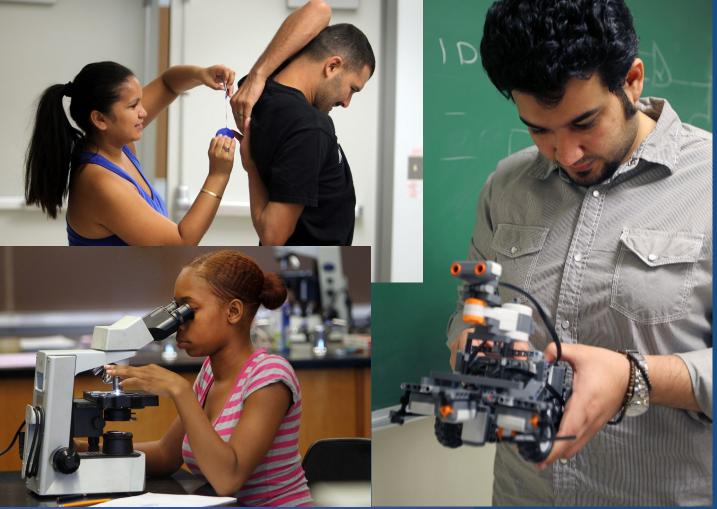
THE NATURAL PHENOMENA





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SUMMER 2014

THE NATURAL PHENOMENA

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Kirsten Fleming, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences

The faculty and students in CNS continue to do remarkable work. This year I have chosen to highlight the accomplishments of some of the faculty members and students who represent the achievements of their colleagues, current and future.

Dr. Larry Mink, of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was awarded the prestigious Golden Apple for excellence in teaching, and Joyce Ahlgren, of the Department of Mathematics, was named as the inaugural recipient of the university-wide Outstanding Lecturer Award. The college's awards went to Dr. Shawn McMurran of the Department of Mathematics for teaching, Dr. Joan Fryxell and Dr. Alan Smith of the Department of Geological Sciences for research, scholarly and creative activities, and Dr. Hyun-Kyoung Oh of the Department of Kinesiology for Service.

Salvador (Sal) Garcia was named as the

college's outstanding graduate student. He graduated in June 2014 with a master of science in biology. Sal's passion is to be directly involved in the advancement of STEM cell science that he believes has the potential to save the lives of children. During his graduate studies Sal completed his research internship in a tissue-engineering laboratory at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. At the end of this internship he was offered a full-time research assistant position in the lab.

Robert (Robby) Rigby was named as the college's outstanding undergraduate. He graduated this year with a bachelors of science from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Robby's personal philosophy stresses the importance of benevolence, determination, diversity and healthy living, and he is an advocate of preventative medicine. Robby's educational experience at CSUSB has inspired him to pursue becoming an osteopathic physician.

The CNS Outstanding Alumna for 2014 is Dr. Paula Estrada Day Martin who earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in biology in 1995 and 1997 respectively. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in cell biology from Yale University in 2004 and a juris doctor from New York Law School in 2010. She currently serves as a senior associate at WilmerHale where she is a technology specialist focusing on U.S. and foreign patent prosecution for life science, biotechnology and plant fields.

This past year we welcomed five new tenure-

track faculty members to the college, and 12 new faculty members will join them in fall 2014. We look forward to three departments having new chairs: Dr. Mike Chao for biology, Dr. Chuck Stanton in mathematics; and Dr. Mary Anne Schultz in nursing. We thank Dr. Dave Polcyn, Dr. Peter Williams and Dr. Dwight Sweeney for the successful service chairing these departments. We are pleased that Dr. Williams has now joined the college office as associate dean and grateful to Dr. Chris Lindfelt for stepping into the role on an interim basis for the past year and for doing such an outstanding job for the college.

While the college's success is attributable to remarkable students, faculty members and alumni, I also want to thank the college's staff without whom the college would not run so smoothly and without whom I would not have had the opportunity to attend a baseball game to thank them for the wonderful work they do daily.



HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING CENTER



Are you a student majoring in one of the many exciting health professions? Do you have questions or need assistance? We're here to help! The Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC) focuses on providing students with the appropriate information and support needed to prepare for careers in the following health professions: dentistry, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant, clinical laboratory science and veterinary medicine. Students receive career path advising, assistance with selecting and applying to graduate schools, finding internship/volunteer opportunities, resume and interview skills, and personal statements. The center aims to serve undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students in finding the right fit for their career goals. For more information you may visit our website to stay up to date with upcoming events,

workshops, and blogs: <u>http://csusbhpac.weebly.com</u>. We can be reached at (909) 537-7345 or stop by and see us. We are located in TO-030 (north of the Biological Sciences building). We look forward to meeting and assisting you!



DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Department of Biology

The Biology Department welcomed two new faculty members; Dr. Angela Horner, who conducts research on aging and locomotion in small mammals, and Dr. David Rhoads, whose research focuses on the roles of mitochondria in plant responses to environmental stresses. On the research front, Dr. Rhoads and his collaborators received \$528,000 from the National Science Foundation to examine the effectiveness of incorporating original research in biology courses. Drs. Horner, Tomasz Owerkowitz and Stuart Sumida received a Vital Technology Initiative grant to support high definition digital printing technologies for anatomically based courses and research. Dr. Kimberlyn Williams received a USDA/NIFA Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grant to train students in restoration ecology and the challenges presented by climate change. Dr. David Polcyn received a \$1.5 million California Department of Education grant focused on integrating science and engineering in middle and high school classrooms. Student research continues to grow in the department, and graduate student Stacey Nerkowski won first place for graduate research in biology at the CSU Student Research Competition this year. Beginning fall 2014, the Biology Department will welcome Dr. Michael Chao as the new department chair. We encourage you to update us on your accomplishments by contacting him at mchao@csusb.edu.

Department of Geological Sciences

This year for the first time, departmental scholarships were awarded to seven students- B. Chew, M. De Hoyas, J. Goode, N. Grill, T. Rangel, M. Thomas, J. Zeeman. Dr. Joan Fryxell was appointed to the Academic & Applied Geoscience Relations Committee of the Geological Society of America. Dr. Erik Melchiorre was the keynote speaker at the Arizona Mineralogy Symposium, which also featured presentations by his undergraduate students Tricia Read and Chelsea Sheets-Harris. Dr. Sally McGill continues to run the summer GPS project for which we are in the process of purchasing four new instruments. She was also named an Exceptional Reviewer for 2013, by the editors of Lithosphere. Drs. Alan Smith, Joan Fryxell, Louis Fernández and alumnus George Daly were co-authors on the Geological Society of America Special Paper 496. The department successfully hosted the third Joint Societies symposium with around 120 attendees from local geological companies, faculty, students and alumni from CSUSB, as well as nearby universities and community colleges. Dr. Frederick Chester of Texas A&M University, an ODP Distinguished Speaker, gave the

keynote address. Other guest speakers hosted during last year included Dr. Axel Schmitt of UCLA, Dr. Julian Lozos of U.C. Berkeley, and Dr. Greg Hempen, the 2014 AEG/GSA Jahns Distinguished Lecturer.

Department of Health Science and Human Ecology

The department had a busy and successful year. We continue to see unprecedented increases in the number of majors, which now totals more than 500 majors. We placed more than 100 student interns in public and private health service locations. Our Individualized Supervised Practice Program (ISPP), an alternative to our dietetic internship program, accepted the first cohort of 25 interns in fall 2013. We participated for a second year in a program to take 12 students to the Assembly in Sacramento to see first-hand how laws are made. The California Endowment funded the trip through a grant to CSULA and we participated along with several other CSU campuses. We welcomed Dr. Sue Kim as new faculty. Her research is in health care finance and policy and she is teaching in those areas. Devin Arias, an MPH student, was selected to be a mentee in the Student Mentorship Program for Hispanic Health Research and is working with the senior emergency operations officer with the U.S. Public Health Service to analyze the data for state and territorial emergency managers about planning and prepping for functional needs and displaced persons in disaster shelters. Evangel Sarwar, an MPH student, was awarded a Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellowship and worked with youth in Snowline on public health issues. Alumni stay in touch -- email Dr. Marsha Greer at mgreer@csusb.edu!

Department of Kinesiology

The department is growing in majors, developing new laboratories and replacing faculty members who left CSUSB or retired. Growth appears in two concentrations: Allied Health Professions (42%) and Exercise Science (36%). Our teacher preparation concentration has about 12% of our majors with 10% of our majors listed as undeclared. We are in the midst of completing the construction of the biomechanics laboratory with plans to build hemodynamic and motor behavior laboratories next year. Next fall three new faculty members will join Kinesiology replacing a few who left or retired. Dr. Pablo Costa left CSUSB for CSU Fullerton and Dr. Aaron Moffett is taking a leave of absence to work with the Wounded Warriors. Additionally, Drs. Greg Price and Cliff Singh retired in 2014 leaving a void for us to fill in the next two years. Stay abreast of Kinesiology by visiting http://kine/csusb.edu

Department of Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics has had a very productive year in terms of publications and grant activity. Dr. Nadejda Dyakevic published work in Dynamic Systems and Applications, and created a "Double Magic Hexagon," appearing in the New York Times in July. Dr. Rollie Trapp coauthored an article with two undergraduates who participated in the REU program in the Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications in June, and Dr. Corey Dunn published two papers with previous participants, and also another paper with other coauthors. The department is also busy with continuing grant work. Dr. John Sarli, chair of the MDTP test-design workgroup, will continue as the CSUSB site director until his retirement at the end of fall quarter. Dr. Dunn and Dr. Trapp continue as codirectors of the CSUSB Summer REU program. Finally, Dr. Davida Fischman continues her collaboration with the San Bernardino City USD through the Noyce Scholarship and Fellowship program.

Department of Nursing

This has been a great year for the Department of Nursing. The BSN Program received full approval from the Board of Registered Nursing in December 2013. Mid-Cycle reports were also completed for the Council of Collegiate Nursing Education to maintain full accreditation for the BSN and MSN Programs. The department received a \$500,000 gift from Prime Health Care for the ongoing renewal of simulation equipment in the Dr. Prem Reddy Nursing Skills Laboratory. The Rho Beta Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society won the Chapter Key Award. In May, Rho Beta, in collaboration with the Eisenhower Medical Center, conducted the First Evidence Based Practice Conference at the Annenberg Center in Rancho Mirage. Finally, Dr. Teresa Dodd-Butera received a Health Resources and Services grant for \$216,000 to support the Nurse Faculty Loan Program provides funding to develop nursing faculty.

THE NATURAL PHENOMENA

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY



Department Chair: Brett Stanley

Professors:

Kimberley Cousins David Maynard Larry Mink James Noblet Dennis Pederson (FERP) Lisa Shamansky Douglas Smith Shumei Yang

Associate Professors: Yu Jung Kim John Tate

Assistant Professors: Renwu (John) Zhang

Department Office: Irene Carrasco Terri Cortez

Support Technicians: Ken Makino The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offers five degree programs to about 290 undergraduate majors, an all-time high. The growth rate has averaged 7 percent per year over the last seven years, and 52 students are expected to graduate this year with their bachelor's degree in chemistry, also an all-time high. In addition, the department helps support 15 graduate students in Earth and Environmental Sciences along with the Department of Geology.

The faculty continues to be active in research. The exciting collaboration with Drs. Tim Usher (PI) and Paul Dixon of the Department of Physics in landing the CREST grant to establish a Center of Advanced Functional Materials tops the list of accomplishments. Drs. Kim Cousins and Renwu Zhang will be working on computational models to explain how the materials work at the molecular level and predict new functional materials, and Dr. Doug Smith is synthesizing organic piezo- and ferroelectric substances for testing. A number of undergraduates are already working on these projects.

Dr. Jim Noblet continues to develop his Water Quality Laboratory and received two contracts this year to monitor the effectiveness of alum treatments of Canyon Lake, and the efficacy of nutrient management at Lake Elsinore. Five students are currently employed in this lab.

Dr. Yu-Jung Kim was awarded an NSF-funded GCAT mini-grant with Dr. Nicole Bournias in the Department of Biology, and her research student Robert Rigby was awarded a RISE sub-grant in biotechnology administered by Dr. Cynthia Crawford in the Department of Psychology. Robert was also selected as the department's outstanding undergraduate student this year with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Approximately a half-dozen undergraduate students presented their research at various conferences this year, notably the Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research, and several are on their way to graduate programs across the country.

The faculty continues to excel in teaching while striving to improve further. Dr. Cousins and Dr. Brett Stanley are participating in a faculty learning community on a collegewide NSF grant to study evidencebased teaching methods headed by Dean Kirsten Fleming. And most notably of all, Dr. Larry Mink was awarded the Golden Apple award in honor of his excellent teaching. The selection committee cited the Student Opinion of Teaching Effectiveness ratings by his students in the categories of overall quality of instruction and contribution to learning, notably in large classes of general chemistry as "surely a testament to an extremely high quality level of instruction."

Recent alumni news includes the following students completing their Ph.D: Jennifer Bell at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Jeramie Watrous at UCSD, Gregory Johnson at Texas A&M. Greg Barding has accepted a position as an assistant professor of chemistry at Cal Poly Pomona.

SCHOOL



Director: Kerstin Voigt

Professors: Arturo Concepcion George Georgiou Ernesto Gomez Yasha Karant Josephine Mendoza Owen Murphy David Turner Tong Yu Kay Zemoudeh

Associate Professors: Haiyan Qiao

Lecturers: Kathleen Devlin Peter Watson

Department Office: Alice Martinez Monica Latimer

Support Technician: Birdy Wang OL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

The two largest programs, the BS in Computer Science and the BS in Computer Engineering, were up for the coveted ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation this year. The BS in Computer Science degree was due for reaccreditation while the Computer Engineering degree program sought first-time accreditation. The CSE faculty spent extraordinary amounts of time and effort, commensurate with the rigorous ABET requirements, on the writing of two extensive program assessment reports and on preparations of the ABET evaluator visit in fall 2013. The CSE office staff and many of the school's students contributed significantly to the success of the event. At the conclusion of their visits, the ABET teams left us with good reasons to believe that accreditation for both programs will be granted. The preliminary reports are positive and the outcome, to be released in July/August 2014, is expected to be good.

The BS in Computer Engineering,

CSE's fastest growing program, has undergone further improvements of its curriculum. In particular, after an involved process at numerous university levels, adjustments to the degree's unit structure were granted which will facilitate students' graduation-on-time in this traditionally high unit program.

8

Dr. Richard Botting, the founder of the Department of Computer Science, entered his well-deserved retirement after 30 years of service to CSUSB. Dr. Keith Schubert left the university for a position at Baylor University. The School of CSE is in the process of filling both positions with new assistant professors.

As in previous years, the School of CSE has continued to generate a lot of interest in its disciplines among the young population in the region. The 2013 CSE Open House which took place in November 2013 was attended by more than 400 students, teachers and counselors from local high schools and community colleges. Faculty gave presentations and demonstrations ranging from robotics, computer vision, creation of smart phone applications, computer games and computer graphics to mathematical games and encryption, as well as the history of computers.

ENGINEERING

The school's involvement in the STEM-oriented NSF funded "PRISM" project allowed computer science and engineering students to participate in this year's SCCURR (Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research) conference. President Morales jointly with the College of Natural Sciences kindly funded the attendance of three female Computer Science undergraduate students at the 2013 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference in Saint Paul, Minn.



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS THE



Department Chair: Paul Dixon

Professors: Karen Kolehmainen Paul Renteln Tim Usher

Associate Professors: Laura Woodney

Assistant Professors: Carol Hood

Department Office: Maureen Murphy

Support Technicians: James Sheu

been experiencing dramatic from the National Science Founda- research with CSUSB's research growth over the past few years; we tion to establish the Center for partners there. In addition, the now have more students than Advanced Functional Materials at grant will be used to strengthen we've ever had. The graduating CSUSB. The funding from the Na- our collaborative relationships with class is 14 students this year, tional Science Foundation comes local community colleges, specifimatching the record that we set in through its Center for Research cally the College of the Desert and 2007. Moreover, the current numbers of underclassmen suggest that this number will grow for the foreseeable future. In addition to growth in the number of students, the department has experienced significant growth in both the breadth and depth of research being done by the faculty and students. Dr. Laura Woodney, Dr. Carol Hood, Paul Gardner, and a number of students have put in another year of productive work getting the Murillo Family Observatory fully automated, and already are using it for research. Both Drs. Hood and Woodney have been using the 20-inch scope for their research, primarily to complement Also, many will travel to The Matethe work that they do at various rials Research Science and Engilarge international observatories.

The Department of Physics has received a 5-year, \$5 million grant Edwards, Calif., to participate in Excellence in Science and Technol-Physics will lead the project. The co-principal investigators are Drs. Kim Cousins, Douglas Smith, and Renwu Zhang in Chemistry, and Dr will enable them and a large number of students to conduct fundamental research that may lead to new ferroelectric and piezoelectric materials to help improve a wide range of devices from smart phones to ultrasonic imaging systems. CSUSB students will participate in research through paid research assistantships at CSUSB. neering Center at the University of Nebraska, to the State University of New York, Buffalo, and NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in

Victor Valley Community College. ogy, known as CREST. Dr. Timothy We are really excited about the Usher (the principal investigator) in research opportunities that this grant will make available to our students. One last bit of big news. Dr. Hood and her husband Michael are the proud parents of their sec-Paul Dixon in Physics. This grant ond son: Andrew Christopher Hood. Andrew, who is about a cute as can be, was born in January. Dr. Hood took maternity leave during the winter quarter, and will be returning this spring.

> Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch. Feel free to pop in any time, e-mail Dr. Dixon at pdixon@csusb.edu, or contact your favorite professor directly (for addresses check out our website: physics.csusb.edu).

This year, five faculty in the Physics and Chemistry departments

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

The college had yet another successful year of development. We would like to send a warm thank you to every individual, foundation, and corporation that was a part of the widespread support we received. It is all of you that help us create a successful environment for our students.

Nursing Lab

Dr. Prem Reddy, founder of Prime Healthcare Services, generously donated \$500,000 to name the nursing simulation lab the Dr. Prem Reddy Nursing Laboratory. With this gift, the college will be able to maintain the equipment in the nursing simulation lab as well as keep it up to date; ensuring that our students will have state-of-the-art equipment to learn with.

Supporting Our Students

The college is always looking for ways to provide students with scholarships in order to ease their financial burden of pursuing higher education. This year we received a \$10,000 from Mr. Kip Surgeon by way of the United Cancer Research Society to provide scholarships for nursing students. We also received \$12,500 from Southern California Edison to provide scholarships to students majoring in STEM fields.

Geology Research Project

The Geology Department was able to use funds received from the W. M. Keck Foundation to purchase Niton ED-XRF instruments for undergraduate research. These instruments will play a big role in field-based research opportunities in environmental geology and volcanology for students by allowing them to conduct quantitative geochemical analyses and enhancing their ability to succeed after graduation.

Our college proves every year that it has a great support system, which is to be credited to all the truly wonderful faculty, retired



Dean Kirsty Fleming, nursing students, Dr. Prem Reddv and President Tomas Morales

faculty, friends, corporations, and foundations that recognize our goal to strive for academic excellence. We hope to maintain your support and to keep making strides here in the college.

This year, the college did a great job of nearly reaching our fundraising goal, although we were without a director of development for a large portion of the academic year. We are pleased to announce that the director of development position was recently filled by Duke Graham. Duke brings a wealth of development experience with him to the university and specifically to our college and he will be with us for the start of the new academic vear. We are excited to have him as a new addition to our team and look forward to working with him.

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College of Natural Sciences

COMMENCEMENT 2014

The College of Natural Sciences' commencement ceremony took place on June 14 at 7:45 p.m. in the Coussoulis Arena on the CSUSB campus. Before a crowd of their families and friends, more than 480 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 Salvador Garcia, from biology; Ran Wei from computer science and engineering; Evangel Sarwar, from health science and human ecology; Brittany Salt, from mathematics and Anne Lama from nursing. These students have shown great promise in their chosen fields, and the college is proud to recognize them. The outstanding undergraduate students are Jacqueline Olivas from biology; Robert Rigby, from chemistry and biochemistry; Joyce Goode, from geology; Marissa Hobbs, from kinesiology; Matthew Overduin, from mathematics; Chelsea Whisenhunt from nursing and Justin Belicki from physics. These students have worked very hard and richly deserve the honors. Additional students received departmental honors. From the Department of Biology: Anita Sahagian, Jacqueline Olivas and Edward Moreira; from the Department of Chemisty and Biochemistry: Bryan Syndy Malit and Robert Rigby; from the School of Computer Science and Engineering: Chadwick Barensfeld, Jonathan Cabe, Jeremy Greenland, Avinash Misra, James Small and Matthew Steele; from the Department of Geological Sciences: Joyce Goode; from the Department of Health Science and Human Ecology: Brittany Garcia; from the Department of Kinesiology: Casey Atkinson, Belinda Dunbar, Fernando Fregoso, Ronald Gonzalez-Trujillo, Travis Halliday, Kari Hillwig, Marissa Hobbs, Jason Levy, Marina Aguilar, Anthony Menacho, Eddie Menacho, Janay Palicte, Tami Paone, Danae Pfeifer, Aimee Samp, Ashlee Scott and Andrew Villa; from the Department of Mathematics: Samuel Marrulo and Jesus Mora-Sanchez; from the Department of Nursing: Brenda Aceves, Nanette Alvarez, Satta Bockari, Jennifer Brunn, Carla Burgos, Corynn Busch, Alden Canlas, Christina Cao, Tiffany Caranci, Lisa Carlos, Ricca Chagolla, Columba Chaidez, Lindsay Claeland, Linda Clifton, HJohanna Cullip, Vi Do, Stephanie Figueros, Kaitlyn Frydendall, Robin Gamboa, Brittney Greco, Omar Hashem, Heather Hernandez, Belinda Herrera, Courtney Hipkin, Jeanette Johnson, Joseph Kamami, Jasmin Keller, Katsura Kinoshita, Daniele Knickerbocker, Amber Ladage, Cynthia Leclair, Eric Lee, Luis Leon, Da Li, Shiela Locquiao, Veronica Lomeli, Jose Lopez, Shana Manlopig, Jamie McVicker, Sarai Monay, Brian Murphy, Autumn Nelson, Esthella Nsek, Jessareen Ogoy, Bonnie Oldengarm, Susana Olivan, Randy Olsen, Rodney, Pesigan, Sean Ouebbemann, Christine Richardson, Joan Romero, Jessica Schroeder, Cheyanne Stough, Jennifer Strain, Cynthia Tostado, Nguyet Tran, David Welch, Chelsea Whisenhunt, Ryan Yalung, Choua Yang, Chris Yuvienco, Glenice Zamora-Huse, April Zarate, Jacqueline Zionkowski, and Adia Zipperman; from the Department of Physics: Gilbert Arias, Justin Belicki, James Boyd, William Elder, Dean Guillen and Jacob Pate.



CNS OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Dr. Paula Estrada de Martin earned her bachelor's and master's of science degrees in biology at CSUSB in 1995 and 1997 respectively. She

Paula Estrada de Martin continued her academic endeavors, pursuing her Ph.D. in cell biology at Yale University and graduated in 2004. In 2010. Paula earned a Juris Doctor cum laude from New York Law School. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at New York Law School where she serves as the patent law mentor in the Intellectual Property Jobtrack at the Institute for Information Law and Policv. Her practice focuses on U.S. and foreign patent prosecution for life science, biotechnology and plant fields. Paula joined WilmerHale in 2005 as a technology specialist and is currently a senior associate at the firm. Her technical skills encompass genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, physiology and cell biology. She is the author of several publications and served as a teaching assistant at Yale while pursuing her graduate studies.



Salvador Garcia

translational research so that potential cures can move closer to the bedside. Sal was one of only four undergraduate students accepted into the first cohort of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine Program and was awarded several internships and worked in numerous research labs. As a master's student, Sal was awarded a yearlong graduate level CIRM-bridges trainee position. He completed his research in the CIRM funded tissue-engineering laboratory of Dr. Tracy Grikscheit at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles in the Developmental Biology and Regenerative Medicine Program. During his internship, Sal learned many classical and modern techniques used in developmental biology. At the end of his internship, Sal was offered a full time position by Dr. Grikscheit to work in her laboratory as a research assistant to continue this line of research.

CNS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Sal graduated with a master's of science in biology with a cumulative GPA of 3.9. His passion is to be directly involved in the advancement of stem cell science and



CNS OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE

Robert graduated with a bachelor's of science in chemistry and a cumulative GPA of 4.0. He enrolled at CSUSB as a presidential academic excellence scholar and has been a member of

Robert Rigby

the chemistry club and student ambassador society. Robert's educational experience at CSUSB has inspired him to become an osteopathic physician, and his philosophy stresses the importance of benevolence, determination, diversity and healthy living and he is an advocate of preventative medicine. Robert has participated in research projects and has presented his findings several times. He has worked in a water analysis lab on campus that taught him the fundamental application of science in the real world and the patience needed when troubleshooting in the lab. Robert was selected as the Outstanding General Chemistry Student in 2011, the Outstanding Organic Student in 2012 and the Outstanding Biochemistry Student in 2013. In addition to balancing his academic workload, Robert finds time to enjoy surfing, hiking, camping and fishing. Robert plans on working as a scribe for a year, and then hopes to be accepted to Western University.

