"True science is distinctively the study of useless things. For the useful things will get studied without the aide of scientific men. To employ these rare minds on such work is like running a steam engine by burning diamonds"

Philosopher Charles Sanders Pierce

Student News

Dr. Gelareh Abedi (see Spring 2004 newsletter) who will be pursuing a residency in ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Medical Center, was the 2004 recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

Dr. Andres Aguilar (B6-7-45W) recently earned his PhD in the Center of Tropical Research at UCLA under Dr. Robert Wayne. He recently co-authored a paper in PNAS 101(10):3490-3494 entitled High MHC diversity maintained by balancing selection in an otherwise genetically monomorphic mammal. Andy is presently doing a post-doc at UC Santa Cruz.

Shing-Hu Cheung (B21 Spring 2001, B22 Fall 2001, & B23 Spring 2002) reports that he graduated from UCI with a degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. He will be going to the University of Nottingham for his PhD program. He recently co-authored a paper in Biochemistry 43:8528-8540 entitled Characterization of TAT-Mediated Transport of Detachable Kinase Substrates.

Lauren Matsui (B21-22-23,45W, Z17, B88B, etc) completed a bird banding internship with the Redwood Science Lab/Klamath Bird Observatory this spring and summer. At present she is

Department NEWS

Fall Flex Activities -Among the department's fall flex activities was a visit to the world famous exhibit "Body World" by Dr. Gunther von Hagens from the university of Heidelberg in Germany. No pictures could be taken inside the exhibit at the California Science Center, but you can see pictures of some of the faculty members waiting in line to get in.

Roger Cobb, Technician for Biology 3,4,15,21,22,23, and Zoology 5 went in for lower back surgery in June right after finals. He is convalescing at home.

Walter Sakai received the Avaya Inc. & Anixter Inc. Chair of Excellence in Life Sciences, receiving $5000 a year fore ach of the next three years to be used for projects of his choice that will enhance his teaching. Sakai plans to use the funds to expand his field research projects, including a new one in Costa Rica. Sakai is the second recipient in the Life Sciences following Doug Allan.

"Sakai, who has been teaching at SMC since 1975, received his bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of California at Davis and his master's in ecology from from UCLA.

"Although he has been involved in several
banding at the Tortuguero Integrated Bird Monitoring Program in Costa Rica. 

**Megan Lulow** (B6-7, B45W, 1992-3) & **Jan Goerrissen** (B6-7, B45W, 1993-4) are finishing their PhDs @ UC Davis and are co-assistant directors at the Univ. CA Natural Reserve System's Granite Mountains Reserve.  

**Aram (Claire) Kim** (B21-22-23, Spr 04) reports she just participated in SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) at CalTech, where she worked on "The Role of Dishevelled in Gastrulation Movement in *Xenopus laevis* Analyzed by *in vivo* MRI Microscopy. She is presently at U.C. Berkeley in bioengineering. One of the movies of her work can be seen [here](http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/start.htm)

Students interested in summer research programs such as the one above can go to the link provided by Aram at http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/start.htm  
http://www.yale.edu/ncuse/  
http://www.the-aps.org/education/ugsf/SumResLINKs.html  
http://research.berkeley.edu

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**Ruth Logan**, long time instructor in the biology majors course, will be retiring at the end of the fall semester. Her bio will be on the next newsletter.  

**Bill Kinch**, retired Botany Professor in our department for over 30 years, passed away after a brief battle with cancer. Bill was a student at SMC after service in the Navy during WWII. Following his studies at SMC, he transferred to Humboldt, and then did his Master's work at Claremont University under Philip Munz. He was well known to both faculty & students for his horticultural knowledge & skills as well as his delightful sense of humor, although teaching in the 60's and 70's he felt students took his botany classes more with the thought of learning how to grow the "weed." Bill was also active in the Faculty Senate serving as its president and in the Faculty Association. He retired in 1988. He is survived by his wife Maria, three children, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

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**Faculty and Staff NEWS**

**Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones** attended the 2004 American Society of Microbiology conference for undergraduate educators. Learn more about this conference at [http://www.asmcue.org/highlights/index.asp](http://www.asmcue.org/highlights/index.asp)
Visit the Earth's Biodiversity Hot Spots. These 25 wilderness locations support nearly 35% of all terrestrial vertebrate species. www.biodiversityhotspots.org

See How Your Tax $$ Support (or not) Science www.science.gov

Learn about the social, culinary, and medical uses of spices at unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice

DONATING BLOOD?

To donate blood, call 1.800.GIVELIFE or 1.800.448.3543. Call between 8am to 9pm to schedule an appointment.

American Red Cross of Santa Monica, 1450 Eleventh Street at Broadway, Santa Monica. 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, except holidays, 9:30am - 4pm.

American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles, West District Office, 11355 Ohio Avenue, West Los Angeles (enter from Sawtelle entrance at V.A. Facility) 12pm to 7pm. 2nd and 4th Saturday of each, except holidays, 7am to 1:30pm.

A REAL DEAL is donating blood at St. John's Health Center, where perks include a free cholesterol test, pair of free AMC theatre movie passes, and entry into a monthly drawing. Platelet donations, a process which takes about twice as long, earns more movie passes! Call 310.829.8025 for details and an appointment. There is also free valet parking for all donors.

Dr. Maria Dell and Dr. Paul Wissman, both anatomy instructors, were awarded a $1500 fellowship to design & implement an embryology course to create an awareness and understanding of human development during the first weeks of life.

Evan Pepper, a new part-time faculty member in microbiology, recently attended the 9th meeting of the Southern California Union of Microbiologist at Cal Tech in Sept 2004. Topics discussed included using microbes for bioremediation, "quorum sensing," and examining "mutator" populations.

Walter Sakai attended the joint meeting of the Western Bird Banding Assn/Western Field Ornithologist/Oregon Field Ornithologist in Ashland, Oregon in Sept 2004, where he took a workshop on molt limits and presented a paper on mist net color based on the work of two Biology 23 (7) group research projects. The paper is being prepared for publication.

Ed Tarvyd, Marine Biology and Zoology professor, has been a long time member of CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species). He will be attending the biennial meetings in Bangkok, Thailand from the 2-14 October as one of the U.S. representatives.

Deborah Novak, part-time Nutrition instructor, has been doing nutrition education presentations around the community, such as "The Importance of Carbs in a Carbless World" to such places as the Oaks of Ojai (health spa) and the Jewish Community Center in the SFV.