



Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: DR. A. CHAPMAN
PROGRAM: BIOLOGY
ACTIVITY TITLE: ECOLOGY FIELD TRIPS
DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: APRIL 5TH 2014 AND APRIL 18-20TH 2014.

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator with supporting documentation at lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

The purpose of the trip is to introduce students in Biol 433 (Ecology and the Environment) to the ecology of the Channel Islands. Students participated in an all-day field trip to Prisoners Harbor, Santa Cruz and/or a weekend trip to Santa Rosa Island which are both part of the Channel Islands National Park.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The Island field trips addressed several student learning outcomes:

- (a) understand the history of the Channel Islands
- (b) familiarize students with endemic, native and exotic species
- (c) evaluate the methods currently being used to restore the island
- (d) quantify the effectiveness of the different management strategies adopted and consider their controversial nature.
- (e) observe and consider the distinct plant and animal communities and how they relate to island biogeography
- (f) appreciate the islands as a repository for the biodiversity of this region

These field trips are an integral component of Biol 433 (Ecology and the Environment). The trips included a crossing of the Santa Barbara Channel where marine fauna were identified. Once on the islands, the students were taken on several guided hikes by experienced naturalists. They were introduced to the unique aspects of the ecology of the many plant communities, and identified the dominant, endemic, and indicator plant species to be found on the island.

Students gained a perspective of the entire ecosystem, encompassing the flora and fauna of the islands, the intertidal region and the marine systems of the surrounding channels. We spent time in this area discussing the organization and the interconnected nature of the entire system and the importance of the land – sea interface.



(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

There is no substitute for being immersed in the natural environment. The learning environment is unique. Students are able to connect the theory to on-the-ground evidence.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

Most students tell me that the trips are too short!

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

Ideally I'd like to have more professors included so that we have experts in different disciplines e.g. geology

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

It was my first time staying at the Research Station on Santa Rosa, so I now have a better idea of the facility and now know how much food to buy to feed 25 people 😊

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

Submitted

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Transport to Santa Cruz	34 x \$54	=	\$1836.00
Transport to Santa Rosa	24 x \$104	=	\$2496.00
Food for 3 days for 25 people		=	\$484.64
TOTAL		=	\$4816.64

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/104937196@N07/sets/72157644305831334/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/104937196@N07/sets/72157644306760114/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/104937196@N07/sets/72157644252232806/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/104937196@N07/sets/72157644252232806/>

To IRA Committee , Application #577

I am a 5th year biology major enrolled at CSU Channel Islands. I wanted to share with you my firsthand experience with Dr. Angela Chapman's "Ecology and the Environment" course and specifically the field outing the class took to the Channel Islands. I am painfully aware of the current budget situation affecting the CSU and the associated need to allocate funding in a responsible manner. While tough calls must be made on the part of your committee, I would imagine that the decisions about which programs to fund must need to weigh the benefits against the potential costs. I sincerely hope my testimony will highlight how beneficial these outings are to students, as Dr. Chapman's course was a keystone moment in my education, and one which would certainly have a positive impact on future students.

CSU Channel Islands offers a unique experience to those inclined to learn about ecology. The campus itself resides on outstanding chaparral, complete with its own diverse flora and fauna, including many native plants and a few endangered species which call the campus home. Drive a few miles off campus and you've reached the edge of western civilization, with miles of rich, ecologically diverse Pacific coastline waiting to be observed and appreciated. And just offshore are the Channel Islands – the namesake of our campus, as well as a compelling opportunity to embed students in the environment that others can only read about.

The trip my class took last year to Santa Cruz Island lasted one day (though earlier trips have lasted a weekend) and was in conjunction with Island Packers, a local company offering ferrying service to the islands. Much of the day was spent with naturalists hiking around the island, observing the native plants and animals like the Island Fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) and the Island Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma insularis*), which is endemic to Santa Cruz Island. We had the opportunity to observe the unique effects of allopatric speciation on species which can result in insular dwarfism and gigantism. Our group of adult men and women were reduced to wide-eyed children in a beautiful, alien world. I still vividly remember peering into the waters of a sea cave and seeing the eyes of a moray eel staring back at me. The entire day passed by in a flash and I left wishing I could stay longer.

To this day, I have not had a more memorable college learning experience and I am certain that one would be hard pressed to find a better professor to spearhead this trip than Dr. Chapman, who coached and prepared us throughout the semester. Though she has presumably been to the islands numerous times, her obvious excitement proved to me that appreciation for nature is a lifelong gift. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to go along – I learned so much and gained a newfound appreciation for the magnificent islands which are, to me, the jewels on the crown of our coveted coastline. You can't put a price on an education like this and to waste the opportunity would be to deny future students the wonder that my class and I were lucky enough to experience. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimonial, and I hope it will help you come to a funding decision which will benefit the students most.

Sincerely,

<student name>

Proposals 577 & 578

Trips to Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Island

Hi Lisa

I've sent you a selection of emails received from students re the Santa Cruz, one day trip, on April 5th. The feedback for the weekend trip to Santa Rosa April 18-20th was even more emphatic in its enthusiasm! I hope this will satisfy the reporting to the IRA committee.

Thank you for all your help Lisa

Best

Angela Chapman

Biology Program

CSU Channel Islands

One University Drive

Camarillo, CA 93012

Tel: (805) 437-2774



IRA Proposal 577

Student Feedback from Santa Cruz Island Field Trip (April 5th, 2014)

I had a blast on the SCI trip. After learning about the islands, it was almost surreal to be able to see everything hands on. Reading a book and visiting museums is a good way to get to know the history but having the hands on experience was amazing, something you can't read in a book. Seeing an island Jay was the most exciting part of the trip, the sheer beauty of this bird made the entire trip worth it. I feel that this trip is a great experience and I am very grateful I was able to make it out there to see the efforts of so many biology conservationist and restorators.

The Santa Cruz Island field trip was a great experience, to be able to see the evolutionary phenomena that occur in many islands around the world in a place so close to home. The boat ride to the islands was also a great experience. It was a short ride from the harbor and during the ride we were able to view marine mammals such as the common dolphin and humpback whale. The hiking guides were very friendly and informative. During our hike we were able to see some of the endemic species of plants and birds on the island, such as the giant coreopsis and the island scrub jay. The field trip was overall a great experience because we were able to view some of the species which have evolved

differently from their mainland counterparts. To be able to see this first hand has helped me to understand the concepts that we have discussed in lecture more thoroughly than before the trip.

It is difficult to pick just one part of the trip that I enjoyed the most, but if I had to choose one, it would be eating lunch at Pelican Bay. The trip out to the islands was exciting, with the boat navigating large waves, and then stopping to observe the dolphins and whales. The hike to Pelican Bay was a bit rigorous, but the pay off was definitely worth it. Throughout the journey, along cliffs and hills, there were many breathtaking sights. The large blooms of island coreopsis and the many other endemic plant species we saw were gorgeous. When we reached the end of the trail, we had lunch at Pelican Bay; this is where I saw the first and only scrub jay that I was able to see during the trip. The bird was indeed much more vibrantly blue and larger than the mainland counterpart, and I was glad to finally see one after attending the talk about them earlier this semester. Overall the experience was amazing and helpful to see the plant and animal species in their habitat, it will not be one I soon forget. The only thing that I did not like about this trip is, that it was too short; I feel like to get a good feel of the island we should have left later in the day, leaving us more time to explore.

I have never been to any of the Channel Islands and the trip to Santa Cruz was awesome. I went on the hike to Pelican Bay—I could have never asked for a better way to spend my Saturday. I was in awe of the beauty, and it was awesome to see many of the plant species we had learned about in class. I have spent four years at Channel Islands and have heard so many great things about the islands but never thought that I would be able to experience it first hand. I wish we could have stayed longer. Thank you so much for organizing such an amazing trip!

Last weekend's visit to Santa Cruz Island was truly an incredible experience. Having recently moved to Southern California, this was my first visit to any of the Channel Islands. Although the boat ride out was a little bumpy, it was pretty comfortable and the Island Packers staff was very helpful. During the trip out, we were able to see a pretty large pod of common dolphins and even a couple whales. Once we arrived at Prisoners Harbor, we were given a short orientation regarding the island. While most of the information presented was repetitive for us as students, it would have been great for those visiting the island who had little knowledge on the history and ecology of the land. We were led on a hike along the coast, which lent gorgeous views of the island and harbor. Our tour guide was very informative and was willing to answer any questions as best as she could. It was nice to have Dr. Chapman there as well to lend some extra knowledge to the trip as well. One of my favorite moments was the short break we took for lunch. We stopped with a beautiful view up a canyon and a large grove of Ironwoods, which only grow on the islands. We were lucky enough to spot a few other endemic species, including the Giant Coreopsis, and a few Santa Cruz Island Scrub Jays. It was great to get away from the busyness of Southern California and just be able to hear the wind again. Overall I had a great time on the island and I definitely have a desire to go and explore the adventures the other islands have to offer.

I would like to start off and say that I had an amazing time going to and being on Santa Cruz Island. My friends wanted me to miss this trip to go to an on-campus fair but I am glad I went on the island with zero regrets. To start off on the feedback, I will go in chronological order. We set out on the boat at about 9:30. We were told that the boat was going to leave at that time and they were very good about that. The boat ride there was a lot of fun. Personally, I have not been on a boat that size since I was in the Philippines back in 2009. The funny thing was that I had the same experience as to how choppy the

waters were. I was not nervous at all because during the boat ride in the Philippines there was thunderstorms and larger waves than what we saw. Regardless the boat ride was a lot of fun. When we arrived on the Island the guide was very nice and gave us instructions and told us what was ok to do and what was not ok to do. It was simple, don't break anything or bring anything back to the mainland. We broke off into two groups and the group I went to hiked the trail that went all the way to Pelican Bay which was one of the more harder hikes I have been on but it was a lot of fun. The view from every water break was remarkable. To be honest I thought I was in a museum because I have never seen such beauty in a natural habitat. I always hike up the Hollywood mountain and once you get to the top all you see is smog and things that were not there when the Earth was created. But during the hike I was flabbergasted because of the view that I had seen which was slowly recovering from human intervention. This was probably the experience I enjoyed the most because I could not believe that ranchers did not think twice about how magnificent the land was around them. I hope our school will continue to do these trips so that other students may witness the beauty that was on that Island.

Getting to go to Santa Cruz Island was an amazing experience an opportunity. We have talked about the islands so much in my ESRM and BIO classes so I was really excited to spend some time on Santa Cruz and experience the island instead of just talking about it. One of the reasons I chose to come to Channel Islands was because of the opportunities that this school presents to the students. When I first visited the school before I decided to apply, my guide talked about all of the resources we have around us that can be used in educating; the islands being one of them. I think that no matter what someone's major is, if they attend CSUCI then they need to take a trip to Santa Cruz. The hiking is great with beautiful views and I feel like being on the island opens up your eyes and mind. I never knew that some place so unique and beautiful was so close to home and not that I've been there and have seen in for myself, I feel a greater need to contribute any way I can the preserve the island.

The only thing I wish is that we had more time. During the hike to Pelican Bay I felt a little rushed and wanted to be able to soak it all in and enjoy. I ended up camping on Santa Cruz the weekend after and realized that Scorpion and Prisoners almost looked completely different so I wish I was able to spend more time at Prisoners and Pelican Bay.

The Santa Cruz Island was a lovely trip it scenery, and information it has to offer life and historical sciences are amazing. The boat ride was quite rocky but, it was worth the while to see an Island Scrub Jay, one of the island's beautiful endemic species. The plant life was quite nice as well, the hike allowed for us to see the plants up close rather than in a photo. I am appreciative of this experience because up until nine months ago I had never heard of the Channel Islands, and to be provided the privilege to visit one was amazing, and will go again in the future hopefully.

This lab was my favorite by far this semester! I feel that having these types of labs is essential to the students in allowing us to get have an actual appreciation for the islands and make us what to get involved. The islands themselves are absolutely beautiful and it was nice to get to witness a restoration project/success for myself. Also, after being on Santa Rosa Island over spring break, it made for an interesting chance to see how the islands had their similarities and differences in physiology and animal species. I would love to go back and also make my way to all of the other islands that can be access just to experience the joys the beautiful scenes, captivating wildlife, and peace island time.

The trip to Santa Cruz Island on April 5 was an overall very successful day. The boat ride in of itself offered marine wildlife viewing. We witnessed humpback whales and common dolphins among many seabirds. Upon arriving to the island, I immediately was in awe by how beautiful and serene the coastline of the island was. The vegetation of the island was very similar to that of the mainland

chaparral, except for some island endemics. The hike to Pelican Bay was an incredible trek with a remarkable view at our destination where we were able to have lunch near tidal pools and sea cliffs. The trip to Santa Cruz Island was great and I cannot wait to have the opportunity to go back.

I enjoyed this trip immensely. As an ecologist it is very important to get out into the field to see some of our most untouched areas like the Channel Islands. I was astounded to see the contrast between the Nature Conservancy side and the National Park side. To think that only 15 years of succession is in between these two parts of the island is hard to believe. The side of the island we visited is significantly healthier and more diverse than the National Park side. Personally I have never done the hike to Pelican Harbor and it was very interesting to hike through all the Island Oaks, Giant Coreopsis and Bishop Pines. I was shocked to see how bad the Bishop Pines were in and that there was no sign of continuous monitoring plots or individuals that were tagged. I currently study the Torrey Pines and it was interesting to compare their physiology. From what I have seen, the Torrey Pine is doing significantly better than these Bishop Pines. I have never seen an Island Scrub Jay and that was an amazing sight to see and to think that this bird only exists on this island is a unique experience to be a part of. If there was one thing I wish we could have changed would be to stay longer and have more abilities to see more of the Island.

The trip to Santa Cruz Island with my Bio 433 Lab was an amazing experience. The boat trip began as an adventure itself, that day we had rough seas on our way to the island which made it very interesting. However, we still got the opportunity to see a pack of common dolphins and even spotted a whale. Once we had landed at our destination prisoners' harbor, one could feel the sublime effects of the area that we were about to explore. My favorite overall part of the trip to Santa Cruz Island was that I got to make the hike to pelican bay. It had been a while since I've gotten to see the beauty that our national wilderness areas, had for us to enjoy. It almost felt like it was my own great frontier experience, and it is something I will never forget. Thank you for providing us this great opportunity, especially for those who had never set foot on Santa Cruz Island before.

The hike on Santa Cruz Island we were able to travel over to the nature reserve side of the island which was a rare opportunity for me and everyone else on the trip. On the trip there we were also able to see a large pod of dolphins and sea birds feeding on bait fish of some sort. I found it very interesting to see the difference in the foliage of the island and how it changed from area that have had more time to regrow the indigenous plant life. This was my second time I've been to the island, with the first going to scorpion ranch harbor. The difference between the sides of the island was very interesting to see for biology major and perfect for the ecology class. While the east side of the island didn't become protected and still had cattle and other non-native animals on it for many years after these animals, such as cattle and sheep, the west side was turned into a nature reserve and is only allowed to people that are guided or have been given a permit to enter. This has allowed the land to regrow many of the natural plants and wildlife. We were able to see the endemic island scrub jay and other endemic species on the island. On the hike to pelican bay, which is on the nature reserve side of the island we were able to see the stark difference in vegetation and how the island might have looked like when it was first settled. This was a perfect lab to have for our ecology class and allowed us to go outside and see ecology and not just sit at a computer and learn it through a book.



Santa Cruz Island Beach



Natural Fauna of Santa Cruz Island

