



Three CI Students Named Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars

Camarillo, CA., July 29, 2010 - Three California State University Channel Islands (CI) students are among about 70 students who have been named California State University (CSU) Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars. Beginning in the fall, these students will work closely during their senior year to prepare for future graduate studies and will each receive \$3,000 for work with their faculty mentors. They will also be invited to participate in a fully-funded research internship at a University of California or other campus for six weeks during summer 2011.

Ashley Bonneau, a biology major with a minor in chemistry, will work with her mentor Dr. Nitika Parmar, Assistant Professor of Biology, preparing for graduate work in cellular and molecular biology. Danika Lindsay, a double major in mathematics and applied physics, will continue her studies with Dr. Ivona Grzegorzczuk, Professor of Mathematics. Jennifer Waters, a mathematics major, will also work with Dr. Grzegorzczuk in algebraic geometry in preparation for Ph.D. studies after graduation.

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of CSU students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. The program places a special emphasis on increasing the number of CSU students who enter doctoral programs at one of the University of California (UC) institutions.

"I am honored to be a recipient of the Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarship," said Bonneau. "This award provides opportunities for me to continue to pursue my educational goals and I am so grateful to my research adviser, Dr. Parmar, for all of her time and assistance over the past two years."

"I am thrilled to be a part of this program! I know that all of the resources it provides will help immensely in my journey to a doctoral program," added Lindsay. "I would really like to thank Dr. Kathryn Leonard and Dr. Grzegorzczuk. They both provided me with so much help and guidance, and I cannot thank them enough."

"This award and opportunity brings me closer to fulfilling my academic goals," said Waters. "I'm so grateful for the supportive faculty and staff at CI who have made this opportunity possible for me, especially Dr. Cynthia Wyels and Dr. Grzegorzczuk. I believe this award will open the necessary doors to help make me successful."

Ryanne Cox, a biology major studying with Dr. Amy Denton, chair of the biology program, received an honorable mention.

CSU Channel Islands seeks to involve undergraduates in research experiences with faculty and the Pre-Doctoral Program funds such activities for a select group interested in doctoral work.

"This is the first time CI has had three students designated as Sally Casanova Scholars. We're delighted! It's a tribute to our mathematics and biology programs, and to our campus focus on undergraduate research." said Dr. Stephen Lefevre, coordinator of the Pre-Doctoral Program at CSU Channel Islands and Associate Vice President for Academic Programs & Planning.

A description of the CSU Pre-Doctoral Scholars program, other recipients and its goals is available at www.calstate.edu/PreDoc.

For more information about the CI program contact Dr. Stephen Lefevre, 805-437-8541 or stephen.lefevre@csuci.edu.

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CSU Channel Islands is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

CI Mission Statement

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.