE**

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

### Tutor Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physics</strong></td>
<td>101, 211</td>
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*BOLD TUTOR NAME is available beginning last 15 minutes of half-hour block

*Volunteer (OLLI)*
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. nsnicc.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