



Undergraduate and Graduate

Scholarships and Awards

April 29, 2022

ASU School of
Life Sciences
Arizona State University

The School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University is dedicated to undergraduate and graduate learning, innovation and success. For over 20 years we have actively supported undergraduate research in faculty labs where 90% of our undergraduate courses are taught by tenure-track professors and not adjunct faculty

Our students have a wide range of research opportunities with more than 100 faculty members committed to mentoring undergraduates.

They receive a unique educational experience that is demonstrated by the excellence of the students we recognize today.

Our Mission

To inspire and transform life science students by providing an innovative learning experience that prepares them to thrive in a dynamic and demanding world.

We aim to improve life by stimulating scientific discovery and solving critical problems at the intersection of the life sciences and society.

Our Vision

We aspire to become a global leader in life science education and discovery. We will create an atmosphere that inspires diverse groups of visionary students and researchers to lead with us.

Together, we will tackle emerging problems by embracing a rapidly changing world. Our solutions will help shape a more sustainable future for life on Earth.

Our Values



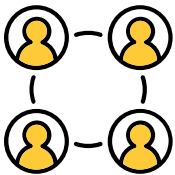
Pushing the
boundaries of
knowledge



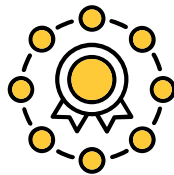
Investing in
diversity



Creating
synergy



Serving our
community



Pursuing
excellence

Program

Welcome

Shelley Haydel, professor, associate director,
undergraduate programs, School of Life Sciences

Undergraduate awards

Shelley Haydel

Graduate awards

Stephen Pratt, professor, associate director,
graduate programs, School of Life Sciences

Faculty awards

Shelley Haydel

Program directors



Shelley Haydel

PhD, professor and associate director, undergraduate programs

Shelley Haydel is an infectious disease microbiologist researching new antibiotics to fight resistant infections and how bacteria cause lung infections and wound infections. Her research team studies tuberculosis and other related bacteria, MRSA, and other infectious bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. She and her research team are also studying how and why these bacteria cause disease in humans so that they can develop new drugs to halt infections.



Stephen Pratt

PhD, professor and associate director, graduate programs

Stephen Pratt studies the emergence of complex social behavior in leaderless, decentralized groups, particularly social insect colonies. He and the members of his lab use experiments, mathematical models, and computer simulations to understand the behavioral rules and communication networks that allow colonies of ants and bees to act as a collective intelligence. Inspired by the analogy between individual organisms and colonial “superorganisms,” they apply many ideas from psychology and economics to understand group cognition. Professor Pratt also works with engineers to translate lessons from social animals to robot swarms and other human-designed systems, and to develop innovative tools for the analysis of behavior.



Congratulations class of

2022!



Undergraduate awards

Endowed awards

Danielle Aronson Memorial Award

Jerome Aronson, PhD, is professor emeritus with the School of Life Sciences and a distinguished faculty member in plant biology. To honor his late wife, Aronson established this award to recognize an outstanding student studying plant science or plant biology in the biological sciences.

Edward and Linda Birge Scholarship

Ed Birge is an emeritus faculty member with the School of Life Sciences and former-chair of the Department of Microbiology at ASU. He established this award in memory of his mother Linda and father Edward, and to recognize and support undergraduate microbiology students in the School of Life Sciences.

Ralph A. Fisher, Jr. Scholarship

Mr. Ralph Fisher, Bachelor of Science, Class of '51, was a lifetime member of the National Wildlife Federation, as well as a trail guide

and bird count organizer for the Audubon Society. The Ralph A. Fisher Scholarship recognizes biology and plant biology students with outstanding academic performance and promise in the field of biology

Joyce Foster Larson Scholarship

Joyce Foster Larson is professor emerita with the School of Life Sciences. She earned her PhD in zoology at ASU. The Joyce Foster Larson Scholarship supports life sciences students involved in the study of animals.

Dr. K. Michael Peddecord and Mary Ann Peddecord Scholarship

Michael and Mary Ann Peddecord received their Master of Science degrees in microbiology at ASU and have created this fund to support microbiology students because they are grateful for the support they received at Arizona State University. Michael earned his PhD in Public Health and teaches at San Diego State University and Mary is a clinical microbiologist.

John F. Schmidt Life Sciences Scholarship

Jean Schmidt is professor emerita with the School of Life Sciences and was associate director of the Cancer Research Institute at ASU before she retired. She established this award in honor of her father, John F. Schmidt, to support undergraduate microbiology students in the School of Life Sciences.

School of Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Scholarship

This award supports undergraduate students who participate in independent and creative research projects mentored by faculty in the School of Life Sciences. This scholarship was created through the generosity of current and former faculty in the School of Life Sciences.

Biology and Society Unusual Student Project Award

The fund was created by ASU Professor Jane Maienschein and Professor Richard Creath to encourage students' creativity to identify and participate in unusual projects in biology and society. Funds may support research, travel and related activities.

Stuart Charlip Memorial Scholarship

Son of Herman and Sheila Charlip, Stuart lived and worked for many years in New York City and in Newburgh, New York as a science

teacher. He relocated to Phoenix in 2006 and taught high school at Desert Edge High School in Goodyear holding several administrative positions during his years there. He was respected by his peers and his students and would be pleased to know students like the ones he taught could benefit from this scholarship.

Michele and Robert Page First Generation Scholarship

Rob and Michele Page have generously established multiple scholarships at ASU to support first generation, ROTC, and Veteran students. They are passionate about education and supporting students. Rob served ASU in many positions, including founding Director of the School of Life Sciences, Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Provost. Rob and Michele are first generation college students and want to support and encourage other first generation students. The impact their educations had on their lives and the lives of their children has been immeasurable and they would like to have the same impact on others.

Award recipients

Listed in order of presentation

Student of the Year Awards

Ruthanne Teo

Biological Sciences Award

Christopher Hernandez Salinas

Biology and Society Award

Anna Abraham

Biomedical Sciences Award

Clayton Patterson

Conservation Biology and Ecology Award

Louisa Brill

Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology Award

Megan Nelson

Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior Award

Isabella Moya

Microbiology Award

Alex Gilchrist

Medical Microbiology Award

Stephanie Temnyk

Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology Award

Heba Alzreikat

SOLS True Grit Award

Alexia Childress

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Ariana Afshari

Dean's Medal Award

Rachel Eder

Outstanding Service Award

Endowed awards

Stephanie Temnyk

Danielle Aronson Memorial Award

Erica Williams

Edward and Linda Birge Scholarship

Isabella Moya

Dr. Harry Gilbert and Doris Lorraine Crecelius Scholarship

Colette Gates

Joyce Foster-Larson Scholarship

Kenya Hill

Michele and Robert Page First Generation Scholarship

Alex Gilchrist

Dr. K. Michael Peddecord and Mary Ann Peddecord Scholarship

Aditi Galande

John F. Schmidt Life Sciences Scholarship

Mitul Waghmare

Dr. Harry Gilbert and Doris Lorraine Crecelius Scholarship

Student biographies

Undergraduate



Anna Abraham

Bachelor of Science, biomedical sciences

Anna is an Arizona native graduating in with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences and double minor in psychology and global health. She has been an undergraduate researcher in Sara Brownell and Katelyn Cooper biology education research labs at ASU where she is currently completing a Barrett Honors Thesis exploring medical school admissions committees' potential biases towards mental health. She is also an intern at TGen where her research focuses on preconception genomic testing. Outside of school and work, Anna enjoys baking, taking care of her growing plant collection and volunteering with different communities.



Ariana Afshari

Bachelor of Science, neurobiology and civic and economic thought leadership

Ariana Afshari is an interdisciplinary student studying neurobiology and civic and economic thought and leadership. Her contributions to laboratories in developmental neurobiology at ASU and mathematical neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic resulted in academic publications in top journals. She was also the director of health and wellness for the undergraduate student government and was honored as a Spirit of Service Scholar and invited to join a leadership

practicum with Barefoot College in Rajasthan, India. After graduation she plans on moving to California to research developmental neuroscience at Stanford Medical School and teach high school biology with Teach for America.



Heba Alzreikat

Bachelor of Science, biological sciences

Heba is pursuing biological sciences degree at Arizona State University. After she graduates from ASU, she plans on attending medical school. Her biggest accomplishment was to attend ASU after graduating as an honor student from Glendale Community College. Heba's best experience at ASU has been doing research and meeting diverse students and making friends. Her favorite quote is "success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful" by Albert Schweitzer.



Louisa Brill

Bachelor of Science, biological sciences

Louisa is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biological science. For the past year, Louisa has been an undergraduate researcher in Susan Holechek's lab at ASU. She also works as a TA/Tutor for ASU's online organic chemistry classes. Outside of school, she works as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for Lifeline Ambulance. This summer, Louisa will be participating in the Nutrition-Focused Summer Research Practicum through the Phoenix Veteran Affairs Department. She aspires to become a physician and to work in a role which combines clinical, research and teaching components.



Alexia Childress

Bachelor of Science, medical microbiology

Alexia is a graduating senior in Barrett, The Honors College and the School of Life Sciences at ASU. She will receive a Bachelor of Science in medical microbiology with a minor in Spanish and is currently applying to medical school. She

has worked as a SOLUR Fellow in Shelley Haydel's lab at the ASU Biodesign Institute and researched potential drug targets of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. She also created the National Pre-Health Conference, a student-led organization that provides free resources to pre-health individuals world-wide. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, reading comics, and watching Marvel movies.



Rachel Eder

Bachelor of Science, biological science,
neurobiology and psychology

Rachel is a senior in the Barrett, The Honors College and is graduating in with degrees in biological sciences, neuroscience, and psychology with minors in mathematics and anthropology. She is continuing to a 4+1 cellular and molecular biology master's program at ASU and intends to pursue a PhD in the future. Throughout her time at ASU, she was involved and help leadership positions in the National Service Sorority Omega Phi Alpha, Rotaract, and Sun Devil Dance Marathon. In the future, she plans to pursue a career in research in academia and continue involvement with philanthropic organizations.



Aditi Galande

Bachelor of Science, medical microbiology and global health

Aditi is a third-year student studying medical microbiology and global health at Barrett, The Honors College. On campus, she dedicates her time as the academic and professional liaison on the Advisory Board for Student Organizations and oversees clubs across all campuses. Among other leadership positions, Aditi is also the Digital Design Co-Director for the National Pre-Health Conference and President of the Global Women's Health Initiative. She comes from an immigrant household and is the first to pursue medicine. Aditi is extremely grateful to be a recipient of the John F. Schmidt Life Sciences Scholarship. She looks forward to graduating ASU next year and serving her community as a physician.



Colette Gates

Bachelor of Science, biological science

Colette is a biological science major in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University. She has lived in Arizona most of her life, but was born in Milwaukee, WI. After graduating from ASU she plans on continuing her education at veterinarian school, where she hopes to pursue a career as a wildlife veterinarian. After veterinary school she wants to spend time in Africa working with different animal rescue organizations and help as many animals as possible.



Alex Gilchrist

Bachelor of Science, microbiology

Alex is a 2nd year junior pursuing a bachelor's degree in microbiology. He is currently an undergraduate researcher in the Holechek lab where he investigates the genetic influence on the pathology of diseases. In addition, he works as a BIO 181 lab room leader where he assists with setting and helping ensure labs run smoothly for students. He is a peer mentor in Barrett, The Honors College and volunteers as an ATA for general genetics. His passion is making education accessible and desirable to all.



Christopher Hernandez Salinas

Bachelor of Science, biological sciences, global health and transborder Chicano/a and Latino/a studies

Christopher is the proud son of Mexican immigrants, who showed him the value of hard work and humility. Growing up surrounded by healthcare inequities inspired his desire to work toward addressing the issues he saw his community face. This passion led him to pursue a career in medicine, majoring in Biological Sciences, Global Health, and Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. In his academic career, he has learned the importance of being community driven and is excited to continue working with the community as a future medical student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.



Kenya Hill

Bachelor of Science

Kenya was born in East Chicago, Indiana and raised in Gary, Indiana. She relocated to Arizona at the age of 16. Kenya is the oldest of four younger siblings. Being the oldest taught her a lot about responsibility and being selfless. Her inspiration for wanting to be a pediatrician was inspired by her younger brother who was sick a lot due to being born early. Kenya is a certified EMT in the State of Arizona. She has volunteered at different organizations through the Be a Leader Foundation of which is a member.



Isabella Moya

Bachelor of Science

Isabella is a second-year student in Barrett, The Honors College, pursuing majors in medical microbiology and Spanish linguistics at Arizona State University. Passionate about science from a young age, she is currently an undergraduate researcher in the Snyder-Mackler Lab in the School of Life Sciences Center for Evolution and Medicine. She loves playing golf, practicing hot yoga, paddleboarding and spending time in the Arizona sun. After graduating in 2024, she aspires to continue on to medical school and one day practice medicine here in Arizona, serving the community of her home state.



Megan Nelson

Bachelor of Science, biological sciences

Megan is a student in Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University majoring in biological sciences (neurobiology, physiology and behavior) and psychology and is minoring in mathematics. She is also pursuing a certificate in computational life sciences. Megan is an undergraduate research assistant in The SOCIAL Neurobiology Lab and the Behavioral Neuroscience of Memory and Aging Lab. She has also served as an undergraduate teaching assistant, the director of research and conferences for Psi Chi, and

president of The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Council. In the future, Megan plans to pursue a PhD in neuroscience.



Clayton Patterson

Bachelor of Science, conservation biology

Clayton was born in Arizona but spent most of his childhood in Auburn, Alabama. There, he graduated high school and attended community college for a semester. From there, he enrolled in the conservation biology program at ASU with the goal of pursuing wildlife conservation. He is also pursuing a minor in sustainability. As a sophomore, Clayton plans on graduating a year early. He is equally devoted to his love for music. His band, Significant Others, just recorded their debut record and plan to schedule gigs throughout the summer.



Stephanie Temnyk

Bachelor of Science

Stephanie is a budding plant geneticist with much to learn, but is excited for the opportunities that await her! Born and raised in California, Stephanie moved to Arizona for college and fell in love with its vibrant desert environment, bustling restaurant scene and endless sunshine. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys all things health and wellness, including cooking creative recipes and trying new forms of movement. On weekend afternoons you might find her redecorating her bedroom or cozying up to a new romance novel.



Ruthanne Teo

Bachelor of Science, biological science

Ruthanne is graduating with a degree in biological science from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU with a certificate in cross-sector leadership from the Next Generation Service Corps (NGSC). She will be attending AT Still School of Osteopathic Medicine in the fall. Her goal is to offer her medical services as a primary care physician at next to no cost to uninsured, underserved communities in Arizona.

Ruthanne was founder/head coach of a successful local school robotics club for four years. She was co-founder/co-leader of ASU InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. She was Public Health Mission Team leader and Section Lead for NGSC.



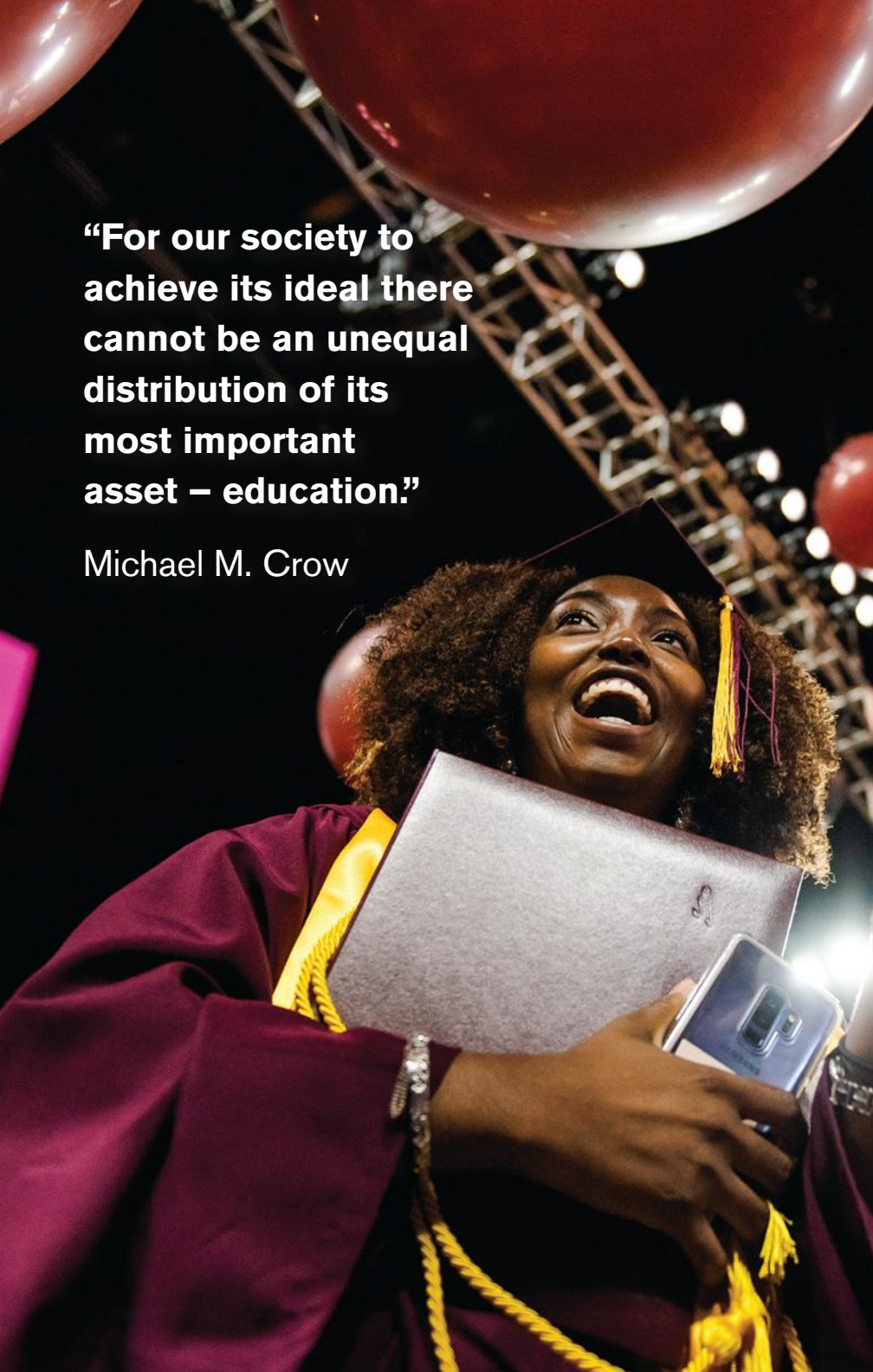
Mitul Waghmare

Bachelor of Science, medical microbiology

Mitul is a junior international student majoring in medical microbiology. He was born in Mumbai, India, and came to the United States at 17 to pursue his undergraduate degree. In 2020 he became interested in the biomedical field. He is particularly interested in immunology and oncology/hematology. To develop his core skills he works with Yize Li on his SARS CoV-2 project, which focuses on immune response against the virus, and as a medical intern at Banner University - ER. In his free time, Mitul likes to cook different dishes.

**“For our society to
achieve its ideal there
cannot be an unequal
distribution of its
most important
asset – education.”**

Michael M. Crow





A close-up photograph of two graduate students in regalia. The student on the left is wearing a blue gown and a pink stole, holding a maroon tassel. The student on the right is wearing a maroon gown and a yellow stole. The background is dark and out of focus.

Graduate awards

Award recipients

Listed in order of presentation



Sunil Tiwari

PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Michael A. Cichan Award Scholarship

Sunil Tiwari is a second-year MCB PhD student in Willem Vermaas's lab studying cyanobacteria for protein and biofuel production. He completed his master's degree in plant and environmental biology Ohio University while working on phylogenetics and molecular biology of red algae. In addition to research, he has been involved in community service through participation in the SOLS student executive board as program director. He has also been serving as vice-president of the Nepalese Student Association at Arizona State University.

Angel Robles

PhD, evolutionary biology

Edward and Linda Birge Travel Award



Glenda Ramirez

PhD, evolutionary biology

Graduate College Enrichment Fellowship

Glenda is an Arizona native, born and raised in Yuma. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University in biological sciences, and a master's degree in

public health with a focus on epidemiology from The George Washington University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in evolutionary biology with Melissa Wilson as her advisor, and is a member of the Sex Chromosome Lab. Her research interests include perinatal epidemiology and the analysis of sex differences through placental DNA, gene expression and gene regulation.



Diego Olivo

PhD, biology and society

ASU Presidential Graduate Assistantship

Diego is a PhD student in the biology program at ASU. He was raised in Tucson, AZ and attended Northern Arizona University for his undergraduate studies. Diego's current research involves investigating viral diversity, dynamics and disease association in avian species. He is a member of Arvind Varsani's lab at ASU.



Jarrett Joubert

PhD, biology and society

Graduate College Enrichment Fellowships

Jarrett is a PhD student in the biology and society at ASU, focusing his research on the history and philosophy of science. Born and raised in Houston, TX, his undergraduate studies were at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA and his master's studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to beginning in the PhD program, he worked in a translational immunology laboratory at Baylor College of Medicine. Jarrett is interested in the history of molecular and cell biology, centering around viruses as a point of departure for considering how scientific knowledge is constructed and maintained in global society. Currently, he works with Emma Frow and Jane Maienschein exploring the use of synthetic cells in biology research.



Jamie Casseus

PhD, animal behavior

ASU Presidential Graduate Assistantship

Jamie is an animal behavior PhD student in Kevin McGraw's lab studying urbanization and its impact on bird population and behavior. Born in Brooklyn and raised in New Jersey, his undergraduate studies were at Ursinus college in Collegeville, Pennsylvania where he focused on spinal cord regeneration in axolotls. As a first year PhD student, he is looking to not only immerse himself within his research but also branch out into the academic realm, as he is interested in an academic career.



Anastassia Erudaitius

PhD, biology

Peabody Family Memorial Fellowship

Anastassia is a PhD student in the biology program at ASU. She received her Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of California, Riverside. After graduating, she moved to San Diego, CA, where she worked as a science lab instructor for grades K-5, while also assisting in research that focused on the co-evolution of rattlesnake venom efficacy and prey resistance. Currently, she is a member of Emilia Martins' lab and is studying the evolution of multimodal signals. Her research considers the relationship between visual and chemical signals specifically, with a focus on species recognition and space use in *Sceloporus* lizards.



Emily Higgins Keppler

PhD, Microbiology

LoBrutto Family Fund Fellowship

Emily is a microbiology PhD candidate in Heather Bean's lab. Emily's research focuses on using comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography to develop a breath-based diagnostic for valley fever, an endemic fungal pneumonia of the North and South American deserts. She received

a 2022 GPSA Outstanding Researcher Award for her research. Emily is the American Society of Microbiology Young Ambassador to Arizona, where she engages the local community to strengthen science within Arizona. She is also a mother to two young boys, who keep her busy when she's not conducting research.



Erin Murphy

PhD, biology and society

Lisa Dent Memorial Ecology Fellowship

Erin is a PhD candidate working with Leah Gerber in the Conservation Innovation Lab. For her dissertation she researches the impacts of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems and evaluates the efficacy, cost and trade-offs of different intervention strategies to identify the best policy solutions. Outside of her research, Erin is committed to science advocacy and sustainability, and serves on several executive boards for university clubs and nonprofits in the community.

Fellowships and scholarships

Listed in order of presentation

School of Life Sciences Completion Fellowships

Anthony Basile, PhD, evolutionary biology

Kavita Manhas, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

John Christie, PhD, microbiology

Adele Crane, PhD, evolutionary biology

Challie Facemire, PhD, biology and society

Aigerim Kamzina, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Lin Li, PhD, biology

Sandra Nordile, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Mary Pardhe, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Stephen Moore, PhD, neuroscience

Graduate College Completion Fellowship

Jaco Youngblood, PhD, biology

Julie Bethany Rakes, PhD, environmental life sciences

Jason Sauer, PhD, environmental life sciences

Stephen Elser, PhD, environmental life sciences

Graduate College Fellowship (GCF)

Ryan Pevey, PhD, neuroscience

Amanda Kuhn, PhD environmental life sciences

Camila Delgado-Montes, PhD environmental life sciences

Olivia Davis, PhD biology and society

Lynette Bustos, PhD neuroscience

Erika Nadile, PhD biology and society

Bridget Diviak, PhD molecular and cellular biology

Brook Jensen, PhD evolutionary biology

Joseph Wolf, PhD environmental life sciences

Mohammed Tasneem, Master of Science, biology

Nathan Serrano, PhD, biology

Daniel Bisgrove, Master of Science, biology and society

ARCS Scholar Award

Kristen Pfeffer, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Jordan Glass, PhD, biology

Rodrigo Martinez, PhD, microbiology

Mark Namba, PhD, neuroscience

Angela Oill, PhD, evolutionary biology

Sara Knowles, PhD neuroscience

Inclusive Teaching Fellows (JEDI)

Linda Howard, PhD, biology and society

Lauren Neel, PhD, biology

Megan McCaughan, PhD, molecular and cellular biology

Innovative Teaching Assistant Award



Jordan Glass

PhD, biology

Jordan is a PhD candidate in the biology program at Arizona State University (ASU) where he works in the lab of Jon F. Harrison. He is an environmental physiology PhD student studying how insects function, interact with and evolve to deal with environmental stressors. His research focuses on understanding the different physiological mechanisms that allow animals to live in challenging environments and whether phylogenetically-constrained adaptations are sufficient for them to persist in a changing world. His thesis research focuses on the environmental physiology of honey bee flight, in particular how these important pollinators respond to temperature variation and agrochemicals that have been implicated in pollinator decline.



Madeleine Ostwald

PhD, animal behavior

Madeleine is a PhD candidate in the School of Life Sciences, graduating with a doctorate in Animal Behavior in spring 2022. Her research aims to understand the evolution of animal social groups using carpenter bees as a model. She is interested in pollinator conservation and in expanding access to STEM education. She has volunteered for four years as a biology instructor for the Arizona Department of Corrections as part of ASU's Prison Biology Education Program. This spring, she will begin work as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California Santa Barbara studying bee functional traits in the context of environmental change.

Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award



Christofer Bang

PhD

Christofer Bang is an ecologist, lecturer and photographer. His research spans from dragonfly and damselfly diversity in Norwegian freshwater systems affected by agriculture, to the effects of urbanization on arthropod communities in the metropolitan area of Phoenix.

He teaches biology courses at Arizona State University, emphasizing critical-thinking skills using case studies from recent scientific research. His teaching approach spans from engaging lectures in large lecture halls to flipped-classroom active learning style in addition to online interactive learning. With a keen interest in all plants and animals, Bang is an avid photographer. His photographs have been featured on the cover of several scientific journals.



Jason Newbern

PhD

Jasons Newbern's research is focused on the cellular and molecular mechanisms that orchestrate the formation of the nervous system. In his lab they utilize mouse genetic tools, models of developmental disorders and pharmacological agents to study molecular functions during the specification and differentiation of distinct neural subtypes. He is especially interested in understanding how secreted cues and intracellular kinase cascades, especially those implicated in neurodevelopmental disorders, regulate crucial aspects of neuronal and glial development. His lab's research has provided unique insight into kinase functions during nervous system development and shed light on candidate neuropathological mechanisms in disorders characterized by aberrant intracellular signal transduction activity.



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