

NMSU RESEARCH NEWS

Newsletter of the Office of the VP for Research, Graduate Studies, and International Programs

April 2009

NMSU Model United Nations Team Wins Outstanding Delegation Award (First Place) in NYC Competition



Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Q&A with Dr. Satish Ranade, P2

JUSTICE FOR YOUTH

5TH Annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium Held at NMSU, P10



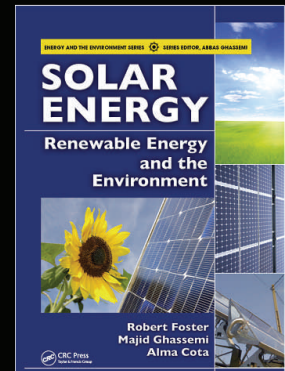
19th Annual Design Contest Held at NMSU, P4



NMSU's Model U.N. Team Wins Outstanding Delegation Award, P6



NMSU Hosts 21st Annual Euprymna-Vibrio Powwow, P8



Publications, P9

Why Many Proposals Fail, P11

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NMSU Hosts 21st Annual *Euprymna-Vibrio* Powwow

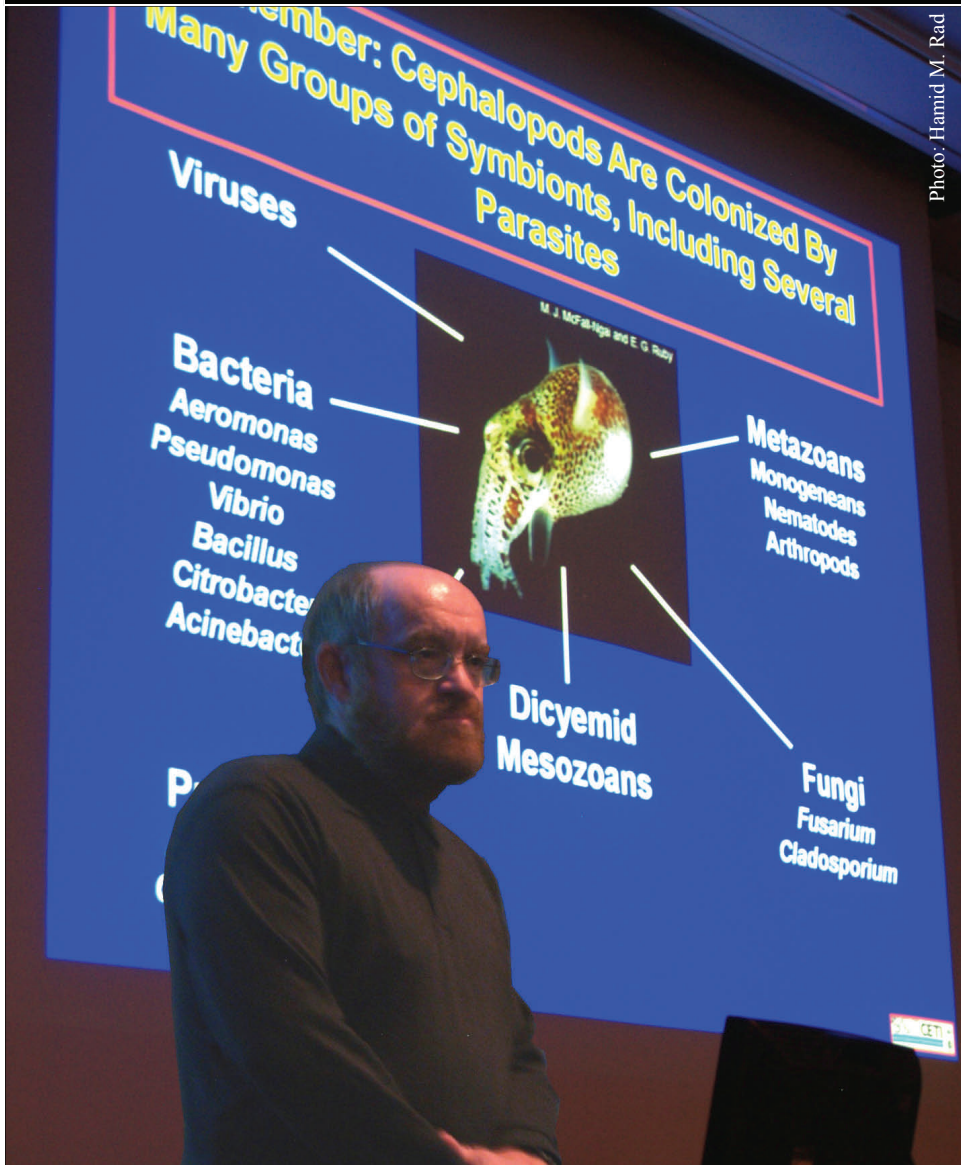


Photo: Hamid M. Rad

Dr. Sam Loker, University of New Mexico, presenting his paper entitled, “Snails and Trematodes: Similarities and Contrasts with Squid-Vibro Associations”

The 21st annual *Euprymna-Vibrio* Powwow was held at New Mexico State University March 13th -14th.

Department of Biology faculty Maria Castillo and Michele Nishiguchi were the organizers of this year’s event, which included approximately 36 participants representing nine of the 11 laboratories that work on the *Vibrio* system.

The *Euprymna* (Bobtail squid)- *Vibrio* system was initially used as a model to understand the interactions in a mutualistic association, but has been further developed to examine aspects of bacterial biofilm production, hemocyte activation, toll regulatory signaling, experimental evolution, phylogeography, microbial allelopathy, nitric oxide sensory

components, oxygen consumption, and immunological complement.

Dr. E. Sam Loker, Director of the University of New Mexico COBRE and Biology Department Head, was the guest speaker. Dr. Loker’s presentation, entitled “Snails and Trematodes: Similarities and contrasts with squid-*Vibrio* associations” covered the many aspects of both mutualistic and pathogenic associations between molluscan hosts and their symbionts.

“One of the greatest aspects of the system is the cooperation that all labs have with each other” states Dr. Nishiguchi. “We get together yearly and talk about what is going on in our research, find some common ground, form more collaborative projects, and get new ideas from different aspects...either squid or bacterial. I think it all started with both Ned (Ruby) and Margaret (McFall-Ngai) working together with expertise from both ends of the symbiosis,” adds Dr. Nishiguchi.

NMSU is fortunate to have two of the 11 principle investigators working on the system here in Las Cruces. Dr. Maria Castillo is an immunologist who studies how complement works in innate immune systems of molluscs, and Dr. Nishiguchi works on the evolution and microbial ecology of *Vibrio*-Bobtail squid associations.

Next years *Euprymna-Vibrio* Powwow will be hosted by Dr. Karen Visick at Loyola Medical School in Chicago, IL.



Bobtail Squid (Courtesy photo)