

School of Integrative Biology

Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony

May 2, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Undergraduate Student Awards



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Delcomyn International Study in Biology Award



Dr. Fred Delcomyn and Nancy A. Delcomyn established this award in 2008 to benefit undergraduate students majoring in Integrative Biology who wish to take advantage of educational opportunities in biology outside the United States and Canada.

Such activities may include but are not limited to research projects, intersession courses, or courses offered by the Organization of Tropical Studies, that are held outside of the United States of America.

Delcomyn International Study in Biology Award

2024 Panama and Belize Study Abroad Courses

The award will be used to help students traveling to Panama and Belize as part of the SIB Study Abroad curriculum.



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



Catherine La

I am a sophomore studying Integrative Biology. I am currently assisting in research that investigates the role of photosynthetic enzymes in specific plants. I hope to continue to develop research skills and techniques that can be used through my academic career.

This scholarship will allow me to further fund my education as I continue pursuing extracurriculars and research positions.



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



Chloe Zant

I am an Integrative Biology Honors student interested in the areas of genetics, psychiatry, neurology, and development. I am incredibly thankful for this award and will apply it towards furthering my education and future pursuits of medical school.

I also currently work in research at the Gaulke Lab at the School of Veterinary Medicine and am excited to continue applying my biology knowledge to the model organisms there!

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



D.J. Thomas

I am a junior studying Integrative Biology. I have a broad interest in entomology with specific research interests in vector ecology, microbiomes, and mycology. The funds earned will be used to buy equipment culturing and growing fungus and the possibility of creating terrariums to nurture insects.



Michelle Villalobos

I am a junior studying Integrative Biology. Under the mentorship of Carla Cáceres and Molly Fleming, I am testing how a sterile microbiome in *Daphnia* may potentially affect growth and reproduction compared to *Daphnia* with normal microbiomes.



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



Emma Schwaiger

I am a Junior involved in research at Dr. Bell's lab where we are studying the behavioral genomics of stickleback fish. Some of my research interests include animal behavior and ecology.

Joann Kavouras Memorial Scholarship



Photo-Gregarious Green Turtle by Elizabeth Dabek

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

Joann Kavouras Memorial Scholarship



Alexandra Johnson

Alexandra is majoring in IB and minoring in Psychology and Political Science and is interested in the ways in which the environment and previous experiences shape gene expression.



iBio Summer Internships



Photo: Trilobites on the Mountaintop by Daniel Urban

This award will support a full-time (40 hours/week over 10 weeks) summer research experience in the lab of a School of Integrative Biology faculty member.

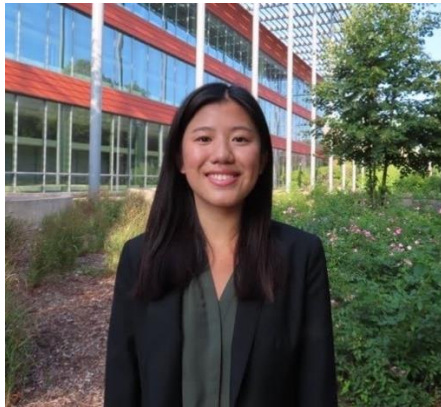


iBio Summer Internships



Victoria Abuwa

I am a sophomore studying Integrative Biology and Latino/a Studies. I'm excited to use the award to delve into the fascinating world of male three-spined sticklebacks and their parenting and feeding behaviors.



Eliana Eng

I am sophomore studying Integrative biology in the honors program. I will be pursuing an independent project about the genealogy of an unusual polymeric sequence element in human mitochondrial DNA in Dr. Chris Cheng's Lab.



Abby Stiefvater

I am a sophomore double majoring in Integrative Biology and Psychology. I am an Integrative Biology Peer Leader and Advisor as well as president of both the Illini Union Board and the American Cancer Society on Campus. This summer, I will be researching parental care of Red-winged Blackbirds in the Hauber Lab with the help of Facundo Fernandez-Duque (PhD student).



Isabella Strohmeier

I am a sophomore in IB. I will be studying female aggression in the poison frog, *Dendrobates tinctorius*, and seeking to learn more about their role of female frogs in parental care. I am incredibly excited to work in the Fischer Laboratory with Dr. Sarah Westrick and Dr. Eva Fischer.



Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in Integrative Biology



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.

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 Merit Scholarship in Integrative Biology



Chase Schwartz

I am a sophomore studying Integrative Biology in the Honors program. I am a part of the Heath Lab and do bioinformatic research on *Rhizobium leguminosarum* and their plasmids within the context of mutualisms. This scholarship will allow me to continue my research over the summer and in the fall!

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



Lauren Moy

I am a Junior studying Integrative Biology in the Honors Program. My current research area is Forensics Anthropology, particularly DNA found at burial sites and its correlation to the original remains. Forensics in particular has always interested me, as I find it a way to help society through a scientific perspective.



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



Emma Schwaiger

I am a sophomore involved in research at Dr. Bell's lab where we are studying the behavioral genomics of stickleback fish. Some of my research interests include animal behavior and ecology.



Ivan Valishev

I am a Junior majoring in Integrative Biology Honors, and I am currently involved in research at the Integrative Microbiota and Physiology Lab. Our group is interested in studying the relationship between psychological stress, intestinal physiology, and the gut microbiome.



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



Greta Keilman

I am a junior studying Integrated Biology in the Honors program. I am interested in the impacts of anthropogenic chemicals on ecosystem interactions. My research focuses on the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on predator-prey interactions in freshwater systems, and these awards will allow me to progress this research into the summer and coming semesters.



Mildred Parizek Zukor Award



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

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



Mildred Parizek Zukor Award

Michelle Villalobos



I am a Senior studying Integrative Biology. Under the mentorship of Carla Cáceres and Molly Fleming, I am testing how a sterile microbiome in *Daphnia* may potentially affect growth and reproduction compared to *Daphnia* with normal microbiomes.

Dr. Stewart D. Fordham Award



This award, made possible by a generous donation by Dr. Fordham, supports an undergraduate scholarship for students who will complete their undergraduate degree program during the next academic year and are planning on attending medical school immediately after graduation.

Dr. Stewart D. Fordham Award



Hannah Caraway

Hannah is dedicated to promoting healthcare equity and education in her future career as a physician. Throughout her time at the university, Caraway has been heavily involved in undergraduate research, publishing a study exploring alternative treatments for antibiotic-resistant bacteria as a first author, and presenting her work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and the SIB Distinction Symposium.

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



Autumn Bush

I am sophomore studying Integrative Biology. This coming summer and fall, I will be working in the Hauber lab conducting research on cowbirds! Outside of this work, I'm very interested in how genes affect behavior, as well as conservation biology.



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



Nia Harrington

I am currently studying Integrative Biology on a pre-med track to become a dermatologist. Outside of academics, I enjoy runway modeling in the RSO Moda, volunteering with children, trying new restaurants, and spending time with family and friends.



Gabi Kulach

I am sophomore studying Integrative biology, and I am interested in animal biology. This award will allow me more time to gain experience with different species of animals through volunteering and unpaid experiences.



Emmanuelle Newlin

I am on the Pre-PA track aspiring to go into endocrinology or immunology. These awards will help fund my time working as a Medical Assistant at a dermatology clinic this summer and cover application fees for a master's degree in public health.



Donghyun Seo

I am an Entomology major and interested in finding solutions for vector-borne diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, such as creating new medications or genetically engineering the mosquito genome. I would like to spread this knowledge to countries that lack these resources.



Milling SIB Alumni & Friends Scholarship



Catherine La

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SIB Alumni and Friends Awards



These awards have been made possible 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.



Anderson-Robertson Scholarship



Dylan Kolak

My goal is to pursue graduate studies, where I will further develop my love for Marine Biology and Ocean Sciences. I am also very interested in raising public awareness and knowledge on today's environmental issues. I am minoring in filmmaking and plan to make educational films and content to do so. I plan to use this award to help me financially during my journey through graduate school and as a film maker.

Backas Scholarship in Integrative Biology



Emmanuelle Newlin

Forte Scholarship in Integrative Biology



Anastasia Pasyukov

I am a sophomore in Integrative Biology. This scholarship will be used on my tuition and assist in my pursuit to study genetics and evolution. After graduation, I am planning on earning a masters in genetic counseling.



Catherine Pavilionis

I am a junior from Lemont, IL majoring in Integrative Biology. Currently, I am on the pre-med track with hopes to become a pediatrician!



DongHyun Seo



Hayes Scholarship in Integrative Biology



Alyson Ficca

I am interested in pursuing a career in sustainable agriculture and currently work in a crop sciences lab on campus. My lab predominately focuses on nematodes, many of which live in the soil and can impact soil and crop health, and by extension, environmental health.



Max Garmon

I am a sophomore involved in research at Dr. Bell's lab where we are studying the behavioral genomics of stickleback fish. Some of my research interests include animal behavior and ecology.



Grace He



Keppler Scholarship



Samantha Simmons

Through my degree in Integrative Biology, I have not only expanded my knowledge of the natural world but also developed a deep-seated desire to combat healthcare inequalities around the world. Inspired by my own upbringing without access to adequate healthcare, I aim to provide nonprofit preventative medical services to underprivileged areas like Brazil and make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.



Maha Syed

I am interested in investigating the field of psychophysiology. Currently, I am working on my independent study which focuses on the influence of inclusivity on inflammation response. With this award, I will be able to fund my project.



Michael Tang

I currently work in Dr. Chen's lab, where I study tonoplast sugar transporters in sugarcane in the hopes of contributing to efforts to engineer oilcane for biofuel use. I am interested in the small-scale, molecular study of plants and translating that to solutions for societal issues.



SIB Alumni & Friends Award



Destini Coleman

Destini is involved in research in both the Robinson and Fischer Labs as well as engaging with several outreach events both with SIB and in the community.

SIB Alumni & Friends Awards

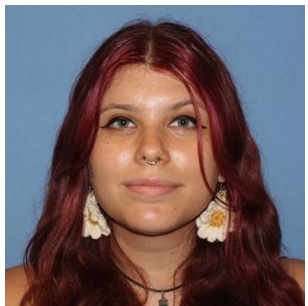
Alumni & Friends Award



Autumn Bush



Varun Chovatia



Alexandra Johnson

Rubinkowski Scholarship



Varun Chovatia

James and Susan Hatfield Scholarship



Gabi Kulach

SIB David Alumni Scholarship



Greta Keilman

Unverferth Scholarship



Michael Tang

CONGRATULATIONS!



UNIVERSITY OF
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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. His research explored the action of pigments, including the carotenoids and phycobilins, in photosynthesis.

Dr. Emerson received many honors in recognition of his scientific achievements and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. This award was established by Dr. Emerson's family and friends in the early 1960's.

Robert Emerson Memorial Award



Sulagna Chakraborty

My dissertation research is focused on determining the drivers of several vector-borne diseases as well as developing effective prevention measures and policies that can reduce the burden of vector-borne diseases worldwide.

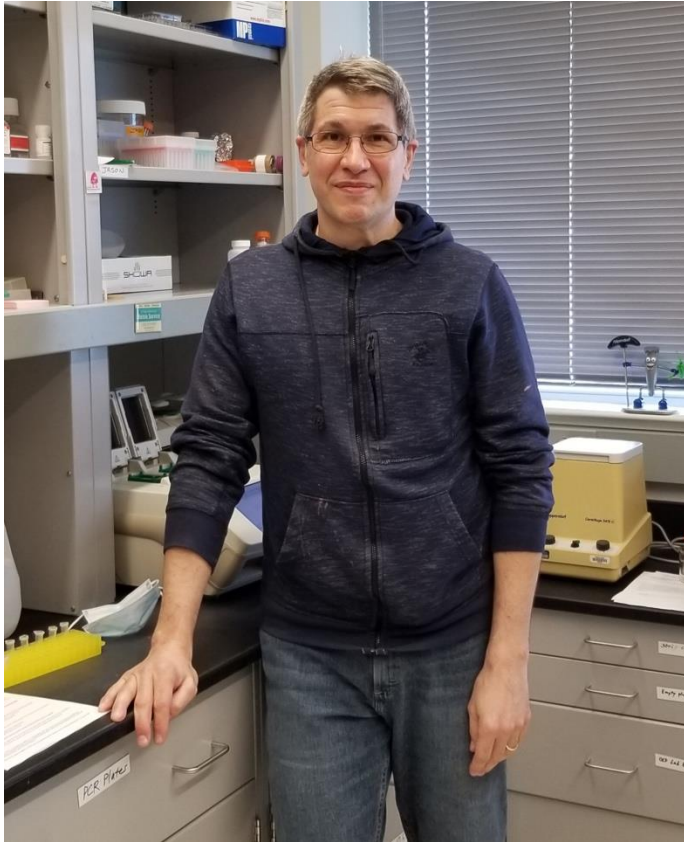
Isabel Norton Award



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

The funds will help them complete their thesis or dissertation.

Isabel Norton Award



Jason Karakehian

My dissertation research is in the systematics, taxonomy, and ecology of a group of wood inhabiting microfungi under the advisement of Dr. Andrew N. Miller. I am a Massachusetts native with a bachelor's degree in studio art/art history and a master's degree with a focus on mycology. I will use my award toward travel costs to collect specimens of fungi for my PhD dissertation research in Femsjö, Sweden where they were described from by the early 19th century mycologist E. M. Fries.

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 Graduate Scholar Award



Malavika Venu

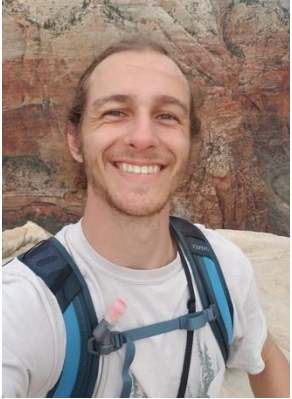
I am using *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies) to understand the evolution of eusociality. Combining the genetic amenability of flies and the recent developments in social network analysis, I want to explore the ecological and genetic mechanisms of social behavior in insect societies.

Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award



The fund provides research support for graduate students investigating new frontiers and demonstrating promise and high aptitude in the fields of Cell and Structural Biology, Physiology, Ecology, Microbiology, Genetics, and related fields.

Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award



Tristan Barley

My research investigates the effects of competition between native bees and honey bees, specifically to determine if apiaries near prairies results in less abundant/diverse native bee communities, reduced body size over time for these species, and an increase in pathogen spillover from honey bees. I have been conducting this research since 2021, and this award will fund the travel/equipment costs for me to continue exploring this fascinating field.



Neal Benjamin

Neal's research interests include the genetic underpinnings of disease resistance and resilience in livestock and related species and the evolution of suids (pigs). Neal is a practicing swine veterinarian in addition to being a PhD student and will use this award to use in silico methods to explore insertion sites of porcine endogenous retroviruses across a diverse set of porcine genomes this summer.



Rebecca Cloud

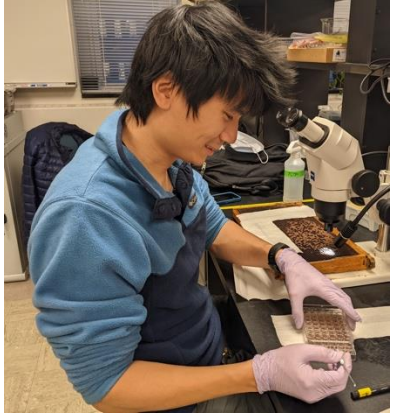
Rebecca's field survey research will determine the spatial distribution of Wolbachia (bacteria) established and newly invasive mosquito populations. The results will provide a foundation for experiments addressing the role of Wolbachia in influencing host physiology, life history, competitive ability, and vector competence.



Siti Fauziyah

Siti is working on the material and mechanical properties of non-migratory and migratory dragonfly wings.

Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award



Edward Hsieh

I study honey bee physiology with a particular influence on honey bee toxicology and its interactions with various stressors. I take a hive-wide approach to studying these interactions and have conducted research on workers, larvae, and their microbiomes. I will use the award to help complete the final chapter of my dissertation investigating the effects of pesticides on honey bee queen reproduction behaviors.



Meghan Maciejewski

I am a third-year PhD student in EEB working with Dr. Alison Bell. My research aims to describe how and why an atypical population of threespine stickleback fish has lost paternal care behavior. This summer I will be manipulating hormones like oxytocin in males to determine what role these hormones play in driving parental care differences between populations.



Lance Jones

Lance is interested in the systematics of insects and flowering plants, especially Diptera and Lepidoptera (the true flies and moths), as well as Apiaceae (the carrot or parsley family). This work centers on monographic taxonomy and the description of new species, as well as understanding the evolutionary relationships and ecology of these groups.



Derek McFarland

Derek McFarland is a third-year Ph.D. student in PEEC. They are intrigued by the interconnectedness of humans, wildlife, and the environment. At this intersection, they will use this funding to explore the impact of human-mediated landscape change on human tick-borne disease risk in St. Louis, MO.

Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award



Sam Mowery

As a new graduate student in the Berenbaum and Dolezal labs, I am beginning my research related to *Aspergillus flavus* and the antifungal properties of honey bee propolis. I am interested in the general characterization of propolis from central Illinois and understanding how the chemical composition and antifungal activity change seasonally.



Abbi Turner

I study egg rejection behavior in the American robin. These awards will help to support my dissertation research examining the hormonal mechanisms impacting rejection and tracking model eggs that are taken out of the nest by female robins.



Patrick Wilson

My research is focused on host specificity in a fungal parasite that commonly infects zooplankton in the Midwest. To better understand why the parasite only infects certain hosts, I am studying both host and parasite traits that influence susceptibility.



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.

He had a distinguished career, teaching microbiology and conducting research in the microbiology of foods. He also served as president of the Illinois Society for Microbiology.

Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Summer Fellowships



Scott Lakeram

My research is focused on understanding early terrestrial arthropod feeding behaviors on plants during the Carboniferous (~300 million years ago) by analyzing the spatial distribution and contents of their fecal pellets. This award will be used towards creating a classification of these fecal pellet types.



Lisa Surber

In general, I am interested in how organisms detect and respond to biotic and abiotic environmental cues. This summer I will be studying the ontogeny of stress response via the HPA axis in poison frog tadpoles.

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 Grants



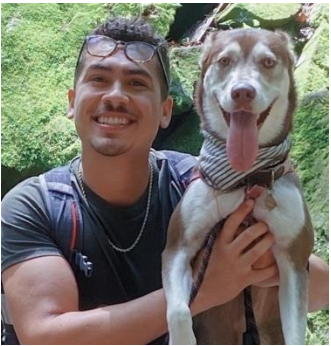
Kasey Brockelsby

Kasey is a PhD student in Becky Fuller's lab researching sexual dimorphism in fish fins, currently focused on the bluefin killifish and rainwater killifish. They hope to answer questions about the origins and prevalence of dimorphism in fish, as well as the consequences of sexual dimorphism for fish mating, development, and locomotion.



Facundo Fernandez-Duque

Facundo grew up in northern Argentina and spent a lot of time playing outdoors. Now, he's interested in better understanding the evolution of parental care and the mechanisms that gives rise to the diversity of parental care strategies we see in nature.



Devin Goodson

Devin Goodson is a Ph.D. student in PEEC. He is co-advised by Drs. Mark Hauber and Carena van Riper. Devin is passionate about using community-based research to understand the connections between nature and people. The overarching goal of Devin's scholarship is to build more successful and inclusive conservation practices through the combination of ecological data and local stakeholder knowledge.

Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support Grants



Seldon Kwafo

This award will support my goals of attending a scientific conference to present my research work, networking with professionals, and gaining valuable feedback to advance my academic and professional development. After graduation, I would like to work increasing food security and equity. By addressing systemic issues and implementing sustainable solutions, we can ensure that everyone has access to healthy and nutritious food, regardless of their socio-economic background.



Kevin Neumann

Kevin is a 3rd year PhD student in Alison Bell's lab, studying the dynamics and genetic mechanisms of social networks in three-spined stickleback.



Vincent Prayugo

My research focuses on pesticide-virus interactions in honey bees. The award will be used to study the physiological differences in bees by comparing the metabolite levels as proxy to study honey bee behaviors.



Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support Grants



Simran Singh

My research is focused on using myelin to identify non-invasive biomarkers of the auditory fields within the mammalian cerebral cortex. I will use a supervised deep learning algorithm our lab is developing to produce a quantitative histological map of the auditory cortex and co-register it to ultra-high field MRI scans to fingerprint each region of the auditory cortex. The awards will help me procure equipment needed to collect histological and MRI data in the mouse.



Jonathan Tetlie

I work in habitat restoration ecosystems and focus on characterizing the complex trophic interactions that can be mediated by agricultural contamination, such as neonicotinoid insecticides. The award will help support my research goals and personal well-being as I work to finish my degree.



Kat Soto

My research combines behavior and physiology to build an integrative understanding of the biology of a highly successful invader, the common coqui frog, *Eleutherodactylus coqui*. I investigate variations in behavioral and physiological traits including resting metabolic rate and disease (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) prevalence/persistence among invasive coquí.



Michelle Zambrano

This award will be used to attend the Frontiers and Techniques in Plant Science course at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory this summer. I will learn techniques in plant molecular biology and genomics that I intend to use for my thesis work.

Mary F. Willson Graduate Research Award



The Mary F. Willson Graduate Research Fund is a new award established in honor of Professor Mary Willson, one of the early architects of the field of evolutionary ecology, a discipline which examines the origin and function of traits that contribute to organismal adaptations in nature.

During her long and distinguished career on the faculty at the University of Illinois (1966-1990), Mary taught courses that introduced students to a new way of thinking about the ecology of organisms.

Mary F. Willson Graduate Research Award



Ratna Karatgi

I study phenotypic plasticity in fish fin coloration, which is a plastic response in fin color to the aquatic environment of the fish. My research explores the manner in which developing in spring vs swamp habitats influences plastic fin coloration in bluefin killifish.

With the award funding, I will be able to travel to Florida to collect the fish and bring them back to the lab to study their fascinating plastic fin color response to spring vs. swamp habitats.

Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology

Summer Research Grants and Summer Stipend Awards



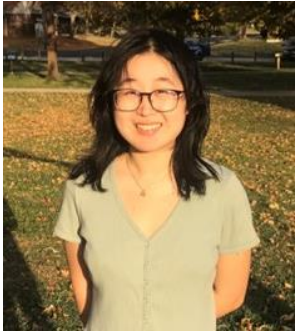
These grants support summer research for students in the PEEC program.

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



Noah Brown

I will be using the awards to fund my thesis on the effects of fungicides and soil nutrients on fungal endophyte composition and net benefit to prairie plant hosts.



Yutao Chen

I study cicada wing nanoscale pattern and its potential at killing bacteria. With this award, I intend to incorporate such structure in surfaces of biomedical appliances and devise the next generation bioinspired, structural-bactericidal surface design.



Jonah Dominguez

I focus on avian ability to recognize foreign signals, particularly alarm calls, and how species interact with each other. I've studied how birds interact with other organisms to obtain food, and this summer I'll be looking at how birds respond to varying bird alarm calls from across the world.



Katheryn Fitzgerald

Katheryn is co-advised by Dr. Cory Suski and Dr. Joy O'Keefe. Her Ph.D. research will focus on monitoring the health of Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) to determine whether forest management practices affect populations. Managed sites that are effective may provide bats with various roosting habitats and minimize competition with conspecifics.



Lauren Otolski

I study wood decomposition and decomposer communities in tropical forests, and I'm interested in how factors like wood and soil nutrients, fungal communities, and wood chemistry interact!



Ilana Zeitzer

I am a PhD student in Dr. Yannarell's lab studying the impacts of restoration on prairie microbes and how mycorrhizae impact prairie plant growth and pollination. This summer I will be growing various native prairie plants in the greenhouse with different microbial communities to determine the impact of their mutualists on various plant traits. I will also be sequencing microbial communities from the Phillips Tract Pollinator Health Restoration Experiment.

**PEEC
Summer
Research
Grants**



**Facundo
Fernandez-Duque**



**Rebecca
Cloud**



**Ratna
Karatgi**



**Derek
McFarland**



**Kevin
Neumann**



**Katharina (Kat)
Soto**



**Malavika
Venu**

PEEC Summer Stipend Awards



Roberto Cucalon Tomayo

I am an evolutionary biologist interested in understanding the biogeographic patterns and evolutionary history of populations of organisms; I use genomics to better understand the diversity of freshwater fish populations, asking questions associated with population structure, population connectivity, cryptic species discoveries, and more.



Chuck Hyde



Brian Graves

I am interested in researching the genetic impact of human intervention on non-human organisms. Currently, this involves threespine stickleback using ancient remains from a native Patwin site near Davis, California. This award will be used to support my contribution to an international project looking at chromosomal inversions in modern stickleback samples.



Maria Muñoz

I will be using my awards to conduct research over the summer. I will be surveying tick abundance in southern and northern Illinois and conducting tick survival assays in central Illinois.



PEEC Summer Stipend Awards



Fabian Pallo Rivadeneira



Sarah Winnicki

Sarah studies the growth of baby birds, especially the hormones that parent birds pass in eggs to impact the growth of developing embryos. With this RAship, Sarah will be able to spend the summer writing up their PhD chapters for publication.



Fahren Zackery

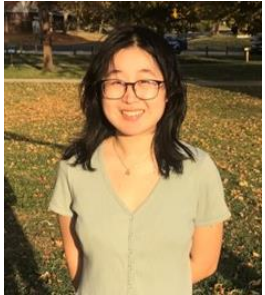
My research focuses on applying the dilution effect to the field of human microbiome research in order to determine if microbial diversity correlates with human health outcomes (advisor: Brian Allan). I will be performing a meta-analysis over the course of the summer.



PEEC Summer Stipend Awards



**Noah
Brown**



**Yutao
Chen**



**Jonah
Dominguez**



**Facundo
Fernandez-
Duque**



**Ratna
Karatgi**



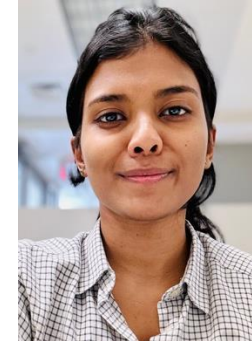
**Derek
McFarland**



**Lauren
Otolski**



**Katharina (Kat)
Soto**



**Malavika
Venu**



**Ilana
Zeitzer**

CONGRATULATIONS!



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Department of Entomology and Illinois Natural History Survey Awards



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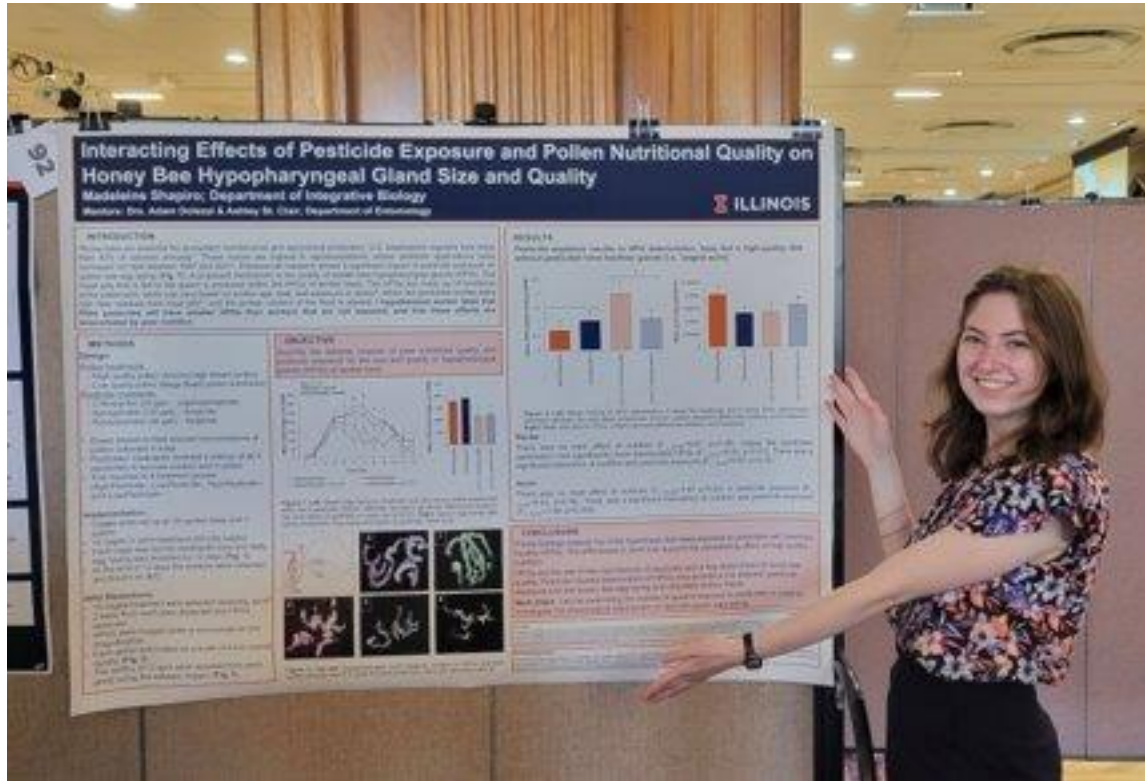
Entomology Undergraduate Research Award



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 Undergraduate Research Award



Madeleine Shapiro

My research focuses on the effects of pesticide exposure on honeybee physiology and behavior. I am so grateful to have spent the last two years working with everyone in the Dolezal lab.

Working in research at UIUC has provided me with invaluable experience that I will be taking with me as I begin a PhD program at the University of Maryland studying invertebrate ecology and physiology.

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

Thomas McElrath

Tommy McElrath is the insect collections manager at the Illinois Natural History Survey. When not processing loans and managing the 7 million specimens of that collection, he is interested in the evolution and systematics of a small group of beetles called the Monotomidae, aka the minute clubbed beetles.



Tomas Najer



Juliana Soto Patiño

Juliana Soto Patiño is a first-year PhD student in PEEC and a Research Assistant at the Illinois Natural History Survey in the Johnson's lab. Her interests are focused on the study and conservation of Tropical biodiversity and the understanding of host-parasite relationships through space and time. Juliana has participated and led investigations on biodiversity and participatory science in her home country, Colombia, integrating field, museum and outreach components.



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



K.C. Carter and Isabel Dalton

K.C. Carter joined the Illinois Natural History Survey on June 1, 2022, as a Pollinator Ecologist for the Urban Biotic Assessment Program (UBAP), focusing on plant-pollinator networks within the Illinois Tollway region of northern Illinois.

They received a bachelor's degree in biology at Berea College in Kentucky before joining the Yanhg Discovery Center at Berea College as a STEM Outreach Facilitator. Thereafter, they moved to Eastern Kentucky University to pursue their M.Sc. in Biological Sciences researching bumblebees. There, they studied the influence of forest management on bumblebee community composition and bumblebee-plant interactions by quantifying interaction networks using DNA metabarcoding on bumblebee corbicular pollen loads.

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.

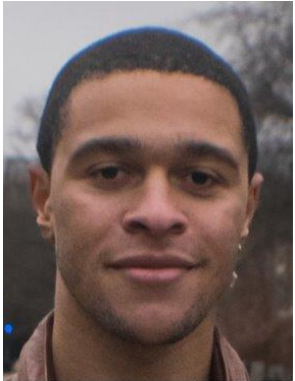
The Schmidt Summer Award is used to support recruitment and retention of students during the summer months.

Fred H. Schmidt Summer Scholars



Miles Arceneaux

My research delves into the complex interactions of coupling both abiotic flooding stress, along with biotic herbivory stress and the affects this has on tomato plants. With flood events being on the rise, and herbivores continuing to plague crop fields, this research is paramount to understanding how to better combat pest species in agricultural systems. This award will support the writing and completion of my thesis.



Xavier Carroll

I am a first-year master student with the ABC Lab studying the electrostatic interactions of insects. In my free time I make art and origami. This summer I will be using my funding to develop a method for recording the surface potential of bees in various flight environments.



Phillip Hogan

My name is Phillip Hogan and I will be joining Dr. Ed DeWalt's lab beginning early this summer. 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.



Jared Martin



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 Awards



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

Erinn Dady



I worked as a chef before going back to school, and I love the way food connects people across different backgrounds. I am eager to approach food from a new angle, through the lens of chemical ecology, to tackle food insecurity caused by insect pests, and I am grateful my research collaborates with local farmers. My work focuses on plant responses to insect herbivory in combination with environmental stressors, using tomatoes and maize



Siti Fauziyah



Phillip Hogan

Entomology Summer Stipend Awards



Vincent Prayugo



Sreelakshmi Suresh

The award will support me in analyzing data from my thesis, where I hope to make recommendations for land owners to improve pollinator health. I hope to have a career in Pollinator Extension where I can share the latest scientific research and recommendations to the public who can use the information to aid in pollinator health.



Cariad Williams

I am a fourth year PhD student in the Entomology department, specifically paleoentomology in Dr. Sam Heads' lab. My research focuses on Early Miocene Dominican and Mexican amber, with side projects in Baltic amber. My research entails completing a comprehensive taxonomic and systematic review of Orthoptera in Dominican and Mexican amber. Additionally, I am studying the taphonomic processes occurring in Dominican amber, as well as determining the paleoecology of Dominican amber using arthropods

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/Metcalf Award for Outstanding Teaching



Jonathan Tetlie

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).

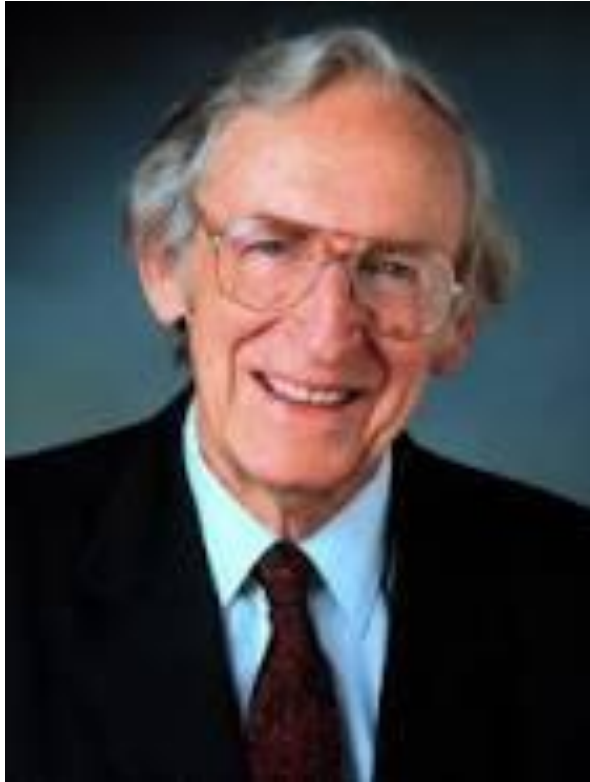
Dr. Banks was a pre-eminent researcher in the areas of mammalian sociality and reproduction and this award was established to support research in Animal Behavior.

Edwin M. Banks Memorial Award



Lisa Surber

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



Mac Chamberlain

This summer I will be placing radio transmitter backpacks on Brown-headed Cowbirds in order to track their daily movement patterns, map their individual home ranges, and describe their social network. Additionally, we will be testing the eggs of target females for paternity. This genetic data, paired with our social and movement data, will help us better gauge the level of social and genetic monogamy within our population.



**Meghan
Maciejewski**



Simran Singh

My research is focused on using myelin to identify non-invasive biomarkers of the auditory fields within the mammalian cerebral cortex. I will use a supervised deep learning algorithm our lab is developing to produce a quantitative histological map of the auditory cortex and co-register it to ultra-high field MRI scans to fingerprint each region of the auditory cortex. The awards I received will help me accomplish my objectives as it will help me purchase equipment needed to collect the histological data and MRI data in the mouse.



**Patrick
Wilson**

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

Shriram Bhat



Jules Chabain

I study the diversity in shape in Stingray Barbs. My research goal is to identify evolutionary processes that may drive that variation. For that I'm using morphological data and biomechanical puncture experiment. This fellowship will help me collect genetic data to detect possible genes involved.



Siqi Hahn

I'm currently receiving training in conventional histology and deep learning stereology. Over the summer I will use the awards to keep working on histological sample collection and MRI imaging data collection to better understand microstructure in rat's primary sensory cortex.



Julia Jehn

I'm researching community and population level plant ecology, but through a genomic and cellular lens.



EEB Summer Stipend Awards



Giovanni Madrigal

My research lies in the intersection of biology and computer science. I work on different biological systems (mainly fish) and have a large interest in developing bioinformatic software.



Abbi Turner



Abby Weber

I am studying parasitoid wasp ovipositor mechanics and will be using this award to spend the summer running puncture tests on biological materials and studying for prelims.



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



Hannah Darcy

I'm honored to receive this award after six years of serving as a teaching assistant at three different institutions. Throughout my time at the University of Illinois, I have been fortunate to work with talented and dedicated undergraduate students in SIB. It has been incredibly rewarding to see their growth and development as researchers and scholars, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to their education.



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

Sumashini Pagaldevatti



I'm a 2nd year PhD student in Prof. James Dalling's lab in the Department of Plant Biology. My research is focused on the interactions between seeds and the fungal communities that infect them, and their role in shaping tree diversity in the tropical forests of India. I'm studying a group of plants that function as keystone species in tropical systems - fig trees. I hope to garner a better understanding of the role of fungi in shaping diversity in tropical ecosystems through my research. The summer block grant would help me cover living expenses and some research costs associated with lab work including procuring DNA extraction kits and DNA sequencing.



Michelle Zambrano

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



Timothy Chen

My name is Timothy Chen and I am a 1st year PhD student in the Plant Biology department in Dr. Steven Burgess's lab. I grew up in New Orleans Louisiana and received my Bachelors in Science from Louisiana State University with a Major in Biological Sciences and a minor in History. My research interests include photosynthesis and molecular biology. My current research project is focused on understanding how the green algae *Chlamydomonas* responds to heat stress by regulating Rubisco activase protein.



Jie Fu

My research is to use multi-omics techniques and bioinformatic tools to understand bioenergy sorghum stem biology. I will use this award for 2023 Plant Biology conference.

John R. Laughnan Travel Awards



Kenneth Jops

I'm a fourth year PhD student in Plant Biology working in the O'Dwyer lab. My background is in mathematics and I work on mathematical problems in community ecology, specifically on how plant life history strategies and other traits affect competition and community composition.



Dilkaran Singh

I am PhD candidate in Amy Marshall-Colon's lab. My research focuses on understanding the transcriptional regulation of biological processes responding to CO₂ and Nitrogen changes. The broader goal of this work is to improve our basic understanding about plant's response to CO₂ and nitrogen related environmental changes.



Seldon Kwafo



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 in Biological Research



Seldon Kwafo

Dr. Fakhri and Dr. Maarib Bazzaz Plant Biology Fund



This award was established to honor Dr. Fakhri and Dr. Maarib Bazzaz as academics, mentors, and cherished friends by supporting students in the Department of Plant Biology in at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Fakhri and Dr. Maarib Bazzaz Plant Biology Fund



Ignacio Sparrow Munoz

I am a first-year graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Steven Burgess in the department of Plant Biology at the University of Illinois, supported by a teaching assistantship and lab start-up funds. My research focuses on the relationship between structure, function, and evolution of photosynthesis enzymes, with an emphasis on Rubisco Activase.

Plant Biology Summer Stipend Awards



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

Plant Biology Summer Stipend Awards



**Lance
Jones**



**Jason
Karakehian**



Aiden Schore

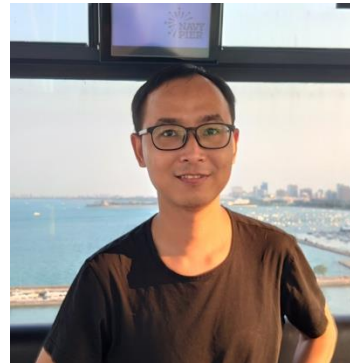
I study how disturbances caused by climate change are reorganizing the landscape in the tundra region of Alaska using satellite-based remote sensing. This includes changes in plant community, increased rates of wildfires, and ground deformations caused by thawing permafrost.



**Kenneth
Jops**



**Sumashini
Pagaldevatti**



Chen Zhang

My research interest is to investigate the mechanism underlying the cell-type-specific expression of sugar transporter SWEET11, which is both interesting and critically important for increasing crop yield. Plant Biology Summer Stipend Award will help me to move more research progress and focus on writing for my thesis.



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



Caroline Ludden

I am a 3rd PhD student in the Lara Lab studying landscape change following disturbances in Northern Alaska. Outside of research, you can find me running, hiking, or crocheting!

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Teaching Awards



UNIVERSITY OF
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URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Award in SIB



These awards, made possible by a gift from John H. 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.

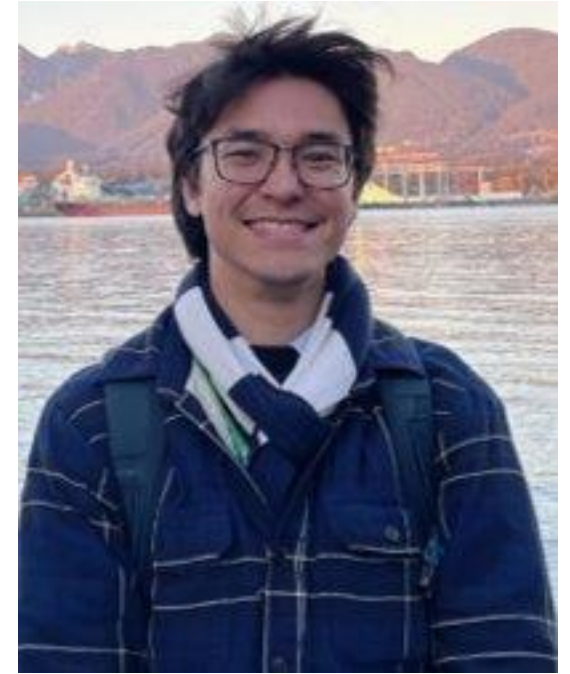
John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Award in SIB



Colby Behrens



Aaron Mleziva



Lincoln Taylor

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



Roqaya Al-Dhufari

My name is Roqaya Al-Dhufari and I am a current student in the Integrative Biology Honors Program. I am thankful to be where I am at right now and I hope to bring change to the world one step at a time. My goal is to leave behind positive change. I am honored to receive this award as I am passionate about research, and enjoy learning about new areas of science.



Jonah Dominguez

I focus on avian ability to recognize foreign signals, particularly alarm calls, and how species interact with each other. Previous work I've done looked at how birds interact with other organisms to obtain food, and this summer I'll be looking at how birds respond to varying bird alarm calls from across the world.

College Teaching Award



Kenneth Jops, graduate student in Plant Biology, was named the 2023 recipient of the LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants.

Teachers Ranked Excellent

Marc-Elie Adaime
Brian Allan
Phil Anderson
Kieran Andreoni
Nicholas Antonson
Miles Arceneaux
Tristan Barley
Alison Bell
May Berenbaum
Gabriel Beuchat
Kasey Brockelsby
Morgan Brown
Carla Cáceres

Molly Carlson
Jules Chabain
Mac Chamberlain
Benjamin Chavini
Chris Cheng-DeVries
Ben Clegg
Kat Coburn
Maria Cox
Chad Cremer
Erinn Dady
Quihong Dai
Jim Dalling
Elsa De Becker

Adam Dolezal
Joseph Edwards
Eva Fischer
Manuel Flores
Caroline Friedmann
Karla Griesbaum
Siqi Hahn
Edward Hsieh
Julia Jehn
Mark Hauber
Cody Jones
Lance Jones



Teachers Ranked Excellent

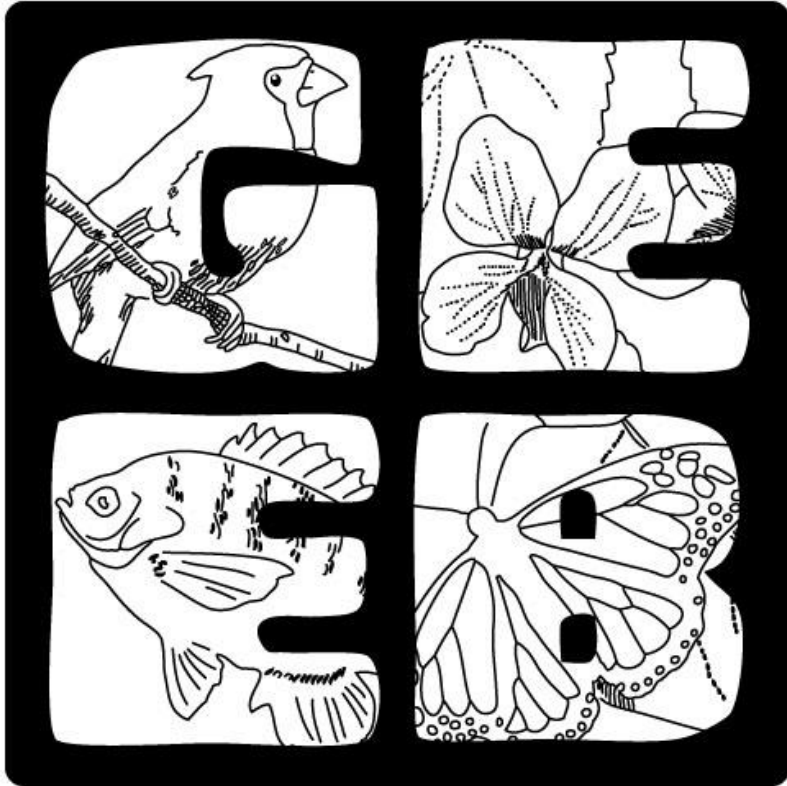
Kenneth Jops
Ratna Karatgi
Jason Karkehian
Tina Knox
Joanne Manaster
Aaron Miller
Daniel Miller
Jessica Mingione
Aaron Mleziva
Esther Ngumbi
Kylie Noel

Allison O'Dwyer
Lauren Otolski
Fabian Pallo Rivadeneira
Henry Pollock
Vincent Prayugo
Surangi Punyasena
Michael Rivera
Simran Singh
Katharina Soto
Katherine Strailey
Tyler Stewart

Andy Suarez
Lisa Surber
Christina Swanson
Daniel Swanson
Grace Tan
Lincoln Taylor
Jon Tetlie
Abbi Turner
Michael Ward
Sarah Winnicki
Wendy Yang



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

Most Outstanding Talk by a Ph.D. Candidate

Lisa Surber

Most Outstanding Talk by an MS Candidate/Pre-Prelim Ph.D.

Benjamin Chiavini, Kasey Brockelsby

Most Outstanding Poster

Jeannette Cullum



Faculty Awards



**Campus Award for Excellence in
Guiding Undergraduate Research**
Alison Bell



Staff Awards



25 Years of Service
Annetta Allison



5 Years of Service
Rose Keane

Alumni Achievement Awards



Dr. Lawrence Page

Congratulations to our awardees!

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



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