

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.

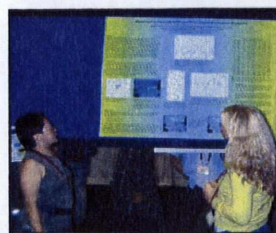
The ESA 90th Annual Meeting was held jointly with the INTECOL IX International Congress of Ecology.

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

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-Dr. Desharnais



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

Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Brunelle



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

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-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