

School of Integrative Biology

Spring 2021 Awards Ceremony

May 6, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Undergraduate Student Awards



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Robert H. Davis Memorial Award



Sue and Kent Davis established this prize to honor and remember their son Robert. Rob had a wide variety of interests and a desire to help others.

This prize is intended to recognize “a student who exhibits significant academic curiosity, is hardworking and motivated... (With) interests outside of academia, such as the arts, sports, politics, or literature and who is generally inquisitive about life.”

The prize allows a student a summer semester in a research lab related to fields of study in the School of Integrative Biology or organismal biology.

Robert H. Davis Memorial Award 2021



Thomas Parrish

Hi! My name is Thomas Parrish, and I am a sophomore studying Integrative Biology in the Honors program. Biology has always been an interest of mine as I have always wanted to become a doctor, but I have just recently found research as a "second passion."

I plan on starting to help with research at Fischer Lab on campus this summer. Thank you so much to Mrs. and Mr. Davis for their unbelievable support to undergraduate students to have a chance to do amazing research and more at the university!



Robert H. Davis Excellence Award



Sue and Kent Davis established this award to honor and remember their son Robert.

This award supports a student excellence scholarship. The recipient is selected based on academic or research excellence.

Robert H. Davis Excellence Award 2021



James Kosmopoulos

I am a third-year undergraduate student and majoring in Integrative Biology Honors and is the first in my family on track to complete college. I am also an undergraduate researcher in the Dr. Katy Heath Lab for Coevolutionary Genomics.

I am fascinated by why and how organisms evolve with each other in changing environments, and I hope to pursue this fascination in a research-based graduate program after I get my bachelors degree. In my free time, I love to garden, read, hike, and eat bread!

Camp Family Research Award



This award, for graduates of Illinois high schools, was made possible by Bob and Tammy Camp. They met at UIUC as first-generation college students. Bob earned a BS and an MS in Computer Science and Tammy earned a BS in General Biology. Tammy received an MS in Biochemistry at Northwestern University.

They recognize that research experience and strong lab skills are important for a successful career in biology. This award helps to provide this opportunity to SIB students.

Camp Family Research Award 2021



Bridget Dwyer

I am a junior majoring in Integrative Biology with a minor in Leadership Studies and Chemistry. I am involved in Phi Chi, a pre-medical fraternity, volunteers for the Crisis Text Line, TAs for Organic Chemistry II and yet, my favorite part of the semester has been research in the Dolezal Bee Lab. Research has been able to allow me to develop personally and professionally in a way I never thought possible, and I couldn't be more grateful or humbled by this award.



Ndidi Ojiako

I am a junior majoring in Integrative Biology with a minor in Creative Writing, from Burr Ridge, Illinois. Ever since my first research experience at the Institute of Genomic Biology, I have been wanting to learn so much more about the world of research. I am excited to have the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Ngumbi this summer. In my free time, I enjoy exercising, doing natural hair, and reading.



Spyros Kavouras Summer Research Award



Photo-Feathered Grump by Shelby Lawson

Dr. Jerry Kavouras established this award in memory of his father. Dr. Kavouras received his BS in Biology at UIUC in 1995 and his PhD in 2002 from Marquette University.

He is currently Professor and Chair of the Biology Department at Lewis University. The award helps support a full-time summer research experience in the lab of an SIB faculty member.

Spyros Kavouras Summer Research Award 2021



Eric Arredondo

I am a junior studying Integrative Biology. I am interested in studying animal behavior and plan on attending graduate school in the future.

Joann Kavouras Memorial Scholarship



Photo-Gregarious Green Turtle by Elizabeth Dabek

Dr. Jerry Kavouras established this award in memory of his mother. The award provides a scholarship to a current IB sophomore or junior.



Joann Kavouras Memorial Scholarship 2021



Aynur Namik

My name is Aynur Namik and I am a Sophomore Integrative Biology Honors student. In the future, I hope to become a general dentist and look for ways to serve underrepresented communities with lack of access to dental care.

In my free time, I love to try & cook new foods, play ultimate frisbee, and learn languages! I am honored to have been chosen by the School of Integrative Biology. Thank you so much for the opportunity.



iBio Summer Internships



Photo: Trilobites on the Mountaintop by Daniel Urban

This award will support a full-time summer research experience in the lab of a School of Integrative Biology faculty member.



iBio Summer Internships 2021



Carly Kallembach

My name is Carly Kallembach and I am a junior Integrative Biology major at UIUC. I am originally from Monticello, IL and part of my interest in science came from wandering Allerton Park growing up. After graduation, I plan to either attend graduate or vet school and get involved in biomedical or organismal biology research.



Shreyas Rajagopalan

Hi, I am Shreyas Rajagopalan and I am a sophomore double majoring in Integrative Biology Honors and Clinical Psychology. I am on the Pre-Med track and have an interest to be a psychiatrist in the future. In my free time, I love playing basketball and helping conduct research in Dr. Alleyne's Bioinspiration lab.



Anna Zallek

I am a junior double majoring in IB Honors and Psychology with a minor in Chemistry. I am an undergraduate researcher in the Punyasena Lab and am currently working on a project to study the allergenicity of pollen proteins from species in the Asteraceae plant family. Outside of class, I am the current president of the Illini Waterski Team, and work as an EMT and CPR instructor for IFSI. I feel honored and grateful to receive these awards, and want to express thanks for my mentors, Ingrid and Surangi, for guiding me on my journey as a young scientist.



Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in Integrative Biology



This award supports academic excellence and intellectual achievement in all its forms. The recipient is chosen on merit and must be an incoming junior in the Honors Biology Program in the fall.

Oliver J. Bell graduated summa cum laude and with distinction from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1989 with concentrations in Biology Honors and chemistry.

Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in IB 2021



Shreyas Rajagopalan

Hi I am Shreyas Rajagopalan and I am a sophomore double majoring in Integrative Biology Honors and Clinical Psychology. I am on the Pre-Med track and have an interest to be a psychiatrist in the future.

In my free time, I love playing basketball and helping conduct research in Dr. Alleyne's Bioinspiration lab.

Judy Willis Scholarship



This award is made possible by a generous donation in recognition of Dr. Judy Willis (currently a professor emeritus at the University of Georgia).

Prior to teaching at UGA, she was a UIUC professor in the Biology Honors program for many years. This award recognizes an outstanding junior in the IB Honors program.



Judy Willis Scholarship 2021



Anna Zallek

I am a junior double majoring in IB Honors and Psychology with a minor in Chemistry. I am an undergraduate researcher in the Punyasena Lab and am currently working on a project to study the allergenicity of pollen proteins from species in the Asteraceae plant family.

Outside of class, I am the current president of the Illini Waterski Team, and work as an EMT and CPR instructor for IFSI. I feel honored and grateful to receive these awards, and want to express thanks for my mentors, Ingrid and Surangi, for guiding me on my journey as a young scientist.



IB Honors Achievement Scholarships



The IB Honors Achievement Scholarships recognize outstanding achievement for a sophomore and junior currently enrolled in the SIB Honors Program.

Applications are judged on evidence of outstanding achievements in academics and leadership activities.

IB Honors Achievement Scholarships 2021



Valerie Shamshyna

I was born and grew up in Ukraine and moved to the US when I was 17. I started my academic journey at John Wood Community College in Quincy, Illinois with a major in biology. I transferred to UIUC in the Fall 2019 semester as an MCB major but was accepted into the IB Honors program for the following year. After graduation, I am planning to continue studying biology at the graduate level and I am hoping to use my scientific knowledge to help create solutions for global problems.



Edward Huang

I am a junior in Integrative Biology Honors. My research interest is primarily the discovery of antimicrobial systems in nature and how such mechanisms paired with genetic-engineering techniques can inspire tenable solutions for the looming antibacterial-resistance crisis. I plan to pursue a MD-PhD, and I enjoy urban dancing, composing for guitar/piano, and the discussion of ideas.



Richard Ware Family Scholarship



The Richard Ware Family scholarship was established by Vickie S. Brooks, James R. Ware and John R. Ware.

The fund was established to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the School of Integrative Biology.

Richard Ware Family Scholarship 2021



Alexis Rhoades

My name is Alexis Rhoades and I am a sophomore majoring in Integrative Biology from Mt. Zion, Il. In my free time, I am an active member of Illini Service Dogs and conduct research in the Cáceres Lab.

I also like to spend time playing intramural sports and watching the Fighting Illini. I love the University of Illinois and the School of Integrative Biology and am grateful for all the opportunities and support I have been given.



Mildred Parizek Zukor Award



This award, made possible by the donor and her family, recognizes outstanding achievement in undergraduate research in Animal Biology or Zoology.

The award supports an undergraduate student continuing to graduate study in life sciences on the Urbana-Champaign campus.



Mildred Parizek Zukor Award 2021



Emily Terrill

I am a senior graduating with my Bachelor's of Science in Integrative Biology. Throughout my undergraduate career, I have been dedicated to my coursework, two children, and participation in the laboratories of Alfred Roca and Carla Cáceres. With a passion for genetics, I will begin my graduate career in the laboratory of Eva Fischer this fall.

Dr. Kirk and Mrs. Shannon Moberg Scholarship



This award provides a scholarship to a junior in IB who graduated from an Illinois high school.

Dr. Kirk and Mrs. Shannon Moberg Scholarship 2021



Alexis Alvey

I am an Integrative Biology junior with broad academic interests in behavioral ecology, morphology, and conservation. I am also involved in research with Dr. Milton Tan's lab where I explore the diversity and evolution of body shapes in South American catfishes.

With the generous support of SIB and the *Dr. Kirk & Mrs. Shannon Moberg Scholarship in Integrative Biology*, I am excited to both continue my biological education and advance my research project throughout my senior year. In my final semesters, I am looking forward to completing a first-author scientific paper and applying to graduate school.



Chester W. And Nadine C. Houston Scholarship



Dr. Chet and Mrs. Nadine Houston provided the funds for this scholarship to recognize outstanding achievement in academics.

Dr. Chet was a Professor at the University of Rhode Island and Nadine had a long career as a librarian. Their generous gift provides financial support to deserving SIB students.

Chester W. and Nadine C. Houston Scholarship 2021



Meghan Blaszyński

After graduating, I hope to go to graduate school and earn a Doctorate in Marine Biology. Some of my involvements on campus include undergraduate research, School of Integrative Biology Student Ambassadors, Beta Psi Omega, a professional biological fraternity, and have worked at the SIB Advising Office and part of Prep Staff. Outside of school, I enjoy going to the football and basketball games, walking around campus with friends, and spending time with my family!



Rebecca Ducay

I am a junior studying Integrative Biology. Through research opportunities and work experience, as well as my college curriculum, I hope to continue my education through graduate school to become a field research biologist. Through these experiences, I hope to create change in the world by contributing to the conservation of organisms whose lives have been dramatically altered by human interaction and environmental changes.

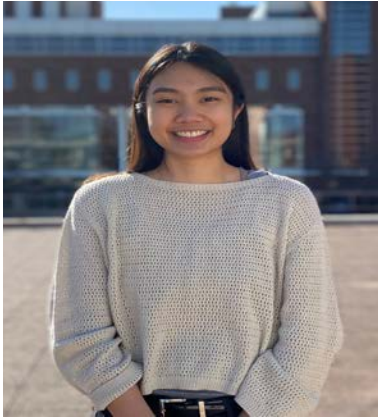


Tara Entezar

I am a junior majoring in Integrative Biology Honors and Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability. I am also a past project manager of Illinois Enactus, director of Project 4 Less, and case manager at Avicenna Community Health Center. I give great thanks to the Houston family for their generous award, which will support me as I pursue my dreams of attending medical school.



Chester W. And Nadine C. Houston Scholarship 2021



Abigail Rich

I am a sophomore majoring in Integrative Biology and minoring in Chemistry. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to pursue study in genetic counseling to increase access to genetic testing in minority populations. I am currently researching the genetics behind social behavior in silver fox populations under Professor Anna Kukekova.

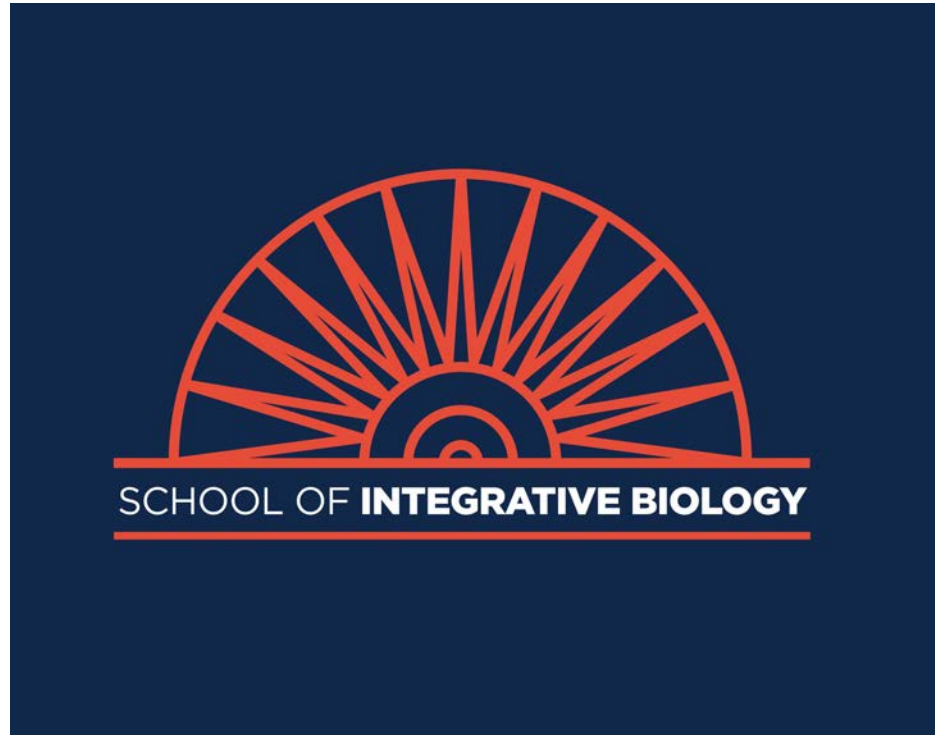


Grace Westphal

I am a Junior in the Honors Integrative Biology program. I am also pursuing a degree in English and a minor in Chemistry. After my senior year, I intend to go to graduate school and continue research in disease transmission dynamics. I am honored to be receiving this award and am grateful for this early support in my career in biology. I am also thankful for the support and guidance of my research mentor, Dr. Carla Caceres.



SIB Endowed Scholarship



The SIB Endowed Scholarship is new this year and helps to provide funds for students to engage in enrichment activities.

SIB Endowed Scholarship



Claire Chalkey

I am a junior majoring in Integrative Biology and minoring in Chemistry and Art + Design from Streator, Illinois. I currently work as Chemistry TA for Elise McCarren and as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Andrew Leakey's lab.

As a pre-dental student, I am currently serving as the president of the Pre-Dental Club and will be applying to dental school in the fall.



SIB Alumni and Friends Awards



We have been able to provide awards to a number of students this year thanks to several donations from our alumni and friends. Their support has allowed SIB to offer unparalleled educational and research opportunities for our students.

These scholarships have given our students access to additional resources, trainings, meetings, and more as they build their research skills and grow their careers.



SIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship 2021



Malika Basu

My name is Malika Basu and I am an international student from Kolkata, India. I am a junior double majoring in Integrative Biology Honors and Chemistry. After graduation, I plan on going to graduate school and pursuing a PhD. I am interested in immunology, antibiotic resistance, and the control of infectious diseases.



Jonathan Chan

My name is Jonathan Chan and I am a junior studying Integrative Biology with hopes of attending medical school in the future. On-campus I am involved with a number of extracurricular activities. I work in the Becky Fuller lab where we study polymorphism as it pertains to Killifish, I volunteer at Carle hospital and am involved with a number of RSOs including InterVarsity - a Christian fellowship - and LAS Leaders.



Jessica Cuthbert

My name is Jessica Cuthbert, and I am a junior majoring in Integrative Biology on the pre-med track. I transferred to UIUC in the Spring of 2020 from Loyola University Chicago, and my time spent at UIUC has been unmatched. Some of the things I currently am involved in is that I am an assistant athletic trainer for the UIUC football team, the social chair for the Illinois Ski and Snowboard Club, and a student ambassador for IB majors. My future plans are to attend medical school and become a doctor specializing in radiation oncology or sports medicine.



SIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship 2021



Hayley Fuoco

Haley Fuoco is a graduating senior with a major in Integrative Biology Honors and a Chemistry minor. On-campus she is an undergraduate researcher in the Brinkworth lab, President of Beta Psi Omega, and a Counseling Center Paraprofessional. After graduation, she will be attending graduate school to become a genetic counselor.



Hayden Goldspink

I am currently a junior who is majoring in Integrative Biology and minoring in Psychology. Topics concerning conservation and ecology have always sparked my curiosity as a student and are areas of biology that I would like to pursue further. Some of my favorite hobbies include hiking, enjoying a strong cup of coffee, learning about new cultures, and further developing my skills in the kitchen. While on campus, I have come to love learning through the unique hands-on experiences that research settings have to offer and I hope to continue expanding my horizons further with each opportunity.



Madison Gouloze

Madi is a junior in IB and she recently transferred to Illinois this year from Moraine Valley Community College. She is interested in pursuing veterinary medicine after undergrad. She is hopeful to one day be a companion and exotic animal veterinarian. She is a part of the Tau Sigma National Honors Society, Pre-Vet Club, and Legend Dance Company.



SIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship 2021



Emma Lin

I am a current freshman and rising sophomore studying Integrative Biology at UIUC. I am from a small town in northern Illinois called Genoa, which is surrounded by corn on three sides and a forest on the fourth.



Harsha Namburi

Hi, I am Harsha Namburi. I am a senior in IBH. I do research at Dr. Martha Gillette's lab studying sleep neurobiology. In addition to that, I am a student advisor for SIB through the SIBSA program.



Jonathan Tinoco

I am an Integrative Biology major with an interest in conservation and entomology. I plan on going to graduate school after earning my undergraduate degree. I hope to work in a lab in the future with a focus in public health.



SIB Alumni and Friends Scholarship 2021



Fahren Zackery

I am a graduating senior. I will be continuing my education this fall here at UIUC through PEEC. My research evaluates whether microbiome diversity has a positive, negative, or neutral relationship to individuals' health outcomes, specifically applying the Dilution Effect phenomena to the human microbiome. I enjoy boxing and participating in adult gymnastics during my free time.



Klaudia Zwijacz

I am currently a senior studying Integrative Biology with a Certificate in Integrative Health, and a minor in Human Nutrition. I am applying to Physician Assistant Programs and hope to matriculate in 2022. I dedicate my successes to the donors who have made them possible!



CONGRATULATIONS!



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SIB Graduate Student Awards



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Robert Emerson Memorial Award



The Emerson Award honors a former professor in the Department of Botany. Dr. Emerson was a distinguished and dedicated scientist of international stature in the field of photosynthesis. This award was established by Dr. Emerson's family and friends in the early 1960's.

Robert Emerson Memorial Award 2021

Amanda Curtis



I am a fourth year PhD student in the Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (PEEC). My PhD research focuses on using environmental DNA (eDNA) as a conservation tool in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Recent research projects have focused on basic yet understudied methodological questions around in situ detection of eDNA, like how stream flow influences detection probability of an invasive clam.

In addition, I will be using eDNA to examine how land use change in Alabama may be linked to declines of an imperiled salamander and examining whether eDNA metabarcoding can be used to develop a fish index for biotic integrity (IBI).

Isabel Norton Award



This award is for graduate students within one year of graduation.

The funds will help them complete their thesis or dissertation.

Isabel Norton Award 2021



Nicholas Anderson

I am finishing my dissertation research that takes a multifaceted approach to native bee ecology. My research examines the effects of pesticides on solitary bee adult brain development and movement, the role of spiders in shaping bee communities, and the effects of habitat patch area, perimeter-area ratio, and shape on bee movement and persistence in fragmented landscapes. I will finish this work in the next couple of months and then transition to a postdoctoral position with my graduate advisor, Dr. Alex Harmon-Threatt.



Joseph Edwards

I am finishing up the fourth year of my PhD program in the Program for Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology under the supervision of Dr. Wendy Yang. My research primarily focuses on the interactions between plants, microbes, and soils and the consequences of these interactions for ecosystems overall. Outside the lab, I enjoy hiking with my daughter and my pup, as well as perfecting my vegan chocolate cake recipe. This summer, I'll be working on connecting microbial biodiversity in forest soils to biogeochemical processes via the abundance of key functional genes.

Isabel Norton Award 2021



Hannah Scharf

I am a graduate candidate in my third year in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. In Dr. Mark Hauber's lab, I study the brown-headed cowbird, a bird known as a brood parasite which lays its eggs into the nests of other birds, and one of its hosts, the prothonotary warbler. I am also interested in the interactions between brood parasites and their hosts and the effects of brood parasites on host behavior and physiology, such as hormones, survival, and fledging.



Xiaodin Zhang

I am a third-year Ph.D. student in Plant Biology. I am from Prof. Ray Ming's lab. My research focuses on the genome assembly and the mechanism of sex determination in papaya.



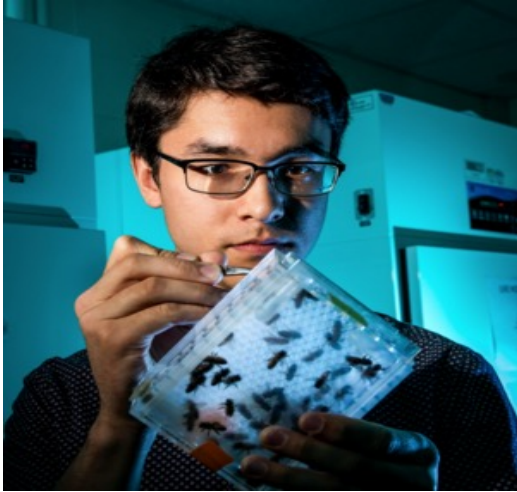
Lebus Graduate Scholar Award



This award was established by James Hagan to honor the memory of his aunt, Bertha Lebus.

This award is to be used to support summer research for meritorious graduate students in the life sciences and other fields. The award is intended to recognize students with outstanding potential to succeed in their chosen academic field.

Lebus Scholar Award 2021



Lincoln Taylor

I am currently a master's student in entomology in the Dolezal Lab at the University of Illinois. After completing my undergrad at UIUC, I am ecstatic to stay around for a few more years. I study interactions between honey bees and viruses and am thoroughly enjoying my research as well as all of the beekeeping practices that come with it.



Sarah Winnicki

My name is Sarah and I am a PEEC PhD candidate in the labs of Dr. T.J. Benson and Dr. Mark Hauber. They research the effects of maternal investment, including nutrients and steroids, on the growth and development of wild birds and quail.



Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award



The fund provides research support for graduate students investigating new frontiers and demonstrating promise and high aptitude.

Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award 2021



Nicholas Antonson

I'm currently finishing my third year of my PhD in Mark Hauber's lab in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. My research focuses on reproductive and early life strategies by Brown-headed cowbirds in response to variable host nests. I study these questions in the nests of Prothonotary warblers in the swamps of the Cache River Watershed in southern Illinois.



Colby Behrens

I'm a 4th year PhD student in Alison Bell's lab in EEB. My research focuses on understanding the underlying genetic mechanisms of parental care in three-spined stickleback.



Elizabeth Bello

I am a master's student in Dr. Marianne Alleyne's ABC Lab. The Harley J. Van Cleave Award will be used to investigate the brochosome morphology, wettability, and cuticle topography of leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae).



Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award 2021



Sulagna Chakraborty

I am a PhD Candidate in PEEC. My research focuses on vector-borne disease ecology and epidemiology, utilizing One Health approaches to address infectious diseases and strategies to improve public health.



Manuel Flores

My name is Manuel Flores and I am a first years Master's student from Mission, Texas. My research is focused on wood nutrient translocation from heartwood to sapwood as well as seasonal wood nutrient flux to sink tissues. I am also interested in how wood anatomy may influence this phenomenon across different species and forests.



Kevin Neumann

I am a first-year PhD student in the Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, advised by Alison Bell and Andy Suarez. I am interested in the evolutionary and ecological consequences of behavioral variation in social organisms.



Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Summer Fellowships



These grants were established to honor Dr. Francis M. Clark and his wife, Harlie M. Clark. Dr. Clark joined the then Department of Bacteriology, later the Department of Microbiology, as an instructor in 1933, after having completed his undergraduate and graduate work here previously.

Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Summer Grants 2021



Marc-Elie Adaime

I am a second-year PhD student working in the Punyasena Lab. My research interests include paleoecology, evolution and machine learning.



Angel Rivera-Colón

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in EEB. I am from Puerto Rico, where I completed my BS degree in Biotechnology and a MS degree in Molecular Biology and Genomics, before moving to UIUC to pursue a PhD as part of Dr. Julian Catchen's laboratory. My research focuses on the genome evolution of Antarctic icefish, with specific interest in understanding how the genome of this very peculiar group of fishes has changed in response to the harsh Antarctic environment. Through my research I develop and apply computational toolsets for genomic and genetic analysis, and I have disseminated my findings as scientific publications and by teaching these resources at local and international workshops.



Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support Grants



These awards recognize outstanding achievement in the biological sciences by graduate students.

In recent years, grants have been awarded primarily for expenses relating to presentation of papers at international and national meetings, short specialty courses offered off campus, and conducting research or making collections away from the UIUC campus.

Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support 2021



Kat Coburn
Entomology
Advisor: Alex Harmon-
Threatt



Maria Cox
PEEC
Advisor: Ripan Malhi



Qihong Dai
PEEC
Advisor: Cory Suski



Luke Hearon
Entomology
Advisor: Carla Cáceres



Edward Hsieh
Entomology
Advisor: Adam Dolezal



Ratna Karatgi
PEEC
Advisor: Becky Fuller



Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support 2021



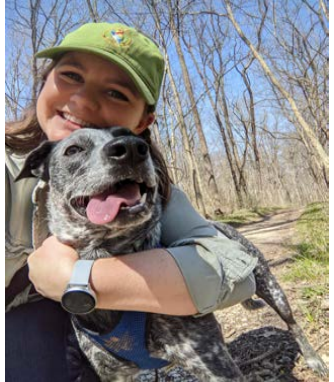
Meghan Maciejewski
EEB
Advisor: Alison Bell



Derek McFarland
PEEC
Advisor: Brian Allen



Jinjin Song
Plant Biology
Advisor: Ray Ming



Lisa Surber
EEB
Advisor: Eva Fischer



Abbi Turner
EEB
Advisor: Mark Hauber



Patrick Wilson
EEB
Advisor: Carla Cáceres

Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology

Summer Research Grants



These grants support summer research for students in the PEEC program.

PEEC Summer Research Grants 2021



Sulagna Chakraborty
Advisor: Brian Allan



Maria Cox
Advisor: Ripan Malhi



Amanda Curtis
Advisor: Eric Larson



Joseph Edwards
Advisor: Wendy Yang



Ratna Karatgi
Advisor: Becky Fuller



Kira Long
Advisor: Jeff Brawn



Kevin Neumann
Advisors: Alison Bell/Andy Suarez



Kevin Ricks
Advisor: Anthony Yannarell



Sarai Stuart
Advisor: Gene Robinson



Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology

Summer Stipend Awards



These grants provide summer stipends for students in the PEEC program.



PEEC Summer Stipend Awards 2021



Sulagna Chakraborty
Advisor: Brian Allan



Alice Doucet Beaupré
Advisor: James O'Dwyer



Amanda Curtis
Advisor: Eric Larson



Joseph Edwards
Advisor: Wendy Yang



Kevin Ricks
Advisor: Anthony Yannarell



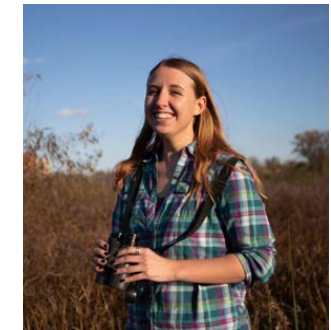
Sarai Stuart
Advisor: Gene Robinson



Nicholas Sutton
Advisor: James O'Dwyer



Grace Tan
Advisor: Andrew Leakey



Sarah Winnicki
Advisor: Mark Hauber



CONGRATULATIONS!



UNIVERSITY OF
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Department of Entomology and Illinois Natural History Survey Awards



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Entomology Undergraduate Research Award



It is a long-standing priority of the Department of Entomology to provide high-quality research experiences to undergraduates.

This annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in undergraduate research.

Entomology Research Award 2021



Erinn Dady

I am very passionate about food, working for many years as a chef and a baker at several locally owned Champaign-Urbana restaurants. I am so excited to be approaching food from a new angle, helping farmers to understand the mechanisms of plant defenses against insect herbivory. I hope to incorporate systems inspired by nature and encourage a reduction in the use of pesticides to grow the food we eat.

I am so fortunate to be learning from such brilliant and inspiring people here at the University, and I am committed to include and motivate others along my journey. When everyone has a seat at the table, the party is much cheerier!



Herbert Holdsworth Ross Memorial Award



The Herbert Holdsworth Ross Memorial Award in support of systematic research was made possible due to the generous donation of Dr. Charles Alexander Ross and his wife Dr. June Ross, son and daughter-in-law of Herbert and Jean Ross. Herbert H. Ross earned his BS from the University of British Columbia 1927, MS and PhD from UIUC 1929 and 1933. He married Jean Alexander in 1932, and she assisted him throughout his life with his research.

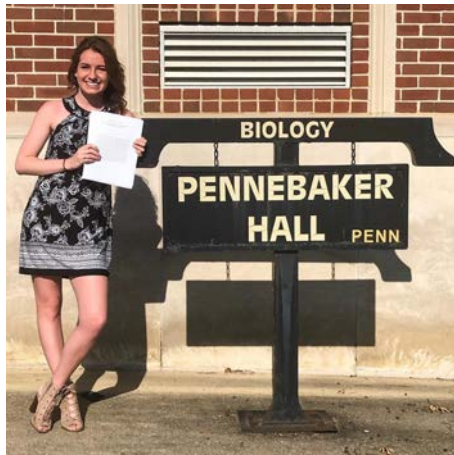
Dr. Ross was at the Natural History Survey from 1931 until he retired in 1969. He also held an appointment as Professor of Entomology at the University of Illinois from 1947-1969. He was a brilliant systematist who generously shared his wisdom with generations of students.

Herbert Holdsworth Ross Memorial Award



Joseph Edwards

I am finishing up the fourth year of my PhD program in the Program for Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology under the supervision of Dr. Wendy Yang. My research primarily focuses on the interactions between plants, microbes, and soils and the consequences of these interactions for ecosystems overall. Outside the lab, I enjoy hiking with my daughter and my pup, as well as perfecting my vegan chocolate cake recipe. This summer, I'll be working on connecting microbial biodiversity in forest soils to biogeochemical processes via the abundance of key functional genes.



Jordan Holtswarth Hartman

Jordan H. Hartman is a Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Their research interests are in aquatic landscape ecology, specifically using species distribution modelling to better understand species' habitat preferences in freshwater ecosystems. They are excited to continue this work and further apply biological systematics to the conservation of Banded Killifish in Illinois.



Philip W. Smith Memorial Award



The Smith Memorial was established by Dorothy M. Smith and friends in honor of her husband. Dr. Smith was a renowned herpetologist and ichthyologist. He was intensely interested in the taxonomy, natural history, and distributions of animals.

After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, he spent his entire career at the Illinois Natural History Survey, retiring in 1979. He served as curator of the fish, reptile, and amphibian collections, as a researcher, and administrator.

Philip W. Smith Memorial Award 2021



Sarah Douglass

My name is Sarah Douglass. I earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from Hanover College in Indiana and a master's degree in Environmental Science from Taylor University in Indiana. I joined the Illinois Natural History Survey as a mussel field biologist in 2008.

I currently work for INHS as an Associate Malacologist in the Urban Biotic Assessment Program, conducting mussel surveys primarily across northern Illinois. I also conduct research on the conservation of freshwater mussels and riverine ecosystems, including work on invasive mollusk species.



William H. Luckmann Award



Dr. William H. Luckmann served as a researcher and administrator for applied entomological programs at the Illinois Natural History Survey from 1949 through 1984.

His work contributed greatly to advances in integrated pest management in field and vegetable crops. Upon his retirement, an endowment was established to foster and reward research in applied entomology. A two-degree alumnus of UI Entomology, Dr. Luckmann died on Feb. 14, 2021 at the age of 95.



William H. Luckmann Award 2021



Emily Struckoff

I am a first-year master's student in the Department of Entomology conducting research in the Illinois Natural History Survey Medical Entomology Lab.

My research interests center around the taxonomy, natural history, and biogeography of ticks in Illinois. I am currently developing a checklist and taxonomic key of ticks present in the state along with other information about their ecology, natural history, and distributions.



Fred H. Schmidt Summer Scholars



Fred as a Student
1957

Fred at Retirement
2012

The Fred H. Schmidt summer award, endowed by his niece and nephew Margaret and Ed Larsen, commemorates alumnus Fred H. Schmidt, who received his BS ('57) and an MS in entomology ('59) from the University of Illinois and spent many years at the USDA Forest Service Laboratory in Corvallis, OR.

The Schmidt Summer Award is used to support recruitment and retention of students during the summer months.

Fred H. Schmidt Summer Scholars 2021



Tristan Barley

I am working in Dr. Dolezal's lab as an incoming PhD student having received my previous degrees from Manchester University and Miami University. This summer, I will be investigating the impacts competition for floral resources has on native bee and honey bee populations. I hope to build upon my master's thesis research on native bees and increase our understanding of how they compete with honey bees for resources.



Charles Dean

I am in the final year of my PhD in the department of Entomology and one of the remaining projects that requires resolution before I am able to graduate involves sequencing the Cytochrome P450s (CYPome), a suite of genes enabling insects to overcome the chemical defenses in plants, in the newly invasive web-building caterpillar *Depressaria depressana*. This research is important as it will provide a clearer understanding of the capacity with which this species is able to take advantage of the putative hostplants that it encounters as it continues to expand west across North America.



Fred H. Schmidt Summer Scholars 2021

Phillip Hogan



My name is Phillip Hogan and I will be joining Dr. Ed DeWalt's lab beginning early this summer. While I'm here at UIUC, I aim to develop distributional models for both the historic and contemporary Midwest stonefly (Plecoptera) fauna. These models will be used to describe historic range expansions or contractions following human impacts, the potential future distributions of each species, and direct conservation efforts for those with the highest risk of imperilment. As huge geek of aquatic insects and a fan of old-school biogeographers, I try to combine the two subjects in all my work. My graduate research prior to coming here addressed biogeographical trends of the rare and uncommon stoneflies in the Central Appalachian region of Maryland.

Joshua Gibson



I am a PhD candidate in the department of Entomology studying evolutionary biomechanics of ants and other insects in the lab of Dr. Andrew Suarez. My research primarily focuses on the evolutionary origins and consequences of spring and latch systems in the high speed bites of "trap-jaw" ants, which produce some of the fastest movements known in nature. I obtained my Masters degree in entomology from UIUC in 2017 and my Bachelors at (The) Ohio State University in 2014, and will complete my PhD in August or December of 2021. In addition to my work on trap-jaw ants, I study the biomechanics of other insect movements, including jumping in ants and larval beetles and the raptorial strikes of mantisflies.

Entomology Summer Stipend Award



The Entomology Summer Stipend Award provides summer support for graduate students in Entomology to enable them to continue to make progress in their thesis research.



Entomology Summer Stipend Award 2021



Elizabeth Bello

I am advised by Dr. Marianne Alleyne. I will investigate the brochosome morphology, wettability, and cuticle topography of leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae). These micro- and nano- features are known to influence multifunctional properties such as hydrophobicity and anti-reflectivity.



Kat Coburn

I'm an Entomology graduate student! My research is focused on how human activities alter insect communities and the important ecosystem functions arthropods pilot. As a queer, disabled woman in STEAM, I prioritize outreach and representation to broaden the accessibility of science, art, and nature!



Entomology Summer Stipend Award 2021



J. Matthew Flenniken

My research focuses on the ecology of ticks and tick-borne diseases. I will study the environment that ticks live in and try to make predictions about where ticks will move as climate and land-use change progresses. I hope that these predictions can serve as a forecast of human risk of exposure to tick-borne diseases in the near future.



Edward Hsieh

I am entering the second year of my PhD in the entomology department, where I am co-advised under Drs. May Berenbaum and Adam Dolezal. My work focuses on understanding the interactions between various honey bee health stressors including virus infection, pesticide exposure, and diet composition. I am particularly interested in nutritional influences and is currently investigating how diet alterations affect physiological response to viral infection in both larval and adult bees. In my spare time I enjoy wildlife photography, playing board games, and collecting more books than I have time to read.



Ellis MacLeod - Metcalf Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Department of Entomology



Ellis G. MacLeod, 1928-1997

Ellis G. MacLeod joined the faculty in the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in 1966, after completing his dissertation research and postdoctoral position at Harvard University.

His greatest contribution to the discipline of entomology was his exemplary teaching, particularly in the core course, required of all graduate students, in insect systematics.

His influence exceeded the boundaries of the classroom and he was extraordinarily generous in sharing his wealth of knowledge with anyone who sought him out. The Department accordingly named its award for outstanding teaching by an entomology graduate student in his honor.



Ellis MacLeod/DuPont Award for Outstanding Teaching 2021



Rachel Skinner

I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Entomology, studying insect evolution and systematics with an emphasis on insects in the order Hemiptera.

I am grateful for the opportunity to teach at UIUC and look forward to a time when in-person teaching can resume.



CONGRATULATIONS!



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Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior Awards



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Edwin M. Banks Memorial Award



The Edwin Banks Memorial Fund was established by Dr. Banks' wife, Mrs. Hilda Banks, and family to honor his long and distinguished career as a faculty member in the Department of Ecology, Ethology and Evolution at the University of Illinois (1957-1985).

Dr. Banks was a pre-eminent researcher in the areas of mammalian sociality and reproduction and this award was established to support research in Animal Behavior.

Edwin M. Banks Memorial Award 2021



Meghan Maciejewski

I am a first-year PhD student working with Dr. Alison Bell. Generally, my dissertation aims to describe how and why an atypical population of threespine stickleback fish has lost paternal care behavior. This SIB award will help fund my summer research project which will compare caring and non-caring stickleback males to identify key hormones and brain regions possibly associated with this rare loss of paternal care.



Lisa Surber

I am a first year PhD student. I am a member of Eva Fischer's lab where I study phenotypic plasticity in poison frog tadpoles. I am particularly interested in how the environment influences morphological development, behavior, and latency to cannibalize.

Odum – Kendeigh Research Award



This award is for graduate research in the fields of ecology, behavior and evolution. Dr. Odum established this award in honor of his major professor, Dr. Charles Kendeigh and the Department of Zoology from which he received his Ph.D in 1939. Dr. Eugene Odum is considered to be one of the fathers of modern ecology.

Odum – Kendeigh Research Award 2021



Angel Rivera-Colón

I am a 5th year PhD candidate in EEB. I am from Puerto Rico, where I completed my BS degree in Biotechnology and a MS degree in Molecular Biology and Genomics, before moving to UIUC to pursue a PhD in Dr. Julian Catchen's laboratory. My research focuses on the genome evolution of Antarctic icefish, with specific interest in understanding how the genome of this very peculiar group of fishes has changed in response to the harsh Antarctic environment.



Hannah Scharf

I am a graduate candidate in my third year in the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. In Dr. Mark Hauber's lab, I study the brown-headed cowbird, a bird known as a brood parasite which lays its eggs into the nests of other birds, and one of its hosts, the prothonotary warbler. I am also interested in the interactions between brood parasites and their hosts and the effects of brood parasites on host behavior and physiology, such as hormones, survival, and fledging.

Odum – Kendeigh Research Award 2021



Abbi Turner

I received my BA in zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University, and am a first year MSc student in the Hauber lab in the department of Evolution, Ecology, & Behavior. I am interested in brood parasites and brood parasite-host interactions. My MSc research focuses on examining the egg rejection behavior of American robins.



Patrick Wilson

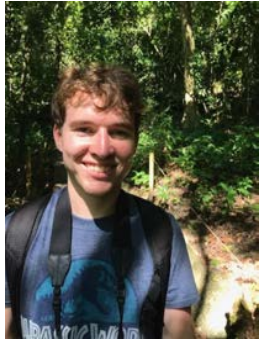
I am a first-year graduate student in the Cáceres Lab interested in eco immunology. My current work is looking at factors that shape susceptibility to parasites in the zooplankton host, *Daphnia*. This summer, I will be focusing on immune variation in natural populations of *Daphnia* at Kickapoo State Park.

Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior Summer Stipend Awards



The Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior Summer Stipends are made possible with support from Block Grant Funds from the Graduate College.

EEB Summer Stipend Awards 2021



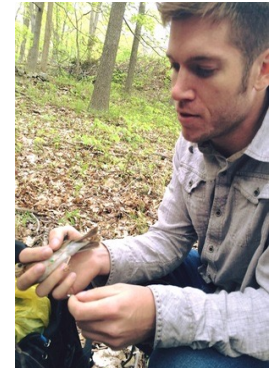
Colby Behrens
Advisor: Alison Bell



Hannah Darcy
Advisor: Phil Anderson



Cody Jones
Advisor: Ken Paige



Alec Luro
Advisor: Mark Hauber



Niraj Rayamajhi
Advisor: Julian Catchen



Lisa Surber
Advisor: Eva Fischer



Abbi Turner
Advisor: Mark Hauber



Patrick Wilson
Advisor: Carla Cáceres



Thomas Frazzetta Award for Outstanding Teaching in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior



This award was established in honor of Dr. Frazzetta who was a passionate teacher at Illinois for 50 years. It is given to a current Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior graduate student in recognition of their sustained excellence in teaching.

Thomas Frazzetta Award for Outstanding Teaching 2021



Bradley Scott

I am a 4th year PhD candidate in Evolution Ecology and Behavior. I am studying the transition from jawless to jawed vertebrates by testing ecological hypotheses of the dominance of jawed vertebrates using morphometrics and biomechanics.



CONGRATULATIONS!



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Department of Plant Biology Awards



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Dr. Harold C. and Sonja L. Labinsky Award



This fund was established in 1999 in memory of Harold Labinsky's parents, Carl H. and Katherine M. Labinsky.

The award is to be used to provide an annual financial gift to one or more students enrolled in the Department of Plant Biology.

Dr. Harold C. and Sonja L. Labinsky Award 2021



Dessiree Zerpa

I am in my fifth year PhD candidate in the Plant Biology Department and work under the supervision of Dr. Ray Ming. My research is related to sex determination in *Carica papaya* and sex chromosome evolution in *Caricaceae*.

I study genes that are differentially expressed during papaya flower development and are important for sex differentiation. I focus on the expression of a sex-linked gene (*CpMDAR4*) and studied regulatory elements on its promoter to support it as candidate for sex determination.

I assembled the genome of a papaya close relative (*Jarilla heterophylla*) for identification of conserved sex-linked genes between *C. papaya* and its relatives.

John R. Laughnan Travel Awards



These awards were endowed by John's wife and longtime collaborator, Susan Gabay-Laughnan and his fellow geneticists, friends, and colleagues in recognition of John's co-founding and support of the Annual Maize Meetings. John Laughnan was a member of the faculty of the University of Illinois for most of his career.

He was a member of the Department of Botany and served as both its chairman and later its head. He joined the new Department of Genetics and Development but later returned to his previous department, by then called Plant Biology. He developed the original *shrunk-2* hybrids responsible for stable sweetness of popular Super-Sweet corn.

John R. Laughnan Travel Awards 2021



Georgia Seyfried

I come from the dry desert climate of Idaho and spent my childhood dreaming of the vibrant rainforest. As a graduate student, I have had the pleasure of becoming extremely well-acquainted with the beauty and challenges of tropical forests while working to understand the role of mycorrhizal associations determining how soil carbon and nitrogen are cycled.

I hope to continue finding beautiful places and developing a deeper understanding of how natural systems function as I move forward with my scientific career.

Govindjee and Rajni Govindjee Award for Excellence in Biological Research



This award was established by Dr. Govindjee and Dr. Rajni Govindjee. Govindjee and Rajni were both UIUC PhD students of Robert Emerson. Govindjee taught at UIUC from 1961-1999 and is known as a pioneer in the area of photosynthesis research.

He is currently a Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Plant Biology. Dr. Rajni Govindjee is recognized as a distinguished photobiologist, credited with pioneering research in photosynthesis and photobiology.

Govindjee and Rajni Govindjee Award for Excellence 2021



Manuel Flores

My name is Manuel Flores and I am a first years Master's student from Mission, Texas. My research is focused on wood nutrient translocation from heartwood to sapwood as well as seasonal wood nutrient flux to sink tissues. I am also interested in how wood anatomy may influence this phenomenon across different species and forests. Currently, my work is taking place in a North American Temperate forest in Michigan, but I am also hoping to eventually expand my work to Panamanian Tropical Forests.

Plant Biology Summer Stipend Awards



These grants provide summer stipends for students in the Department of Plant Biology.

Plant Biology Summer Stipend Awards 2021



Manuel Flores

My name is Manuel Flores and I am a first years Master's student from Mission, Texas. My research is focused on wood nutrient translocation from heartwood to sapwood as well as seasonal wood nutrient flux to sink tissues. I am also interested in how wood anatomy may influence this phenomenon across different species and forests. Currently, my work is taking place in a North American Temperate forest in Michigan, but I am also hoping to eventually expand my work to Panamanian Tropical Forests.

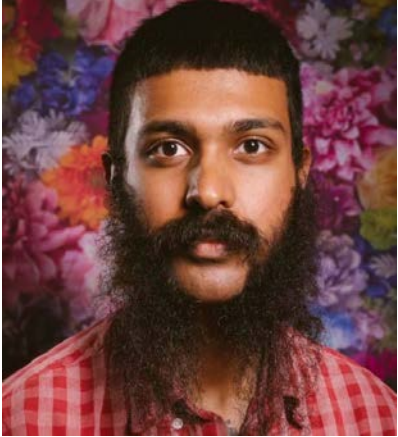


Kenny Jops

My background is in pure mathematics and demographic models for prairie plants. My research interests include the mechanisms of competition and coexistence in plant communities. Currently, my work focuses on the effects of variation in life history strategies among perennial plants and its relation to competitive interactions.



Plant Biology Summer Stipend Awards 2021



Scott Lakeram

I am a first-year graduate student working in the Punyasena Lab. I am interested in the ecological interactions between flora and arthropods during the Pennsylvanian period (323 - 298 million years ago), focusing on new techniques to visualize this data in coal balls. My primary focus is on understanding the spatial distribution of coprolites (fossilized feces) amongst vegetative material and their contents.



Jennifer Quebedeaux

I am a graduate student in the lab of Dr. Andrew Leakey. My research focuses on the physiological and biochemical response of plants to elevated CO₂ as well as the tradeoff between carbon gain and water loss. In addition to research, I enjoy working to educate and inspire others to pursue careers in science.



Outstanding Teaching Award in Plant Biology



Buen Retiro by Claire Fischer

The Outstanding Teaching Award recognizes a graduate student in Plant Biology whose commitment to teaching excellence inspires undergraduate students, fosters success, embraces innovation, and sets a standard for peers to emulate.

Outstanding Teaching Award in Plant Biology 2021



Ceci Prada

I study the ecology of tropical montane forests with emphasis on factors driving tree community assembly. My research focuses on the influence of abiotic and biotic interactions on tree species composition, distribution and biogeochemical processes, filling gaps in our understanding of soil-plant-fungi interactions.

CONGRATULATIONS!



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Teaching Awards



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John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Awards in SIB



These awards, made possible by a gift from John G. Heiligenstein, M.D. '67, in memory of his parents, honors teaching assistants, recognizing their outstanding contributions in the SIB.

Dr. Heiligenstein, a pediatrician and psychiatrist, had three careers in medicine: clinician, academic pediatrician/psychiatrist, and as a pharmaceutical research physician at Eli Lilly and Company.

John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Awards in SIB 2021



Amanda Curtis

Amanda Curtis has taught 2 semesters in IB 203, which is not an easy teaching assignment, and she has been ranked excellent both times. Amanda is a great classroom leader and has high standards, but in this pandemic-affected year her compassion and dedication to her students really showed. Even though she was separated from her students, she was very in touch with their reality and struggles and continually brought suggestions to me on how to accomplish our educational goals and accommodate the students. Amanda's combination of teaching intuition and common sense make her an outstanding teacher to have in our ranks. Congratulations Amanda.



Alex Riley

Alex has been ranked excellent for his work in IB 302 evolution and in IB Honors. Alex brings a great energy to the classroom and has been a very versatile teacher. As the IB Honor's TA he is responsible for being the defacto lab coordinator and preparing most of the labs for the students. He has also expertly guided students in the development of their projects. Congratulations Alex.



Jennifer Quebedeaux

Jennifer excelled in teaching the IB 204 lab where she has been rated excellent, but she made her biggest contribution as the lecture TA for multiple semesters. She took initiative and spearheaded the response to many of the little issues that pop up in large lecture classes, which certainly made Katy and Amy's life easier. Jennifer is consistent and thoughtful in all of her work and routinely volunteered for optional tasks like holding exam review sessions or guest lecturing. Jennifer's dedication was vital to the success of our genetics course. Congratulations Jennifer.



Sharon Gray Memorial Award



Dr. Sharon Gray received her BS in Integrative Biology in 2006 and her PhD in Plant Biology at UIUC in 2013. In addition to her outstanding science, she was an exceptional teacher and mentor for undergraduates. The award, established by her husband, Dr. RJ Cody Markelz (BS Integrative Biology 2007, PhD Plant Biology, UIUC, 2012), honors Sharon's passion for and commitment to mentoring women in science.

The Sharon Gray Memorial Award supports a post-doctoral researcher or graduate student and their undergraduate mentee.

Sharon Gray Memorial Award 2021



Louise (Siyu) Gao

I am an undergraduate student in Social Work. I am doing research with Sulagna Chakraborty, and our research focuses on vector-borne disease. I love pets, and will always babysit friends' pets. I also love food and can't wait to travel and try food when the Pandemic ends.



Sulagna Chakraborty

I am a PhD Candidate in the Program in Ecology Evolution and Conservation Biology. My research focuses on vector-borne disease ecology and epidemiology, utilizing One Health approaches to address infectious diseases and strategies to improve public health. I am also an amateur poet, I love to cook and try food from various cuisines and cultures, and am an avid traveler, reader and movie buff.

College and Campus Teaching Awards



Nick Anderson

Nick Anderson, entomology graduate student, received the College of LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate TA's.

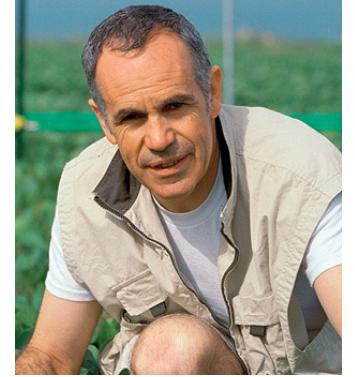
Benjamin Clegg, teaching assistant professor, received the College of LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Instructional Staff.



Ben Clegg

Stephen Long, Ikenberry Endowed University Chair of Crop Sciences, Plant Biology and PEEC, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring.

Wendy Yang, associate professor of plant biology and geology and PEEC, received the College of LAS Dean's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.



Stephen Long



Wendy Yang



Teachers Ranked Excellent

Marc-Elie Adaime
Brian Allan
Phil Anderson
Nick Antonson
Carl Bernacchi
Rebecca Batstone
Alison Bell
May Berenbaum
Charles Burroughs
Carla Cáceres
Ben Clegg

Kat Coburn
Jessica Conroy
Amanda Curtis
Elsa de Becker
Charles Dean
Adam Dolezal
Joe Edwards
Eva Fischer
J. Matthew Flenniken
Caroline Friedmann
Becky Fuller

Anna Grommes
Larry Hanks
Alex Harmon-Threatt
Mark Hauber
Edward Hsieh
Cody Jones
Kenny Jops
Alessa Laserna
Shelby Lawson
Andrew Leakey
Kira Long



Teachers Ranked Excellent

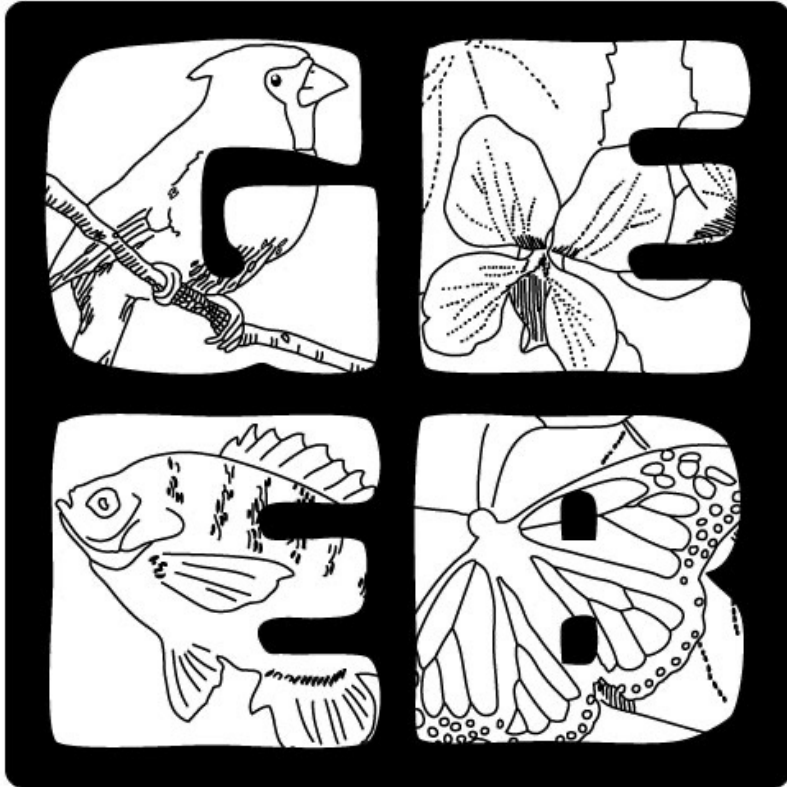
Joanne Manaster
Amy Marshall-Colon
Taylor McClellan
Lauren McDaniel
Christian Millan-Hernandez
William Montag
Brendan Morris
Kylee Noel
Allison O'Dwyer
Ken Paige
Elena Pelech

Jennifer Quebedeaux
Alex Riley
Diane Roeder
Hannah Scharf
Rachel Skinner
Katherine Strailey
Sarai Stuart
Andy Suarez
Lisa Surber
Christina Swanson
Lincoln Taylor

Annaliese Wargin
Jim Whitfield
Loralee Wilson
Patrick Wilson
Andrew Wszalek
Dessirree Zerpa Catanho



GEEB Symposium Awards



The Graduate Students in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium Awards recognize the most outstanding presentations given by students in the annual symposium.

GEEB Symposium Awards



Kira Long
Best Overall,
Most Outstanding Talk
by a Ph.D. Candidate



Kevin Neumann
Best Overall,
Most Outstanding Talk
by an M.S. Candidate



Samantha Capel
Best Poster

Congratulations to our awardees!

Thank you all for joining us for today's celebration.



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