

THE NATURAL PHENOMENA

SUMMER 2010



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



B. Robert Carlson, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences

In preparing this column for the Natural Phenomena, I always struggle about the focus: what happened this year or what will be happening in the future. This year, the present and the future seemed to have merged because of the state of California budget. As you aware in your personal lives, our personal economics are more restrictive now, which translates into budgetary problems for the state of California. State support for Cal State San Bernardino has lessened this year and is primed to be reduced further next year. While the students have experienced increased costs of registration, that increase only partially mitigated the budget reductions, meaning that fewer class sections were offered. It becomes imperative to find the balance point between budget and expenditures sooner rather than later, for the downward trend can become a spiral which is not good for anyone – student, faculty, staff, or institution. To balance the enrollment and budget, CSUSB has been asked to lower its

state-supported student enrollment by almost 1,500 student headcount. We will accomplish almost all of that reduction by moving the summer school from state-support to non-state-support. This move will allow almost the same amount of enrollment to occur during the academic year, thereby keeping access open as much as possible to new students. CSUSB has also been declared as impacted, which allows the campus to shape the students who are admitted. For instance, admission priority is given to students from high schools and community colleges that are located in specified areas near the university (local area). Students from schools farther from the campus (out of area) will find admission to be more restrictive (e.g., higher grade point average). Shaping of the student body should enable CSUSB to be more responsive to the needs of the Inland Empire and to attract a better academically-prepared student. Three of the departments of the college are being affected by faculty retirements. Kinesiology has seen four faculty opt to retire or enter the Faculty Early Retirement Program this year: Sarah Boeh, Chris Grenfell, Greg Price and Cliff Singh. Leo Connolly of the Department of Physics has also announced his retirement. Chemistry and biochemistry has accepted the resignation of Dennis Pederson, Ken Mantei and John Craig. John has served in the College Office for the last nine years as associate dean. George Georgiou, currently the director of the School of Computer Science and Engineering, will accept the role of associate dean this summer. All of these people have served the students of the campus well over many years, some over 40 years of service.

In spite of the economy, the college has started two construction projects this year: an observatory and a nursing laboratory. Construction on the observatory began in February, so visible progress is being made. Located on Little Badger Hill behind the CSUSB campus, the Murrillo Family Observatory should open early next year and be a significant addition to the greater San Bernardino area. We are projecting that it will be a real asset to the students of the campus through astronomy and liberal study classes as well as to young people in the area who will be challenged to become scientists in the future. The nursing laboratory is just beginning construction, but also should be ready to use next year. A state-of-the-art facility, it will replicate the hospital environment to better prepare our nursing students to enter the profession.

I hope that you will take a moment to either write a note or e-mail to tell us where you are and what you are doing. As we share this information with others, it makes the world seem a little smaller and more caring. My wife and I remember many fellow students from our days as undergraduates and value hearing about them through our alumni office. If you will share updates with me at carlson@csusb.edu, I will be sure to pass them along to the appropriate offices.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy year,

Rob Carlson

Dean, College of Natural Sciences

MANY THANKS AND BEST WISHES



Associate Dean John Craig has finished his fifth year in the Faculty Early Retirement Program and fully retired after 39 years at the university. He came to the campus in 1971 after completing his doctorate in physical organic chemistry at Georgetown University and two years of post-doctoral study at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Professor emeritus Craig has served the university in many ways over the last four decades. He served on a myriad of committees and task forces, was chair of the faculty senate for 4 years, chair of the chemistry department for 7 years, served as interim dean for the college for 2 years and then continued as associate dean for the last 9 years. Dr. Craig is most notable for his leadership in the college's construction program. He played a pivotal role in planning and fighting to get funding for an addition/remodel plan that took nearly 20 years from inception to completion. The first phase was the construction of an addition to the biological sciences building, subsequently named the chemical sciences building. In later phases, the addition was used as "swing space" to temporarily move out the departments in the biological sciences and then the physical sciences buildings while those buildings were fully remodeled. In the end, five departments and the college office ended up with beautiful new or remodeled facilities. More recently, Dr. Craig was central in the planning and construction of a new nursing laboratory addition to the HPE building and also the privately-funded Murrillo Family Observatory, located at the top of Little Badger Hill behind the university. Construction on these latter projects should be completed within the next several months. The College of Natural Sciences would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Craig for his outstanding and dedicated service to the college and the university over the past 39 years. Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it!

DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Dr. Ken Mantei completed his post-retirement teaching with a party in his honor. Dr. Yu Jung Kim and Tiffany Han, biochemistry student, recently presented their work at the 22nd annual CSUPERB symposium in San Jose. Dr. Lisa Shamansky is updating the biochemistry laboratory to incorporate cutting-edge molecular biology techniques and bioinformatics. Dr. Jim Noblet's group is contracted to continue with water quality monitoring on Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake and in the Lytle Creek Watershed. Dr. Dave Maynard reports 14 chemistry majors participated in the Coyote Careers internship program. The M.S. program in environmental sciences began offering two degree options this year: the professional science and the geology option. Dr. Brett Stanley says eight students will graduate this year from the MSES program: Zablon Adane, Mackensey Farmer, Rebekah Guill, Shannon Johnson, Natasha Krupnak, Harvey Norton, Amanda Rodriguez and Jason Thomas. Dr. Kim Cousins attended the ACS meeting in San Francisco, where she presented two talks and a poster.

School of Computer Science and Engineering

The School of Computer Science and Engineering had a very successful year. The Annual Open House was held in October 2009. More than 200 high school students, accompanied by their teachers and counselors, attended. Faculty from the department gave presentations and demonstrations. Dr. Josephine Mendoza and Dr. Yasha Karant have been promoted to professor. Dr. David Turner, together with Dr. Art Concepcion and Dr. Tong Yu, were awarded a National Science Foundation CPATH grant to engage and encourage high school students to follow computing careers through the development of video games. The computer engineering program continues to expand, and now it has more than 100 students. In spring 2010 the first three B.S. in computer engineering students graduated. These are the first ever engineering graduates of the university. Alysha Timmons (B.S. '99, M.S. '01), director of Software Development at PerMedics, Inc., has joined the Industry Advisory Board of the department.

Department of Geology

A new Department of Geology option in the M.S. degree program in environmental sciences started in September with five students. We initiated a new integrated degree/credentialing program as part of the B.A. option. Dr. Sally McGill continues her research on the San Andreas and San Jacinto faults, conducting GPS campaigns during the summer involving both CSUSB students as well as local teachers. Dr. Erik Melchiorre and his graduate students went to Hawaii over the winter break to use the ion probe at the University of Hawaii. Three geology majors, Natasha Storni, Matt Robles and Joseph Salazar, received NSF funded scholarships in the Math and Science Scholars program administered by the College of Natural Sciences. Dr. Joan Fryxell works with the Geological Society of America and Dr. Melchiorre with the Society for Mining Engineers. We have started a Facebook group (geology at CSUSB), which already has more than 70 subscribers.

Department of Kinesiology

Department of Kinesiology faculty members are positioning the department to become a state and regional leader with their professional development. In addition to the excellence in teaching, the kinesiology faculty members bring to the department several lines of internationally recognized research papers. Additionally, the faculty now provides professional service at the international, national, regional, state and local levels, something we were not capable of doing five years ago. You can read results from the faculty research in scholarly journals on topics ranging from motor behavior on children and youth to the effects of physical activity on our body as we age. Our faculty now conducts research in kinesiology on the range of human abilities from public school students to individuals with disabilities, with content areas including psychology, sociology, pedagogy, physiology and biomechanics as it relates to physical activity, sport and exercise. Visit the department web page [<http://kine.csusb.edu/>].

Department of Mathematics

Many professors have obtained grants in the Department of Mathematics. Drs. Paul Vicknair and Charles Stanton are involved in the Riverside Community College "Set Up to Success Program" grant (2009-2011) for about \$227,000. Joseph Chavez, Corey Dunn and Rolland Trapp were awarded a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant (March 2009-February 2012) for \$189,864. Drs. Madeleine Jetter, Susan Addington and Davida Fischman received a California Math Science Partnership grant for \$1million over three years, from the California Department of Education. Dr. Fischman, with two others, obtained a six-year \$1.4 million Noyce Teaching/Master Teaching Fellowships grant from National Science Foundation. She also obtained a one-year \$50,000 grant to populate the Math Education Community Teacher Resources site and to assist in the development of the math aspects of the Noyce-NSDL project. Research activity has produced published papers for Drs. Hajrudin Fejzic, Christopher Freiling, Dan Rinne, and Shawn McMurran.

Department of Physics

The Department of Physics is back in the refurbished PS building and settling in. Meanwhile, construction has started on the Murillo Family Observatory. It's exciting to see the progress that has been made at the site on Little Badger Hill. Opening is expected sometime next winter. Dr. Laura Woodney has taken on the role of inaugural observatory director. With the help of Paul Gardner from JPL, she has been busy designing and acquiring the telescopes. We want to thank everyone for their generous donations. By the way, donations still are being accepted if you're interested in contributing. Dr. Tim Usher returned from a successful sabbatical at University College Dublin as a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Sue Lederer was awarded a NASA grant to go on sabbatical this year to JSC. Dr. Paul Renteln has taken a leave this spring to focus on his research. Alumni, feel free to visit any time or to contact your favorite professor directly by e-mail.





Department Chair:
David Polcyn

Professors:
Nicole Bournias
James Ferrari
Anthony Metcalf
John Skillman
Stuart Sumida
Colleen Talbot-Bonney
Kim Williams

Assistant Professors:
Mike Chao
Kevin Middleton
Laura Newcomb
Paul Orwin

Department Office:
Debbie Reynolds
Katrina Preciado

THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

The Department of Biology continues to grow, with more than 800 undergraduate and graduate majors. Biology faculty have been very successful in securing funding for a wide variety of research and training projects. Dr. Nicole Bournias Vardiabasis and Dr. Jeff Thompson were awarded a \$1.14 million grant from the California Center for Regenerative Medicine to train 26 undergraduate and six graduate students in stem cell research. Dr. Paul Orwin received a \$215,000 National Institutes of Health grant to fund research on the genetics and physiology of biofilm-forming bacteria, as well as a \$100,000 United States Department of Agriculture grant to conduct research on the interactions between nematodes and soil bacteria. Dr. Michael Chao was awarded a \$400,000 National Institutes of Health grant for his work on chemosensation in the nematode *C. elegans*. And Dr. Kevin Middleton was awarded two National Science Foundation grants; \$64,000 (part of a \$471,000 collaborative

project) for his work on the evolution of wing-propelled diving in birds such as penguins and puffins, and \$60,000 (part of a \$550,000 collaborative project) for his work on the effects of elevated environmental oxygen levels on the growth, locomotor ability, muscle and bone structure in the American alligator. All of these projects include significant opportunities for undergraduate and graduate research. Students routinely present the results of their research at regional, national and international meetings of professional societies, and several have published their work in leading scientific journals. Students have also been successful in earning spots in professional schools and graduate programs around the country; at last count we have had five students accepted to dental school, two accepted to medical school, and two accepted to pharmacy school so far. Many others are moving on to graduate schools and various jobs around the country ... the Department of Biology wants to keep

track of our successful graduates, so please write and keep us updated on where you are and what you are doing after you graduate. We have an exceptional group of professors in the Department of Biology, and I'd like to highlight a few notable faculty achievements. Dr. Colleen Talbot was awarded the College of Natural Science's 2008-2009 "Outstanding Professor" award for her excellence in teaching. Dr. Herbert Brunkhorst was awarded the National Science Teachers Association "Distinguished Service Award" for his lifelong work in Science Education. And Dr. Stuart Sumida was awarded the 2008 CSU Wang Family Excellence Award for his work on vertebrate paleontology. We would like to encourage all the biology alumni to keep in contact with us by contacting Dr. David Polcyn at dpolcyn@csusb.edu. Let us know where you are and what you are currently doing!

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCE



Department Chair:
Ted Coleman

Professors:
Kim Clark
Dan Fahey
Lal Mian

Associate Professors:
Dorothy Chen-Maynard
Marsha Greer

Assistant Professors:
Joe Hughes
Chris Lindfelt
Bob Phalen

Department Office:
Cindy Levin
Leann Bactad-Pulido

The Department of Health Science and Human Ecology continues to evolve in response to student and professional needs as well as budget restraints. We offer undergraduate concentrations in public health education, child and adolescent health, nutrition and food sciences, healthcare management, and environmental health. Graduate students choose from two excellent programs: master of science in health services administration or master of public health. Dr. Bob Phalen is a valuable resource to CSUSB's Palm Springs Institute for Environmental Sustainability. His research studies on air quality in the Coachella Valley were presented to the IES Advisory Board, with reports posted on the Institute's website. He continues working with students on other grant-funded research and is writing a textbook on environmental health. Interesting side-note: his co-author is his dad.

In addition to teaching and other responsibilities, Dr. Lal Mian is editor of the *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association*.

With credit to Drs. Mian and Phalen, in 2007, our Environmental Health program received national re-accreditation for six-years from the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council. Dr. Marsha Greer remains involved with the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI), a program of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities that establishes and improves the scientific infrastructure of academic institutions that serve predominately minorities. RIMI emphasis is consistent with the appointments of Dr. Greer and Dr. Ted Coleman as Fellows in the Metro Health Academy (based at San Francisco State University) and work being done, by Dr. Kim Clark and colleagues in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, to establish academic pipelines for middle and high school students interested in health professions.

Drs. Clark and Coleman are both international faculty members at Hochschule Fulda International Summer University in Fulda, Germany. There they work with stu-

dents from CSUSB and all over the world in a program that incorporates international perspectives on health-related course topics, language, culture, and diversity. Dr. Coleman also presents keynotes, workshops, and other training at several universities in and around Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Dr. Chris Lindfelt assumed the responsibilities of program coordinator for undergraduate health care management and graduate coordinator for MSHSA. Dr. Dan Fahey continues to advise students and support projects like College Bowl. The same holds true for Drs. Dorothy Chen-Maynard completing her second term as chair of the Faculty Senate) and Joe Hughes and their students' competition in Nutrition Bowl. Robert LaChausse completed his doctorate last academic year and continues to teach and conduct research. Long-time adjunct faculty member Alex Taylor retired in 2009, and continues to teach as needed.



Department Chair:

Paul Vicknair

Professors:

Mary Molle

Associate Professors:

Lynne Leach

Marilyn Smith-Stoner

Assistant Professors:

Teresa Dodd-Butera

Susan McGee-Stehsel

Department Office:

Angela Garcia

Lorena Gomez

Clay Okafuji

THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

This June the Palm Desert Campus had its first graduating class of BSN students. This program is entirely supported through private funds, a mixture of grants and donations. The BSN program started at PDC in the fall quarter of 2007; two additional cohorts have been admitted, one starting in the fall quarter of 2008 and the other in the fall of 2009. The nursing program at PDC received a Song-Brown award to fund another cohort of students for the RN to BSN program. The San Bernardino campus continues to admit students twice a year, one cohort starting in the fall quarter and another in the winter quarter. The partnership between Cal State San Bernardino and Riverside Community Hospital continues though fewer new students are being enrolled in the partnership because of the economic downturn.

In regards to administrative assignments within the department, Dr. J. Paul Vicknair is currently serving as the interim chair of the department, Dr. Jean Nix is the

BSN program coordinator, Dr. Ora Robinson is the assistant director, Dr. Mary Molle is the coordinator for the MSN program and Dr. Lynne Leach is serving as the coordinator at PDC.

In the fall of 2009 there was a groundbreaking ceremony for a new skills lab to be constructed adjacent to the HP Building. Site preparation will have started by the time this publication has appeared with the expected date of completion being early in 2011. Unfortunately, no money for equipment is included in the funding for the building, but a plan is being developed to fully equip the building by the time it is completed.

The hybrid online MSN program continues to grow. Additionally, the MSN program is seeking CCNE accreditation with the report being recently completed and the site visit by a team from the CCNE scheduled to take place during the spring quarter. Margaret Beaman and Dr. Molle were key individuals in the preparation of the report with assistance from Paula

Spencer and Dr. Teresa Dodd-Butera.

Faculty members continue to be active in receiving internal grants from such sources as Professors Across Borders (Dr. Molle, Dr. Marilyn Smith-Stoner), College of Natural Science Summer POD program (Dr. Dodd-Butera) and minigrants (Dr. Molle). Dr. Molle serves on the board for the campus NIH RIMI grant. Drs. Molle, Dodd-Butera and Susan McGee-Stehsel are engaging students in a perinatal mental health community collaborative, supported by CUP. Marilyn Stoner's *Silver Hour* concept on death and dying continues to develop. The department was visited by a group of nursing faculty from Korea during the fall quarter and another group from Sweden in the winter quarter. Four faculty and six students will visit Sweden over Spring break.

Alumni are urged to keep in contact with the department at (909) 537-5380.

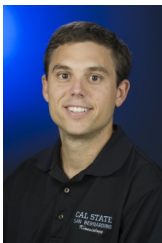
THE DISABILITY SPORTS FESTIVAL

The DisAbility Sports Festival is a non-profit program within the Department of Kinesiology focused on improving the physical activity rates and quality of life of people with disabilities. We host or co-host numerous events throughout the year, including the award-winning DisAbility Sports Festival held each year in October and the All-Star Swim Program, which is held throughout the month of May. In the four years of our program, we have grown from just 100 participants to the expected 600 athletes this year. Our participants are able to learn about and succeed at many different activities that some may believe that they cannot do. One of our volunteers stated, "People with disabilities are a lot stronger than myself. They push themselves to do things they can't normally do and are happy with that. I NEVER saw someone there who didn't have a smile on their face." Thus, both participants and volunteers are learning about themselves, others and the potential of all people.

This year, on Oct. 2, we expect to

have 600 participants of all ages and abilities, including 100 veterans at the free DisAbility Sports Festival. Participants are introduced to at least 16 different sports, including wall climbing, archery, soccer, basketball, hand cycling, and beep baseball. The keynote speaker during opening ceremonies will be Angela Madsen. Madsen rowed across the Indian and Atlantic oceans and was a member of the first all-woman boat that rowed around Great Britain this summer. Each of these amazing feats came after her spinal cord injury while in the military. Other Paralympic and expert coaches with disabilities at the festival include Mark Wellman, Anthony Lara, Kaitlyn Vurfuerth and Alma Delia. These coaches are one major reason why the festival succeeds each year. A parent of a participant with a disability said, "The presentation of so many sports by people who have actually played them has, I think, contributed the most to the success of this year's festival." Participants learn from experts in their respective sports and benefit greatly from them.

The participants at the festival range in age (as young as 1 year old and as old as 84 years young), disability, and most importantly in their various abilities. The athletes learn about themselves and their own potential when participating in the sports. For instance, one athlete stated, "DisAble does not mean that you can't do anything. In fact, it means that you just have to work a bit harder than someone who does not have any kind of disability." The DisAbility Sports Festival programs are about helping all people with different abilities to find their potential through sport and physical activity while also improving quality of life. One student volunteer summarized her experience the best when she said, "A challenged individual is not an obstacle in our life, but someone who enriches us with their ability to overcome them." If you have any questions or would like to register as a participant or volunteer, please contact Dr. Aaron Moffett at (909) 537-5352 or sportfes@csusb.edu.



Director:

Aaron Moffett

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

The 2009-2010 academic year has been a very different one for fundraising in the College of Natural Sciences. No longer is the observatory the primary focus of our efforts! The money has been raised, and the Murillo Family Observatory is under construction! This building is being constructed without the benefit of state of California funds because individuals and foundations thought that an observatory in the Inland Empire could make a huge difference. While construction projects rarely are completed on time, this project is projected to finish in late November 2010 with the telescope being placed in the dome in early January 2011. Exciting times, and for all of you who contributed either cash or in-kind materials, a dream come true!

Many of you have contributed scholarship money in support of the President's Academic Excellence Scholars program. Students selected for this recognition graduate from a San Bernardino County high school in the top 1 percent of their class. If they attend CSUSB, they receive a \$5,000 scholarship, renewable for three more years if they maintain a 3.5 G.P.A. The College of Natural Sciences historically has the largest number of PAES recipients among the five colleges. We have an outstanding group of 10 scholars graduating this year, each with a special story. Marlene Gutierrez, a chemistry and biochemistry major, applied to five schools to pursue a doctoral degree, was accepted by all five, and will be attending the University of Texas at Austin with full support. Denise Martinez, a biology major, has won a coveted USDA scholarship for \$25,000 for her pursuit of a graduate degree. Two students who benefitted from the scholarships endowed by Dr. Prem Reddy of the High Desert area will be graduating. Anna Ho has completed her pre-physical therapy degree in the Department of Kinesiology, and Katie Walczak has completed her B.S. degree in nursing. Because we support more than

50 students per year in this program, donations to support these students are always appreciated. If you might be interested in having a scholarship named after yourself or a loved one, please contact me directly.

The College of Natural Sciences has just broken ground on a new nursing laboratory. We are fortunate that the state of California made money available to support this project,



Michael Wahl, President Albert K. Karnig, Dean Robert Carlson, Paul Vicknair, John Craig

but funding is available only for construction. All furnishings and equipment will have to be provided by the department and college. Several hospitals, upon hearing of the project, have offered in-kind equipment since the new laboratory is designed to replicate what nurses will find in the hospitals when they go for their clinical training and employment. The projected budget for equipping this facility is about \$500,000, so we plan to meet that goal through donations of in-kind equipment and cash.

The next project that we hope to get underway is a natural science museum to be located in the Chemical Sciences Building. We have a 3,000 square foot room that has been identified to house a museum. Faculty have recommended that we include exhibits featuring paleontological animals, geological exhibits linking to the mining industry in the Inland Empire, and a water exhibit featuring the

Santa Ana River watershed. This project is in the early stages, so all suggestions will be appreciated. We have a core of some exhibits such as a mammoth and saber-tooth tiger as well as a very impressive geology collection donated by Dr. Stu Ellins, a retired faculty member from the Psychology Department. Completing this museum is budgeted at \$1 million so we still have a ways to go!

To each of you have supported the work of the college this year, a very special thank you. With the budget impact upon the college, we have not filled the director of development position. This decision has certainly affected the quality of the development work that has been done this year, as it will impact the future as well. Listed below are all individuals who have made a real difference this year through their support of the college. We thank you for remembering CSUSB when you make choices about whom you will be able to support this year.

Sincerely,

Rob Carlson, Dean

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS

\$500,000 or more

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Dr. Javier Torner
Dr. Karl W. Plumlee

\$100 - \$499

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Santa Ana Watershed
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Mrs. Cheryl A. Tubbs
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Ms. Lillian R. Wisegarver
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Ms. Christie Briceno
Ms. Cornelia Heun
Ms. Natasha N. Hutson
Ms. Brianne Meredith
Ms. Aeisha Nick
Mr. Roberto Soto
Cheesecake Factory
Dr. James A. Ferrari
Ms. Ashlee Brizzee
Mr. Brett M. Bailey
Mrs. Cecilia Branch
Mr. Arturo Castellanos
Mr. Srinivas Challa
Mr. Rick B. Dunham
Mrs. Maria G. Gagnepain
Dr. Marsha Greer
Ms. Michelle J. Hoel
Mrs. Jeanette Knabenbauer

Mr. Gabriel Lechuga
Mr. Tom L. Mattson
Mr. Kevin M. Middleton
Mrs. Irma Paramo
Mr. Philip E. Paule
Mr. Steven L. Rockett
Ms. Lauren N. Arciniega
Mr. Michael T. Bowers
Mr. Jesus Fajardo
Ms. Victoria A. Haight
Mr. Ruben R. Rodriguez
Ms. Roxie M. Findsen
Mrs. Lizabeth A. Hope-King
Ms. Cindy Levin
Mr. Javier Preciado, Sr.
Ms. Christina E. Hill
Mr. Steven M. Bauer
Ms. Stacy Cannaday
China Citic Bank
Ms. Cindy Chrisler
Ms. Melissa Rico
Ms. Allison Mader
Ms. Cheryl Di Pretoro
Mr. Quentin J. Moses
Dr. Kerstin Voigt
Dr. Haiyan Qiao
Mrs. Julie M. Bullock
Dr. Karen Kolehmainen
Ms. Monica Latimer
Dr. James Noblet
Ms. Linh T. Phan
Mrs. Lisa M. White
Mrs. Denise M. Rautmann-
Garcia
Ms. Mary-Christine Ulatan
Mr. Paul K. Wielenga
Mr. Scott Shaffer
Dr. Donna Rane-Szostak

COMMENCEMENT 2010

The College of Natural Sciences' commencement ceremony took place on June 19, 2010, at 2 p.m. in the Coussoulis Arena on the CSUSB campus. Before a crowd of their families and friends, more than 300 students received their diplomas. Among those students were several who were singled out for various honors. Each year, the college chooses students it determines to be outstanding, both from the undergraduate and graduate populations. This year, the outstanding graduate students are Ching-Yi Wang, from computer science and engineering; Erin Strong, from health science and human ecology; and Karla Rivas, from mathematics. These students have shown great promise in their chosen fields, and the college is proud to recognize them. The outstanding undergraduate students are Liane Greaver, from biology; Marlene Gutierrez, from chemistry and biochemistry; Sachithra Udunuwarage, from computer science and engineering; Joseph Salazar, from geology; Amy Sadek, from health science and human ecology; Antoinette Cheryl, from kinesiology; Rachel Rehner, from mathematics; Amy Spykerman from nursing; and Matt Strader, from physics. These students have worked very hard and richly deserve the honors. Additional students received departmental honors. From the **Department of Biology:** Liane Greaver, Sara Evans, Aurora Casas, Jacob McFarland, Denise Martinez, Patricia Turturro, Mariam Wade; from the **School of Computer Science and Engineering:** David Randolph, Patrick O'Connor, Rowen Concepcion, Abdelrahman Kamel, Matt Strader, Sachithra Udunuwarage; from the **Department of Geology:** Joseph Salazar; from the **Department of Health Science & Human Ecology:** Amy Sadek; from the **Department of Kinesiology:** Ashley Alexander, Colleen Berona, Sophia Bruins, Tamra Campbell, Antoinette Cheryl, Philip DeMoss, Brittany Dominguez, Kristen Gordon, Marcos Guevara, Anna Ho, Siyi Huang, Karissa Kelly, Kristine Maravilla, Lauren Meserve, Bryan Mota, Anjuli Nieto, Michael Parrish, Terri Potts; from the **Department of Nursing:** Raylea Lightburn, Amy Spykerman, Rhianna Cole, Regina Hughes, Maria Villarama, Mark Hocesvar, Ami Mehta, Adrian DeLaCruz, Erica Sacdalan, Robert Ayers, Courtney Hastings, Amy Hetherington, Natasha Hummel, Whitney Schroeder, Amy Hury, James Watson, Laura Gahagan, Cinaih Munguia, Kristin Schmitt, Rubi Brothers, Heather Nelson, Keeley Mizell, Samta Patel, Randy Sendow and Kathryn Walczak.

The College of Natural Sciences wishes all the new graduates the best of luck.



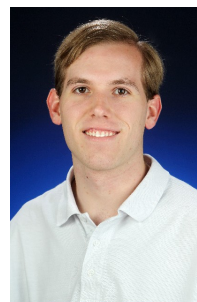
CNS OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Valerie Housel was born and raised in San Bernardino. She was the valedictorian at Cajon High School and earned her degree at CSUSB in chemistry with a minor in mathematics. Through extension courses at UC Riverside, she earned a certificate in air quality management. She has always had a strong interest in environmental protection and her first professional appointment was in the city of Fresno's wastewater testing laboratory. She then continued on in the cities of Riverside and Redlands, where she managed laboratory facilities and participated in regional task forces that tackled complex regulatory issues related to salt management and toxics control. In 1996, Valerie joined the San Bernardino Municipal Water Department and in 2006, she was appointed as the director of environmental and regulatory compliance. Currently Valerie holds certification as a laboratory analyst in both potable and wastewater testing and she also maintains memberships in the California water environment association and TTIRTAC, which is a technical advisory committee that prepares recommendations to the state water resources control board.



CNS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Erin Strong graduated with a masters degree in public health and a cumulative GPA of 3.96. She originally enrolled at CSUSB to complete more advanced science coursework that would enhance her application to medical school. Erin is a research infrastructure for minority institutions health scholar and a program assistant for the Blu Educational Foundation. She is currently a graduate research assistant reviewing literature on Alzheimer's disease and the caregiver burden in Asian American communities. Erin's thesis research looked at disparities in birth outcomes among African American women participating in a local community-based prenatal care program. Erin participates in the American Medical Students Association on the health equity campaign steering committee, and she has been teaching a health science undergraduate course as a lab instructor. Finally, Erin has authored a paper on the relationship of cultural competence and minority medicine. In the fall, she will begin medical school at the University of Michigan.



CNS OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE

Matt Strader finished his undergraduate coursework in the winter quarter, 4 ½ years total with a B.S. in computer science, a B.S. in physics and a minor in mathematics, all while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 4.0. During the summers of 2007 and 2008, Matt participated in internships with the Center for Bioimage Informatics at UC Santa Barbara. His first research project involved comparing image searches that were meant to be a tool for biologists. During Matt's second internship, he developed new algorithms to solve image problems and to compare their results. This past summer, he worked as a student assistant in the physics department modifying and updating software tutorials for use in the physics introductory electronics course. Matt is currently finishing research on attempts to simulate and understand the growth patterns of life in extreme environments, so scientists would be able to recognize these kinds of patterns if seen on other planets. Finally, Matt has accepted a scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in physics at UC Santa Barbara in the fall. Paul Dixon, department chair of physics says that "Matt is the best student he has seen in his 17 years at CSUSB".

