Life Sciences News

News and Information for and about students, staff, and faculty in the Life Sciences Department at Santa Monica College

There is science, logic, reason; there is thought verified by experience. And then there is California.

Edward Abbey

Student News

Professor Mary Lynne Stephanou has received new from her students who came to SMC to take Allied Health prereqs after having received bachelors degrees elsewhere. Dawn de Silva, who graduate in June 2007 from UCLA School of Medicine, has begun her residency in Family Practice at UCLA. Jessica Hoelle, after graduating from the accelerated nursing program at Mt. St. Mary's College in 2006, is now working in Cardiac ICU at San Francisco General Hospital. Mary Ahn completed the accelerated nursing program at John Hopkins University in 2004 and is now working at UCLA Hospital.

Students interested in summer research programs such as the one above can go to the link provided by Aram Kim (Biology 23, Spring 2004) at

http://www.yale.edu/ncuse/
http://www.the-aps.org/education/ugrf/SamResLINKs.html
http://research.berkeley.edu

Things to do....

TUTORS NEEDED: Students who have successfully completed Life Science Dept courses such as Biology 21-22-23 (formerly Biology 6A-B, 7), Botany, Microbiology, Zoology 5, Anatomy 1 and 2, Physiology 3 and are interested in teaching can be tutors. Contact faculty members in those disciplines for further information.

HABITAT WORKS: If you are interested in the environment or volunteering for wildlife or habitat conservation projects around Los Angeles or Southern California, check out this great organization.
http://www.habitatwork.org/ One of its leaders is Tom Persons, an alumni of many of our Field Studies courses.

Care-Extender Program at Santa Monica-UCLA Center. Get experience in Health Care! CALL 310.319.4398

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.

Book: If you are a fan of the medical mystery shows that are the rage on TV, you might be interested in the works of Robin Cook, a M.D. turned medical mystery writer.

Internet Sites:

BIOBLITZ - Sponsored by the National
BioBlitz - Sponsored by the National Geographic Society, BioBlitz is a twenty-four hour event in which scientists and volunteers scour an area to identify as many species of organisms in a local area. One of the upcoming BioBlitzes for 2008 will be in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, right next door to us. The Life Sciences Department, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and others will be participating in this effort to be held on 30-31 May 2008. For more information on BioBlitz, go to http://www.nationalgeographic.com/conservation/bioblitz/.

Global Warming!

Online questionnaires to calculate your current energy use. http://safeclimate.net/calculator. The carbon equivalency calculator translates units of greenhouse gases saved in easily understandable equivalents: gallons of gas saved, acres of forest preserved, etc. The listed site is usctcgateway.net/tool. Did not work recently though.

Department News

New offering: Are you ready for Anatomy 1 or Physiology 3? If you are applying for admission to a nursing program or other allied health program, make sure you know about the admission requirements. For example, SMC’s Nursing Program http://www.smc.edu/nursing/majorpreparation.htm currently states “An overall grade point average of 2.5 for the Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, and Microbiology prerequisite courses with no grade less than "C" for each course and no more than one repetition/withdrawal of any of these courses.” You may repeat one of these courses.”

Take the quiz at http://www.aw-bc.com/getreadyquiz/ If you did not do well, consider taking Biology 2 (Human Biology) before enrolling in Anatomy 1 and Physiology 3. Biology 2 may serve as an introduction to the future study of biology, including anatomy and physiology, or stands by itself as a non-lab life science IGETC course for general education students.

In addition to the Human Biology textbook, you will be using the Get Ready for Anatomy &

Faculty and Staff News

New Full-Time Faculty Member
Dr. Christina von der Ohe joins our department as an Anatomy and Physiology professor this fall. Dr. von der Ohe received her PhD from Stanford University in the Biological Sciences in 2006. Her dissertation work focused on neural plasticity in hibernators. Prior to her doctoral work, she completed a BA from UC Berkeley and her MS from the University of Montana, where she studied wildlife physiology. During graduate school, she taught courses for undergraduates, graduate students, and medical students. Christina enjoys spending time in the great outdoors with her husband and two young children. WELCOME!

Joanna Dragich, a part-time Biology 3 instructor, is also a post-doctoral fellow in Chris Colwell's laboratory of circadian neurobiology at UCLA. This July, Joanna traveled to Australia to present my work on the mechanisms underlying light entrainment of the circadian system in mammals. She attended the Internation Brain Research Organizations 7th World Congress in Melbourne and a satellite symposium on Molecular Clocks in Adelaide, Australia where she presented research titled "Light induction of brain derived neurotrophic factor in the suprachiasmatic nucleus". The travel was funded by the Friends of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA.

Evan Pepper, a part-time instructor in microbiology, reports that he finally completed my Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in Molecular and...
Physiology workbook to provide you with the basic skills you will need to succeed in Anatomy 1 and Physiology 3. This workbook covers the following six topics: Study Skills; Basic Math Review; Terminology; Body Basics; Chemistry; and Cell Biology.

For additional information about winter 2008 Biology 2 classes, go to http://homepage.smc.edu/azuma_kay/ or contact Dr. Azuma by email azuma_kay@smc.edu

Computational Biology. The title of his dissertation was "Mechanisms of Long-term Survival in Escherichia coli". CONGRATULATIONS!

Drs. Margie Dell, Kay Azuma and Ellen Baker spent part of this past summer taking a summer camp offered by Benjamin Cummings at its facilities in San Francisco. They learned how to use the online available resources for their respective textbooks and how to use test generating programs. They had the opportunity to exchange ideas with other professors in biology and came home with tons of ancillaries, even an iTune gift card! Some photos of the three "working."

NATURE NOTES:
There are over 200 species of mammals in Costa Rica; over half of them are bats! There are only five primates, four monkeys and (of course) humans. There are over 850 species of birds in this country. This is more than one can find in all of North America or Europe.