



# CEA-CREST QUARTERLY

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

## OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR AWARD GOES TO DR. CARLOS ROBLES

Four CSULA faculty members, received Cal State L.A.'s Outstanding Professor Award for their spectacular contributions to this campus and its students. Dr. Carlos Robles, CEA-CREST Program Director and Biology Department faculty member, was awarded the CSULA Outstanding Professor Award for 2004-2005 along with three other professors: Dr. Joanne Altschuler, associate professor of social work, Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga, professor of Japanese, and Dr. Joseph B. Prabhu, professor of philosophy. All awardees were recognized at the University Fall Faculty Day on Monday, September 19th in front of more than one hundred faculty members from all across campus.

Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, Chair of the Academic Senate Selection Committee, praised Dr. Robles for his ability to give back to the CSULA campus community through his numerous collaborative research efforts and the CEA-CREST fellowship program.

According to Dr. Nancy McQueen, Biology Department Chair, "His collaborative research with several major research-intensive Universities and his devotion to his research students have earned him the respect of his peers in the scientific community."

In addition, CSULA held an Outstanding Professors Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, October 4th in the Golden Eagle Ballroom. During this ceremony, each professor was praised individu-



Above: Dr. Carlos Robles, Professor of the Year.  
*Photo Courtesy of Public Affairs*

ally by Dr. Gutierrez for his or her excellence in academia and for being leading examples of what it means to be "a good citizen" on this campus.

Among the attendees at the Awards Ceremony was Dr. Robert Desharnais, CEA-CREST faculty member and recipient of the award in 1998-1999. Dr. Desharnais was among those who nominated Dr. Robles for the award.

According to Dr. Desharnais, "He is not only internationally recognized as an outstanding marine ecologist, he is also a devoted teacher and mentor. As initiator and Director of the CEA-CREST Program, he has had a huge impact on the lives and careers of many students and faculty. Dr. Robles is an archetype of excellence as a teacher-mentor-scholar."

Dr. Robles has been on the Cal



Above: Provost Herman Lujan, Dr. Raymond Garcia, President James Rosser, Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, Dr. Carlos Robles, Dr. Joanne Altschuler, Dr. Martin Brodwin, Dr. Sachiko Matsunaga, and Dr. Joseph Prabhu.  
*Photo Courtesy of Public Affairs*

State L.A. campus since 1979 as faculty in Biology and Microbiology Department, has served as a mentor to many students over the years, and has directed the CEA-CREST Program and co-directed the LSAMP-Bridge to the Doctorate Program.

Dr. Robles, together with the CEA-CREST office support and vibrant faculty, has built a community on campus that serves and supports students and their research. He has inspired many students, especially those from under-represented ethnic groups, to pursue careers in environmental science.

In addition, he has served on several committees and boards, and collaborates with many institutions and organizations such as California Institute of Technology, the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Services, the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Bamfield Marine Station in British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. Robles' past honors include the Undergraduate Institution Faculty Mentor Award presented by the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in 2001 and the CSU Bautzer Faculty Advancement Award in 2000.

According to Carlos "Alan" Martinez, who is among many of Dr. Robles' students, "It's a well deserved award for not only a friend but a mentor who pushes his students to the limit."

Please see the CEA-CREST website for more information, <http://ceacrest@calstatela.edu>.

## SYNOPSIS OF CEA-CREST'S SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Sixth Annual CEA-CREST Environmental Science Conference was held May 6, 2005 at the Sheraton Pasadena Hotel, Pasadena, CA. The conference featured three symposia in Marine Population Dynamics, Control Theory and Spatial Modeling, and Arid Zone Hydrology.

The conference brought together a distinguished group of collaborators from all over the region including the California Institute of Technology, the Ocean Studies Institute, the University of Arizona, SAHRA, New Mexico State University, and other CSU campuses such as Long Beach, Fullerton, and Northridge. It also gave students the opportunity to participate in a professional conference and to network with faculty, staff, and other scientists within the environmental science arena.

Innovative findings and research displays created a sense of optimism and excitement for the next gen-

eration of environmental scientists.

This year's conference addressed the need for cutting-edge environmental research to play a stronger role in developing social policy. Dr. Kyle D. Brown, Faculty Director for the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona was the plenary speaker at the conference.

He focused on the connection between environmental sustainability and social justice and the implications for action in the sciences.

The CEA-CREST office is in the process of bridging the gap between



Above: Dr. Corey Garza, Paul Moya, Antonino Monterrosa, Jose Silva, and Newton Wong.  
*Photo courtesy of Noe Ramos.*

the social and hard sciences by adding a social policy and management component to our seven-year-old environmental science center.

The success of the conference was due in large measure to the session coordinators, Dr. Elizabeth Torres, Dr. Patrick Krug, Dr. Car-

los Robles and Dr. Barry Hibbs.

In addition, this event could not have been successful without the work of the CEA-CREST support office staff, Shannon McGarry, Michelle Stabio and Sheila Sanchez.

On behalf of CEA-CREST, thank you to all who attended and we welcome you to save the date for our next conference. Our Seventh Annual Environmental Science Conference will be held Friday, May 5, 2006 on the Cal State L.A. campus in the Golden Eagle Ballroom.

Next year's conference will include the following sessions:

- Issues in Southern California Coastal Watersheds
- Pollutant Aging and Transport in the Environment

These sessions are tentative and more sessions will be added. For updated information, regularly check our program website: <http://cea-crest.calstatela.edu>

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## CEA-CREST WELCOMES NEW FACULTY: DR. HENGCHEN YE

Dr. Hengchen Ye has been an assistant professor at CSULA for four years with the Department of Geography and Urban Analysis.

Dr. Ye has been added to the CEA-CREST Program in Component V, Hydrology of Regional Aquifers and Riparian Areas in Arid Zones, with CEA-CREST faculty member, Dr. Barry Hibbs.

Her specialty is climatology. She teaches physical geography, meteorology, earth sciences, and climate change.

"My research is in climate variability and change, especially related to snow, precipitation, river discharges," explains Dr. Ye. "I am also interested in hydrology and application of remote sensing in climatology."

Dr. Ye received her Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Hangzhou University.

She continued her education at Hangzhou University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in Atmospheric Dynamics.

Dr. Ye then earned a Ph.D in climatology from the University of Delaware and is now working on climate change.

Dr. Ye is currently working on



Above: Dr. Hengchen Ye, Associate Professor of Geography at CSULA. Photo Courtesy of Dr. Ye

three projects: (1) the impact of snow on river discharges over Siberia, supported by NOAA in collaboration with two professors from the University of Alaska and Rutgers University; (2) exploring AIRS data application in climate study in collaboration with scientists from JPL; and (3) working with Dr. Hibbs to reveal the role of climate on surface and subsurface water flow and composition.

When asked what she likes best about her work, Dr. Ye replied that, "I learn new things and recharge for my teaching."

*"I learn new things and recharge for my teaching."  
-Dr. Ye*

Dr. Ye shares her approach to mentoring: "It is important to have (a) good communication with students, so we know each other's character and style (b) be flexible- initial plans and goals can be modified to the best interest of each individual when things change and (c) be encouraging and supportive all the time. In general, I give my students higher priority than myself."

On behalf of the CEA-CREST community, we welcome Dr. Hengchen Ye and we hope her research flourishes with CEA-CREST and potential students.

For further information regarding Dr. Ye's research, visit see the CEA-CREST website: <http://cea-crest.calstatela.edu/assoFaculty.htm#ye>

### PHOTOS FROM THE CEA-CREST CONFERENCE:



Above: Suzanne Brunelle, UMEB undergraduate fellow, gave a presentation on "Evaluating Ecological functions in Urban Stream Restoration." Suzanne is a student in Dr. John Gamon's lab.

Photo courtesy of Noe Ramos



Above: Left, Dr. Megan Donahue, Postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Robert Desharnais' lab, listens to right, Valerie Rodriguez, LSAMP-BD II Graduate fellow, give a presentation on "Preference for Nutrient-enriched Coral Reef Algae (Acanthophora spicifera and Gracilaria sp.) by an important Benthic Herbivore (Diadema setosum)." Valerie is a student in Dr. Pat Krug's lab.

Photo courtesy of Noe Ramos

## CEA-CREST WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS



Photo Courtesy of Sheila Sanchez



Photo Courtesy of Sheila Sanchez

**Istina Mannino**  
CEA-CREST Graduate Fellow  
Department of Civil Engineering  
Undergraduate degree: UC Irvine

Istina Mannino (graduate, Civil Engineering) was admitted to CEA-CREST in spring 2005 after receiving a B.S. in Physics from UC Irvine. She is currently investigating competitive sorption of phosphorus and arsenic species in Monterey Sand. The results of this study may shed some light on how the presence of phosphorus species affect the behavior of arsenic in the environment. Istina is currently part of Dr. Crist Khachikian's lab.

**Anne Kelly**  
CEA-CREST Graduate Fellow  
Department of Biology  
Undergraduate Degree: Cal Tech

Anne Kelly (graduate, Biology) was recently admitted to CEA-CREST and began her first quarter in fall 2005. She is working with Dr. John Gamon using her physics and astronomy background to study arctic and chaparral ecosystem carbon flux at multiple scales, from the molecular to the global level. Anne plans to pursue her Ph.D. in the environmental science field after completing her masters in Environmental Science.

## FAREWELL TO STUDENTS & STAFF

### Farewell to CEA-CREST Graduate Students:

**Mari Rosales**, CEA-CREST graduate fellow in Dr. Sergio Escorza-Trevino's lab, graduated in winter 2005 in Biology. Mari is now working for NOAA (National Organization in Atmospheric Administration) in San Diego, CA.

**Paul Moya**, CEA-CREST graduate fellow in Dr. Carlos Robles' lab, graduated in spring 2005 in Biology. Paul is now attending the Western University of Health Sciences studying Osteopathic medicine in Pomona, CA.

**Kwasi Connor**, CEA-CREST graduate fellow in Dr. Carlos Robles' lab, graduated in Summer 2005 in Biology. He is currently applying to Ph.D programs.

**Malikka Karteron**, CEA-CREST graduate fellow in Dr. Ali Modarres' lab, graduated in spring 2005 in Geography & Urban Analysis. Malikka is now living back on the east coast with her family.

**Suzanne Brunelle**, UMEB Undergraduate fellow in Dr. John Gamon's lab, received her Bachelors Degree in Biology this past summer 2005. Suzanne is now working for the Science for our Schools project through CSULA.

### Farewell to CEA-CREST Faculty and Staff:

**Julie Schoen**, former CEA-CREST Program Coordinator, has left after 7 years of service. Julie accepted a position at California Institute of Technology.

**Maria "Lulu" Palaez**, former CEA-CREST Program Assistant, has left after 5 years of service. Lulu got married and now lives in North Carolina. She is currently working at North Carolina State University.

**Michelle Stabio**, former CEA-CREST Environmental Science Outreach Coordinator, has left after two years of service. She gave birth to a baby boy, Isaac, in May of this year. Michelle plans on pursuing her Ph.D next fall.

**Dr. Laura Rademacher**, CEA-CREST Assistant Professor at Cal State L.A. and a part of CEA-CREST since 2002, has accepted a position at University of the Pacific, in Stockton, California.

**Dr. Megan Donahue**, postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Robert Desharnais' lab, has accepted a position as an assistant professor in Biological Sciences at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.

## WELCOME ABOARD NEW CEA-CREST STAFF MEMBERS



Photo Courtesy of Steve Hollinger

**Steve Hollinger**  
Lab Technician, Dr. Barry Hibbs' Lab

Steve graduated from California State University, Fresno with a BS in microbiology. He has several years' experience in laboratory management and in analyses of major and trace components in a diverse set of sample matrices using a wide variety of wet-chemistry and instrumental methods.



Photo Courtesy of Sheila Sanchez

**Shannon McGarry**  
Program Coordinator, CEA-CREST

Shannon graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a BA in Political Science. She has 15 years of experience in within local and federal programs. She has worked for several non-profit agencies around the L.A. area.



Photo Courtesy of Sheila Sanchez

**Sheila Sanchez**  
Program Assistant, CEA-CREST

Sheila graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Mass Communications. She has experience working with college students and has aspirations to counsel students at the college level.



Photo Courtesy of Sheila Sanchez

**Elisa Brown**  
Environmental Science Outreach Coordinator, CEA-CREST

Elisa graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a BS in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. She has worked across the country in non-profits from Oakland, CA to New York, NY.

# LSAMP FELLOWS INVITED TO THE CAPITOL

*Twelve LSAMP fellows went to Washington, D.C. to meet the founder of the LSAMP program while attending the National Science Foundation's Joint Annual Meeting in April 2005*

CEA-CREST faculty and Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation-Bridge to the Doctorate (LSAMP-BD II) graduate fellows were invited to Washington, D.C. in April to attend the National Science Foundation's Joint Annual Meeting (JAM).

During this trip, the fellows had the unique opportunity to meet the family of Congressman and founder of the LSAMP Program, Louis Stokes.

The meeting was held April 24-26 at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, located just steps away from Capitol Hill and the White House, where the program's founder was formerly employed.

Cal State L.A. and the National Science Foundation (NSF) offer exceptional opportunities for students in chemistry, biochemistry, physics, geology, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, computer science, biology and microbiology to earn a MS degree at Cal State L.A., and then enter a PhD program at top research institutions throughout the country.

Cal State L.A. is one of two CSUs in California that supports a Bridge to the Doctorate program. The CEA-CREST office houses the BD cohort II fellows, while the MORE Programs office houses the BD cohort III fellows.

The LSAMP project's principle investigators are Dr. Carlos Robles,



Above: LSAMP Participants and Dr. Carlos Robles in front of the White House in Washington, D.C. Photo Courtesy of Albert Cervantes



Above: LSAMP-BD II Group Photo. Photo Courtesy of Albert Cervantes

CEA-CREST Program Director, Dr. Margaret Jefferson, Undergraduate LSAMP Director, and Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, MORE Programs Director.

In attendance at the conference was the LSAMP-BD II cohort, which includes the following graduate students: Daniel Castellanos, Patricia Castillo, Albert Cervantes, Joseph Gomez, Aidee Gonzalez, Jesus Gutierrez, Latrice House, Angie Iniguez, Paul H. Martinez, Noe Ramos, Valerie Rodriguez, and Exequiel Tostado.

This extraordinary group of LSAMP-BD graduate fellows was selected using NSF guidelines from a fiercely competitive pool of applicants.

CEA-CREST Program Director Dr. Carlos Robles and Program

Coordinator Shannon McGarry led the group around Washington, D.C.

They visited a series of historical sites memorializing events in U.S. history that were integral in creating the political climate that allowed former Congressman Louis Stokes to establish programs promoting diversity in the sciences. Stokes was instrumental in leading the LSAMP program, which led to a fruitful collaboration with NSF.

Among the sites visited were the Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, National WW II Memorial on the National Mall, and the National Academy of Sciences.

The experience impressed upon the students that they are in fact ambassadors of a program with national impact.

LSAMP student support through CEA-CREST is helping to build a stronger foundation for this program while fostering new LSAMP graduate students.

Two of the twelve LSAMP-BD II students, Valerie Rodriguez and Exequiel Tostado, are CEA-CREST affiliates working with CEA-CREST-related faculty, Dr. Patrick Krug and Dr. Krishna Foster respectively.

In winter 2006, CEA-CREST will continue its collaboration with the BD II fellows and create new working relationships with four additional BD III cohort students, Lucinda Robledo with Dr. Robert Desharnais, Vanessa Gonzalez with Dr. Elizabeth Torres, Victor Galvan with Dr. Sergio Escorza-Trevino, and Cynthia Carrion with Dr. Carlos Robles.

# CEA-CREST TRIP TO MONTREAL FOR ESA

*In August 2005, several CEA-CREST students, faculty members and postdoctoral fellows attended the Ecological Society of America Conference in Montreal, Quebec*

The Ecological Society of America conference was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada where CEA-CREST faculty, students and staff attended a five-day event on ecology from August 7-12, 2005.

The ESA 90th Annual Meeting was held jointly with the INTECOL IX International Congress of Ecology.

The 2005 ESA-INTECOL Joint Meeting marks the second time these two major organizations have met. This year, there was an all-time record attendance of 4,000 at the historic convocation of ecological scientists, educators, administrators, and policymakers from all around the globe.

The majority of the seminars, workshops and presentations were

*"It was a wonderful opportunity to meet old colleagues and make new acquaintances."*

*-Dr. Desharnais*



Above: Dr. John Gamon, Jose Silva, Helen Claudio, Suzanne Brunelle, Becky Harper, Dr. Yufu Cheng at the ESA Conference in Montreal, Canada. Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Brunelle

held at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal, a modern convention center located in the city's downtown area adjacent to Chinatown and Old Montreal.

In addition to the many workshops and seminars coordinated through the ESA-INTECOL, students attended scientific fieldtrips and toured around Montreal.

Several CEA-CREST faculty and students attended this event, including Dr. Robert Desharnais, Biology Professor and mentor, with his postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Megan Donahue. Also in attendance was Dr. John Gamon, Biology Professor and mentor, along with several of his students from his lab, including Rebecca Harper (CEA-CREST Graduate Fellow), Suzanne Brunelle and Jose Silva, both Undergraduate Mentoring Environmental Biology Program-UMEB students. Dr. Gamon sponsored his postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Yufu Cheng and his undergraduate student, Helen Claudio.

Dr. Desharnais gave an oral presentation, entitled, "A Spatially Explicit Model for the Dynamics of Predation

*"It was really interesting to see the success of a bilingual culture. I will never forget that the respect for diversity is the strength of the city."*

*-Suzanne Brunelle*

in Intertidal Communities." His collaborators included CEA-CREST faculty and staff Dr. Carlos Robles, Dr. Megan Donahue and his OCE Graduate Fellow, Ling (Caroline) Cao. According to Dr. Desharnais, "The talk dealt with the modeling and field research program being conducted by Component I (in CEA-CREST)."

Suzanne Brunelle gave an oral presentation entitled "Evaluating Ecosystem Function in Urban Stream Restoration."

"I discussed my research com-

paring a local restored urban stream, the Arroyo Seco, to a natural stream. I covered my work comparing the vegetation species composition, canopy structure, and soil moisture between the two streams," said Ms. Brunelle.

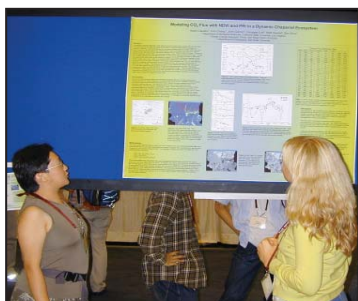
The theme of the ESA-INTECOL meeting was "Ecological Processes at Multiple Scales," also the unifying theme of the CEA-CREST program here at CSULA.

Overall, this trip provided a great experience and an opportunity for CEA-CREST faculty, staff and students to share innovative findings. "It was a wonderful opportunity to meet old colleagues and make new acquaintances," said Dr. Desharnais.

"This was my first visit outside of the country and it was a life changing experience," said Brunelle. "It was really interesting to see the success of a bilingual culture. I will never forget that the respect for diversity is the strength of the city."



Above: Left, Becky Harper, CEA-CREST Graduate fellow, and right, Suzanne Brunelle, UMEB Undergraduate fellow, both in Dr. John Gamon's lab, toured around Montreal, while attending the ESA Annual Conference. Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Brunelle



Above: Suzanne Brunelle, UMEB Undergraduate fellow, presents her poster at the ESA Conference in Montreal, Canada. Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Brunelle