PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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College and University Awards

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To download the program, visit: http://nsm.fullerton.edu/awards/program
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GROUP A – RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING RESEARCH SCHOLARS

BRIDGES TO STEM CELL RESEARCH PROGRAM (BSCR)

The Department of Biological Science at CSUF was awarded $1.28 million from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to place 10 undergraduate students as interns in stem cell research laboratories at Children’s Hospital of Orange County, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, University of Southern California, and Stanford University. The Stem Cell Scholars enroll in a special, 3-unit laboratory course during summer, volunteer full-time in one of the selected laboratories during summer, and receive a stipend for working at their internship sites full-time for seven months.

Presented by: Dr. Nilay Patel

Martin Arreola
Nestor Diaz
Jaclyn Hanamoto
Norbert Hernandez
Susan Hipkins
Alan Nguyen
Dulce Peralta
Lexi Sotelo

MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO RESEARCH CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM (MARC)

The Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) training program offers an extraordinary opportunity for minority students seeking careers in biomedical research. The goals of the program are to provide first-rate research training of undergraduate participants, to place undergraduates into respected graduate programs, and to ensure their success in those programs.

Presented by: Dr. Amybeth Cohen

Yasmine Alam
Amanda Golden Eddy
Elizabeth Hitch
Jesus Ortega
Kendra Paquette
Gerardo Sandoval
CSU-LOUIS STROKES ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (LSAMP)

The goal of the CSU-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program is to increase the number of targeted students who graduate with degrees in the sciences, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Several strategies are employed to meet this goal including academic year workshops in key “gatekeeper” courses, a CSU-LSAMP Community College Transfer Scholars Program which provides up to three new transfer students with $1,000 during their first year at CSUF, assistance with admission to graduate schools, and funds to attend research conferences.

Presented by: Dr. Zair Ibragimov

Francisco Arevalo
Alejandra Garcia
Stephanie Hernandez
Gabriel Martinez
Stephanie Salas
Jennifer Sanchez
Aleeyah Savoy

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECOSYSTEMS RESEARCH PROGRAM (SCERP)

The Southern California Ecosystems Research Program (SCERP) offers undergraduate biology students opportunities to perform independent research and prepare for careers in ecology and environmental biology. SCERP provides up to two years of support for students to pursue their own research in conjunction with a faculty mentor, travel to scientific conferences to present their research, and develop a plan to reach their career goals.

Presented by: Dr. William Hoese

Shannon Chou
Brittany Cook
Jennifer Ibarra
Jacob Javier
Holly Suther
Kevin Whittemore
GROUP B – COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY AWARDS

A. JAMES DIEFENDERFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1990 to honor A. James Diefenderfer, the former Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Bryce Perog is a Biology graduate student studying the restoration of native Olympia oysters in San Diego Bay in Dr. Zacherl’s marine ecology research lab. She has spent much of her time in college mentoring students in the lab and exploring the field of marine ecology through an internship at both Pew Charitable Trusts and Orange County Sanitation District.

RODRIGUEZ GRADUATE ADMISSIONS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by Phillip Rodriguez, a Dan Black Physics/Business Scholar alumnus, who realized the importance of guidance, preparation, and financial support during the graduate admissions process.

Presented by: Mr. Phillip Rodriguez

Kellen Henning is a senior majoring in Biological Science, with a minor in Health Science. She is a MARC Scholar and conducts research in Dr. Melanie Sacco’s plant molecular virology lab. Her research goal is to identify plant cell proteins that interact with polerovirus protein P0 during infection. Kellen plans to pursue a Ph.D. in virology or immunology.

PROFESSOR & MRS. TING K. PAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established and funded by Emeritus Professor, Dorothy Pan Wong and named in memory of her parents. The scholarship is to assist international students or students who are the first in their family to attend college.

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Duy Nguyen is an Applied Mathematics graduate student. Some of his notable accomplishments include research with Dr. Murphy about Maxwell’s equations and their applications. He has also conducted research on mathematical biology. He plans to become a data scientist and a part-time professor after graduating.
MILES D. MCCARTHY HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP
FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATING STUDENT

Presented annually to an outstanding graduating health professions student to recognize and honor academic performance as well as a commitment to serve humanity. Criteria for the award are scholastic achievement, school or community service, and acceptance into a health professional school.

Presented by: Dr. Michele Mouttapa

Steven Chang is a Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Certificate Program student who has received multiple offers for medical school, starting in the fall semester. Some of his notable accomplishments include research in Dr. Ramirez’s lab, involvement in multiple clinical sites, leadership in promoting career success among recent immigrants, and years of commitment to church ministry.

Elaine Nguyen is a Biology major and President’s Scholar, who is graduating this semester. She is still deciding which medical school to attend this fall, as she received multiple offers. Some of her notable accomplishments include her leadership in multiple clinical settings, the CSUF Student Health Professions Association, research in Dr. Sacco’s lab, and as a Biology Supplemental Instructor.

KENNETH L. GOODHUE-MCWILLIAMS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Recognizes a student for outstanding contributions to community, membership in the Student Health Professions Association, and volunteering in a health profession setting.

Presented by: Dr. Michele Mouttapa

Yvonne Dimagiba is earning her Master’s degree in Biology and has applied to veterinary schools. Her notable accomplishments include her research in Dr. Johnson’s lab, her leadership as Veterinary Chair of the Student Health Professions Association, and her commitment to animals in pet clinic, animal shelter, equine, and reptile settings.
ROBERT AND SHIRLEY BELLOLI AWARD FOR SERVICE AND ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement and noteworthy community or clinical service. The award is open to pre-health profession undergraduate students at CSUF in any major. Students should have a minimum of 50 hours of community or clinical service and should have completed CHEM 301A, CHEM 301B, and CHEM 302, and at least two upper division courses in their major. At the time of application, the student should have at least two semesters before graduation.

Presented by: Dr. Michele Mouttapa

Caroline Tran is a Human Services major who will be applying to occupational therapy school. Her leadership as a founding member of the Allied Health Student Association, which involved organizing a conference to increase mental health awareness, is commendable. She is also highly involved in community service that serves high-risk infants and older adults with specialized needs.
GROUP C – DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

DR. GERALD GANNON SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the family and friends of Dr. Gerald Gannon to assist students who are or are planning to become secondary or community college teachers of mathematics.

Steven Candelaria received his B.S. in Mathematics and Applied Science (with an emphasis in Medical and Life Sciences) from UCLA in 2018. He is currently teaching as a substitute in the Riverside Unified School District, and stays busy with his 2-year old son. He plans to teach at a community college after completing the Master’s degree in Mathematics (Teaching Option).

BONSANGUE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Martin and Nancy Bonsangue to assist students majoring in mathematics who will be the first in their family to complete a bachelor's or master's degree.

Kenny Le was an undergraduate mathematics student pursuing the Probability and Statistics concentration who transitioned to the MS in Statistics program upon graduating in 2018. Kenny is a dedicated student, a diligent researcher and an inspiring colleague and friend. Kenny intends to make education his career upon graduating.

FARNHAM FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Paul and Dena Farnham to help students pursuing a graduate degree in either the Teaching or Applied Math option and who are also currently teaching or have taught at the secondary school level.

Lorenzo Rodriguez is a full-fledged TITAN scholar. Lorenzo received his B.A. in mathematics, Teaching Concentration (2016) and his teaching credential (2017) from CSU Fullerton. He currently teaches at Ball Junior High School and intends to teach at the community college. Lorenzo is and will continue being a role model to Latino and immigrant students, and entice them to STEM careers.
ROSE KLEIN AWARD IN ALGEBRA AND PROBABILITY FOR THE SECONDARY TEACHER

Established by Sidney Klein, Emeritus Professor of Economics, and his family in memory of Rose Klein to recognize academic achievement in the study of mathematics and to honor students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance in completion of the course MATH 401, Algebra and Probability for the Secondary Teacher.

Tanya Reinberger graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in mathematics. She is passionate about teaching and learning mathematics, especially with conceptual understanding of mathematics. She has the ability to present difficult concepts in a manner that allows all students to understand and apply them. This was evident with a class presentation Solving Systems of Equations.

BRANDON NGHI TRAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the parents of Brandon Nghi Tran to recognize distinction in mathematics study and to provide financial assistance.

Vinh Truong received his B.A. in mathematics, Teaching Concentration, in spring 2019. He aspires to teach at the community college level and motivate all students to love mathematics. Vinh currently teaches a basic math class for adults at Cerritos College. An activity at the core of Vinh’s soul is his volunteer tutoring for low-income immigrant families at Joya Scholars. Vinh is amazing.

DAN BLACK FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to physics majors who show promise for a successful physics-related career. This scholarship is funded through the generous ongoing commitment of Dan Black to the Physics program.

Presented by: Dr. Wylie Ahmed

Anthony Estrada is an undergraduate physics major. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed. on active matter research of autonomous robots and their collective motion. Anthony has volunteered as a STEM tutor for outside organizations, including School on Wheels, and has been accepted for a summer REU program at Brandeis University to study living matter.
Mauricio Gomez is an undergraduate physics major with a second major in mathematics. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on biological physics research on the thermodynamics of microscopic swimmers. Mauricio has worked as a laboratory technician for a local high school, and is on his way to co-authoring several peer-reviewed publications before graduation.

Ryan Muoio is a Masters student in Physics. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on nonequilibrium thermodynamics research where his focus is theories related to entropy production. Ryan is a very active member of his church community, is designing a new video game, and recently got married!

Hunter Seyforth is a Masters student in Physics. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on biological physics research related forces generated by dense suspensions of bacteria. Hunter developed a physics lab where he created a custom-built microscope to characterize Brownian motion. He now applies those techniques to understand forces generated by bacteria.

Presented by: Dr. Heidi Fearn

Keqin Cai is a graduate student working on sensor upgrades to our Mach effect space-drive experiment. He is testing IR sensors, wifi Labjack data acquisition and temperature measurements. This work contributes to a NASA funded project.

Alex Carpenter is an undergraduate student working on fabrication of the Mach effect space drive experiment. He is building faraday cages and will help upgrade the existing vacuum system. This is a NASA funded project.

David Matalon is a graduate student working on Solidworks CAD design for the Mach effect space drive project. He is making technical drawings of the existing apparatus. This is a NASA funded project.

Presented by: Dr. Leigh Hargreaves

Alexi De Avila Cadena is an undergraduate physics major. He works in the electron scattering program of Dr. Hargreaves, where he is currently investigating electron scattering on biomolecules used for plasma treatment of cellulose.
Presented by: Dr. Murtadha Khakoo

Jean-Baptiste Faure is in his first year of Masters in Physics. He is working with Dr. Khakoo doing experimental low energy electron scattering. His focus is on the differential electron impact ionization of H2 and H2O.

Presented by: Dr. Michael Loverude

Anderson Fung is an undergraduate physics major. He works in Dr. Loverude's Physics Education Research group. He is currently studying student understanding of ordinary differential equations to model physics phenomena.

Pachi Her is a graduating senior in Physics who will be returning as a Master's student in the fall. She is currently working with Dr. Loverude's Physics Education Research group studying student understanding of physics applications of matrix multiplication and eigentheory.

Presented by: Dr. Gina Passante

Sean Young is pursuing an undergraduate physics degree after some time away from school. He is researching student use of visual representations when solving introductory physics problems with Dr. Passante's Physics Education Research group.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Awarded to recognize graduating physics majors for their outstanding scholarship in their physics coursework.

Presented by: Dr. Wylie Ahmed

Corbyn Jones is an undergraduate physics major with a second major in Mechanical Engineering. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on biological physics research measuring the forces generated by single-living algae cells. Corbyn is a very active member of his church community, including being in a band. Corbyn has been accepted to many top-ranked Ph.D. programs and plans to work for a year before beginning his Ph.D.
Presented by: Dr. Murtadha Khakoo

Gillian Tatreau is in her final year as an undergraduate in Physics. She is working with Dr. Khakoo doing experimental low energy electron scattering. She gave two very well received talks at the last APS Gaseous Electron Scattering in Texas A&M U last fall on studies with 5 organic biomolecules.

Presented by: Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace

Denyz Melchor is in her final year as an undergraduate physics major. Denyz, who works with Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace, uses supercomputer calculations to model and visualize gravitational waves from merging black holes and neutron stars. She has also completed two summer research projects, exploring how gravitational-wave observations reveal the universe's population of black holes at the University of Monash, Australia, and visualizing gravitational waves from merging black holes at Cornell. Denyz is one of CSUF's first Goldwater Scholars, and she will pursue a Ph.D. in physics this fall.

Presented by: Dr. Leigh Hargreaves

William “Bill” Terry is a graduating senior in Physics. He works in Dr. Hargreaves' electron scattering program, developing a new electron gun. Bill presented results from his research at the APS Gaseous Electronics Conference in Portland Oregon. Bill is looking to move into a graduate physics or math program after he graduates this semester.

Presented by: Dr. Jocelyn Read

Derek White is a graduating senior in Physics. He works on gravitational wave astronomy with Dr. Read, coordinating a database of simulated neutron star waveforms and running a search for new gravitational wave signals in LIGO and Virgo data, and has earned authorship on two LIGO publications.
LOUIS AND SARA SHAPIRO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established and funded by Dr. and Mrs. Mark Shapiro to provide scholarship support to continuing physics students.

Presented by: Dr. Wylie Ahmed

Christian Alistair Dumaup is an undergraduate physics major. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on active matter research of self-propelled surfers. Alistair has worked for various outside organizations as a STEM instructor and tutor, including Brickzs for Kidz, and also has experience in producing high power amplifier modules for speakers.

ROBERT W. KEDZIE AWARD

Provided by a generous endowment funded by the family of the late Dr. Robert W. Kedzie who, as a retiree, voluntarily tutored our physics students and left a strong impression on them. This award is for students who have improved their performance in physics courses.

Presented by: Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace

Teresita Ramirez is an undergraduate physics major who works with Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace to visualize the merging black holes whose gravitational waves LIGO has observed. She created the LIGO Orrery, a numerical-relativity visualization of LIGO's first gravitational-wave observations, which has more than 100,000 views on YouTube and was featured in the international media. Teresita also completed a summer research project exploring how well machine learning can help reveal the properties of spinning neutron stars from their gravitational-wave emission, and she will pursue a research project this summer at the University of New Hampshire.

Presented by: Dr. Joshua Smith

Mike Rezac is a graduating senior in Physics. He is conducting optical scatter research in the GWPAC lab with Dr. Smith. He has helped develop the scatter versus temperature experiment and design a V2 of that experiment.
DR. MARGARET SKILLMAN WOYSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Established through the generosity of Dr. Woyski, her family, and the alumni and friends of the Department of Geological Sciences, this scholarship is awarded to students involved on campus.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Priscilla Martinez-Vasquez receives the Woyski scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement (3.67 GPA), excellent service to our department as Geology Club president, SI leader, and active role in public outreach/teaching. Priscilla’s senior thesis research is Tephrochronology of the Modelo Formation. She will use the scholarship to pay for field camp this summer, and attend graduate school at CSUN this fall.

DAVID L. WILLOUGHBY SCHOLARSHIP

Given in memory of the late David Willoughby, an alumnus of the department, in recognition of his passion for sedimentary geology and paleontology. This scholarship is open to undergraduate students who are studying geology or paleontology, or who are participating in course-related fieldwork. Recipients must possess a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher in Geological Sciences at the time the scholarship is awarded.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Brandon Moerer is finishing his Bachelors of Science degree in the Department of Geological Sciences. He is currently working with Dr. Adam Woods on his undergraduate thesis using trace elements to reconstruct paleoenvironmental conditions along the western edge of Pangea following the Permian - Triassic mass extinction. Brandon currently works in the supplemental instruction program, and is planning on working as a consulting geologist upon the completion of his degree.
SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY AWARD

Established by The Searchers Gem and Mineral Society and awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student who has demonstrated an interest in mineralogy, petrology or science education, with 2.5 or better GPA during the previous academic year, and the recommendation of the faculty.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Caitlin Bates Caitlin receives the SGMS award for her great interest in minerals and rocks as demonstrated in her exceptional performance in related coursework (Earth Materials, Igneous/Metamorphic Petrology), her overall 3.3 GPA (4.0 GPA at CSUF), and excellent performance in senior thesis research on the Sonora dikes with Dr. Memeti.

STANLEY HILLMAN AND LON MCCLANAHAN SCHOLARSHIP IN PLANT OR ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY

Established by Dr. Stanley Hillman and Dr. Lon McClanahan to support a graduate student in physiological ecology. Dr. Hillman, Emeritus Professor of Biology and former Chair of the Department of Biology at Portland State University, graduated from CSUF with a master’s degree under Dr. Lon McClanahan, his thesis advisor and Emeritus Professor, and former chair of the CSUF Department of Biological Science. Dr. Hillman’s gift is a token of his appreciation to the department. Dr. McClanahan’s contribution continues his commitment to the importance of physiological ecology research.

Presented by: Dr. Jochen Schenk and Dr. Amybeth Cohen

Joseph Michaud is studying the sources of positive pressure flow in xylem of bamboo and other tall plants for his thesis project with Dr. Jochen Schenk. He is TA in BIOL253L and is a part-time manager in the Schenk lab.

Tanya Salman works in the lab of Dr. Amybeth Cohen, where she is investigating novel ways to engineer green algae so that they can be used as a source of environmentally-friendly food to fish in aquaculture. She is also a teaching assistant in BIOL101L.
DR. AND MRS. MARVIN J. ROSENBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Dr. Marvin J. Rosenberg in 2007 in cherished memory of his wife, Shayna I. Rosenberg, and also to commemorate his 35 years at CSUF as faculty member, chair of the Department of Biological Science, and Associate Dean and Acting Dean of the College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

Presented by: Dr. Marvin Rosenberg

Rachel Altman is a first-year graduate student in the Nikolaidis laboratory, studying the response of chaperone proteins in stressed mammalian cells. She has served the department as both a GA and TA. Her faculty supervisors praise her impressive work ethic and ability to integrate knowledge from many different disciplines. Her post-M.S. goals include developing genetic- or genomics-based therapeutics.

JEROME WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established in memory of former biological science faculty member, Dr. Jerry Wilson. It is awarded annually to an undergraduate or graduate biology student with an interest in genetics.

Presented by: Mrs. Ellen Lovell and Mr. Kelcey Wilson

Craig Reeves was first a B.S. and now an M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Tolmasky, also completing a competitively-funded internship at UC Irvine. His thesis project involves antibacterial resistance and the control of bacterial proliferation. Craig plans to pursue a research career in a Ph.D. program in bacterial genetics with an emphasis on improving human health.

JEWEL PLUMMER COBB SCHOLARSHIP

Established in the name of former CSUF President Jewel Plummer Cobb, a cell biologist, to support and encourage students who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship in biological science.

Presented by: Dr. Merri Lynn Casem

Gabrielle San Pablo, an undergraduate Biology major with a concentration in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, has worked with both Dr. Barbara Gonzalez (Chemistry) and Dr. Hope Johnson (Biology). Gabrielle has a strong interest in environmental conservation and plans to pursue a graduate degree and ultimately work in the field of bioremediation.
Peter Vu is majoring in Biology with a minor in Computer Science. He is working with Dr. Marcelo Tolmasky as part of the battle against antibiotic resistant pathogens. A student in the CSUF Honors program and an intern in the COPE Health Scholars program at St. Joseph’s Hospital of Orange, Peter plans to pursue a medical degree after graduation.

ADVANCING IN STEM SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Stacy Guzman ’18, who wants to support first generation undergraduates who intend to further their education in graduate school or medical school and will be seeking a professional degree in a STEM-related field. In appreciation of the financial assistance and support she received from faculty, she wishes to help smart, trailblazing, talented students with the financial resources they need to achieve their professional goals.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Wynne Lee is a Biochemistry major working in Dr. Salzameda’s laboratory synthesizing small molecule inhibitors against the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite, which causes Chagas disease. Wynne plans to attend graduate school once she completes her biochemistry degree.

ROBERT C. BELLOLI FUTURE CHEMISTRY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Professor Emeritus and former Chair, Dr. Robert Belloli, to provide encouragement and support to students preparing to teach Chemistry in grades 7-12.

Presented by: Dr. Sachel Villafane-Garcia

Shenny Nguyen is graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry in Spring 2020 from CSUF. Shenny has been working at the Garden Grove Unified School District since September 2017 as a Bilingual Instructional Aide and as Associate Supervisor SAT proctor for Educational Testing Services, which shows her interest and passion for education. Shenny has been accepted into the single subject credential program starting in the Fall semester.
WEGNER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2014 in memory of the late Dr. Patrick A. Wegner, former faculty member and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Wegner was an innovator in his field, a talented teacher of general and inorganic chemistry, a successful researcher, and an accomplished chemist who always helped students in chemistry. He engaged in pioneering work in chemical education and software development.

Presented by: Dr. Maria Linder

Cossette Sanqui is half-way through college as a pre-med biochemistry major, she stands out for her academic record, enthusiasm for science and learning, curious mind, and ability to take initiative and responsibility, while meeting obligations ranging from family and work (supporting her education) to taking rigorous courses and doing research. She is particularly enamored of learning the science underlying health and disease.

GLEN AND TAKEHIS NAKAYA SCHOLARSHIP

Established in memory of Glen Nakaya, an outstanding biochemistry graduate of CSUF. The Glen Nakaya Scholarship is given to an outstanding student who has shown academic potential or achievement.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Chuyen Nguyen is a BS chemistry major with an overall GPA of 3.97. Chuyen moved from Vietnam to the United States and attended Orange Coast College before transferring to CSUF. At CSUF, Chuyen works in Dr. Salzameda’s research lab synthesizing novel inhibitors for the West Nile virus. After obtaining her undergraduate degree, Chuyen plans on attending Medical school.
GROUP D – TEACHING AND SERVICE AWARDS

NSM-ICC EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Natural Sciences and Mathematics Inter-Club Council is one of the eight academic inter-club councils at CSUF funded by Associated Students, Inc. The NSM-ICC consists of an executive staff, as well as NSM club representatives. Its main functions include sponsoring student travel to present or attend local and national conferences, providing funding for club events, hosting the annual Science and Math Symposium, and promoting collaboration among clubs. The NSM-ICC promotes student advocacy, leadership, and success within the college.

Jessica Sherman, Chair  
Jacob Javier, Vice Chair  
Erick Engelby, Director of Administration  
Genesis Marroquin, Events Coordinator  
Brittany Cook, ASI Board of Directors  
Andrea Cortes, ASI Board of Directors

DIMENSIONS JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The Dimensions Journal of Undergraduate Research is organized, written, and edited by students in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and includes full research articles and abstracts. Dimensions highlights undergraduate research and faculty mentoring by annually publishing CSUF students’ best work in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, geology, mathematics, and physics. The College of NSM collaborates with the College of the Arts to select top graphic design students to design the cover and layout.

Sonali Vyas, Editor-in-Chief  
Jessica Sherman, Section Editor: Biology  
Mayra Silva, Section Editor: Biology  
Mykayla Miller, Section Editor: Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Maria Valdovinos, Section Editor: Geology  
Luis Gonzalez, Section Editor: Math  
Erick Engelby, Section Editor: Physics  
Shannon Chou, Cover Design
LYLE WALLACE SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes outstanding service to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Fred Gonzalez will graduate this spring with a B.S. Chemistry degree. Fred has served as the treasurer for the Chemistry and Biochemistry Club for two years. In this role, Fred has actively worked to expand the club’s outreach activities, gain accreditation with the American Chemical Society, and transform the club room into a functional space where students collaborate and study.

MARK LACKEY AWARDS FOR GRADUATE TEACHING

Given for outstanding teaching by graduate students. Recipients of this award are nominated by the Department Personnel Committee based on evaluations and comments by students as well as input from the laboratory coordinators.

Presented by: Dr. Madeline Rasche

Yihua Ma is a Chemistry/Biochemistry teaching assistant known for his expertise, communication skills, patience, and encouragement. As a Master’s student, Yihua optimized conditions for crystallizing a model protein for drug design, and kinetically characterized microbial enzymes, co-authoring a 2018 publication. Yihua now works at Amprion, a biotechnology company focusing on early detection of brain-related diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Alex Ku earned a BS Biochemistry degree from CSUF and is currently a MS chemistry graduate student with a concentration in organic chemistry. Alex works in Dr. Salzameda’s laboratory synthesizing botulinum neurotoxin inhibitors and developing new methodology involving flow chemistry. Alex is an excellent instructor and earned the CSUPERB Crellin Pauling Student Teaching award in January 2020. Alex plans on working in the pharmaceutical industry once he earns his MS degree.
ERIC AND ALYSE STREITBERGER SCIENCE EDUCATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Dr. Eric Streitberger to provide support to Chemistry majors who wish to pursue a career in middle or high school science education.

Presented by: Dr. Paula Hudson

Nura Al-Attar came to CSUF in Spring 2018 as a transfer student from UC San Diego and Santa Ana College. She joined the Hudson research lab in Summer 2019. After she graduates in Spring 2021, Nura plans to enter the teaching credential program and pursue a career as a high school teacher.

MATHEMATICS OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Awarded to a graduate teaching assistant for excellence in teaching.

Cristal Gonzalez has excelled in learning about teaching mathematics at the college level. Cristal received her B.A. in Mathematics (Teaching Concentration) (2018) at CSUF, and graduates this semester with an MA Applied Mathematics (2020). Cristal collaborates well with colleagues and designs thoughtful activities. After graduation Cristal plans to teach community college math and apply to doctoral programs for math education.

Guadalupe Merino Campos is a graduate student studying teaching mathematics. Guadalupe has demonstrated her superior teaching ability in both traditional and flipped models of college algebra. Her desire to continue her professional development is evident by her pursuit of an additional certificate in online learning. After graduation this spring, Guadalupe will continue to pursue a career in mathematics education at the community college level.
NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP: TRANSITIONING MATH INTO TEACHING

This program is designed to encourage talented mathematics majors to become highly qualified secondary school mathematics teachers. Santa Ana College and Cal State Fullerton identify students to become Noyce Associates within this program during the freshman and sophomore years in preparation for them to become Noyce Scholars during their junior, senior, and credential years.

Molly Avila is currently a senior majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in teaching. She has been a tutor in the NSM Success Center, a Math Ambassador at Waite Middle School, an Instructor for mathematics and SAT Prep at Tutor Zone in Placentia, an AVID Tutor at Valencia High School, a TMMT Associate, and now a TMMT Scholar.

Christine Belza is currently a teacher candidate with the Foundational Level Mathematics Teaching Credential program. She has her Bachelor’s of Arts in Liberal Studies and is working to become a middle school math teacher. She is currently working as a student teacher at Ladera Vista Junior High School.

Casey Brenenstall is currently a junior majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in teaching. She is a transfer student from Riverside City College. She volunteers at a local elementary school and loves to see student's eyes light up when they hear they're going to start learning a new topic in math.

Savahna Costello is in her junior year majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching. She has aspirations to teach math in an innovative way that allows students to connect more with the material. She also competes for the Women’s volleyball team at CSUF and coaches a youth volleyball team in Yorba Linda, CA.

Yvette Galicia is a fourth year undergraduate majoring in Mathematics with a concentration of teaching and in Child and Adolescent Development (Youth and Adolescence). Outside of studying hard, Yvette enjoys traveling, being a dog mom, and teaching adult students with disabilities in volunteer work where she currently works.

Christine Gamez is an undergraduate majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching. Her interest in teaching began in seventh grade and was solidified in high school when she was an AVID tutor for freshmen. Christine’s favorite part of teaching is witnessing her students’ “ah ha” moment when they finally grasp a true understanding of the material they were struggling with.
Tony Gonzalez has worked as an accountant, consultant, trainer, software implementer, and project manager and now has the opportunity to teach mathematics. After 30 years in the workforce, Tony is excited to transfer his skills and experiences to help students become better problem solvers and have a “productive disposition” with mathematics.

Vanessa Gonzalez is an undergraduate student majoring in Mathematics with concentration in teaching at Cal State Fullerton. She transferred from Mt. San Antonio College. Her goal is to become an excellent math teacher that could help students to understand and enjoy the wonderful world of math.

Rachal Hasson completed her B.A. in Mathematics with a teaching concentration from CSUF in spring 2019 and started the credential program in fall 2019. Rachal has been tutoring for two years and enjoys working with adolescents. She hopes to inspire her future students to find math enjoyable and practical.

Hana Kim earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Biological Sciences at UCI. She discovered her passion for teaching through part-time tutoring. She hopes to help her future students learn to persevere and critically analyze problems in life with the logical reasoning skills developed through math.

Ayrton Maguina is an undergraduate majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in teaching. He plans to pursue a credential in secondary education. His passion lies in making math approachable and fascinating, demonstrating that complex and daunting concepts in math can be captivating and applicable to students’ lives.

Patricia Pintor completed a Bachelors in Mathematics Teacher for Secondary Schools at UC Riverside in 2018. She is currently pursuing a credential in secondary math education with the hopes of becoming a high school teacher. She wants to share her passion for the subject and hopes to be able to change students’ negative perspectives of mathematics.

Felix Ricarte is a transfer student pursuing a Bachelors in Mathematics with a concentration in Math Education. While at Mt. Sac. he was part of the Teacher Preparation Institute program, STEM Teacher Preparation Institute program, Math and Engineering club, Minority Male Initiative, and Phi Theta Kappa honor society.
**Sergio Rios** is a third-year student pursuing a bachelor’s degree in mathematics with a concentration in teaching. Sergio’s goal as a future math teacher is to teach students the benefits that math can offer, and that math can be exciting and enjoyable.

**Jessica Rosete** graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics with a concentration in teaching from CSUF. She is currently pursuing a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Mathematics to become a high school math teacher. Jessica looks forward to advocating for underrepresented students. Her goal as a math educator is to lessen the anxiety high school students experience in math classrooms.

**Quinn Tran** graduated from CSUF with a B.S. in Child Development and a minor in Asian American Studies. She is excited to return to CSUF for a Single Subject Credential in Foundational Level Mathematics. Quinn is passionate about communities and connecting them with her passions in education and math.

**Daniel Zelaya** completed his bachelors in mathematics with a teaching concentration from CSUF with the intention of becoming a high school math teacher. Daniel served as an SI leader for two years, and in that time he became more attentive to the individuals who seek to learn more about math. His goal is to instill interest in mathematics to young minds, so that they may develop confidence in their abilities to problem solve.

**PHYSICS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

*Awarded to recognize physics majors for outstanding service to the department.*

Presented by: Dr. Joshua Smith

**Erick Engelby** is a graduating senior in Physics. He has been extremely active in leading the Physics Club, doing research in the GWPAC lab with Dr. Smith and helping with lab setups and the department office. Erick will continue as a master’s student in physics at CSUF.
OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE AWARD

Awarded to recognize a graduate teaching associate for their outstanding service to the department.

Presented by: Dr. Wylie Ahmed

Sarah Eldeen is a Masters student in Physics working with Dr. Ahmed in the SLAMLabd on active matter research of microscopic self-propelled swimmers. After graduation Sarah plans to work in the biotechnology industry before pursuing her Ph.D., and she recently got married!

CANDICE L. JONES OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to the student who has made a significant contribution to the mission, operation and/or well-being of the Geology Department community. Examples of service include, but are not limited to: taking a leadership role in Geology Club activities; serving as a TA, tutor, or volunteer in GEOL classes; and selflessly assisting others in meeting their educational, research, or outreach objectives.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Priscilla Martinez-Vasquez is an undergraduate geology major recognized for her outstanding academic achievements and service. She is completing an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Knott on the Tephrochronology of the Modelo Formation. Priscilla is the president of the department Geology Club, SI leader, campus tutor, and mentor in the community. She will begin her graduate study at CSUN this fall.
KENNETH GOODHUE-MCWILLIAMS METAMORPHOSIS AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Established by biology Professor Kenneth Goodhue-McWilliams, who passionately supported active learning and high-quality teaching. This award recognizes a graduate TA who demonstrates a continuing focus on student learning as evidenced by their efforts to implement effective teaching methods, innovations, or assessments in their courses. Recipients are nominated by faculty and have served as role models for their peers as they seek to improve their ability to positively influence student learning in biology.

Presented by: Mrs. Nancy Goodhue-McWilliams

Amber Myers is a conscientious and dedicated TA for Biol 302 and 424. She excels at guiding students in open discovery projects and has contributed innovative exam questions. Recently, she has taken a lead role by developing course materials, editing the lab manual, and creating new lab exercises. Her work will have a lasting impact on these courses.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to the student who has made a significant contribution to the department and/or its mission for student success. Services include, but not limited to, teaching, mentoring, leadership, collegiality, assisting other TAs, students, faculty, the department, and/or participation in outreach activities. This award is funded through the Titan Shops Scholarship Program.

Presented by: Dr. Merri Lynn Casem

Kaitlyn Berry served as a TA for Biol 101L for six semesters. As a senior TA she mentors new graduate TAs and has led weekly preparation meetings. In response to recent events, Kaitlyn created course-relevant resources for her course to help students understand the COVID-19 outbreak, basic facts about the virus, and the importance of washing hands and social distancing.
GROUP E – RESEARCH AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS

Awarded to students who are distinguished in one or more areas of research, problem solving, mathematical competition, or coursework.

Angelica Arredondo uses dynamical systems theory to study the shapes formed by giant equilibrium soap bubbles. These shapes provide practical insights into how to optimally construct domes and inflatable structures. Angelica also researched epidemiological models during a summer at UCR.

Brian Becsi was the heart and soul of the Problem Solving Seminar during the academic year 2019-2020. He also participated and successfully contributed to many sessions of the Fullerton Mathematical Circle. Brian participated in the 2019 edition of the Putnam Competition and submitted two notes focused on integration techniques to one of the Mathematical Association of America’s refereed journals.

A BD3-REAP and McNair student, Mr. Juan Cabrera has worked on a research project with Drs. Behseta and Fry-Petit. Juan attended BD3’s Summer program at USC’s brain imaging laboratory and presented his work to fellow students and faculty. Juan is a co-author of a paper in the upcoming issue of *Dimension* on applying machine learning methods to solid state chemistry.

Jasmine Camero’s work was recognized twice as an MAA Outstanding Poster and once as an MAA Honorable Mention for a Student Poster. Additionally, her work led to two publications in *Forum Geometricorum* and the *International Electronic Journal of Geometry*. The content of her work is included in her Research Cognate Thesis and GRAM Thesis. Her work is one of the most successful records ever attained by a CSUF undergraduate student in mathematics, both in terms of recognition of poster presentations and as publications.

Mireya Cintora started working in the Spring 2020 as facilitator for the Fullerton Mathematical Circle. Mireya Cintora is a co-author to a paper written with Anael Verdugo, Roberto Soto and Bogdan Suceavă, currently in the editorial process with a specialized refereed journal.
In work initiated as a WAVE Fellow at Caltech and continued at CSUF, Roberto Hernandez studied the Davenport constant of finite abelian groups. He combed through difficult combinatorial literature and developed interesting results relating the size of this constant, the group, and the Olson constant. He received an MAA Outstanding Poster Award for this work at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

Sushanth Sathish Kumar is a high-school student currently enrolled in Math 430, Number Theory. Sushanth submitted 15 solutions to problems posed in the American Mathematical Monthly and 20 solutions to problems posed in Crux Mathematicorum. Sushanth will submit a paper entitled An Interesting Series and The Geometric Mean of the Numbers in a Positive Interval to the 2020 issue of Dimensions.

A BD3-REAP student, Ms. Gwendolyn Lind has worked on a joint project with CSUF’s College of Public Health and Human Development on exploring relationships between caffeine, alcohol and smoking with vigorous physical activity in a nationally representative sample. Ms. Lind attended BD3’s Summer research program at USC’s brain imaging laboratory and presented her work to fellow students and faculty.

Breanna McBean is a highly active undergraduate researcher, who has worked on research projects in population dynamics, equilibrium interfaces, diabetic kidney disease and children’s cognitive development. The last two projects were carried out during summer research programs at Yale University and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

Verenalei Schoenfeld participated for the first time in the Putnam Competition in December 2019. Verenalei is part of an ongoing research group focused on an Computational Techniques in Mathematical Analysis. She contributed substantially to two mathematical notes, both focused on integration techniques, currently submitted to one of the Mathematical Association of America’s refereed journals.

Double-majoring in Physics and Mathematics, William Terry has done research in exploring electron scattering, and topologies of quotients of matrix spaces. He earned an MAA Outstanding Student Poster award at the 2020 JMM, and is now a finalist in the CSU Student Research Competition. He was accepted to the UC Riverside Mathematics Ph.D. program, and wants to pursue further research into Mathematical Physics.
Erica Ward’s research at CSUF focuses on developing and analyzing mathematical models of micro- and nanoscale fabrication, which notably have impacts in both personalized medicine and technology. Erica also participated in a summer project at Cornell University, a prestigious Ivy League school, where she investigated the stability-optimality duality for solutions of a dynamical system arising in microsurgical applications.

CHERYL AND CARL CARRERA MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Dr. Cheryl Carrera to recognize a student majoring in mathematics who faces unique challenges, personally and/or academically.

Summer Andrews received her B.S. in Psychology with a focus in Neuroscience from Florida State University in 2016. Summer currently works two jobs: tutoring, and teaching a chemistry class in a school serving special-need students with emotional and behavioral disorders, and attends graduate school with a full load. She will be an excellent role model at the community college level.

OUTSTANDING MARC STUDENT AWARD

Given to a graduating Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) scholar who has demonstrated commitment to a biomedical research career, has performed high quality research and course work at CSUF, and will be attending a high-quality Ph.D. program in the fall. This award is funded through the Titan Shops Scholarship Program.

Presented by: Dr. Amybeth Cohen

Elizabeth Hitch is a Biological Science major who works in the laboratory of Dr. Niroshika Keppetipola to determine the role of linker regions in polypyrmidine tract binding protein 2 neuronal splicing regulation. In 2018, Liz participated in the UCLA-SPUR-LABS summer research program. She will enter the Molecular, Cellular, and Structural Biology Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota in fall 2020.

Kendra Paquette is a Psychology major who conducts research in the laboratory of Dr. Iris Blandon-Gitlin. Kendra has earned Dean’s list recognition every semester, presented her research at several meetings, and participated in the PREP summer research program at the University of Wisconsin (UW)–Madison in 2019. Kendra will enter a PhD program in Psychology at UW-Madison in fall 2020.
GRAM SCHOLARS RECOGNITION AWARD

The Graduate Readiness and Access in Mathematics (GRAM) program offers comprehensive training and preparation for undergraduate math majors aspiring to earn a graduate degree in the mathematical sciences (mathematics, mathematics education, and statistics).

Anthony Andrade joined the GRAM program in 2019 in statistics under the research supervision of Dr. Valerie Poynor. Despite joining the program midstream, Anthony adapted immediately to the GRAM culture and has done excellent work. Anthony will defend his GRAM thesis in April 2020, and he plans to join the M.S. in Statistics program at CSUF starting Fall 2020.

Angelica Arredondo was a GRAM Scholar from 2017—2019 in applied mathematics under the research supervision of Dr. Nicholas Brubaker. Her GRAM research involved studying the “Shape of Large Soap Bubbles”, and she defended her thesis in April 2019. She plans to enroll in a Masters program in Applied Mathematics in Fall 2020, likely at Cal Poly Pomona.

Jasmine Camero is completing two years in GRAM this spring, and her thesis with Dr. Brubaker “A Simplified Model of Surface Tension Induced Folding” will be defended in April 2020. Jasmine has given award-winning research presentations at regional and national conferences and attended a prestigious REU at Brown University (2019). In Fall 2020, Jasmine will pursue a mathematics Ph.D. at Emory University.

Roberto Hernandez completed GRAM in 2019 with research advisor Dr. Laura Chowdhury. In addition to his award-winning GRAM research, Roberto also conducted research at the University of Houston and at Caltech as a WAVE Scholar, where more national recognition followed. His interests span pure and applied mathematics, and he will be starting a Ph.D. program at Emory University in Fall 2020.

2019 winner of the Mathematics Department’s most prestigious undergraduate award, the Stiel Prize, Cameron Hooper finished GRAM under research mentor Dr. Laura Chowdhury. He also conducted chemistry and statistics research and will pursue a Ph.D. in statistics. He has received offers from several programs. As a GRAM Scholar, Cameron received numerous local, regional, and national awards and represented GRAM with distinction.
Alexandro Luna has amassed an incredible record of scholarship as a GRAM Scholar 2018—2020, including two peer-reviewed publications in high quality journals, and two more in progress. His research in analysis is conducted with Dr. Zair Ibragimov, and Alex has taken almost every course in pure mathematics offered at CSUF. He plans to attend graduate school in Fall 2020 in the University of California system.

Breanna McBean is not only the 2020 Stiel Prize recipient in the mathematics department, she has been a remarkably successful GRAM Scholar and math major at CSUF. Her classroom success, research accomplishments, and service to the campus have been unmatched, and we will be sad losing a scholar of her caliber when she moves to Michigan to begin her Ph.D. studies.

Mahzaib Quraishi joined the GRAM program mid-year in 2019 in the midst of a project in applied mathematics supervised by Dr. Anael Verdugo. She has worked effectively both as an independent researcher as well as a peer mentor for her fellow GRAM Scholars. Her communication skills and enthusiasm for professional work are superb, and she has contributed greatly to GRAM this year.

Danielle Sebring is a GRAM Scholar with emphasis in statistics under Dr. Valerie Poynor since 2018 and will graduate in May 2020. She will attend a Ph.D. program in statistics at Virginia Tech in Fall 2020. As a GRAM Scholar, Danielle excelled in studying sports analytics and gave several research presentations locally, regionally, and nationally. She has a very bright research future ahead!

Jose Toledo Luna graduated from GRAM with his math major in 2019 and is now enrolled in the M.S. in Statistics program at CSUF. Following his Masters degree in 2021, Jose plans to apply for Ph.D. programs in statistics. His primary interests are theoretical in nature and his GRAM thesis, conducted with supervision from Dr. Jessica Jaynes, was defended in April 2019.

Erica Ward will graduate in May 2020 following two years in GRAM doing research with Dr. Nicholas Brubaker. Erica made incredible strides in her mathematical and career path in GRAM, and she became one of the strongest graduates from the program. She’s a much-awarded scholar, was recruited by many Ph.D. programs, and is planning to attend the University of California system.
Francisco Zepeda’s GRAM thesis, “Finding Osculating Circles with Rational Center and Radius”, was conducted in number theory under the direction of Dr. Christopher Lyons. Frankie will defend his thesis in Spring 2020 and will pursue a career as a high school math teacher following graduation. Frankie’s enthusiasm for mathematics was contagious and always brightened the atmosphere in the GRAM Seminar.

DAVID L. WALKINGTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded annually by the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum to a Biology student who has chosen botany for their career. The scholarship is named in memory of Dr. David L. Walkington, Professor of Biology, renowned science educator, and director of the Fullerton Arboretum from 1985 to 1993. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum.

Joseph Michaud is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Schenk, and works as a TA in the Biology Department. His thesis project focuses on defining the mechanism of positive xylem pressure in bamboo. Joseph hopes to pursue a career and continue research in environmental science and physiological plant ecology because of his interest in agriculture and native habitat.

JAMES STERNBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Established in memory of Dr. James Sternberg, a distinguished scientist with Beckman Instruments, to assist students who excel in academic performance and show promise in research.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Ryan Hicken earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Ryan is employed full time as an acrylic polymer researcher for the architectural coatings industry. At CSUF, Ryan is working in Dr. Salzameda’s laboratory synthesizing small molecule inhibitors against the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite, which causes Chagas disease. Ryan plans to work in the pharmaceutical industry once he earns his MS degree.
BRAD VAN MOURIK INTERFACE OF COMPUTERS WITH CHEMISTRY AWARD

This award honors many years of service that Brad van Mourik provided the department as computer technician. It recognizes excellence on a project that combines chemistry or biochemistry with computation analysis.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Sophya Alamudun will graduate this spring with a B.S. Chemistry degree. Working in the Petit lab, Sophya is developing structure-function relationships in photobases, molecules that become strong bases after becoming electronically excited. Sophya has also served as a Supplemental Instruction leader for organic chemistry. Beginning this fall, Sophya will pursue a PhD in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Presented by: Dr. Stevan Pecic

Mark Rodriguez is a 4th-year undergraduate student majoring in biochemistry. His goal is to pursue a career in the medical field as an optometrist. Mark joined Dr. Pecic’s research lab in order to grasp a better understanding of the practical uses of medicinal chemistry in society. Additionally, he hopes to gain knowledge and experience that is applicable to the workforce. Currently, he’s planning on applying to Marshall B. Ketchum university once he graduates.

GLENN NAGEL SCHOLARSHIP

Established to honor the memory of Dr. Glenn Nagel. Professor Nagel was a strong advocate of undergraduate research experiences as a faculty member, department chair, and Associate Dean. This scholarship is given to an outstanding undergraduate student to provide financial support for undergraduate research experiences.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Kyle Tanovitz is a B.S. Chemistry major who will graduate in spring semester 2021. Kyle is working in the Petit lab to develop structure-function relationships in photobases, molecules that become strong bases after absorbing light. Kyle also serves a Supplemental Instruction leader for physics. Kyle plans to pursue graduate studies in chemistry or chemical engineering after graduation.
CONSTANCE BEECH EIKER AND RAYMOND V. ADAMS
CREATIVITY AWARD

Funded by former distinguished professor and department founder Ray Adams in memory of Constance B. Eiker. Awarded to physics majors who, with faculty supervision, design an experiment for use as a lecture demo or in a department teaching laboratory.

Presented by: Dr. Heidi Fearn

David Matalon is a graduate student who is fabricating the next generation torsional balance for measuring micro Newton size forces. This is related to the Mach effect space drive project which is a NASA funded project.

Presented by: Dr. Wylie Ahmed

Anthony Estrada is an undergraduate physics major. He works in the SLAMLab, working with Dr. Ahmed on active matter research of autonomous robots and their collective motion. He built this experiment from scratch and has collected exciting preliminary data. Anthony has volunteered as a STEM tutor for outside organizations, including School on Wheels.

PREM K. SAINT HYDROLOGY AWARD

Awarded to a Geological Sciences or Environmental Studies (with Environmental Sciences emphasis) major with a GPA of 3.0 or better for the previous academic year. The recipient must show outstanding academic performance in course work and/or research in Hydrology, Hydrogeology or Water Quality.

Presented by: Dr. Richard Laton & Prem K. Saint

Terrinda Alonzo Terrinda’s exciting MS work on filter packs associated with water well construction has the potential to improve the overall efficiency of water production. Terrinda research was honored by winning the 2019 Student Farvolden Award at NGWA’s Annual Groundwater Expo.
JOHN D. COOPER FIELD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established in the name of the late John D. Cooper, a CSUF professor and renowned stratigrapher who valued geologic field work. The recipient will be enrolled in GEOL 481A – Field Camp in the upcoming summer.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Julia Rosenblit will use the Cooper scholarship to attend field camp in California this summer. Julia has a 3.68 Geology GPA and is currently working with Dr. Akciz on a paleoseismic research project along the San Andreas Fault. She is also working for TexNet Seismic Observatory, collecting high-quality location data on earthquakes in Texas.

MARILYN A. BROWN AWARD

Awarded to a graduate student conducting research in the general areas of paleontology or stratigraphy, and having an expressed or demonstrated interest in teaching or educational outreach.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Katrina Awalt earned a Teaching and Learning Certificate for Graduate Students and participated in outreach events with the public. Katrina’s senior thesis was on the fossil leatherback turtles, her graduate thesis is on fossil marine mammals. She has presented her research at the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology Meetings in 2013 and 2018.
GROUP F – UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

GLORYA WELCH SCHOLARSHIP

*Named in memory of Glorya Welch, this scholarship is awarded to an outstanding transfer student in their first year at CSUF.*

**Presented by:** Dr. Marcos Ortega

**Jaime Silva** is a graduate of OC Community College and participated in Project RAISE, where he was highly productive. He transferred to CSUF in Fall 2019 to major in Biochemistry and continue working in the Ortega lab. Jaime is a tremendously hard worker who wears many hats on and off campus. Jaime will pursue a career in health professions upon graduation.

CHEMISTRY BOOK SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Given to students who have been recommended by the faculty based on high academic achievement and who have demonstrated financial need. Funding comes from a program established by the Titan Shops campus bookstore.*

**Presented by:** Dr. Stevan Pecic

**Veng Hout Ty** is a third-Year undergraduate student at California State University, Fullerton. Majoring in biochemistry, Veng Hout wants to pursue his degree in pharmacy school. Currently, while a full-time student, he is working as a case manager at a non-profit organization, assisting Cambodian refugees. He joined Dr. Pecic’s research laboratory in order to have a foundational understanding of drug molecules, which he can apply in the pharmacy school.

**Presented by:** Dr. Niroshika Keppetipola

**Haylena Nguyen** will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry this spring. She joined Dr. Keppetipola’s research group in Spring 2019 to investigate the role of chemical modifications in RNA binding proteins that regulate gene expression in mammalian cells. Haylena participated in the internship program and is working at HBT labs. Haylena plans to continue contributing to the biotechnology workforce while pursuing a masters’ s degree in chemistry upon graduation.
Presented by: Dr. Stevan Pecic

Thanh Le is currently in her senior year majoring in Chemistry. She enjoyed synthesizing organic compounds and learning chemical mechanisms. She is part of Dr. Pecic's chemistry research lab working on a project to design and synthesize many novel analogs that have a promising therapeutic approach to treat several diseases such as pain and chronic inflammation. Thanh has been accepted to the pharmacy program at UC San Diego.

Presented by: Dr. Allyson Fry-Petit

Jose Gonzalez Jimenez is a senior B.S. Chemistry major working in the Fry-Petit Research lab where he is working to understand solids that transport oxygen. Jose says he has found his passion in the study of inorganic chemistry and will be applying to doctoral programs this fall.

OUTSTANDING GENERAL CHEMISTRY AWARD

Given for outstanding achievement in the one-year sequence of General Chemistry.

Presented by: Dr. Daniel Curtis

Dung (Leah) Duong started at CSUF as a first-year student in 2018 pursuing a Bachelor of Science major in chemistry and minors in Mathematics and Criminal Justice. She joined the Curtis Research Lab in Spring 2020 performing measurements of potentially harmful compounds in the aerosol plumes from electronic cigarettes. She plans to become a forensic scientist after graduating.

Presented by: Dr. Barbara Gonzalez

Daniel Soraino is a sophomore pursuing a B.A. Chemistry degree. He has a GPA of 4.00, earning Dean’s list recognition every semester at CSUF. A STEER Scholar. His immediate plans are to enter the STEM energy industry immediately after graduation. After experience in industry, he is interested in studying fuel cells in a graduate research laboratory.
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARD

Given to a graduating senior chemistry/biochemistry major based on academic accomplishments.

Presented by: Dr. John Haan

Kimberly Hendrix earns this ACS Award for her outstanding achievements in chemistry during her undergraduate career at CSUF. She earned top grades in a very challenging chemistry curriculum, and she is completing her 2-year Honors research project on understanding the roles of chemical fuel and catalyst isomers in a fuel cell that is powered by Vitamin C in the lab of Dr. John Haan.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY DIVISION OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

Given for outstanding performance in analytical chemistry and laboratory courses, sponsored by the Analytical Division of the American Chemical Society.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Thao Tran will graduate this spring with a B.S. in Biochemistry. As a member of the Petit lab, she studies reactive radical cation intermediates using computational chemistry. Thao also serves the department as a Supplemental Instruction leader in analytical chemistry. Beginning this fall, Thao will pursue a PhD in chemistry at the University of Southern California.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY DIVISION OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY
UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Given to a student who has demonstrated excellence in inorganic chemistry, both in the classroom and the research laboratory. Sponsored by the Division of Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society.

Presented by: Dr. Allyson Fry-Petit

Mark Abad is a senior B.S. Biochemistry major working in the Fry-Petit lab where he is working to understand solids that transport oxygen. Mark earned a perfect score in inorganic chemistry and will be applying for occupational therapy programs this fall.
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
DIVISION OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Given to a student who has demonstrated excellence in organic chemistry, both in the classroom and the research laboratory. Sponsored by the Division of Organic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Jordan Thompson is a graduating Honors student majoring in Biochemistry and works in Dr. Nicholas Salzameda’s laboratory synthesizing novel inhibitors for the botulinum neurotoxin. Jordan has been accepted into PhD chemistry programs at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Riverside and USC for Fall 2020. She plans on working in the pharmaceutical industry after she earns her PhD.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
DIVISION OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY
UNDERGRADUATE AWARD IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

Given for outstanding performance in physical chemistry and laboratory courses, sponsored by the Physical Division of the American Chemical Society.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Sophya Alamudun will graduate this spring with a B.S. Chemistry degree. Working in the Petit lab, Sophya is developing structure-function relationships in photobases, molecules that become strong bases after becoming electronically excited. Sophya has also served as a Supplemental Instruction leader for organic chemistry. Beginning this fall, Sophya will pursue a PhD in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTS AWARD

Given to a graduating senior based on GPA and research accomplishments.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Jordan Thompson (bio above)
EXCELLENCE IN BIOCHEMISTRY AWARD

Given for outstanding performance in the introductory biochemistry lecture and laboratory courses.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

Thao Tran will graduate this spring with a B.S. Biochemistry degree. As a member of the Petit lab, she studies reactive radical cation intermediates using computational chemistry. Thao also serves the department as a Supplemental Instruction leader in analytical chemistry. Beginning this fall, Thao will pursue a PhD in chemistry at the University of Southern California.

Presented by: Dr. Nicholas Salzameda

Jordan Thompson is a graduating Honors student majoring in Biochemistry and works in Dr. Nicholas Salzameda’s laboratory synthesizing novel inhibitors for the botulinum neurotoxin. Jordan has been accepted into PhD chemistry programs at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Riverside and USC for Fall 2020. She plans on working in the pharmaceutical industry after she earns her PhD.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Awarded to recognize physics majors for outstanding contributions to the department.

Presented by: Dr. Gina Passante

Maxx Sanner is graduating in May 2018 with degrees in physics and music. Maxx has an impressive GPA and has been on the Dean’s List every semester. Maxx is planning to combine his physics and music skills into a career in acoustics.
MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Awarded for academic achievement in mathematics courses, as well as for maintaining a high overall grade point average.

Double-majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics, Matthew Braun combined the fields in Knot Theory research. Despite numerous 20+-unit semesters, Matthew earned a single A- in Math, a single A- in CS, and then exclusively A's and A+'s across both disciplines. Having interned with them, Matthew is looking to continue working at Cisco, and is considering graduate school in his future.

Cameron Hooper is graduating with a mathematics degree, earning a 3.74 overall GPA. Joint with his stellar coursework, he has been active in research, winning several awards for his presentations at regional and national conferences. He has been accepted into numerous prestigious graduate programs across the nation, and he has chosen the North Carolina State University’s statistics doctoral program.

Alexandro Luna is a strong and passionate student. Not only has he earned stellar grades in his mathematics courses, but he has participated in multiple research projects, both on and off campus, resulting in several preprints and publications.

Breanna McBean is a highly decorated mathematics major who has completed all her semesters at CSUF with a perfect GPA, including seven A pluses in upper-level math courses. Notably she participated in two summer research projects at Yale and MIT-Harvard, was a Graduate Research and Access in Mathematics scholar.

Khoi Nguyen recently migrated to the U.S. from Viet Nam. Despite the many challenges associated with the language barrier and working long hours to support himself financially, Khoi will obtain his BA degree in Mathematics this year with distinction. Khoi’s mathematics ability is just amazing and it is reflected by the many A+ in his transcript!

Nhi Pham’s mathematical ability is just exceptional! She finds time to volunteer at her temple teaching bible and language classes for young children. Nhi Pham is definitely a role model for our students: learn and work hard on the subject matter and have a genuine caring for the community. We wish her the best in her graduate study.
Double-majoring in Physics and Mathematics, **William Terry** earned seven A+’s across the first 7 full math courses, straight A’s in Physics, and a 4.0 for seven semesters. He did lab experiments and theoretical research, which won him poster awards, and advancement to the finals of the CSU Student Research Competition. He has been accepted to UC Riverside for a Ph.D. program in Mathematics.

**Erica Ward**, an undergraduate major in modeling-computational track, demonstrates all the ideal characteristics of a successful student. She is intelligent, inquisitive, hard-working and an excellent communicator. Therefore, it shouldn’t come as a surprise to learn she’s earned A’s in her upper-level major courses, completed multiple undergraduate research projects and next year will pursue a Ph.D. at UCI or UC Davis.

**STIEL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS**

Established by Dr. Edsel Stiel and Mrs. Laurie Stiel to recognize and honor students who have demonstrated a strong interest and ability in mathematics and has significant mathematical accomplishment outside of courses.

**Breanna McBean** is a much-awarded scholar who has a host of research projects at CSUF, Yale, and Harvard/MIT’s Broad Institute. She has a perfect CSUF GPA, including many A+ grades in her upper-division math courses. In Fall 2020, she will enter the University of Michigan’s “Program in Biological Sciences” to further her scholarship in applied mathematics and statistics.

**RUSSELL V. AND BETTY L. BENSON SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICS STUDENTS**

Established by the Dr. Russell V. Benson and Betty L. Benson Endowment Fund for Undergraduate Mathematics Students. Awarded to junior or senior mathematics majors for academic achievement.

**Tina Jamshidi Araghi** started here as a non-math major. However, the passion for Mathematics is always there deep in her heart. In her third year, she finally decided to be a math major with a concentration in Actuarial Science. She always works out math problems in detail, and asks soul-searching questions along the way. We wish her well in graduate school next year!
Verenalei Schoenfeld is a scholar in our CSUF Honors Program, pursuing a mathematics major. She currently works on an Honors Thesis under Bogdan Suceavă’s coordination, in which she investigates limiting processes and their connection with discrete dynamical systems. Her Honors Program defense is scheduled for Spring semester 2021. She currently has a one-year long experience as SI facilitator for our calculus classes, where her outstanding mathematical abilities contribute substantially to other students’ success in our program.

RACHEL CARSON SCHOLARSHIP IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
UNDERGRADUATE

Established in 1990 by Biology professor Michael Horn to encourage Biological Science majors (one undergraduate and one graduate student) to pursue a career in the field of conservation biology. This discipline has grown out of the urgency for preserving the earth’s dwindling biological diversity and restoring its damaged habitats and communities.

Presented by: Dr. Michael Horn

Mayra Silva is a SCERP scholar working with Dr. Zacherl studying oyster bed restoration and previously worked with Dr. Burnaford on two projects in marine ecology. Mayra is highly involved with the NSM community, working in the NSM Student Success and Transfer Resource Centers, was a peer mentor for NSM’s Think Like Einstein seminar and an editor for Dimensions.
GROUP G – GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

RACHEL CARSON SCHOLARSHIP IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY GRADUATE

Established in 1990 by Biology professor Michael Horn to encourage Biological Science majors (one undergraduate and one graduate student) to pursue a career in the field of conservation biology. This discipline has grown out of the urgency for preserving the earth’s dwindling biological diversity and restoring its damaged habitats and communities.

Presented by: Dr. Michael Horn

Angelina Zuelow is an MS student in Dr. Burnaford’s lab studying the effects of a canopy-forming alga on communities across a broad geographic range. She brings tremendous energy and commitment to both her research and her teaching at CSUF. She has been an officer in the CSUF chapter of SACNAS for two years and is currently the chapter president.

VIOLET HORN GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Established in 2015 by Biological Science professor, Dr. Michael Horn, to support an outstanding MS Biology applicant with stellar academic record, relevant research experience, strong recommendations and potential for success as a research student at CSUF.

Presented by: Dr. Michael Horn

Madison Wilson, a graduate student in Dr. Paig-Tran’s lab, received the Violet Horn Research Fellowship in 2019. Her research focuses on understanding sound conduction in baleen and toothed whales and involves a mix of anatomical examinations, computational modeling, and sophisticated testing techniques (laser vibrometry). Maddy graduated with a Bachelor's in Science from the University of Washington.

Brandon Quintana, is the recipient of the 2020 Violet Horn Graduate Research Fellowship. Brandon will join Dr. Zacherl’s lab in Fall 2020. His thesis work will focus on the biogeography and restoration of the Olympia oyster in California. Brandon received his Bachelor of Science degree from UC Santa Barbara.
L. JACK BRADSHAW SCHOLARSHIP IN IMMUNOLOGY

Established in 2006, in memory of L. Jack Bradshaw, former faculty member of the Department of Biological Science who retired in 1988 after more than 20 years of teaching and mentoring students. A specialist in immunology, Bradshaw gained attention for his research on Ehrlich ascites malignancy, a common cancer in mice.

Presented by: The Bradshaw Family

Kellen Henning is an undergraduate in Biological Science, with a minor in Health Science. She is a MARC Scholar and conducts research in Dr. Melanie Sacco’s lab. Her research goal is to identify plant cell proteins that interact with polerovirus protein P0 during infection. Kellen became interested in virology because of previous outbreaks and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in virology.

COPPEL GRADUATE SCIENCE AWARD

Established in the fall of 1995 by retired CSUF science reference librarian Lynn Coppel and her husband, Claude. The Coppel Graduate Science Award is given annually to an outstanding biology graduate student.

Presented by: Mr. Claude Coppel

Joseph Michaud is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Schenk, and works as a TA in the Biology Department. His thesis project focuses on defining the mechanism of positive xylem pressure in bamboo. Joseph hopes to pursue a career and continue research in environmental science and physiological plant ecology because of his interest in agriculture and native habitat.

Bryce Perog is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Zacherl, and works as a TA in the Biology Department. Her thesis project aims to create ways to mitigate the decline of native oyster population. After finishing her degree, Bryce would like to pursue a career in environmental science and work for a company that addresses environmental issues.
Valerie Goodwin is a M.S. student in the laboratory of Dr. Zacherl, and works as a GA in the Biology Department. Her thesis project focuses on understanding the factors involved in creating resilient oyster and eelgrass beds that were previously restored and how to prevent them from degrading again. Valerie plans to enter a PhD program in marine conservation and environmental science.

DR. AND MRS. DONALD B. BRIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established in summer 1994 in memory of the late Donald B. Bright, former faculty member and chair of the Department of Biological Science. Dr. Bright’s professional energy in the latter part of his career was devoted to his consulting firm, which assisted both the private and public sectors in solving various problems associated with the environment, including biological studies, habitat restoration, and issues of hazardous waste, air quality, and land use planning.

Presented by: Ms. Debbie Bright Stevens

Sydnee Dunn, a SCERP scholar, works with Dr. Hoese to study the invasion of an avian brood parasite, including analysis of birdsong to identify potential southern California host species. Sydnee also serves as a Desert Docent, supporting education programs at the Desert Studies Center. After graduation, Sydnee plans to gain experience in environmental consulting before pursuing a Ph.D. in conservation.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Awarded to recognize graduating master’s candidates for outstanding scholarship in their physics coursework and for outstanding service as teaching assistants.

Presented by: Dr. Josh Smith

Elenna Capote is a graduating Masters student in Physics. She leads an experiment to measure the optical scattering of thin-film coatings versus temperature in the GWPAC lab, with Dr. Smith. She has been accepted to a number of PhD institutions and is currently deciding which to attend.
KATHRYN GODSHALK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the family of Ms. Kathryn Godshalk to recognize distinction in mathematics study and to provide financial assistance to graduate students.

Steven Candelaria received his B.S. in Mathematics and Applied Science (with an emphasis in Medical and Life Sciences) from UCLA in 2018. He is currently teaching as a substitute in the Riverside Unified School District, and stays busy with his 2-year old son. He plans to teach at a community college after completing the Master’s degree in Mathematics (Teaching Option).

MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, GRADUATE LEVEL – APPLIED PROGRAM

Awarded to the outstanding graduate students in the M.A. in Mathematics Program – Applied Math Option.

Sean Cantarini is a star student in our Applied Math graduate program, one of the best students we have had in a generation. After scoring nearly perfect scores on all of his work in his first year, Sean finally did slip up and earned an A (instead of an A+) in one of his classes. We expect he will recover.

Joshua Hartman is an outstanding student who juggles a full-time job and a family with his studies in the applied math graduate program. Despite this, Joshua has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA and even managed to work in extra projects on the side. Always curious and conscientious, in addition to a master of time management.

MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, GRADUATE LEVEL – STATISTICS PROGRAM

Awarded to the outstanding graduate student in the M.S. in Statistics program.

Brian Schetzsle is a gifted and dedicated student in the Statistics Masters Program. His innate curiosity for the statistical world fuels his determination and success. He has worked with Dr. Poynor on "Dirichlet Process Mixture Modeling for Bivariate Mean Residual Life," and has accepted an offer into the Computational Science PhD Program at the University of California Irvine.
Ms. Han Yin is completing her graduate degree in Statistics with a 4.0 GPA. Han has worked with Dr. Behseta, as an undergraduate and graduate student, on a variety of research projects, utilizing high dimensional statistical and machine learning models for solving complex problems in Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Shahrestani); Solid-State Chemistry (Dr. Fry-Petit); and Education (Dr. Pagni), among others.

MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT,
GRADUATE LEVEL – TEACHING PROGRAM

Awarded to the outstanding graduate students in the M.A. in Mathematics Program – Teaching Option.

Casey Finfrock will graduate from the Master’s in Mathematics (Teaching Option) program this May. Mr. Finfrock graduated magna cum laude (06) and earned his master’s in Education (08) and teaching credential from the University of Redlands in 2006. He has recently moved to Oregon, where he teaches at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego.

Kimberlee Nomura has excelled in mathematics and its pedagogy. Kim received her B.A. in Mathematics (Teaching Concentration 2018) at CSUF and graduates this semester with an MA Mathematics (Teaching Option 2020) with a 4.0 GPA. After graduation Kim will continue teaching math and is considering a PhD in mathematics education.

APPLIED MATH SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF
LILA B. AND MAJOR THEODORE HROMADKA

Awarded to the best first-year graduate student in M.A. Program – Applied Option in honor of Dr. Theodore Hromadka’s parents.

Robert Hays is an excellent student who works days as a math teacher and nights he comes to our graduate program. Perhaps due to his day job, Rob’s homework sets are so good that they can be (and sometimes are) used by his instructors as solution sets when grading the rest of the class. For this, we thank him.
Established by the Dr. Russell V. Benson and Betty L. Benson Endowment Fund for Graduate Mathematics Students. Awarded to graduate students for academic achievement.

Duy Nguyen is currently undertaking a Masters in Applied Mathematics after a distinguished undergraduate education at CSUF, where he was a Sally Casanova Scholar and LSAMP Fellow. He blends his passion for mathematics and teaching through his excellent work at the NSM Tutoring Center. He has completed undergraduate research on Maxwell's equations and is currently finalizing a paper based on this work.
GROUP H – FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Jennifer L. Burnaford is recognized for her outstanding contributions to student success. From securing funding for teaching related activities that supports undergraduate field experiences for lower division biology core courses to getting funding for her rocky intertidal monitoring and other research programs, Dr. Burnaford has directly contributed to student success. She is a key collaborator in the California coast-wide Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe), hiring students to participate and be trained by experts in field protocols and species identification, while allowing for networking with many constituents that broaden students’ reach into ecology and related careers. She is the Co-Director of the Southern California Ecosystems Research Program (SCERP) which is an intensive field research training program that actively encourages participation to minority students underrepresented in science.

Dr. Burnaford saw the need to develop a way for students to experience a broad and integrative support network that went across colleges, departments and majors within departments. To address this need, she worked diligently to complete the requirements to form a CSUF chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in a record five months. Dr. Burnaford is a contributing member of multiple Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committees working to promote and embrace all students equally.
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Math Cuajungco is an outstanding researcher and mentor in the Department of Biological Science. He studies the molecular basis of Mucolipidosis type IV disease, including the role of ion channels. Dr. Cuajungco has maintained an externally-funded research program, which has led to numerous conference presentations with his students and nine published articles in peer-reviewed journals, five co-authored with students. He has also served on grant review panels and been a reviewer for a number of scientific journals. Dr. Cuajungco directed the Research Careers Preparatory (RCP) Program through 2016, creating a pipeline for students to a number of CNSM research programs. He is currently the coordinator of the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program and collaborated with CSUF colleagues on a Research Education Grant entitled “Big Data Discovery and Diversity,” which trains diverse CSUF undergraduates on Data Science.

OUTSTANDING LECTURER

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Ashley Thune-Aguayo’s educational and career path embodies what is special about Cal State Fullerton: an undergraduate and graduate mathematician who has risen to the rank of faculty and become a mentor for the next generation of Titans. Ever since joining the mathematics department in 2013, Ms. Thune-Aguayo has been at the forefront of utilizing cutting-edge pedagogical practices, including the flipped classroom paradigm, and technological tools such as Zoom, VoiceThread and Camtasia. The consistently positive support and feedback that she receives from students is merely a reflection of her success and popularity as an instructor. Moreover, she has been incredibly active in leadership and service areas. As a Supplementary Instruction (SI) faculty liaison, her team provides additional support for more than 400 students each semester. She has been a coauthor of multiple workbooks on College Algebra and Precalculus. In short, Ms. Thune-Aguayo is a truly dedicated NSM faculty, and a highly effective mathematics educator.
Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Misty Paig-Tran is recognized for outstanding teaching, research and service. She is a highly-regarded teacher with a student-centered approach. She redesigned, through grants, two courses to improve student learning using innovative activities including dissection of human cadavers, anatomy in clay, and online adaptive learning. Dr. Paig-Tran and her research team, 27 students and one postdoctoral researcher to date, conduct research on comparative biomechanics in marine organisms. She has secured several grants including $470k from the National Science Foundation, published seven papers, filed for two patents, and her group has given 35 presentations. Together with her student Raj Divi, Dr. Paig-Tran discovered and published in the prestigious Science Advances a novel filter mechanism in manta rays, “ricochet filtration.” Dr. Paig-Tran has a patent pending for the mechanism’s potential applications to industrial filtration and wastewater treatment. She has also communicated her team’s science through NPR, podcasts, and major print news. Dr. Paig-Tran was recognized nationally with the 2019 Gans Award for distinguished contributions to the field of comparative biomechanics.
STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

**Ed Read** is responsible for the propagation of plants for biology courses and he works with faculty on their greenhouse-related research projects. Ed has become, and continues to be, an invaluable team member in our effort to provide a meaningful learning experience to our biology students. One student said, “He has an aura around him that screams a passion for his work, and it compels myself and other students to work harder.” He has contributed plants for courses but has gone far beyond that many times, becoming actively involved in research designs, modifying the greenhouse environment according to students experiments, and building setups (benches, lighting, and an aquaponics system) for use in classes. Ed never hesitates to drop what he was doing to discuss challenges that arise and always comes up with innovative solutions. In the plant world the Titan Arum, *(Amorphophallus titanum)* has become well understood only recently, and Ed played a pivotal role developing this knowledge. In summary those who work with Ed are effusive in their praise, citing his outstanding service, initiative, and problem-solving skills that go above and beyond normal duties. They could not envision their Department without him.