Marine Biology Student Examines Head, Snout of California Pipefishes

Inside a lab in McCarthy Hall, Anabell Espinosa removes a museum sample of a California pipefish from a glass jar. She places the specimen under a microscope to examine its head shape.

The Cal State Fullerton biology graduate student is studying the head and snout shape of these snake-like sea creatures — which grow 6 to 8 inches in length and reside in the coastal waters of Southern California — to determine the relationship between head morphology, ecology and evolution.

Her research findings reveal that the snout morphology of California pipefishes seems to be linked with their location. The differences may be tied to the size of zooplankton, tiny aquatic microorganisms that pipefish eat in their habitats — and the efficiency of their snout types.

“My study found that pipefishes from northern populations have a more elongated snout, where zooplankton at higher latitudes tend to be larger,” she said.

While an undergraduate student at CSUF, Espinosa discovered a passion for marine biology. After completing her master’s degree, she plans to pursue a doctorate to teach and conduct research at the university level.

“My research experiences have given me confidence and empowered me to advance my educational goals,” said Espinosa, a first-generation college graduate. “Studying marine biology is important because the ocean is one of the most exploited yet more vital natural resources.”

$1.5 Million Gift to Benefit LGBTQ+ and Business Students

Business administration alumnus Michael T. Losquadro and his husband, Dr. Brian C. Keller, have long been champions for the LGBTQ+ community. During his three-decade career in fundraising, Losquadro helped support students and programs within the California State University system. Keller is a family physician with Kaiser Permanente.

The couple has pledged a $1.5 million planned gift to Cal State Fullerton to benefit the LGBT Queer Resource Center, which will be renamed in their honor as the Losquadro Keller LGBTQ Resource Center. The gift will also support student scholarships in the College of Business and Economics.

“What’s most rewarding is knowing that our support will go on in perpetuity and that this gift will provide scholarships to deserving students and programmatic support for the center,” said Losquadro.
Student Veteran Receives CSU Trustees’ Award

Cal State Fullerton mechanical engineering major Anthony Kyle Olson is a 2023 recipient of the California State University Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. As the William Randolph Hearst Scholar, he will receive a $7,000 scholarship.

Olson temporarily put his college dream on hold while he served in the U.S. Air Force. Like many veterans, Olson faced financial challenges following his military-to-civilian career transition. The CSU scholarship will support his goal of earning a bachelor’s degree.

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University Raises More Than $35 Million in Gifts

Following the success of its “It Takes a Titan” philanthropic campaign, which raised more than $270 million, Cal State Fullerton finished the 2022-23 fiscal year with $35,044,716 in gifts and gift commitments. This achievement marks the fourth consecutive year the university has raised more than $31 million.

“Donors and community partners continue to invest in the success of Cal State Fullerton,” said Greg Saks, vice president for university advancement. “It’s a testament to the transformative work of our university.”

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