

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS**

36TH ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION

**Monday, April 15, 2019
CSUF Titan Student Union**

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Welcome

Dean Marie Johnson, Ph.D.

Emcees

Dr. Sean Walker and Dr. Colleen McDonough

Presentation of Awards

Recognition of Graduating Research Scholars

College and Health Professions Awards

Department Scholarships and Awards

Teaching and Service Awards

Research and Special Recognition Awards

Achievement Awards

Faculty and Staff Awards

To download the photos from this evening, visit:

<http://anderkid.smugmug.com>

Gallery: NSM 2019

Password: awards

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 - **Ariana Sanchez**

- Graduate Readiness and Access in Mathematics Program (GRAM)
 - **Jose Toledo**

Group B: College and Health Professions Awards

- A. James Diefenderfer Memorial Scholarship
 - **Brittany Cook** is a Biological Science major with a concentration in plant biology. In addition to her research on apple genetics in Dr. Joshua Der's lab, Brittany is highly involved in co-curricular activities on campus and in the college. She is the Vice Chair of the College's Inter Club Council, a member of the Southern California Ecosystems Research Program, and a phenomenal employee in the NSM Student Success Center.
 - **Holly Suther** is a Biological Science major with a concentration in marine biology. Holly conducts research on rock fish with Dr. Kristy Forsgren. Additionally, she is a founding member and the current president of The CSUF Chapter of SACNAS, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, and a Supplemental Instruction Leader in biology.
- Rodriguez Graduate Admissions Scholarship
 - **Elizabeth Hitch** is a Biological Science major with a concentration in molecular biology and biotechnology. Liz is a former LSAMP Scholar and a current MARC Scholar. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences to contribute to the field of genetic disease research.
- Miles D. McCarthy Health Professions Scholarship for Outstanding Graduating Student
 - **Adam Hyde** completed his undergraduate degree in kinesiology and will begin medical school this fall at Rosalind Franklin Medical School in Chicago. Adam is receiving this award for his outstanding academic achievement, his commitment to research benefitting those with Prader-Willi Syndrome, Supplemental Instruction leadership, and his service to those who are homeless and at risk of HIV infection.

- **Lauren Rosas** graduated from the post-baccalaureate pre-health program and is currently deciding on which medical to attend this fall. Lauren is receiving this award for outstanding academic achievements, research activities in the Department of Biology, leadership in multiple pre-health student organizations, and commitment to the wellness of her community through weight management programming.
- Kenneth L. Goodhue-McWilliams Award for Outstanding Community Service
 - **Manpreet Luthra** is a post-baccalaureate pre-health program student who is applying to medical schools. Manpreet is receiving this award for exceptional leadership in the Student Health Professions Association and service to underserved populations globally. His years of experience leading troops in the U.S. Army will serve him well as a future physician.
- Robert and Shirley Belloli Award for Service and Academic Accomplishment in the Health Professions
 - **Tabitha Perez** is graduating this May with a major in Health Science and a minor in Chemistry. She will be applying to medical schools next year. Tabitha is receiving this award for her lifetime commitment to service in underserved communities in a variety of settings, as well as her leadership in research and instruction on campus.

Group C: Department Scholarships and Awards

- Dr. Gerald Gannon Scholarship
 - **Nicolette Childers** is a fully-fledged Titan scholar. Nikki received her B.A. in mathematics, Teaching Concentration *summa cum laude* in 2014, and her teaching credential in 2015 from CSU Fullerton. She currently teaches at Villa Park High School and intends to teach at the community college level and serve as a role model to young women.
- Bonsangue Family Scholarship
 - **Jasmine Camero** exemplifies all the ideal characteristics of a mathematics major: she is hard-working, technically-skilled, inherently-inquisitive, and an excellent communicator. These traits, coupled with her passion for the subject, allow her to take charge of her education and overcome the inevitable discouragements of learning mathematics. Jasmine plans to pursue a graduate degree in mathematics.
- Rose Klein Award in Algebra and Probability for the Secondary Teacher
 - **Megan Tanielu** is a mathematics graduate student who is completing her first semester in the math teaching credential program. Megan said that she was inspired by her high school AP Calculus teacher to become a math teacher. Best wishes Megan, for a successful teaching career!
- Brandon Nghi Tran Memorial Scholarship
 - **Cameron Hooper** is an undergraduate mathematics major with a focus in applied mathematics. He regularly receives A+ grades in his coursework. He is active in research in chemistry, applied mathematics, and data science, working with Dr. Hudson, Dr. Chowdhury, and Dr. Uminsky. In his spare time, Cameron sings with the Titan Men's Chorus.

- **Dan Black Family Fellowship**
 - **Amy Gleckl** is an undergraduate physics major. She is conducting experimental optics research to improve gravitational-wave detectors with Dr. Smith in GWPAC. Amy has presented her research in Wisconsin and co-authored one conference proceeding. She will return to CSUF as a senior next year.
 - **Ayron Villapudua** is an undergraduate physics major. He is a member of the electron scattering lab, working with Dr. Hargreaves on biofuels research.
 - **Gillian Tatreau** is an undergraduate double major in Physics and Dance. She is a member of the Electron Scattering lab, working with Dr. Khakoo on low energy elastic electron scattering research from polyatomic targets. She attended the APS Gaseous Electronics Conference in Portland Oregon in Fall 2018 where she presented two posters on work she did with a fellow student.
 - **William Terry** is an undergraduate physics major. He is a member of the electron scattering lab, working with Dr. Hargreaves on research on electron scattering from biomolecules. William is looking to go onto graduate research in mathematical physics.
 - **Adam Quaal** is a graduate student in the Physics department as well as a high school physics teacher. Adam researches how question context affects performance on conceptual surveys in quantum mechanics with Dr. Passante.
 - **Anderson Fung** is an undergraduate physics major. He is conducting physics education research on student learning of ordinary differential equations with Dr. Loverude. Anderson will present research at a conference this summer and plans to pursue a teaching credential.

- **Anthony Giacinto** is a master's student majoring in physics. He has been working with Dr. Cheng on astrophysics-related research since he was an undergraduate. Anthony is a hard working student. He has presented his research at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Seattle early this year and co-authored a paper recently published in the *Astronomical Journal* with Dr. Cheng.
- **Isabella Molina** is an undergraduate physics major. She works in the Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Center with Dr. Read on neutron star astrophysics. Isabella is a co-author on a paper describing the discovery of merging neutron stars and has presented research posters on the science potential of next-generation gravitational wave detectors in Fullerton and Wisconsin.
- **Mauricio Gomez** is an undergraduate physics major with a minor in mathematics. He works in the SLAMLab, with Dr. Ahmed on micro-swimmer physics. Mauricio attended a summer program at Princeton and recently presented his research at the American Physical Society Conference in Boston. He also works as a laboratory assistant at a local high school.
- **Teresita Ramirez** is an undergraduate physics major. She is an undergraduate research assistant in the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center, working with Dr. Lovelace on visualizing merging black holes. Teresita is a member of the Society of Physics Students.
- **Sara Al Bassri** is a master's student in the Physics department. She works in SLAMLab, with Dr. Ahmed on the physics of self-propelled particles. Sara earned her B.S. in Biochemistry, has a black belt in tae-kwon-do, and is a martial arts instructor in her spare time.

- Louis and Sara Shapiro Scholarship Fund
 - **Denyz Melchor** is an undergraduate physics major. She is a research assistant in the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center, working with Dr. Lovelace on supercomputer simulations of merging black holes and neutron stars. Denyz is also a McNair Scholar.

- Dr. Robert W. Kedzie Award
 - **Amy Gleckl** is an undergraduate physics major who is conducting experimental optics research to improve gravitational-wave detectors with Dr. Smith in GWPAC. Amy has presented her research in Wisconsin and co-authored one conference proceeding. She will return to CSUF as a senior next year.
 - **Sam Rodriguez** is an undergraduate physics major who is a research assistant in the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center, working with Dr. Lovelace on using supercomputers to model thermal noise in gravitational-wave detectors. In the fall, Sam will begin pursuing a master's degree in physics at Cal State Fullerton.

- Dr. Margaret Skillman Woyski Scholarship
 - **Christian Concha** completed his thesis with Dr. Diane Clemens-Knott on detrital zircon dating of Paleozoic-Proterozoic metasedimentary pendants in the Sierra Nevada batholith. He is a member of the geology club and plans on attending graduate school in the fall.

- Searchers Gem and Mineral Society Award
 - **Maddison Huscher** is an Earth Sciences student who will graduate in three years. Maddison is completing an undergraduate thesis on Monterey Bay continental shelf sediment deposits with Dr. Joe Carlin. Maddison applied to the Master of Arts in Teaching program at the American Museum of Natural History in order to become a high school geoscience teacher.

- David L. Willoughby Scholarship
 - **Radwan Mthala** is earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Sciences. He is interested in surface deformation associated with large earthquakes. His senior thesis with Dr. Sinan Akciz is on determining magnitudes of earthquakes that ruptured the Santa Cruz Island Fault. He is an active member of the Geology Club.
 - **Lindsey Langer** is a geology major completing an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Knott on Provenance, Detrital Zircon Age and Tephrochronology of Pliocene Conglomerate, Eastern Deep Springs Valley, California. She is a member of the Geology Club, Starbucks manager, and plans to work in consulting prior to graduate school.

- Dr. and Mrs. Marvin J. Rosenberg Scholarship
 - **Caitlin Harris** is a master's student in the laboratory of Dr. Brennan. Using fruit flies as a model, her thesis involves studying the mechanism of capturing and killing bacteria by the immune cells. Caitlyn hopes to continue her research interests in immunotherapy by working in the biotechnology industry upon graduating.

- Stanley Hillman and Lon McClanahan Scholarship in Plant or Animal Physiological Ecology
 - **Evelyn Bond** is working with Dr. Forsgren on her master's thesis on a study of the reproductive anatomy and physiology of surfperches. She is actively involved in multiple scientific societies and hopes to teach at a community college when she completes her degree.
 - **Ariel Heyman** is a master's student in Dr. Burnaford's lab studying potential effects of sea-level rise on performance of rockweeds, an intertidal seaweed. Ariel was a high school teacher and hopes to work for a governmental natural resources agency when she completes her degree.

- Jerome Wilson Memorial Scholarship
 - **Yvonne Dimagiba** is a graduate student in the Department of Biological Science. Her thesis research, supervised by Dr. Hope Johnson, addresses the evolution of oxygenic photosynthesis in cyanobacteria. Yvonne would like to enter a veterinary medicine program after completing her master's degree and provide premier health care to pets with owners who have limited incomes.

- Jewel Plummer Cobb Scholarship
 - **Shannon Chou** is an honors student, SCERP scholar, and double major in Biology and Art. She conducts research with Dr. Walter and Dr. Burnaford using environmental DNA to monitor tide pool biodiversity. She is President of SACNAS at CSUF. Shannon is considering graduate school and plans to pursue an ecology-related career to restore habitats, protect wildlife, and educate the public.

- **Brittany Cook** is a SCERP scholar investigating genetic differences between Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apples in Dr. Der's lab. She served as a peer mentor in Think Like Einstein and is NSM-ICC Vice Chair/Director of Finance. She aims to pursue a Ph.D. and a career in agricultural research to increase crop sustainability and affordability.
- **Advancing in STEM Scholarship**
 - **Victor Espinoza Castro** is a B.S. Chemistry major, graduating in spring 2020. He participated in the STEM² summer research program in 2016 and joined Dr. Peter de Lijser's research lab in 2017 where he is studying the mechanistic aspects of the oxidative cyclization reactions of oxime radical cations. He will be applying to Ph.D. programs this fall.
- **Robert C. Belloli Future Chemistry Teacher Scholarship**
 - **Alec Vigil** will complete his B.S. degree in Chemistry this spring. Alex has worked in Dr. Petit's computational chemistry lab predicting the effects of substituents on oxidative cyclization reactions and developing new computation chemistry instructional materials for inorganic chemistry. Alex plans to pursue a career as a high school teacher and will begin the Single Subject Credentials program this fall.
- **Wegner Family Scholarship**
 - **Kimberly Hendrix** has a record of excellence at CSUF with an overall GPA of 3.98. Over the past year she began research in Dr. Haan's lab using alternative fuels such as alcohols and Vitamin C to power fuel cells that convert the fuels into energy. She will use the funds to focus her time on this research this summer.

- Glen Nakaya Scholarship
 - **Sophya Alamudun** will complete her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in fall 2019. Sophya has served as a Supplemental Instruction leader for three semesters and recently began computational chemistry research in Dr. Petit's lab, studying structure-photochemical function relationships of quinolone photobase. She will participate in an REU at the University of Wisconsin, Madison this summer, and plans to apply to Chemistry Ph.D. programs this fall.

Group D: Teaching and Service Awards

- NSM-ICC Executive Officers
 - **Britt Rhodimer**, Chair
 - **Brittany Cook**, Vice Chair
 - **Helene Castillo**, Events Coordinator
 - **Ken Rios**, Director of Administration
 - **Jessica Sherman**, ASI Board of Directors Representative
 - **Tristan Torres**, ASI Board of Directors Representative

- Dimensions Journal of Undergraduate Research
 - **Mikayla Mays**, Editor-in-Chief
 - **Jessica Sherman & Mayra Silva**, Section Editors: Biology
 - **Vianney Martinez**, Section Editor: Chemistry & Biochemistry
 - **Lindsey Langer**, Section Editor: Geology
 - **Sonali Vyas**, Section Editor: Mathematics
 - **Diana Shirley**, Section Editor: Physics
 - **Gabriel Martinez**, Cover Design Artist & Layout Editor

- Lyle Wallace Service Award
 - **Rachel Bauer** who was instrumental in strengthening and growing the Chemistry and Biochemistry Club (CBC) as Event Coordinator and President. Under her leadership, students have supported numerous outreach activities including annual elementary school STEM nights and STEAM lunches. She has provided unique opportunities for CSUF students such as hosting a forensic scientist from the OC crime lab at a recent CBC meeting.

- Mark Lackey Awards for Graduate Teaching
 - **Isabel Chino** is interested in making teaching her career. She has taught four different laboratory courses over the last few years, while taking graduate classes and doing research for her master's degree in electrochemistry with Dr. Haan. Students and faculty comment on her helpfulness, enthusiasm, clarity of instruction, and fairness.

- Eric and Alyse Streitberger Science Education Endowed Scholarship
 - **Veronica Cabrera** is pursuing a Biochemistry degree. Veronica has worked for 3 years in Dr. Gonzalez's research lab. She explored instructor gesture as a form of visualization, and currently studies persistence of undergraduates underrepresented in STEM. Veronica is exploring a career as a high school chemistry teacher or possibly working in a STEM industry.

- Mathematics Outstanding Teaching Award
 - **Christine Deeb** will graduate this spring with her master's in applied mathematics. Christine has served our college as an instructor of college algebra and calculus for science majors. She has excelled in every aspect of teaching and will continue her career as a math educator after graduation.
 - **Amia Palmer** is a graduate student studying teaching mathematics. Amia has demonstrated her superior teaching ability in both traditional and flipped models of college algebra. After graduation this spring, Amia will continue to pursue a career in mathematics education.

- Mathematics Service to the University and Department Award
 - **Melissa Wong** is an undergraduate applied math major currently working on game theory with Dr. Soto. Melissa is an officer of both the SMART Girls and the PRIME Club and was the principal organizer of Sonia Kovalevsky Day at CSUF, an event promoting careers in STEM to girls in secondary school. Melissa will be attending graduate school next fall.

- Noyce Scholarship: Transitioning Math into Teaching
 - **Maroun Mehme** earned his B.A. in teaching mathematics from CSUF in 2003 and his MBA from CSUF in 2008. Although Maroun wasn't working in the field of Mathematics at the time, his love of the subject eventually led him back to pursuing a teaching career in math. He is currently student teaching and hopes to help students understand and enjoy math rather than fear it.
 - **Jorgelina Razzari** completed a bachelor's in mathematics at CSUF with a concentration in Math Education. She is currently pursuing a credential in secondary math education with the hopes of becoming a high school math teacher. Her passion lies in students and finding ways to teach them how to enjoy math. She is looking forward to eventually pursuing a master's in math education.
 - **Megan Tanielu** completed a bachelor's in mathematics at CSUF with a concentration in Math Education. She is currently pursuing a credential in secondary math education with the hopes of becoming a high school math teacher. She is excited to start her journey to inspire young mathematicians.

- Candice L. Jones Outstanding Service Award
 - **Melonie Nguyen** is a geology major completing an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Bonuso on Recovery of Middle Triassic Fossils after the end-Permian mass extinction. She is the Geology Club representative to the Interclub Council and plans to continue her paleoecological studies by pursuing an academic career.

- Kenneth Goodhue-McWilliams Metamorphosis Award for Teaching Excellence
 - **Amanda Daniels** is an exceptional teaching associate who provides outstanding support for her students in Biol 253L. AJ presents complex concepts clearly, and challenges her students to understand why they are performing an experiment. AJ is a true mentor who has helped multiple students navigate challenges outside the classroom so that they could continue being successful in the classroom.

- Biological Science Outstanding Service Award
 - **Evelyn Bond** works on surfperch reproduction in Dr. Forsgren's lab. Evelyn, a graduate student, provided significant service to the department last fall when she agreed to step-in and teach BIOL 310L, mid-semester. Her willingness to create new course materials and help students transition to a new instructor is recognized and appreciated. Evelyn is genuinely interested in student learning and success and positively impacted students, colleagues, and faculty in the Department of Biological Science.

Group E: Research and Special Recognition Awards

- Special Recognition for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics
 - **Angelica Arrondo** researches the shapes formed by soap bubbles and films under the influence of external forces. Angelica has presented her results at regional and national conferences, and twice won outstanding presentation awards. In addition to her research at CSUF, Angelica participated in a summer research experience at UC Riverside studying the behavior of the immune system and viruses.
 - **Jasmine Camero's** research interests are wide ranging. For her outstanding work, Jasmine has given two invited presentations at regional research conferences and won an outstanding presentation award at the largest national mathematics meeting. Jasmine will do research at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island this summer.
 - **Roberto Hernandez** is an undergraduate mathematics major. He has worked on research with Dr. Soto, Dr. Chowdhury, and Dr. Lyons. He participated in a University of Houston summer project. This summer he will be working on a project at Cal Tech. He has received numerous awards for his poster presentations at national and regional mathematics conferences.
 - **Cameron Hooper** is an undergraduate mathematics major. He works with Dr. Chowdhury and Dr. Hudson on an interdisciplinary project in mathematics and chemistry, modeling the absorbance spectra of aerosol particles. He is also working on two projects analyzing crime data. He has received numerous awards for his poster presentations at national and regional mathematics conferences.

- **Breanna McBean** is a highly active undergraduate researcher, working on modeling projects in population dynamics, equilibrium interfaces, and children’s cognitive development – the latter of which was done during a summer research experience at Yale University. This coming summer Breanna will be participating in computational research project on biomedicine at the nationally renowned Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University.
- **Erica Ward’s** research focuses on developing mathematical models of the equilibrium structures formed by placing drops of liquid on deformable elastic substrates. Erica has presented the results of her work at multiple venues and won an outstanding poster award at the 2019 Joint Math Meetings. This summer she will participate in a research project at Cornell University on the relationship between stability and optimality in dynamical systems.
- Cheryl and Carl Carrera Mathematics Scholarship
 - **Delaram Mehrrostami** attended Saddleback College before transferring to CSUF. She has earned excellent grades throughout her education and is a worthy recipient of the Cheryl and Carl Carrera Mathematics Scholarship. Her career goal is to become a middle school teacher.
- Outstanding MARC Scholar Award
 - **Erick Aguinaldo**, a Psychology major who conducts research in the laboratory of Dr. Peissig. He has earned Dean’s List recognition every semester, presented his research at several meetings, and participated in the University of Michigan Summer Research Opportunity Program in 2018. Erick’s excellent academic and research efforts have earned him admission to several Ph.D. programs in fall 2019.

- **Vanessa Sanchez**, a Psychology major who completed a Cell and Molecular Biology minor. She works in the laboratory of Dr. Cuajungco on understanding the neurodegenerative disease Mucopolipidosis type IV. She participated in the Broad Institute Summer Research Program in 2018. Vanessa's excellent academic and research efforts have earned her admission to several prestigious Ph.D. programs in fall 2019.
- **GRAM Scholars Recognition Award**
 - **Jose Toledo Luna**, a Mathematics major with a concentration in Probability and Statistics. He is one of 12 scholars in the GRAM program at CSUF. He is working with Dr. Jaynes on "Seeking Optimal Oral Cancer Drug Combinations". This past summer he participated in a research program at Oregon State University. Jose plans to begin a master's program in Statistics this fall.
- **Dharm Vireo Pelligrini Award**
 - **Sydnee Dunn** is a SCERP scholar working with Dr. William Hoese investigating the song structure of the non-native pin-tailed whydah. The pin-tailed whydah lays its eggs in the nests of other birds and has the potential to negatively impact the reproductive success of southern California species. Sydnee also works with a local biological consulting firm managing brown-headed cowbirds, another local nest parasite. Sydnee is planning on attending graduate school in ecology.

- **James Sternberg Scholarship**
 - **Prabhu Sandesh Potla** joined the Rasche laboratory in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department in fall 2018. He immediately began research on crystallizing two proteins for the microbial production of methane as a bioenergy source and greenhouse gas. After earning his master's degree, Sandesh plans to pursue a doctoral degree.
- **Brad van Mourik Interface of Computers with Chemistry Award**
 - **Amanda Abiad** will complete her B.S. degree in Biochemistry this spring. Amanda has worked for two years in Dr. Petit's lab on collaborative projects involving the cyclization of radical cation reactive intermediates produced through photoredox catalysts. She is a leader in the lab, having trained multiple students in how to troubleshoot and analyze the calculations.
- **Glenn Nagel Scholarship**
 - **Ariana Cruz Cruz** is a B.S. Chemistry major, graduating in Fall 2019. She has been working on a joint project with Drs. Curtis and Hudson measuring key kinetic parameters of the formation of the atmospheric relevant compound, brown carbon, in order to better understand how air pollution can affect Earth's climate. She plans to pursue a master's or Ph.D. program.

- **Dan Black Physics-Business Scholarship**
 - **Corbyn Jones** is an undergraduate student with a double major in physics and mechanical engineering. He works in the SLAMLab with Dr. Ahmed on the physics of micro-swimmers. Corbyn attended a summer program at Princeton and recently presented his research at the American Physical Society Conference in Boston. Corbyn is also active in his church community and plays guitar.

- **Constance Beech Eiker and Raymond V. Adams Creativity Award**
 - **Hunter Seyforth** is an undergraduate physics major graduating this spring. He works in SLAMLab, with Dr. Ahmed on microscopy and analysis methods to quantify complex motion. Hunter recently presented his work at the American Physical Society conference in Boston. Hunter will attend the CSUF M.S. Physics program before moving on to his Ph.D. in Physics.
 - **Kyle Vu** is an undergraduate physics and math double major. This award is to recognize his innovations in using software package Desmos to support teaching and education research in upper division physics courses, supervised by Dr. Loverude. Kyle intends to teach high school.

- **Prem K. Saint Hydrology Award**
 - **Diana Chacon's** work on the Santa Ana River will have a profound effect on the Santa Ana Sucker and water resources in general. Her master's thesis, titled "Thermal Infrared Remote Sensing for Water Temperature Assessment Along the Santa Ana River Using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) System," will allow for more detailed and spatially sensitive measurements of surface water.

- John D. Cooper Field Camp Scholarship
 - **Alejandra Angulo** will use the Cooper scholarship to attend field camp in California this summer. Aly is a first-generation college student with a 4.0 Geology GPA who loves and excels in field geology. She is completing her field/geochemistry thesis project in Yosemite National Park with Dr. Memeti and keeps busy as an SI leader, volunteer tutor, and lab manager.

- Marilyn A. Brown Award
 - **Ross Kovtun** is a graduate student in the Woods lab, examining Lower Triassic sedimentary rocks from east-central California in order to reconstruct oceanic conditions following the Permian-Triassic mass extinction and determine the role of environmental amelioration in biotic recovery from mass extinctions. Ross plans on attending Rice University in the fall to start a Ph.D. program in Planetary Geology.

Group F: Undergraduate Achievement Award

- Glorya Welch Scholarship
 - **Thao Tran** recently transferred to CSUF from Chaffey College and is working towards a Biochemistry degree. She joined Dr. Petit's computational chemistry lab and is working on a project involving heteroatom-heteroatom bond formation through oxidative cyclization. Thao is deciding whether she will pursue pharmacy school or graduate school after her spring 2020 CSUF graduation.
- Chemistry Book Scholarship Award
 - **Tina Jamshidi Araghi** who recently transferred to CSUF as a Mathematics major but became interested in chemistry while taking the General Chemistry sequence. Tina is now pursuing a degree in chemistry and will combine her interests in chemistry and mathematics by performing undergraduate research in Dr. Petit's computational lab this summer.
 - **Thanh Le**, a Chemistry major who has worked in Dr. Pecic's medicinal chemistry lab studying enzymatic inhibitors involved in lipid metabolism to treat cardiovascular, pain, and inflammatory diseases, while also tutoring general and organic chemistry at Santa Ana College. Thanh plans to enter pharmacy school in fall 2020.
- Outstanding General Chemistry Award
 - **Dennis Nguyen** matriculated with distinction at CSUF with the objective of earning a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He was the top student on the national American Chemical Society general chemistry exams with scores that exceeded the 90th percentile. He earned As in both courses and Dean's List distinction his first two semesters at CSUF. Pharmacy is Dennis' current career goal.

- **Victor Guadron-Escobar** was admitted with distinction to CSUF to pursue a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He earned As in the two-semester general chemistry courses and received Dean's List accolades for three semesters. His interest in science is apparent in the thoughtful questions that he asks his instructors. Victor is interested in joining an organic chemistry research lab in the future.

- American Chemical Society Award
 - **Rebecca Clark** is earning a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and one in Biological Science this spring. She has worked for two years in Dr. Haan's analytical chemistry lab researching the electrochemical conversion of carbon dioxide into usable fuel. Rebecca plans to begin a Ph.D. program in the fall at UNC Chapel Hill with an emphasis on analytical electrochemistry.

- American Chemical Society Division of Analytical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry
 - **Kimberly Hendrix** is receiving this award for her outstanding achievements in analytical chemistry and laboratory courses. She earned top grades in each of these math-intensive courses that have an emphasis on analytical techniques and instrumentation. After completion of these, she began her honors research project on applications of analytical chemistry to energy in Dr. Haan's research lab.

- American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry
 - **Crystal Paulus** will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry this spring. She joined Dr. de Lijser's group in 2017 to investigate the use of heteroaromatic rings as nucleophiles in oxidative cyclization reactions. Crystal participated in the internship program and is working on a project at Bristol Industries. She has been accepted to several master's degree programs.

- American Chemical Society Division of Inorganic Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry
 - **Sophya Alamudun** is doing computational chemistry research in Dr. Petit's lab studying structure-photochemical function relationships of quinolone photobase. She will participate in an REU program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and plans to apply for chemistry Ph.D. programs this fall.

- American Chemical Society Division of Physical Chemistry Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry
 - **Marcus Marracci** will complete his bachelor's degree in Chemistry in May. Marcus has worked for nearly two years in Dr. Petit's computational chemistry lab on a collaborative project involving the photodissociation of organic components of brown carbon aerosols. Marcus will begin a chemistry Ph.D. program with an emphasis in physical chemistry at UC Irvine this fall.

- Excellence in Biochemistry Award
 - **Kimberly Hendrix** is a Biochemistry major in Dr. Haan's research laboratory, focusing on developing an ascorbate fuel cell with a carbon electrode. She earned the only A+ in Chem. Her extraordinary academic potential has been recognized through the 2017 Outstanding General Chemistry Awards and multiple semesters on the Dean's List. Kimberly plans to attend pharmacy school in the future.

- American Institute of Chemists Award
 - **Monica Inouye** is a B.S. Chemistry major working in the Groves Research Group studying the synthesis of fuels from carbon dioxide and how symmetry is broken for chiral molecules on heterogeneous catalysts. She is an Edison Scholar and spent eight months at Northwestern University in their research experience for undergraduates' program. Next fall she will begin a Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins University.

- Mathematics Academic Achievement, Undergraduate Level
 - **Killian Wood** is a Mathematics major. He has done research projects with Dr. Ibragimov and Dr. Verdugo on pure and applied mathematics, respectively. Killian has been accepted to the Applied Mathematics Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he wants to work on mathematical biology. His long-term goal is to become a university professor.
 - **Gilberto Carbajal** is graduating this year with an undergraduate degree in mathematics, with a concentration in actuarial science. Gilberto is stellar in the classroom and as a researcher, currently working across disciplines on California Wildfire Models. Gilberto is headed for industry, one day hoping to become an actuarial fellow.

- **Shianne Elliot** is an undergraduate double major in Mathematics, teaching concentration, and Japanese. She has been a Supplemental Instruction workshop leader for several years, and she has studied in Japan. She will be graduating in May 2019, and she plans to earn her teaching credential at the secondary school level.
- **John Hong** is graduating this year with an undergraduate degree in mathematics, statistics concentration. The department and college are very excited that John will be returning to us in the fall as a master's in statistics student. We continue to expect great things from this young man and he continues to deliver.
- **Kurtis Senna** is an outstanding undergraduate in mathematics, actuarial concentration. A stellar student in the classroom, Kurtis has currently accepted a position from Pacific Life. NSM is proud knowing Kurtis is out there representing us so well.
- **Stiel Prize for Excellence in Mathematics**
 - **Cameron Hooper** is an undergraduate mathematics major with a strong GPA. He is currently working on three research projects with Dr. Chowdhury, mathematics, Dr. Hudson, chemistry, and Dr. David Uminsky, USF. He participated in the prestigious summer program MSRI-UP at UC Berkeley in 2018, and he is a CSUF GRAM scholar. His research has resulted in numerous awards.
- **Russell V. and Betty L. Benson Scholarship for Undergraduate Mathematics Students**
 - **Breanna McBean** is a GRAM Scholar and applied mathematics major who has conducted a variety of projects including a research study of soap bubble shape and strength for GRAM, a psychology project at Yale University during a summer 2018 REU, and more recently, a new interest in statistics. She will graduate in 2020 and plans to pursue her Ph.D. in mathematics.

- **Erica Ward** is a GRAM Scholar studying applied mathematics with Dr. Brubaker. She has also participated in Project RAISE and Supplemental Instruction during her career at CSUF. This summer, Erica will participate in an REU program at Cornell University, and she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in applied mathematics following graduation in 2020.

- **Physics Outstanding Senior Award**
 - **Erick Leon** is an undergraduate physics major. He works in the Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Center with Dr. Read on neutron star astrophysics. Erick is a co-author on a paper describing the discovery of merging neutron stars, and he completed an international research experience in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Erick will begin his Ph.D. in physics at Syracuse University in the fall.

- **Rachel Carson Scholarship in Conservation Biology, Undergraduate**
 - **Elizabeth Hitch** is an undergraduate student in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology with a minor in Chemistry. She is performing research in Dr. Keppetipola's lab studying the role of linker regions and phosphorylation in Polypyrimidine tract binding proteins. Liz is a MARC scholar and a former peer advisor for Project RAISE. She plans to apply to Ph.D. programs to study genetic diseases.

Group G: Graduate Achievement Awards

- Rachel Carson Scholarship in Conservation Biology, Graduate
 - **Bryce Perog** a master's scholar in Dr. Danielle Zacherl's laboratory studying restoration of native oysters and estuarine habitats. She works as a TA in the department of Biological Sciences, is a member of BGSC, and will mentor two undergraduate students this summer for Project RAISE. Bryce plans to pursue a Ph.D. in marine restoration and conservation.
 - **Jennifer Shedden** is a master's student in Dr. Paul Staap's laboratory using molecular genetics to identify mammalian prey in the diet of urban coyotes. Jennifer is a member of the Biology Graduate Student Club and volunteers at the Puente Chino Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. Following graduation, Jennifer will continue her education in a Ph.D. program in biology, wildlife studies, or conservation.
- Violet Horn Graduate Research Fellowship in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology
 - **Angelina Zuelow**, a new student in Dr. Jennifer Burnaford's lab, was awarded the Violet Horn Graduate Research Fellowship in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology in May 2018. She intends to study the role of seaweeds in structuring intertidal invertebrate communities.
- Coppel Graduate Science Award
 - **Robert Courville** is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Parvin Shahrestani, where he conducts research on the relationship between the evolution of aging and the microbiome in *Drosophila melanogaster*. He is a TA in the Biology Department and vice president of the Evolutionary and Genomics Research Club. He plans to enter a Ph.D. program after obtaining his master's degree.

- **Althea Marks** is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Zacherl, where her research explores how constructed native oyster habitat and non-native oyster aquaculture provide ecosystem services and affect water clarity in California bays. Her goal for the future is to meld ecology research, computer science, and community science engagement and possibly pursue a Ph.D.
- **Larissa Smulders** is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Nikolaidis and works as a TA in the Biology Department. Her thesis project is focused on the mechanisms by which heat shock proteins called Hsp70, which are expressed in cancer cells, bind to lipids in cell membranes. She is the Molecular Biology Representative in the Biology Graduate Student Club.
- L. Jack Bradshaw Scholarship in Immunology
 - **Amber Myers** is a graduate student in Biological Science. She is working with Dr. Brennan on *Drosophila* immune mechanisms to determine if lipid droplets play a protective role against reactive oxygen species produced by macrophages during phagocytosis. She has presented her work at the NSM-ICC research symposium and the annual *Drosophila* Conference. Amber is interested in pursuing a research career working with T-cell immunotherapies.
- Dr. and Mrs. Donald B. Bright Environmental Scholarship
 - **Holly Suther** is a SCERP scholar working with Dr. Kristy Forsgren. Holly studies the reproductive biology of the economically important rockfish. She has won numerous awards and participates in a range of activities including research on rocky intertidal health, serves as a Supplemental Instructor, and teaches at an aquarium. Holly will pursue a Ph.D. in marine biology in preparation for a faculty career.

- Physics Outstanding Master's Candidate Award
 - **Erik Tarbell** is an outstanding physics master's student with a 4.0 GPA. He has been working with Dr. Cheng on astrophysics related research and co-authored three papers published in the *Astronomical Journal*. Erik has also been an excellent physics supplemental instruction leader and teaching assistant. Erik has helped many students to succeed in their classes.

- Kathryn Godshalk Memorial Scholarship
 - **Wyatte Hooper** earned his B.S. at Corban University in Oregon and is a graduate student in the Teaching Math option of the master's program. Wyatte works as a graduate apprentice in a college algebra course, gaining experience with active learning in the classroom. Besides keeping busy with school, Wyatte is planning his wedding at the end of this semester.

- Applied Math Scholarship in Honor of Lila B. and Major Theodore Hromadka
 - **Sean Cantarini** is a first-year graduate student in the applied math master's program. Sean comes to us by way of UCLA, where he got his bachelor's degree. Sean has started the program on fire, scoring nearly perfect scores on all of his work, and setting a high standard of excellence for the program.

- Russell V. and Betty L. Benson Scholarship for Graduate Mathematics Students
 - **Fernando Teixeira** is a graduate student in the Applied Mathematics program. He graduated from UC San Diego in 2018 and plans to work in industry as an applied mathematician after his graduation from Cal State Fullerton. We are proud of Fernando's successes in and out of mathematics and wish him well in the next phase of his career.

- Mathematics Academic Achievement, Graduate Level – Applied Program
 - **Christine Deeb** is a graduate student in the Applied Mathematics program. She was an undergraduate at CSUF where she worked on several research projects while she was a Supplemental Instruction leader. She is now an instructor at CSUF and plans to become a community college professor after she graduates.
 - **Sean Schkolnik** has earned a solid 4.0 GPA in his graduate coursework in applied mathematics at CSUF. He has also distinguished himself with outstanding performance and leadership as a class lead in the Satellite Communication Network Resiliency project with the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, California.

- Mathematics Academic Achievement, Graduate Level – Statistics Program
 - **Louis Bensard** is graduating this spring with a master's in Statistics. Louis is an incredibly polished student, balancing computer science technical skills with a deep knowledge of modern statistics. Louis plans on applying his talents to the aerospace industry because, and this is a direct quote, he “wants to help send some stuff into outer space.” A fitting goal for one of our brightest stars.
 - **Foon Hoe Wong** is as a large data analytics think tank bottled into a single person. The faculty are continually impressed by Foon's approach to problem solving. Foon has made it a habit of competing in hack-a-thons as a one-person team, often taking home prizes. Foon is headed into industry after graduation as one of the math department's truly gifted graduates.

- Mathematics Academic Achievement, Graduate Level – Teaching Program
 - **Jason Iwama** has excelled in mathematics and its pedagogy. Jason received his B.A. in pure mathematics, *summa cum laude* in 2015, and his M.A. in mathematics, Teaching Concentration with a 4.0 GPA in 2019 from CSU Fullerton. Jason is constantly seeking to gain a deeper understanding of mathematics and its pedagogy to help all students. He currently teaches part time at Fullerton College.
 - **Bora Olcken** is a full-fledged Titan. He received his B.A. in pure mathematics, *cum laude*, from CSU Fullerton in 2016. He aspires to teach at community college and motivate all students to love mathematics. Bora is completing a graduate student internship at Fullerton College and conducting research with Dr. Rathbun. Visit his escape-room company, NotAnotherEscapeRoom.com, whose goal is *not* to escape.

Group H: Faculty and Staff Awards

- Distinguished Faculty Member
 - **Dr. Peter de Lijser** is a truly distinguished member of our faculty. An excellent and highly appreciated teacher, nominated for the outstanding teaching award, he is also a highly productive research scientist, well-funded by NSF and other sources. He has mentored countless undergraduates, many receiving awards, also collaborated with others, such as Dr. Nilay Patel in drug discovery. Dr. de Lijser has been rendering outstanding service for some time, including as chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry, demonstrating strong and steadfast leadership, organizational ability, and diligence, and has initiated practical and refreshing changes, while fostering a positive spirit within our community.

- Outstanding Untenured Faculty Member
 - **Dr. Sean Loyd** is a worthy recipient for the Outstanding Untenured Faculty Award. Dr. Loyd is a model within the department for his Teaching, Research, and Service. Dr. Loyd excels at teaching a variety of classes from Introduction to Geology, to senior-level classes Environmental Geology and Geochemistry, and graduate classes. Dr. Loyd's research is at the cutting edge of geochemistry, addressing questions ranging from climate change on Earth, to finding extraterrestrial life on other planets. His research has been consistently funded through intramural and extramural grants, and has led to 15 published manuscripts, 7 as lead author, and one where his former CSUF graduate student is lead. Finally, Dr. Loyd is committed to serving the campus and broader scientific community. He has served on 2 search committees, advises students, and the Department Curriculum Committee. He has also been a reviewer on over 20 manuscripts, a book chapter, and multiple grant proposals.

- Outstanding Teaching
 - **Dr. Roberto Soto** is a worthy recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award. He is a charismatic lecturer who inspires his own students, future educators, and his colleagues. He encourages his students to think critically about mathematics and to realize their own potential. Many of these students completed undergraduate research projects with Dr. Soto as their mentor. Dr. Soto has contributed to the development of new courses and has redesigned courses with active learning environments. He has published articles aiming at improving teaching methods and was awarded nearly \$100,000 in grant funding. Dr. Soto has organized and implemented several teaching workshops for the mathematics faculty and the entire CSUF community.

- Outstanding Lecturer
 - **Beena Matthew** is notable not just as an outstanding teacher, greatly appreciated by her students, but for all she has done to streamline, update, and solely coordinate the basic chemistry laboratory courses (30 sections of 4 different courses) taught each semester. For this she also trains and regularly meets with the graduate students teaching the sections, providing guidelines for each experiment and grading rubrics. She has revised and updated experiments, produced videos and worksheets, to help students understand methods, and organize and analyze their data. She is also deeply involved in service as webmaster, photographer, and for outreach (newsletter/alumni relations).

- Staff Excellence Award
 - **Renee Bennett** has been a vital part of the Department of Mathematics since she came here in 2013. Starting off as an Administrative Support Assistant, she quickly worked her way up to becoming the department's head Administrator Support Coordinator. In this capacity she is responsible for either doing or overseeing essentially every aspect of the work of the department. With more than 8,000 students per semester, plus more than 40 full-time and 50 part time-faculty, the Department of Mathematics is the largest department at CSUF and one of the largest in the CSU system. With her strong background in business administration from Kansas State University (class of 2010) and incredible work ethic and personal skills, Renee has worked tirelessly to continue to help the department thrive. She is indeed a worthy recipient of this award.

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