

BIOSCOPE



BRINGING FUN AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CSUCI BIOLOGY PROGRAM TO YOU!

4TH EDITION - SPRING 2009

NEW WEAPONS FOR THE WAR ON CANCER

• THE BATTLE FOR A CURE •

This year our 5th Annual Poe Symposium was held on May 1. The title of the symposium was: New Weapons for the War on Cancer: The Battle for a Cure. The topics presented were:

- Tackling Pediatric Brain Tumor Stem Cells
- The Complexity of Cancer
(or why Haven't we Cured it yet?)
- Ten Plus Years of Inhibiting Angiogenesis:
What Have we Learned? Where are we Going?
- Pro-Apoptotic Receptor Agonists as a
Targeted Therapy for Cancer
- Tuning T Cell Fate and Function for Cancer
Therapy by Genetic Engineering.

The symposium discussed our current understanding of cancer as a biological phenomenon, new approaches to treating and curing cancer, and perspectives on our status regarding the war on cancer.

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UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI



Chad Smith is a 2004 CSUCI graduate with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Currently he is in his last semester of Graduate School at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, where he is completing a M.S. in Biology with an emphasis on conservation and natural history of reptiles and amphibians. The lab Chad is in conducts research on a variety of imperiled species of North American reptiles, with a strong emphasis on working with stakeholders and government agencies to develop sound management and recovery strategies for declining species and populations. Specifically his work focuses on the hibernation ecology of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake in Northern Michigan. The Eastern Massasauga is a species that has declined severely throughout its range in the upper Midwest and it is a candidate for federal listing under the endangered species act. While the Eastern Massasauga has received considerable attention from researchers, very little is known about its winter ecology and no one has studied this species as far north as Chad has. During his time at Purdue he has taught classes in General Biology, Ecology, Zoology, and Anatomy and is considering pursuing a career in teaching as well as conservation oriented research. Chad is particularly interested in emphasizing the value of natural history studies in Modern Biology curricula and using the outdoors as a tool for educating a populace that has become increasingly isolated from the natural world and the processes on which we all depend.

Chad had this to say about his time at CSUCI: "I was among the first students to transfer to CSUCI in 2002. After languishing in a large university I found my enthusiasm for science and school in general greatly rejuvenated during my first months at Channel Islands. I found the Faculty to be engaging, personable, and most of all interested in our success as students. It was largely my positive experiences and the friendships formed with faculty members that led me to pursue a graduate degree. I am convinced that I would not be doing the work I am doing now if I had not transferred to CSUCI."

GRADUATE ALUMNI



Eva Ruth is a 2008 CSUCI graduate with a M.S. in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics with an Emphasis in Biotechnology. She is currently a Clinical Auditor at Baxter Bioscience Division, in Westlake Village, CA. Currently Baxter has many exciting clinical studies for different diseases and medical procedure improvements. Eva audits the clinical study sites and vendors to make sure they are compliant with regulations and industry guidelines. The ultimate mission of her job is to protect the rights and safety of human subjects when they participate in the clinical study.

Eva had this to say about the M.S. in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program: "Working for a clinical group is a challenge for me as I never worked for a hospital before. But, with my 6+ years working experience in the quality area in biotech manufacturing and the educational background I received from CSUCI, I was able to adopt the clinical process in a short time period. This is one of the reasons why I appreciated the classes offered by the CSUCI M.S. in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Program. The classes provided a whole different level of learning experience, one that teaches academia and industry expectations. It particularly helped me in the area of project management, understanding the drug development process and the steps from pre-clinical to marketing. Other classes, such as Cell Molecular Biology and Advance Immunology helped me to understand how the drug works in the human body. I feel I have benefited so much from all classes I took from the Master Program. In the future, I certainly will consider the MBA program if I am not traveling so much."

UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENT



Congratulations to Maya Karta who was accepted into the Ph.D. programs at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Indiana University. Maya has decided to attend University of Wisconsin, Madison this Fall to pursue her degree. We would also like to congratulate Daylin Taylor who was accepted into veterinary school; Elizabeth Glinka who was accepted into pharmacy school; Luke Allen who was accepted into dental school.

21st Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium



The 21st Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium was held January 16-17, 2009 at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport by the CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB). CSUPERB's mission is to develop a professional biotechnology workforce by mobilizing and supporting collaborative CSU student and faculty research, innovating educational practices, and responding to and anticipating the needs of the life science industry. At this year's symposium CSUCI Biology and Chemistry faculty and students presented posters of research they are currently working on. To learn more about CSUPERB please visit: <http://www.calstate.edu/csuperb/> and to learn more about CSUCI Biology and Chemistry Programs please visit: <http://biology.csuci.edu/> and <http://chemistry.csuci.edu/>.



The Discovery Center for Science and Technology

The Discovery Center for Science and Technology in Thousand Oaks, CA offers a Science Speaker Series intended for the general public and high school students, "Science Everyone Can Understand, Timely Scientific Ideas Presented by Experts who can Explain them Clearly". On March 12, 2009 Dr. Steven Norris was invited to present a lecture on The Oceans Today. His talk discussed how the oceans are full of marvelous animals and plants and how the health of their environment is closely tied to ours. For more information about the Discovery Center for Science and Technology visit: <http://www.sciencespeakersseries.org/>.



BIOLOGY CLUB SPRING 2009 OFFICERS

From left to right: Jared Penland, Alison Wall, Tanen Brown, Parissa Keshavarzian
Want to learn more about the Biology Club?
Email: csucibiologyclub@yahoo.com

DEGREE SPOTLIGHT

The Master of Science Degree in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics is a professional degree program designed to meet the needs of biotechnology industry and related public and private agencies and organizations. The program combines rigorous scientific training in interdisciplinary areas in biotechnology, stem cell technology and bioinformatics with course work and experience in business management and regulatory affairs. The program includes a set of core courses with three emphases to choose from: biotechnology and bioinformatics and stem cell technology and laboratory management, and several elective courses.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 70,000 young adults between the ages of 15 and 39 are diagnosed with cancer each year. The most common type of cancers diagnosed is dependent upon age. Lymphoma, germ cell tumors (testicular cancer) and leukemia are the most common diagnoses in 15-19 year-olds. The most common diagnoses in 20-39 year-olds are carcinomas (such as breast & colon cancer).

Under the scope: close up of a cancer cell

We'd love to hear from you! Let us know what you think of our e-Newsletter.
Please send your thoughts to: Catherine Hutchinson at catherine.hutchinson@csuci.edu