



UNDERGRADUATES PARTICIPATING IN SUMMER RESEARCH AT CSUSM

# CSUSM Summer Undergraduate Research Newsletter

August 2016

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

## Summer Research is wrapping up at CSUSM

As August is here, summer research is coming to a close at CSUSM. However, even as the semester starts, many student research projects will be continuing. Numerous students will now have to balance their classwork with their research experiences. Empirical work suggests doing so provides students with richer learning experiences as well as better time management skills. As faculty, staff and administration we can continue to support this bustling community of undergraduate research at CSUSM in the Fall and beyond by recognizing the experiences of these amazing students!

### THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL WAS A SUCCESS!

Over 50 students, administrators and even Dean's involved in summer research stopped by the ice cream social. Departments represented included Biology, Psychology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Kinesiology and Human Development. Students met others performing summer research at CSUSM and shared their projects. Examples of summer student's projects included:

- Studying the role of the immune system in obesity
- Understanding risk-taking behaviors in adolescents
- Characterization of protein folding
- Role of hormones and peptides in maternal behavior
- Animal behavior including projects with dogs and elephants



Students at Ice Cream Social in June 2016

### SUMMER SCHOLAR POSTER SESSION AND STUDENT SHOWCASE

WED 8/10 9AM at Jazzman's Café in the USU

**ALL** those involved in summer research are invited to the culminating poster session for the 10 week Summer Scholars Program at CSUSM sponsored by Via Sat, Genentech and Cliniqa. The Poster session will feature over 20 scholars showcasing their original research and projects performed at CSUSM and will also include scholars from the APA Psychology summer program. This is a drop-in event so come support our researchers!



CSUSM Summer SCHOLARS orientation at Via Sat

## The Arts are active in summer research and creative activities

The School of Arts at CSUSM is a vibrant school with 5 programs of study and over 20 full-time faculty. Listed below are just some of the active projects happening with undergraduates this Summer, many that will continue into the Fall. Stop by the main lobby in the VPA building to see current art pieces by students anytime.

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEATRE, JUDY BAUERLEIN

Erica Rothman is managing *Meet the Medranos* at the Broadway Vista Theatre and Brianna Dodson is an intern for *October Sky* at the The Old Globe and will attend CSU Summer Arts and is enrolled in the *The Art of the Sword: Rapier/Dagger* in Stage Combat and *The Michael Chekhov Acting Technique*.



*Lauran Gerhart's project with Professor Hersko*



*Brianna Dodson (L), Erica Rothman (R)*

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, JONATHAN BERMAN

Professor Berman worked on web development for his documentary with two students, Spencer Aldrich-Stone and Logan Fidler.

### PROFESSOR, JUDITH HERSKO

Professor Hersko is working with three students on different projects. Jannet Andrade is working with her on a sculpture project. Tiersa Cosaert is working on an art and science installation. Lastly, Lauran Gerhart is working with Professor Hersko on her Dew collector research project.

### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR LUCY HG SOLOMON

John Konno worked on installation at the art gallery, *A Ship in the Woods*, with art by Professor HG Solomon's art collective, *The League of Imaginary Scientists*.

## RESEARCH UPDATE FROM HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



*Photo: From the left Raul Diaz, Erika Martinez, Rebecca Cruz, Yue Iwata, Dr. Toyokawa Eunice Molina, Hype RI Koi (absent)*

Under Dr. Noriko Toyokawa in Human Development, we are a diverse group of research assistants. We are currently examining the issues that emerge between parent-child relationships, when parents are going through tangible dependency on adult children. We have invited adult children who have experienced taking care of their aging parents to focus groups. We facilitated discussions, and developed the coding schema together as a group this summer. As research assistants we have learned the process in which research is conducted and have gained a broad hands on learning experience in the field of Human Development. We are excited about the findings. Our immediate goal is to submit several proposals to the International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology in San Francisco for the summer of 2017. (by Erika Martinez)

## APA SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The 8 week American Psychological Association (APA) Summer Research Program in the Psychology Department at CSUSM concluded at the end of July with presentations featuring the four participants. As the goal of the program was to help students with minimal experience to gain research skills in Psychology, students presented on original research projects to a diverse audience and skillfully answered questions about their work. Presentations included:

Brian Voss, mentored by Dr. Vanderbilt, "Do Preschoolers Understand That a Written Source is Only as Reliable as its Author?"

Amiel Maldonado, mentored by Dr. D'Anna-Hernandez, "The Effects of Acculturation and Traditional Mexican Cultural Values on Increased Risk Factors for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Pregnant Mexican-American Women."

Candice Reel, mentored by Dr. Pulvers, "The Influence of Parental Monitoring On Alcohol and Marijuana Use in High School Students."

Victoria Oliva, mentored by Dr. Caine, "Reactions to Snake-Associated Odors by Domestic Dogs"

Below Left: Victoria Olivas performing odor tests and measuring sniffing times with dogs; Below Right: Candice Reel obtaining physical measurements with a participant at CSUSM



### FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS



#### Savannah Bshara

Savannah is working with Dr. Jameson studying how obesity and type 2 diabetes impact the function of the immune system. She is using a model in which mice are fed a high fat diet to study circulating T cells and their ability to produce cytokines. Also, she is interested in whether dieting restores normal function of the immune system in obese and diabetic mice. She will be presenting at the CSUSM Showcase and at the Immunology Conference this fall.



#### Isidro Alvarez

Isidro conducts neuroscience research with Dr. D'Anna-Hernandez. He is a Biotechnology major with a goal of obtaining his PhD in biomedical engineering. He has assisted in observing the maternal care of mice and comparing pup-directed vs self-directed behaviors. Isidro was a participant in the Summer Research Training Program at CSUSM and believes research is a great for teamwork and discovering new ideas that arise.

If you are interested learning more about undergraduate research at CSUSM please contact the Committee for Undergraduate Research (CuGR) at [kdanna@csusm.edu](mailto:kdanna@csusm.edu).