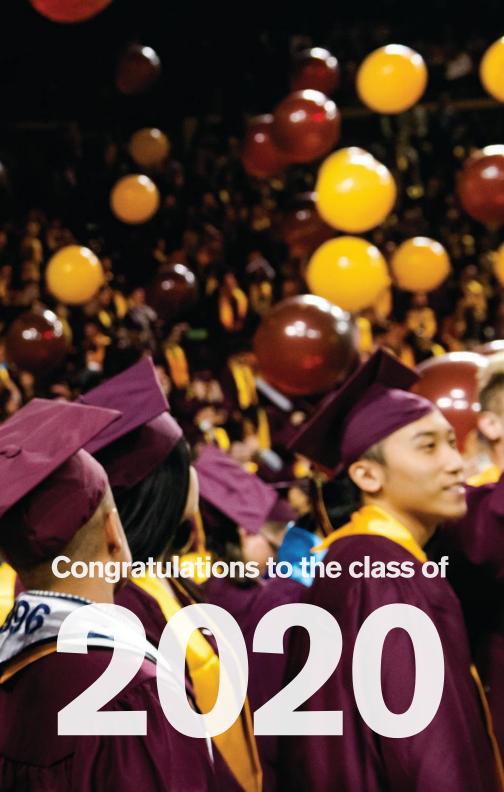


May 4, 2020

School of Life Sciences

Arizona State University



The School of Life Sciences prides itself on many years of dedication to undergraduate learning and success. We have actively supported undergraduate research in faculty labs for more than 20 years and we have bucked the national trend by having 90% of our undergraduate courses taught by tenure-track professors rather than by adjunct faculty.

We offer students a wide range of research opportunities with more than 100 faculty members dedicated to mentoring undergraduates. That, combined with opportunities to interact with top-notch faculty in the classroom, provides a unique educational experience for our students. One measure of our success is the phenomenal achievements of the undergraduates 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



9 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Professor Kenro Kusumi

Associate Dean; Director, School of Life Sciences; Professor

9:30 a.m. Awards Presentation

Professor Mike Angilletta

Associate Director, Undergraduate Programs; Professor

Professor Michael Angilletta

Associate Director for Undergraduate Programs
School of Life Sciences



Mike Angilletta studies the impacts of temperature on animals and the consequences for ecological and evolutionary processes. His research on thermal biology has generated more than 70 scientific papers, but he is best known for his award-winning book, Thermal Adaptation (2009, Oxford University Press).

Professor Angilletta has a passion for teaching biology at the introductory level, combining a love for thinking broadly with a flair for telling funny stories. He was voted ASU's Funniest Teacher, an honor that he cherishes more than any academic achievement.

Awards and Recipients

listed in order of presentation

School of Life Sciences Endowed Awards

Danielle Aronson Memorial Award

Annie Bryant

Edward and Linda Birge Scholarship

Lara Aguiar Alexia Childress

Dr. Harry Gilbert And Doris Loraine Crecelius Scholarship

Ava Karanjia Sara Koroli

Ralph A. Fisher Jr. Scholarship

Kara Gardner Noor Basharat

Joyce Foster Larson Scholarship

Corinne Johnson

Dr. K. Michael Peddecord and Mary Ann Peddecord Scholarship

Alexia Childress

John F. Schmidt Life Sciences Scholarship

Varshini Methuku

Stuart Charlip Memorial Scholarship

Oscar Calderon (Sp '20) Diego Martinez (Fa'19)

School of Life Sciences Awards

Student of the Year in Biological Sciences

Miranda Yousif

Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Biology and Society

Rohini Nott

Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Biomedical Sciences

Frank Guerrero

Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Conservation Biology and Ecology

Christian Parrinello

Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Genetics, Cell, and Developmental Biology

Ajeet Bains

Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior

Chloe Breger

Student of the Year in Microbiology – Medical Microbiology

Sara Koroli

Student of the Year Award in Microbiology

Ava Karanjia

Student of the Year Award in Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

Collin Ganser

School Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Varshini Methuku

School of Life Sciences
Outstanding Service Award

Ghena Krdi

School of Life Sciences Miles Orchinik True Grit Award

Cynthia Carrizoza Maria Coria Diane Wilson

School of Life Sciences
Outstanding Graduate

Hamza Ghannam (Fa '19) Chloe Breger (Sp '20)

Notable Student Achievements

Dean's Medal for the School of Life Sciences

Delaney Bucker (Sp '20) Emily Dereszkiewicz (Fa '19)

Teaching Awards

School of Life Sciences TA Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching

Emily Webb Tiffany Lewis

School of Life Sciences Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award

Pierre Deviche



Description of 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.

Student Biographies

in alphabetical order



Lara Aguiar
Major: Biological Sciences
(Biomedical Sciences)
Awarded: Edward and Linda
Birge Scholarship

Lara Aguiar is a senior and honors student at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in family and human development. She is a member of ASU's Migrant Solidarity Alliance and an undergraduate research assistant at the developmental psychology lab at the Arizona Twin Project. Lara is also a pediatric neurology medical scribe and a frequent volunteer at Phoenix Children's Hospital. When she's not studying, working or volunteering she enjoys cooking and baking, attending concerts and spending time with her friends and family. After graduating, she plans to attend medical school with the goal of becoming a board-certified pediatrician.



Ajeet Bains

Major: Biological Sciences (Genetics) Awarded: Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology

Ajeet Bains is a junior at Barrett Honors College majoring in Biological Sciences. He was born in Beebe, Arkansas and moved four years later to Phoenix, AZ. He attended BASIS Phoenix before coming to ASU. Here he is actively involved in clubs such as GlobeMed and research that involves using CRISPR-Cas to delete chromosomal genes in Heliobacteria. Ajeet is passionate about science communication, and conducts science demonstrations for kids at nearby elementary schools and writes articles for ASU's Embryo Project Encyclopedia, an open access resource containing articles about embryology and reproductive health.



Noor Basharat

Major: Biological Sciences (Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior) **Awarded:** Ralph A. Fisher Jr. Scholarship

Noor Basharat is a junior majoring in Biological Sciences at the School of Life Sciences. Her passion is working with the underserved population in her local community, and she is actively involved in various clubs and organizations including: Refugee Integration, Stability, and Education; Hands for Henna; and Refugee Education and Clinic Team to name a few. She is also taking part in research at Valleywise Health Medical Center. Her goal is to pursue medicine after completing her undergraduate studies.



Chloe Breger

Major: Biological Sciences – Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior Awarded: Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior and Outstanding Graduate

Chloe is a student at Barrett, the Honors College and is pre-medicine. She works at the Autism/Asperger's Research program and in her junior year she participated in a research project for college credit and was promoted to a paid employee this past summer. In 2019 she founded and implemented Eye to Eye at ASU, a mentorship program for youth with learning differences such as ADHD and dyslexia and conducted extensive research on the effectiveness of the program. She loves spending time with her family and friends and is honored to be a recipient of these awards.



Annie Bryant

Major: Biological Sciences (Conservation Biology and Ecology) Awarded: Danielle Aronson Memorial Award

Annie Bryant is a burgeoning botanist with a passion for vascular plants and plant fossils. She started as a transfer student at Arizona State University in 2019 and is now a Junior in the Conservation Biology and Ecology major. She has been heavily involved with the ASU Natural History Collection and has taken as many plant classes as she can. In the near future, Annie wants to pursue a Plant Conservation graduate degree at ASU so that she can do her own flora project and further study plant evolution and reproduction.





Delaney Bucker
Major: Biological Sciences
(Biology and Society)

Awarded: Dean's Medal for the
School of Life Sciences

Delaney is a soon-to-be graduate who is both confused and curious about what the future will hold. She is excited about upcoming opportunities to think, read, reflect and start new hobbies and habits post-graduation. She recently presented her honors thesis and capstone project at the 2020 American Association for the Advancement of Science where she was selected as the undergraduate winner for the e-poster contest for the social sciences and featured in *Science* magazine.



Oscar Calderon
Degree Program: Biological Sciences
Awarded: Stuart Charlip Memorial
Scholarship



Cynthia Carrizoza
Major: Molecular Biosciences and
Biotechnology and Biochemistry
Awarded: Miles Orchinik True Grit Award

Cynthia is not a traditional college student. She transferred to ASU in fall of 2019 through the MAPP program. She's been pursuing her college degree for the past ten years while working in research and has a teenage son. Her hopes to use her education to propel her further into the research industry. Even though earning her degree has been a long and challenging process she has enjoyed learning and growing through education. At ASU, Cynthia found a sense of belonging meeting students that have the same drive and ambition she does and is more motivated than ever to pursue her dreams.



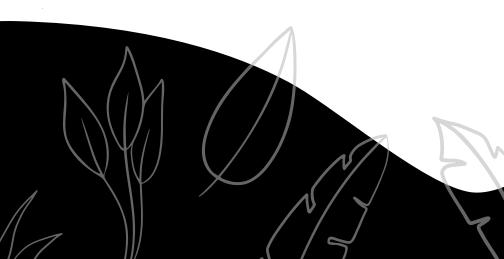
Alexia Childress
Major: Biological Sciences
(Medical Microbiology)
Awarded: Edward and Linda Birge
Scholarship and Dr. K. Michael Peddecord
and Mary Ann Peddecord Scholarship

Alexia Childress is a second-year student in Barrett, the Honors College at ASU and works at the Biodesign Institute Center for Bioelectronics and Biosensors as a student researcher in Dr. Havdel's laboratory. She has worked on projects including testing the antimicrobial activity of synthetic peptides against infections bacteria and investigated whether phosphorylation of threonine-6 (T6) is necessary for PrrA Dna-binding activity in Mycobacterium tuberculosis. When she's not participating in a variety of campus activities she enjoyes volunteering at the Banner Desert Medical Center. hiking with friends and traveling to new places.



Maria Coria
Major: Biological Sciences
Awarded: Miles Orchinik True Grit Award

Maria Coria is a senior at Arizona State University majoring in biological sciences with a minor in family and human development. She is an Arizona native, first-generation college graduate and single mom to a teenage son. Her success at ASU would not have been possible without the encouragement and support from family and friends as she has balanced her role as an Office Manager at a dental office, club meetings, volunteering, her son's extracurricular activities alongside her studies. After completing her degree she plans on furthering her education in the hopes of becoming a physician assistant.





Emily Dereszkiewicz
Majors: Biological Sciences
(Biomedical Sciences)

Awarded: Dean's Medal for the School of
Life Sciences

Moving from Illinois to Arizona for college was a drastic change in Emily's life. Being far away from home forced her to grow as a person and to branch out of her comfort zone. Throughout her undergraduate career Emily juggled school responsibilities, work and research in addition to working at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. As part of Brian Smith's lab, she studied honey bee behavior and electrophysiology of the honey bee brain. She also took on a leadership position teaching and mentoring young female researchers who visited the lab

from local high schools. Graduating with a degree in biomedical sciences, Emily looks forward to continuing her education, expanding her knowledge and growing as a person.



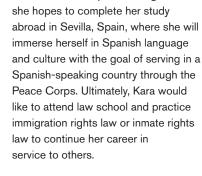
Collin Ganser

Major: Biological Sciences (Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology Awarded: Student of the Year Award in Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

Collin Ganser is a senior double majoring in molecular biosciences and biotechnology and in earth and space exploration (astrobiology and biogeosciences). He is a SOLUR Scholar and ASU/NASA Space Grant Scholar working in Dr. Shelley Haydel's lab at the Biodesign Institute.



Collin's work in the infectious disease microbiology lab has focused on investigating novel treatment methods for antibiotic resistant pathogens, leading to one co-author publication with another in revision and eight poster presentations or short talks at local, regional and national conferences. After graduating in May, Collin will pursue a PhD in Pathobiology from Brown University.



for the Peace Corps. Before graduation



Kara Gardner
Major: Biological Sciences
(Biology and Society)
Awarded: Ralph A. Fisher Jr. Scholarship

Kara is a first-generation college student in Barrett, the Honors College studying biology and society with a minor in justice studies and a certificate



Hamza Ghannam
Major: Biological Sciences
(Biomedical Sciences)
Awarded: Outstanding Graduate Fall
2019

Hamza Ghannam is recently graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical



sciences and was a proud recipient of a 4-year scholarship. He spent his time at ASU conducting research at Mayo Clinic, scribing at a Level I trauma Center, completing an honors thesis for Barret, the Honors College and immersing himself in the diverse student population at ASU. He is currently applying to medical school with the hope of becoming a physician. He strives to become a more productive member of society while providing the best patient care possible. He is grateful for the determined and helpful staff in the School of Life Sciences for their dedication and support.



Frank Guerrero
Major: Biological Sciences
(Biomedical Sciences)
Awarded: Student of the Year in
Biomedical Sciences

Frank Guerrero is originally from
Long Beach, California and came to
ASU on a path to becoming a doctor.
Throughout the past four years, he
has made ASU his home by becoming
involved in various student leadership
positions. University Housing, The
College and the School of Life
Sciences allowed his to develop
a passion for education and help
students on their own educational
journey. He is thankful to all of his
mentors for their support and guidance.
He is also especially thankful for his
family for always believing in him

and being his number one fans. His experience at ASU has been more than he ever could have imagined and he is proud to be a Sun Devil.



Corinne Johnson

Degree Program: Biological Sciences
(Conservation Biology and Ecology)

Awarded: Joyce Foster Larson
Scholarship

Corinne Johnson is a junior at ASU double majoring in sustainability and a conservation biology. Her passion and love for the environment developed at a very young age after living in Germany and planting trees in the nearby forest. Inspired by other female biologists, she hopes to continue on in academia and pursue her graduate career in marine biology. Her current research interests are in animal behavior and she presently conducts research on sea turtle behavior.



Ava Karanjia
Major: Microbiology
Awarded: Dr. Harry Gilbert and Doris
Loraine Crecelius Scholarship and
Student of the Year Award in Microbiology

Ava Karanjia is a senior double major in chemical engineering and

microbiology. She hopes to employ an interdisciplinary mindset in identifying and manipulating metabolic networks for application in bioenergy and biomanufacturing processes. Ava is a current SOLUR Fellow in Dr. Heather Bean's group where her project focuses on investigating the role of quorum sensing in the pathogenesis of Pseudomonas aeruginosa. She has presented research at 17 local, state and national conferences, earning multiple awards including three first place awards at national symposia. Ava has a passion for space technologies and has participated in the Arizona/ NASA Space Grant Colloquium for two years and interned at NASA Ames Research Center in 2019. Ava will continue her education as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Washington pursuing a PhD in Chemical Engineering.



Sara Koroli
Major: Biological Sciences
(Medical Microbiology)
Awarded: Dr. Harry Gilbert and Doris
Loraine Crecelius Scholarship and

Student of the Year in Medical Microbiology

Sara Koroli is a Barrett, the Honors college student studying Medical Microbiology and Biochemistry. She completed her honors thesis project with Dr. Cheryl Nickerson where she characterized the physiological fluid shear pathogenic related response of the foodborne pathogen Salmonella enterica serovar Enteritidis. Sara's research aims to reduce risk for human space exploration by studying the effects of microgravity on a range of medically important microbial pathogens that might be encountered by the astronauts during spaceflight missions. Sara is a mentor for first-year honors students and is a Fulbright semi-finalist for the Fulbright-Nehru English teaching assistantship grant. Sara has a passion for learning and science and hopes to pursue a career in medicine and will continue her research at the Nickerson team while preparing for medical school. She is an avid traveler and loves to experience other cultures, learn different languages and visit historic cities.



Ghena Krdi
Major: Biological Sciences, minor
in communications
Awarded: School of Life Sciences

Outstanding Service Award

Ghena Krdi is a student in Barret, the Honors College graduating this semester with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Communications. She chose Biology as her major because she wanted to explore different aspects of biology such as genetics, evolution and immunology. As student, Ghena had the

chance to conduct cancer research at the Biodesign Institute studying multiple myeloma and the Bioengineering Department studying mesothelioma. She is part of the RISE club (Refugee Integration, Stability, and Education) at ASU where she volunteers on a weekly basis to tutor refugee youth. Outside ASU, Ghena has been a volunteer at Helping Hand for four years organizing events for the refugee community in Phoenix. After graduation, she plans on going to medical school.



Diego Martinez
Major: Molecular Biosciences
and Biotechnology
Awarded: Stuart Charlip Memorial
Scholarship

Diego Martinez moved to Arizona when he was 8 years old and has lived in the West Valley ever since. His time at ASU was everything he hoped it would be plus more. Having the support from both of his parents and sibling made his time at ASU go by smoothly and Diego had a worthwhile experience. Graduating in 2020, he's excited to begin a new chapter in his life. Next fall Diego will begin a doctoral program in physical therapy and is both excited and nervous for this new challenge.





Varshini Methuku Major: Medical Microbiology Awarded: John F. Schmidt Life Sciences Scholarship and Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Varshini Methuki is from Phoenix, AZ and is a sophomore in Barrett, the Honors College. She is majoring in medical microbiology with a minor in chemistry. Her interests include painting, photography and video editing. In Varshini's free time she plays the piano, listens to music and loves to watch movies. People often see her as a shy person, but once you get to know her you find a fun-loving student who loves to handout and have fun with friends and family.



Rohini Nott
Major: Biological Sciences
Awarded: Student of the Year Award in
Biological Sciences-Biology and Society

Rohini Nott is a senior studying biological sciences (biology and society) and business (public service and public policy). She is passionate about social justice, scientific research and public health. In her four years at ASU, Rohini has served as a
Student Director of the Student Health
Outreach for Wellness Community
Initiative, conducted cancer drug
discovery research, volunteered as a
campus tour guide and has worked
in the Office of Student and Cultural
Engagement as a peer-to-peer
workshop facilitator. After graduation,
Rohini will be attending medical school
at the David Geffen School of Medicine
at UCLA.



Christian Parrinello

Major: Biological Sciences (Conservation Biology and Ecology) Awarded: Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences – Conservation Biology and Ecology

Christian Parrinello grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado. After working several years in retail, warehouse, and kitchen jobs he started his degree at Front Range Community College. He moved to Arizona with his fiancé so that she could pursue her masters through University of Arizona and was able to transfer to ASU. He has since found a great community in the School of Life Sciences and the Alameda building. He cohabitates with a dog and two cats and loves to hike, bike and read.



Jennifer (Bea) Thornburg

Major: Biological Sciences (Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior) and English

Awarded: Michele and Robert Page First Generation scholarship

Jennifer (Bea) Thornburg began her bachelor's degree in 2001 and should be completing it in spring 2021. Starting with a degree in English literature her interest and passion for children's mental health led her back to the sciences and she took on a second major in neurobiology, physiology and behavior. Bea will be the first person in her family to complete a with 4-year bachelor's degree and after graduation she plans on going to medical school. Her family and close friends have supported her on every step of her journey at ASU while she explored interests from making sure her children were cared for when she had the opportunity to attend the Naylor Conference in Pennsylvania to studying and practicing for the MCAT tests. She is looking forward to the opportunities she'll have during her final few semesters in the School of Life Sciences and grateful to everyone who has helped her come so far.

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Diane Wilson

Major: Biological Sciences and Spanish **Awarded:** Miles Orchinik True Grit Award

Diane Wilson is a double major in Spanish linguistics and biological sciences in Barrett, the Honors College. She was born in Colombia and has dual citizenship with the United States. She has spent her life between both countries as her family, aside from her parents, reside in Colombia. She speaks four languages: Spanish, English, Swahili and Portuguese and her hobbies include hiking, playing the clarinet and traveling. It's Diane's dream to become a physician and she plans on applying to medical for the upcoming 2021 application cycle.



Miranda Yousif
Major: Biological Sciences

Awarded: Student of the Year Award in Biological Sciences

Miranda Yousif is from sunny Phoenix, Arizona and is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences this May. During college, she was involved in research at the Biodesign Institute and was a chemistry tutor in the Learning Resource Center. She will be matriculating into a medical degree program in the fall.





School of Life Sciences Teaching Excellence and Innovation Awards

This award recognizes outstanding teaching efforts that contribute to the School of Life Sciences' educational mission, particularly in regards to innovations in technology or course delivery that are likely to improve undergraduate learning and success.



Pierre Deviche

Professor, School of Life Sciences **Awarded:** Faculty Teaching Award

Pierre Deviche is an animal physiologist who studies how the environment controls the reproductive system and stress responses of vertebrates.

Using seasonally breeding birds in both laboratory and field-based experiments, he investigates the relative importance of various environmental factors such as day length, rainfall, food availability, and social interactions to reproduction, stress sensitivity, and metabolic responses.



Tiffany Lewis

Awarded: School of Life Sciences TA Award for Excellence and Innovation

Tiffany Lewis has a marine ecology and conservation background, and her current interests reflect a blend of these two subjects. Her current research investigates how pollution effects remote island communities, and uses a mixed methods approach to promote collaborative efforts to

address human and ecosystem health outcomes in heavily polluted areas. Tiffany is also a committed teacher. The past few years she has been developing curriculum for various online science courses in the School of Life Sciences, and has been part of various committees aimed at increasing inclusivity in the online learning environment.



Emily Webb

Awarded: School of Life Sciences TA Award for Excellence and Innovation

Emily Webb is a biology PhD candidate at Arizona State University (ASU) studying avian physiology. Her research program currently focuses on nutrient allocation and color production in birds, but biology education research is also important to her. She has been a teaching assistant primarily for introductory biology and vertebrate zoology labs for the last four years, and she has co-taught the general biology class at the Florence-Eyman prison complex for three years.

