



Southern California Marine Institute

2016
Newsletter

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Past and Present CSU Marine Biology Semesters

By: Echelle Burns

Past students rave about it, professors dream about it, and the future of marine science benefits from it. What is it? The CSU Marine Biology Semester at Catalina Island, of course! Take it from past Catalina Semester Student (2015), Tharadet Man, who says, "The CSU Catalina semester opened many doors for me and allowed live in paradise for 4 months. Living with my peers and working closely with professors was a valuable experience that I'd recommend to anyone else that had the chance." The past semester's CSU Marine Biology Semester has come and

gone so fast, and it was one for the scrapbooks. Hosted by CSU Northridge, this course will include professors Dr. Larry Allen, Dr. Robert Carpenter, Dr. Steven Dudgeon, and Dr. Mark Steele. From August to December, students embarked on a journey learning about the distribution, morphology, and ecology of marine fishes surrounding Catalina Island and nearby waters, all while working to develop and defend their own research project.

Check out the next newsletter for a full update on the Fall 2016 semester!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Past and Present CSU Marine Biology Semesters
- 2 We Catch Them in Twos
- 3 Cabrillo Earth Day 2016
- 4 New Dive Safety Officer, Darrell Montague
- 5 2016 Wheeler North Award Winner: Dr. Larry Allen
- 6 Summer 2016 AAUS Dive Class

Important Dates

Fall CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina

August 28th - December 15th, 2017

Summer 2017 AAUS Dive Courses

June 12th - June 28th, 2017

July 24th - August 8th, 2017

We Catch Them in Twos

By: Echelle Burns



As many may know, SCMI's R/V Yellowfin is constantly taking CSU students on field trips to discover more about local marine life. One task completed on these field trips is an otter trawl, which samples fish that live on or near the bottom of soft sediment habitats that are approximately 60 feet deep. A new and unexpected guest has been making an appearance in the trawls this season: longnose

puffer fish, or for those of you who love Latin, *Spherooides lobatus*. Interestingly, these little guys have been popping up in pairs and are small enough that we have to put a net over the overflow pipe in the viewing tank, so that they do not get stuck inside. While not usually present in the area, puffer fish were caught from the Redondo Beach Pier in L.A. County during the last El Nino event and the warmer waters could help to explain their re-appearance.

Cabrillo Earth Day 2016

By: Echelle Burns

Horn sharks, round stingrays, and bat stars, oh my! This year's Earth Day Bird Festival at the Cabrillo Aquarium was one for the scrapbooks. The day started with a beach cleanup and continued with an Earth Day Fair. SCMI staff participated in the event with an expansive display, featuring a tank full of marine animals common in Southern California waters. Other local agencies and environmental groups ensured that the Festival was fun for adults and children alike, and even some SCMI-ers got their faces painted with colorful sea creatures.



New Dive Safety Officer, Darrell Montague



Darrell Montague, Dive and Boat Safety Officer for the Ocean Studies Institute, grew up swimming, snorkeling, surfing and fishing from his family's small boat in Southern California. He has been working in the dive industry for 17 years as a Divemaster and Instructor and acted as Dive Safety Officer and expedition medic on remote dive operations for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, National Geographic, and several film and television productions. Before moving to OSI, he was Dive and Boat Safety Officer for the California Science Center Foundation. As DSO, he oversaw exhibit, youth education, and open water diving for collecting and research. As BSO he supervised boat operations for the CSCF's 34ft research vessel, piloting during field work, and coordinating staff training.

Darrell has trained divers for the California Institute of Technology, is a former EMT, and has been a volunteer crew member for the USC Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber. He's an active member of the Association of Dive Program Administrators (co-chairing the Corporate Partner Program committee, and sitting on the Commercial Standards committee), the Scientific Boating Safety Association, and the American Academy of Underwater Sciences. He's worked in communications, design, fabrication, building (holding a class B GC license) which, he says, "Makes me good at MacGyvering stuff when necessary."

2016 Wheeler North Award Winner: Dr. Larry Allen!

By: Echelle Burns

The Southern California Academy of Sciences is pleased to present Dr. Larry G. Allen (CSUF) with The 2016 Wheeler North Award for Scientific Excellence. The award is rare, as it is not presented annually and is only given when the Board of the Academy deems it appropriate. Dr. Allen received his B.S. in Biology from Stanford and his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon, Eugene, studying rocky shore ecology. Since his Ph.D., Dr. Alan has become a CSU Long Beach Professor Emeritus and has taught a plethora of marine-based courses, including ecology, biostatistics, and field methods. Dr. Allen spent his entire career educating people about marine life, and his dedication and commitment to marine science education and coastal ecological research has inspired many. Congratulations, Dr. Allen!

Summer 2016 AAUS Dive Class

By: Echelle Burns

The American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Research Divers Certification Program will soon begin, and with a slight change in the line-up. Since 1999, Ocean Studies Institute (OSI) Dive Safety Officer (DSO), Jimmy Cvitanovich, has been guiding students through the deep water, boat, and blue water dives that are required for the completion of the course. However, this year, Jimmy will co-teach the class with Darrell Montague, the new addition to the OSI family. Together, the two will help the students gain the skills that are essential to safe and effective scientific diving. The course will begin in mid-June and consist of two weeks of intense diving and classroom training.

Interested in taking the next AAUS Course? Check out http://www.scmi.net/osi_aaus to learn more!