

# SAS Newsflash

California State University, Long Beach • College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics • Spring 2007

## CNSM Students Sharpen Math Skills and Earn Scholarships

**T**hirty-five students from CSULB and Cerritos College participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Math Summer Workshop July 10-27, 2006. It was an intensive calculus workshop where students are introduced to the concepts of calculus in preparation for calculus courses in the following semester.

LSAMP supports underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing advising, workshops, and scholarships. Its goal is for students to successfully

complete their degree programs and enhance their futures in the STEM disciplines, graduate programs in particular. LSAMP also awards scholarships of up to \$2500 to students who engage in activities that enhance graduate school readiness.



Benjamin Bush, 2005-2006 CSULB LSAMP Student Scholar, won first place in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences category at the 2006 CSULB Student Research

Competition and was runner up at the 2006 CSU Statewide Student Research Competition.

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## CNSM Students Showcase Their Research

**O**n September 8, 2006 the Jensen SAS Center coordinated the annual Student Research Symposium for CNSM students. Many students spent the summer working in a research lab



on campus or at other institutions and this was an opportunity to showcase their

hard work. This is also a good way to practice presentation skills before participating in national meetings. For students thinking about joining a lab this was a chance to learn about the different projects available.

Forty-one abstracts were submitted for the poster session representing 23 research labs. In addition, 12 Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program\* research posters were included and many of the summer program participants came back to present their work.



Research projects were varied and poster titles included: *Monogamy versus Polyandry in Female Black Rockfish *Sebastes melanops*: Are They "Faithful" Or Are They Promiscuous?*, *3D Crosslinkers Based on Gold Nanocrystals for Collagen Drug Delivery Materials*, and *AC Current Tools for Use in Superconductivity Experiments*, among others.

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## Where Are They Now? Spotlight on CNSM Students

**M**any College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics students go on to pursue wonderful professional opportunities after they've completed their degrees in the sciences and math. Here's a spotlight on just a few...

Rene Venegas, second year student at UC Davis School of Medicine, is not your traditional medical student. Rene grew up in Baldwin Park, CA and was the first in his family to attend college. He earned a Bachelors degree in

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## Test Prep Scholarship for Pre-Health Students

The Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO) is currently accepting applications for test preparation scholarships to help offset the costs of preparation for MCAT, DAT, OAT, PCAT, and GRE. Students preparing to apply to a health professions program and planning to take the required admissions test for the 2008 or 2009 entering class are encouraged to apply. Applications accepted on an ongoing basis with a **priority deadline of March 16, 2007**. Applications available in FO5-109 or at [www.sascenter.org/hpao](http://www.sascenter.org/hpao). Contact HPAO at (562) 985-5720 or [hpao@csulb.edu](mailto:hpao@csulb.edu) for more info.

# Peer Mentors 2006-2007: Ready to Help CNSM Students

**O**ur Peer Mentor Program is off to another great start this year. Last spring we accepted seven committed upper-division students who were willing to dedicate their time and energy to serve as mentors to 35 incoming science and math freshmen. After participating in several summer training workshops, our peer mentors assisted the Jensen SAS Center during Science Safari to Success and EONS (Enrollment and Orientation into the Natural Sciences), as well as co-facilitated the annual Science Enrichment Week.

Their work continues during the academic year as our peer mentors serve as guides and resources for our freshmen to help them make a positive and successful transition to life at *The Beach*. In addition, our peer mentors volunteer their time as tutors in various disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.



We have a wonderful group of mentors and are grateful to them for their commitment to the Jensen SAS Center and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics!

## 2006-2007 Peer Mentors

Loriann Campos, Kelly Case,  
Reina Chu, Joshua Lawanson,  
Kirsten Malm, Greer McMichael,  
and Suzanne Pluskat

Interested in becoming a peer mentor? Applications will be available beginning March 26 - see Noriko Gotschall or Jesse Ramirez for more information about becoming a mentor.

# Improve Your GPA Today

**H**as your overall (cumulative) GPA fallen below a 2.0? Then attend Strategies for Academic Success! This workshop sponsored by the Academic Advising Center is designed for undergraduate students who are on academic probation. The supportive and knowledgeable staff from the Academic Advising Center will provide information about university policies and procedures, the reasons why students encounter academic challenges, and how to receive help and support from campus services and offices. Attendance in this program is highly recommended for those on Academic Probation.

If you attend a Strategies for Academic Success workshop,

complete one follow-up activity, and make academic progress, you may become eligible to receive one extra semester to bring your GPA back to a 2.0 or above. Invitations to attend a workshop were recently e-mailed to students. Spring 2007 workshops will be held on Fridays throughout the Spring 2007 semester - February 16, March 1, March 16, April 11, and April 27. Workshops are at various times and held in the Academic Advising Center located in the Horn Center - Room 103. Reservations are required and check-in begins 30 minutes prior to the scheduled workshop start times.

For more information contact the Academic Advising Center at 562-985-7847.

## CNSM Students Showcase Their Research (continued from page 1)

After the poster session, two students gave oral presentations. Kerri Loke worked in Dr. Kelly Young's lab and presented *Changes*



*in the Reproductive Biology of California Sheephead (Semicossyphus pulcher)*, and Yanett Roman from Dr. Ray Wilson's lab presented *Phylogenetic Utility of mtDNA Control Regions Among Gobioids*. Oral presentations were recently added to the symposium, and we have seen an increased interest in giving talks. This year students were able to submit abstracts on-line for the first time thanks to Danny Ames from the College office.

The Jensen SAS Center strongly encourages students to engage in research. We have compiled a binder of **Research Opportunities** available for students to view in the center that includes a list of active research labs in the college, course prerequisites and

faculty contact information. Students can also find out about sponsored research programs and course credit opportunities. See Ignacio Hernandez to talk about getting involved in research. Maybe next year you'll present your research at the symposium!

*\*Bridges to the Baccalaureate is a summer research program for community college students funded by the National Institutes of Health.*

## CNSM Students Sharpen Math Skills and Earn Scholarships (continued from page 1)

LSAMP students also receive financial support to participate in professional conferences, GRE preparation, and graduate school visit. Applications are available year round, while the Student Scholar program application will be available late Fall.

Contact the LSAMP Program Coordinator, Noriko Gotschall, for eligibility requirements and other details by calling 562-985-8061 or via e-mail at nishii@csullb.edu.

# Getting Ready to Graduate?

**T**he Academic Advising Center hosts workshops, known as **Graduating Senior Check-Ups**, for all graduating seniors to help them prepare for graduation. During the workshop they address frequently asked questions like *Have you met all your requirements?*, *How to file for graduation?*, and *How do you read a degree progress report?* No appointments are needed, but be



sure to bring a copy of your Degree Progress Report and an unofficial copy of your transcripts so that an academic advisor can review these documents as well as a CSULB Bachelor's Degree Worksheet. Workshops are held Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and on Fridays at 10 a.m. Contact the Academic Advising Center at 562-985-4837 for more details.

## Where Are They Now? (continued from page 1)

History from UC Berkeley and worked as an elementary school teacher for several years before enrolling as a post-baccalaureate student at CSULB. While completing his pre-medical coursework, Rene worked as an emergency department technician at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, was involved in research under the guidance of Dr. Elizabeth Eldon, and served as a Jensen SAS Center Peer Mentor and tutor. When Rene completes his training, he hopes to work as a pediatrician in an underserved community.

Andrew Robinson transferred to CSULB from UC Irvine in 1999, seeking a more intimate environment to take science courses. He completed a Bachelor's degree in Biology with an option in Physiology and a minor in Chemistry, cum laude in 2003. Seeking to strengthen his credentials for medical school, Andrew enrolled in the Master of Medical Sciences Program at Loyola University Chicago in 2004. He was recently admitted to the medical school at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, the nation's federal health sciences university committed to producing medical officers in the services.

Keep the Jensen SAS Center staff updated on the exciting plans you have for life after CSULB.

## New Computerized MCAT Exam

**T**he last paper and pencil administration of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) recently concluded. The Association of American Medical Colleges is now offering the MCAT in a computer based format exclusively. Along with the transition to a computerized test, the MCAT test itself is being reduced from eight hours to four, with a third fewer questions, and score reporting will take approximately 30 days, reduced from 60 days.

The new MCAT will be administered 22 times per year at Thomson Prometric testing sites. Prometric locations in Southern California include Anaheim, Camarillo, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Glendale, Lake Forrest, Los Angeles/Culver City, and Rancho Cucamonga. It is anticipated that preferred test dates and locations will fill up quickly, so students are encouraged to register early. Registration for June and July test dates opened on February 14, at [www.aamc.org/mcat/cbt.htm](http://www.aamc.org/mcat/cbt.htm).

Want to learn about HPAO's new MCAT Test Prep. Scholarship? Have more specific questions? Speak with Eileen Tom or Francisco Castillo at 562-985-5720

## Familiar Faces Leave and Return

**S**ince our last newsletter the Jensen SAS Center has had some significant staff changes. *Nycole Plough* completed her Biology degree and currently works at a lab in Irvine. After 20 years at CSULB, *Ronnie Lynn Damico Cole* retired and is now focusing on her true passion - art. In October, *Cecilia Arriaza* accepted a new position at Santa Ana College. We wish them the best on all their future endeavors!



*Eileen Tom* returned as our Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO) Coordinator. She previously worked at UC Irvine and

brings to our Center a wealth of knowledge that will help CSULB students pursue professions in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, and physical therapy. *Noriko Gotschall* changed positions and is now our Program



Coordinator for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. Filling *Noriko's* shoes is *Francisco Castillo*. *Francisco* is our new HPAO Associate Coordinator and will work directly with *Eileen* to assist students



as they prepare to enter health profession programs. He was a pre-med student at UC Santa Barbara, and most recently worked at Santa Barbara City College. Our newest addition, *Ignacio Hernandez*, will oversee the Noyce Scholarship Program and serve as our main contact for



undergraduate research opportunities. He is a CSULB Math Education alum and currently enrolled in the Student Development in Higher Education program in the College of Education. Be sure to stop by to congratulate *Eileen*, *Noriko*, *Francisco*, and *Ignacio*.

# Overview of Jensen SAS Center

The Jensen Student Access to Science and Mathematics Center (Jensen SAS Center) is part of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) and is available to all science and math students. The Center acts as an umbrella for a range of services designed to encourage and support CNSM students as they prepare for science and mathematics-based careers. Below is a summary of the various programs and services - visit [www.sascenter.org](http://www.sascenter.org) for more details.

## Jensen SAS Center Computer Lab

With more than 17 computer stations available, the computer lab offers equipment and software unique to the needs of science and math majors.

*Contact: Tom Tran*

## Jensen SAS Center - Tutoring Program

The Center provides free, drop-in tutoring for Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics, and Physics courses. *Contact: Noriko Gotschall*

## Jensen SAS Center - Peer Mentor Program

Peer Mentors assist first-year freshmen during their academic and social transition to life at CSULB as part of the Science Enrichment Program. They share their experiences as CSULB students, give direction, encourage student success, and serve as tutors. *Contact: Noriko Gotschall and Jesse Ramirez*

## The Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO)

HPAO provides advising and support services designed to meet the needs of students as they navigate through the process of preparation and application to professional school. It also offers a letter of recommendation service, workshops, personal statement assistance, mock interview practice, and a resource library. *Contact: Eileen Tom and Francisco Castillo*

## Bridges to the Baccalaureate

This project is designed to strengthen the relationship between two key community colleges, Long Beach City College and Cerritos Community College, and CSULB. Its focus is to enhance community college students' academic competitiveness by allowing them to spend a summer in CSULB laboratories and participating in hands-on research. *Contact: Ignacio Hernandez*

## Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

LSAMP is intended to enhance the math and science skills of minority students majoring in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM). Its goal is to support students as they successfully complete their academic degree program and enhance their futures in the STEM disciplines. Students also participate in professional development workshops. *Contact: Noriko Gotschall*

## Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program

RISE is designed to increase the interest, skills, and competitiveness of students in pursuit of biomedical research careers. Two programs exist to meet the unique academic needs and professional demands of the biomedical research field: The RISE Starters Program (Freshmen and Sophomores) and RISE Fellows Program (Juniors and Seniors). *Contact: Jesse Ramirez*

## Robert Noyce Scholarship Program

The program awards a scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year to science, mathematics, and engineering majors planning to complete a single subject credential in mathematics or science, and who agree to teach two years in a "high need" school district for each full year of support.

*Contact: Ignacio Hernandez*

## Science Enrichment Program (SEP)

This program is for entering freshmen and offers assistance during their academic and social transition to CSULB by pairing each student with a peer mentor and providing activities with enriched learning experiences throughout their first year at *The Beach*. *Contact: Francisco Castillo and Jesse Ramirez*

# Jensen SAS Center Staff

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HPAO

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# Spring 2007 Calendar & Events

## **30th Annual Nobel Laureate Lecture**

Douglas Osheroff, Ph.D.  
“How Advances in Sciences Are Made”  
Tuesday (3/6) 11:15 a.m. USU Ballrooms

## **Pharmacy School Planning Workshop**

Friday (3/9) 3:30 p.m. FO5-109

## **Science Credential Meeting**

Thursday (3/22) 12:00 p.m. FO5-109

## **Cesar Chavez Holiday - Campus Closed**

Friday (3/30)

## **Spring Break - Classes Cancelled**

Monday (4/2) through Friday (4/6)

## **Fall 2007 Registration Begins**

Monday (4/9)

## **Research 101 Workshop**

Friday (4/20) 12:00 p.m. PH1-223

## **AMCAS - Medical School Application Workshop**

Thursday (4/26) 2:00 p.m. PH1-223

## **Science Credential Meeting**

Thursday (4/26) 4:00 p.m. FO5-109

## **Personal Statement Writing Workshop**

Friday (5/4) 12:00 p.m. PH1-223

## **Finals Week**

Monday (5/21) through Saturday (5/26)

## **CSULB Commencement Ceremonies**

Wednesday (5/30) through Friday (6/1)

## **PharmCAS - Pharmacy School Application Workshop**

Wednesday (5/30) 2:00 p.m. FO5-109

## **Application Workshop for Dental, Physician Assistant, Public Health, and Veterinary School Workshop**

Thursday (5/31) 2:00 p.m. FO5-109

Thank you CNSM faculty,  
staff, and administrators  
for providing your  
leadership and support  
to our programs.

Laura Henriques  
Robert Noyce  
Scholarship Program

Roger Bauer  
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Bridges to the Baccalaureate

Paul Buonora  
RISE Starters Program

Morteza Ebneshahrashoob  
LSAMP Program

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