Dean's Message

This issue of micronews focuses on students and STEM, (If you don't know what STEM means, read the forth story of this newsletter) the pipeline of innovation that is important for developing new technologies which are dependent upon a skilled workforce of scientists and mathematicians. This is a particularly acute problem in the San Diego region where our economy depends upon biotechnology and high-technology industries; however, fewer K-12 students are interested in pursuing a career in STEM fields. Many students do not know STEM professionals and are not exposed to the excitement of science and mathematics. Our students and faculty have been working to counter this problem by providing hands-on learning experiences in K-12 schools, exciting educational opportunities for students visiting our campus, and many additional outreach programs. A few of these programs are highlighted in this edition of micronews.

These outreach efforts reflect our belief in giving back to the San Diego community and promoting the scientific future of our current students as well as the next generation of students. It is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain our educational and outreach responsibilities as we continue to incur drastic budget cuts. The College of Sciences is now challenged with deeper cuts than any of the previous state fiscal crises, and further reductions will have a profound impact on our structure and function. We greatly appreciate your input and support as we make difficult decisions about our future.

Stanley Maloy
Dean, College of Sciences

Hands-On Science
Black Student Science Organization hosts science event for local elementary school.

San Diego State University’s Black Student Science Organization (BSSO) lead by Harmony Saunders, Delnita Moore and Breanna Bledsoe, held an event at Walter J. Porter Elementary School in Logan Heights. The school, which is classified as title-one, had a need for science education. BSSO, being a science organization felt it would be an ideal experience to host an event that could contribute to the school. Children were placed into groups and rotated through three different science activities: DNA extraction, to demonstrate life sciences; a biodome, to explain physical sciences; and a lemon–juice bottle rocket to provide instruction within chemistry.

Stimulating Weekend for Student Researchers
Hundreds of students participated in the fourth annual Student Research Symposium March 4-5.

It was a stimulating weekend at the fourth annual Student Research Symposium as more than 400 undergraduate and graduate students exhibited their research projects in Montezuma Hall. The symposium started Friday, March 4, followed by additional oral and poster presentations, award announcements and a keynote speech by SDSU President Stephen L. Weber on Saturday, March 5. “I want to begin by congratulating you all on participating in the fourth annual San Diego State Research Symposium, and most of all for your willingness to test yourself in this competition,” Weber said to participating students.

SDSU Science and Engineering Sampler
Thousands of students and families helped kick-off the San Diego Science Festival at SDSU


Middle and High Schoolers Explore STEM
Ask a friend what “STEM” means and you may get a blank stare.

“STEM, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics, encompasses increasingly in-demand fields and industries,” said Ariane Grubb, coordinator of service learning for the institute. “The future of our country and the future of our world is based on new innovations in technology, engineering and sciences. One of the main goals of (STEM)2 Exploration Day is to get students interested and excited about STEM and to give these students exposure to academic and career pathways. Bringing middle and high school students onto campus and having them participate in hands-on activities in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics fields is the first step to sparking that interest.” Workshops included: Sense-able Smells, Gimme the Dirt on Mission Bay, Toxic Soup, and Don’t Tread on Me.

COMPLETE STORIES ARE ONLINE http://sciences.sdsu.edu
Richard “Dick” Berry
The College of Sciences Recognizes Emeritus Professor Richard Berry

Dick Berry, an Emeritus Professor of Geological Sciences at San Diego State University continues to contribute to the College of Sciences in many ways. Applying experience he gained as a faculty member, University Senate member, and administrator, Dick helped consolidate and revise the College of Sciences Policies and Procedures. He has also provided invaluable help with the SDSU Science Sampler over multiple years utilizing his scientific and teaching expertise coupled with his many contacts throughout the campus to help organize events that had broad appeal to students and campus visitors of all ages.

ARCS Foundation 26th Annual Rewards Dinner
(Achievement Rewards for College Scientists)

The San Diego Chapter of the ARCS Foundation held its 26th annual Scientist of the Year Dinner on March 18, 2011 at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines Hotel. The organization is dedicated to advancing science and technology by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering, and medical research. In addition to recognizing this year’s Scientist of the Year, Richard C. Atkinson, the event highlighted the research by ARCS Scholars, including many graduate students from many departments in the College of Sciences at SDSU.