

Dean Jayaweera Retires after 15 years



After providing strong, insightful leadership to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for fifteen years, Dean Kolf Jayaweera has decided to retire. Dean Jayaweera values high quality educational programs for our undergraduate and graduate students, and he appreciates and supports faculty-student research, scholarly activity collaborations. He has demonstrated his support for these endeavors by providing financial backing for many programs and activities. He also empowered individuals and departments by delegating responsibilities to them. For example, when a faculty member received release time funding from a grant, Dean Jayaweera matched that release time. When faculty received funding for equipment grants, Dean Jayaweera enthusiastically provided matching funds for these grants as well.

In 1996, Dean Jayaweera asked Dr. Glenn Nagel and Dr. Julia Wan to assemble a group of faculty from the College to prepare and submit an NSF grant proposal to critically evaluate the teaching of courses in the College. The proposal was funded and a comprehensive examination of teaching and learning was undertaken as a project called the Undergraduate Reform Initiative (URI). This evaluation focused on general education courses in the sciences and mathematics, courses in the majors of science and mathematics, and courses stressing applied principles in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (SMET).

There were substantial changes and improvements to the undergraduate programs because of the URI. Under the leadership of Dr. Roger Nanes and with additional funding from the NSF (Project ConCEPT), three new science courses, were developed as a result of collaborations initiated as a part of the URI; these courses were specifically aimed at preservice teachers and emphasized hands-on, inquiry-based pedagogies. Dean Jayaweera wholeheartedly supported the teaching of these courses in small sections. The URI also fostered conversations between the departments in the SMET field, and these conversations led to further curricular changes. All of these changes improved the quality of the undergraduate educational experience. Stimulated by the discussions started as a part of the URI, the faculty in the Department of Biological Science embarked on an ambitious project to totally reform the undergraduate curriculum; this project was also supported by funds from the NSF. The lower division core courses were totally revised and now contain integrated, non-cookbook laboratory experiences as well as active, collaborative learning strategies. The entire upper division curriculum was also evaluated and revised. These curricular reforms were valued and supported by Dean Jayaweera, and several of the participating faculty received Dean's awards, at least in part due to their accomplishments in curricular reform.

Dean Jayaweera has also strongly supported the enhancement of student success. He initiated and implemented many programs and projects that benefit students. First, he provided space in McCarthy Hall and funding to establish and sustain the Opportunity Center for Science and Mathematics Students (OCSAMS). This center, under the supervision of the Assistant Dean of the College, Rochelle Woods, provides students access to information on careers, graduate programs, study groups, and tutors. Once the center was established, and students started congregating there, the students expressed an interest in completely producing a research journal in which students could publish the results of their studies in science and mathematics. An thus *Dimensions* was born. In 2005 the seventh edition of this research journal will be published. It is written, designed, and edited by students and a student editorial board coordinates its production. The University and the College have provided funds for publishing this journal.

The students who make the Dean's List are rewarded each semester for their noteworthy achievements. Each student receives a T-shirt or briefcase with the College of Natural Sciences logo on it and an indication that they were on the Dean's list. Some students have garnered entire collections of T-shirts. This is Dean Jayaweera's way of celebrating student success.

Throughout his tenure as Dean, Kolf has provided leadership that enabled each faculty and staff person to do their job to a high standard of quality. The members of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics are indebted to him for his unique leadership style, his willingness to listen to reasonable arguments, and his wonderful sense of humor. We wish him a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

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News From Around the College

Biology

Ronald Coleman, a graduating MARC scholar, won one of four outstanding poster presentations at the National Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego in April. The competition was sponsored by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and had 120 undergraduate entrants from across the US. Ron will be heading to the Scripps Research Institute in the fall for his Ph.D.

Lawrence Gray, will be heading to Oregon Health Sciences for his Ph.D in the fall.

The undergraduate **Biology Club** is having a "Spring Mothers' Day Plant Sale" on May 4th and May 5th from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. in the southwest corner of the Quad. Proceeds will go toward future activities and field trips for the Biology Club.

Geology

Emeritus Professor of Geological Sciences, **Dr. John Cooper**, has been recognized as a Volunteer of the Year by the Orange County Division of Harbors, Beaches and Parks. This award acknowledges his continued work managing the Orange County fossil collection, a project begun prior to his retirement from CSUF and initially funded by a 3-year grant from the County. As a parks volunteer, Dr. Cooper has implemented the curation plan developed under the grant and has supervised the volunteer curatorial staff. Dr. Cooper has also been nominated to receive the California Park and Recreation Society Division X Volunteer merit award for his "invaluable service...with the Adopt-A-Park Archaeological and Paleontological Program."

Dr. Jeffery Knott was a keynote speaker at the Workshop on Late Cenozoic Drainage History of the Southwestern Great Basin and Lower Colorado River Region: Geologic and Biotic Perspectives. The symposium was organized by the Smithsonian and U S Geological Survey and Jeff spoke on the record and hydrology of Death Valley's Lake Manly.

Veva Ebbs, Brian David and Jeffrey Hathaway have presented the results of their undergraduate thesis work at the Geological Society of America Cordilleran Section meeting in San Jose, California April 29-May 1.

Geochronology and Stratigraphy of the Upper Furnance Creek Formations, Death Valley , Inyo County, California: **David, Brian T., Liddicoat, Joseph C., Barnard College, Columbia Univ, Sarna-Wojcicki, Andrei M., U. S. Geological Survey, Knott, Jeffrey R., and Machette, Michael N., U.S. Geol Survey**

Tephrochronology of the Northern Kit Fox Hills, Death Vally, California: **Ebbs, Veva Marie, Liddicoat, Joseph C., Barnard College, Sarna-Wojcicki, Andrei M., U. S. Geological Survey, and Knott, Jeffrey R.**

Tectonics of the Northern Kit Fox Hills, Death Valley, California: **Hathaway, Jeffrey, and Knott, Jeffrey R.**

Dr. Matthew Kirby and colleagues (**Steve Lund: University of Southern California and Christopher Poulsen: University of Michigan**) published a paper in the *Journal of Quaternary Science* entitled: *Hydrologic variability and the onset of modern El Niño-Southern Oscillation: a 19,250-year record from Lake Elsinore, Southern California* (Kirby et al., 2005, *JQS*, vol. 20, p. 239-254).

Dr. David Bowman had two Southern California Earthquake Center grants funded this month: *Creating a Framework for Evaluating Earthquake Predictions Using Accelerating Moment Release*, a 1 year grant for \$17k; and, *Collaborative Research – Integrating the Stress Accumulation Method and Pattern Informatics Technique* for 1 year at \$30k collaborative grant with **K. Tiamo** at Univ. of Western Ontario.

Deanna Hoppe (geology undergrad), gave a talk in a special section on sediment sources along western north America at the Geological Society of America Cordilleran section meeting on April 29th in San Jose, CA. Her talk is titled *Burial and exhumation history of the San Juan Canyon and Silverado Canyon areas of the northern Santa Ana Mountains, southern California: evidence from apatite fission-track thermochronology*. Co-authors are **Karen Morrison** (undergrad) and **Dr. Phil Armstrong**.

The following are authors and titles for all the posters presented at the National Ground Water Association 2005 Ground Water Summit in San Antonio Texas April 17-20, 2005:

Mike Blazevic, Dr. John Foster, and Dr. W. Richard Laton, *Subsurface Geologic Investigation of Closed Alluvial Basin: Lucerne and Fifteenmile Valley, San Bernardino County, California*

Brock Boeke, Dr. W. Richard Laton, and Dr. John Foster, *Hydrogeology of Harper Lake Basin, San Bernardino County, California*

Anthony J. Lizzi, Dr. W. Laton, and Dr. John Foster, *Evaluation of the Potential Groundwater Resources of the Golem Well, West Rancho Bernardo, San Diego County, California*

Ken Kolstad and Dr. W. Richard Laton, *Volatile Organic Compound (VOC), Fate and Transport in Soil Vapor - Case Study, Los Angeles, California*

Nicholas Napoli and Dr. W. Richard Laton, *Change in Groundwater Storage in the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Sub-Basin - 1954 to 2002, Lucerne Valley, California*

Rene Perez, Dr. John Foster, Dr. W. Richard Laton, *Redefining a Groundwater Basin, Alto Sub-basin, Southwestern Mojave Desert, California*

Tammy Surko, Dr. Phil Armstrong, and Dr. W. Richard Laton, *Gravity Analysis of the Lucerne Valley Groundwater Basin, Mojave Desert, Southern California: implications fro basin geometry and structure.*

Mathematics

Dr. Scott Annin recently published an article in *Communications in Algebra*. The citation is: *Co-Uniform Dimension over Skew Polynomial Rings*, Scott Annin, *Communications in Algebra*, Vol. 33 (2005): p. 1195-1204.

Dr. Margaret Kidd and Dr. Gerald Lege recently gave a presentation at the National Council of teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 2005 Annual Meeting and Exposition, which took place in Anaheim, April 6-9.

Physics

Dr. Michael Loverude was recently quoted in *Science Magazine*. The citation is the following: *American Physical Society Meeting: Snapshots From the Meeting*, Adrian Cho, *Science* 8, April 2005; 308: 191 [DOI: 10.1126/science.308.5719.191b] (in News Focus).

Physics alumna **Dr. Linda Spilker ('77)** was one of six CSUF alumni honored at the Visions and Visionaries Alumni recognition event at the Orange County Hyatt Regency on April 16. Linda is Deputy Project Scientist on the NASA Cassini probe studying the rings and moons of Saturn.

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Presented by Cassandra Stringer, LMFT & Douglas
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Psychological Services (CAPS)

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 714-278-3040

Seminar Schedules

Biology

All seminars meet Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m in MH-513 unless otherwise noted.

May 4

MARC Seminar

TBA

Antonio DeMaio
Department of Physiology
John Hopkins University

May 6

TBA

Dr. Jeremy Jackson
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD
1p.m. MH-121

May 11

TBA

Dr. Bob Webb

May 18

Physiological costs, mechanisms and tradeoffs of dietary specialization in mammalian herbivores

Dr. Jennifer S. Sorensen
Department of Fish and Wildlife
State University - Cascades Bend OR

Chemistry and Biochemistry

All seminars meet Thursdays @ 4:00 p.m. in MH-468 unless otherwise noted.

May 5

TBA

Dr. David Pullman
Department of Chemistry
SDSU

May 10

Nanocomposites and Intercalation Compounds

Mr. Chamnongsak Chanthamontri
Graduate Student
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,
CSUF

May 12

Characterization of a New Source of Stem Cells-Wharton's Jelly from Umbilical Cord

Dr. Michael P. Meyers
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,
CSULB

May 19

Classical and Novel Roles for Iron Regulatory Proteins

Ms. Macy Shen
Graduate Student
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,
CSUF

Students Graduating with Honors

Richard	Ancheta	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Talat	Azim	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Terise	Batte	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Michael	Blazevic	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Geological Sciences
Kellie	Culver	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Karla	Delacruz	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Mary	Diaz	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Jessica	Fox	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Christine	Goedhart	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Kristen	Goossens	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Pia	Hamer	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Corrine	Haninger	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Jerry	Honeycutt	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Deanna	Hoppe	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Geological Sciences
Scott	Hsieh	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Viji	Janardan	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Candice	Jaunzemis	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Loralee	Larios	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Katherine	Le	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Justin	Lewis	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Cara	Malolepsy	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Chemistry
Bernadette	Marquez	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
David	Morris	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Karen	Morrison	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Geological Sciences
Alireza	Namini	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Phu Ngoc	Nguyen	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Melinda	Oropeza	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Amanda	Powers	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Donna	Put	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Brian	Rolle	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Seth	Ruga	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Alesha	Scott	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Vanessa	Seal	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Paul	Sexton	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Chad	Smith	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics
Kristi	Thurner	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Khang	Tran	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Physics / Math
Thanh-Van	Vo	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Jennifer	Warfel	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Biochemistry
Rosanne	Yetemian	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Biological Science
Mark	Zambon	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mathematics



CSUF
Department of
Geological Sciences
Presents



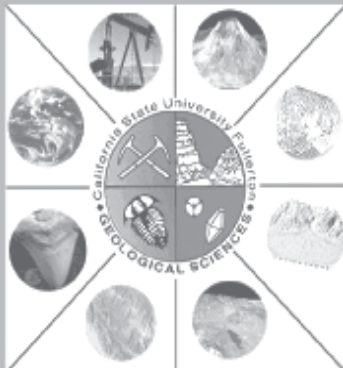
Hosted by the
Geology Club

Opportunities in the Geosciences

Friday, May 6th
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
McCarthy Hall 327

We will answer all your FAQs:

- What do geologists do?
- What's it like to be a geology major?
- What are the career opportunities for geologists?
- How much money can I make as a geologist?
- Can I get a job with a degree in geology?
- What research opportunities exist for undergraduate geology majors?



The Program

- 1:00 pm Being a Geology Major
(Pizza Lunch Provided!)
- 2:00 pm Career Opportunities
in the Geosciences
- 3:15 pm Coffee Break
- 3:30 pm Behind-the-Scenes Tour
of the Geology Department

Everyone is Welcome!

NISM Newsletter