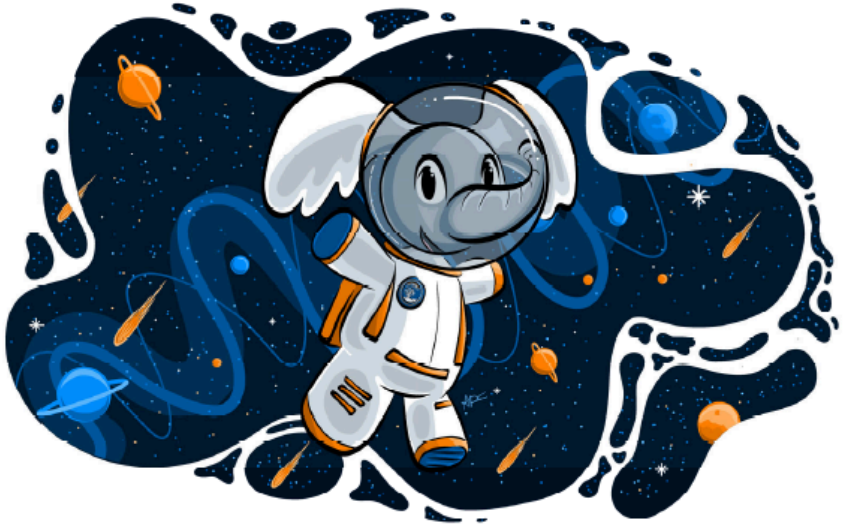


41st Annual Awards Reception



CSUF | COLLEGE OF
**Natural Sciences
and Mathematics**

Friday 19 April 2024
CSUF Titan Student Union

5:30 p.m. Check-In and Appetizers
6:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony



Welcome

Dean Marie Johnson, Ph.D.

Emcees

Dr. Sean Walker and Mr. Jeremy Hansen

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
Undergraduate Achievement Awards
Graduate Achievement Awards
Faculty and Staff Awards

To download the program, visit:

<http://nsm.fullerton.edu/awards/program>

To download the photos from this evening, visit:

<http://anderkid.smugmug.com>

Gallery: NSM 2024 **Password:** awards

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- Glenn and Takeshi Nakaya Scholarship
- Constance Beech Eiker and Raymond V. Adams Creativity Fellowship
- Dr. and Mrs. Donald B. Bright Environmental Scholarship
- Dr. and Mrs. Marvin J. Rosenberg Scholarship
- Jerome Wilson Memorial Scholarship

Group D: Teaching and Service Awards

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- NSM-ICC Executive Officers
- Dimensions Journal of Undergraduate Research
- Lyle Wallace Service Award
- Mark Lackey Award for Graduate Teaching
- Clemens-Knott² Scholarship
- Candice L. Jones Outstanding Service Award
- Kenneth Goodhue-McWilliams Metamorphosis Award for Teaching Excellence

Group E: Research and Special Recognition Awards

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- Outstanding U-Rise Scholar Award
- RADM Pamela Schweiter and Mr. Paul Schweitzer Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship
- David L. Walkington Memorial Scholarship
- Dharm Vireo Pellegrini Memorial Research Grant
- CSUF Research and Instructional Safety Office Scholarship
- James Sternberg Scholarship
- Dr. Andrew and Kay Montana Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry
- Brad van Mourik Interface of Computers with Chemistry Award
- Phil Berriman Award for Research Excellence with Instrumentation
- Glenn Nagel Scholarship
- Noorani Family Scholarship
- Prem K. Saint Hydrology Award
- John D. Cooper Field Camp Award
- John D. Cooper Field Camp Scholarship
- Department of Geological Sciences Alumni Field Camp Scholarship
- Marilyn A. Brown Award
- Armstrong Conference Travel Award
- Paul DeLand Mathematics Research Fellowship
- Stiel Prize for Excellence in Mathematics
- Ferguson Research Fellowship

Group F: Undergraduate Achievement Awards

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- Gloria Welch Scholarship
- Outstanding Academic Achievement, B.A. Earth Science
- Outstanding Academic Achievement, B.S. Geology
- Outstanding Major, B.A. Earth Science
- Outstanding Major, B.S. Geology
- American Chemical Society Award
- American Institute of Chemists Award
- Rose Klein Award in Algebra and Probability for the Secondary Teacher
- Physics Outstanding Undergraduate Senior Award
- Jewel Plummer Cobb Scholarship
- Rachel Carson Scholarship in Conservation Biology (UG)

Group G: Graduate Achievement Awards

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- Rachel Carson Scholarship in Conservation Biology (GRAD)
- Violet Horn Graduate Research Fellowship in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology
- Murray Fellowship
- Stanley Hillman & Lon McClanahan Scholarship in Plant or Animal Physiological Ecology
- Coppel Graduate Science Award
- Physics Outstanding Master's Candidate Award
- Physics Outstanding Teaching Associate Award
- Applied Math Scholarship in Honor of Lila B. and Major Theodore Hromadka
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Geology
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate in Geology
- Maria Linder Nielson Endowed Graduate Fellowship

Group H: Faculty and Staff Awards

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- Outstanding Lecturer
- Outstanding Contributions to Student Success
- Outstanding Research
- Outstanding Untenured Faculty Member
- Staff Excellence Award

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

**Nardin Georgeos
Galt Grotke
Kimberly Maas
Justin Mendiola
Kyle Poon
Sunnyana Trejo
Caleb Valencia
Melissa Valenzuela
Adriana Fernanda Gonzalez**

CSU-LOUIS STOKES 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

**Brandon Avila
Abel Daniel
Dana Jackson
Nourhan Mahmoud
Annabelle Recinos
Jackie Cruz
Jordan Incledon
Khushi Kaushik**

**Daniel Quezada
Ugochinyere Umekwe-Odudu**

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR
STUDENT ENHANCEMENT (U-RISE)**

The U-RISE Program is funded by the National Institutes of Health. It is a two-year program that focuses on recruiting undergraduates from under-represented (ethnicity, race, LGBTQ+) or economically-disadvantaged backgrounds, and those who are neurodiverse or with physical disability. Its main goal is to prepare U-RISE Scholars to enter graduate school for an advanced degree and successfully pursue a career in Biomedical Science research. While in the program, U-RISE Scholars take specific courses to enhance their oral and written communication skills and undertake an independent research project with a mentor. The training is then culminated by a thesis defense presentation and submission of a written thesis document.

Presented by: Dr. Math Cuajungco and Dr. Veronica Jimenez Ortiz

**Heidi Nichole Brown
Nicholas Anthony Furtado
Aubree Faye Krager
Phoebe Kwee
Faye Yun**

GROUP B – COLLEGE AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS 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: Dean Marie Johnson

Senior **Aysha Hernandez** earned an A.A. and A.S. from Oxnard Community College before coming to CSU Fullerton. Aysha majors in Biological Science (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology concentration) with a minor in Geography. She is currently a Big Brother Big Sister program member and has been active with Project RAISE and TRIO SSS during her college career. Upon graduation, she aims to perform conservation research, develop rehabilitation stations, preserve our natural environment, and contribute to saving and protecting our planet's wildlife.

Senior **Jordan Incledon** is a Mathematics major and an Orange Coast College graduate. As a Titan, Jordan presented at several Mathematics conferences, became an LSAMP Research Scholar, and was a 2023 Math Summer Research Scholar. As a Teaching Apprentice for Business Calculus, Jordan has contributed to the academic success of her peers through co-teaching a course while also assisting Dr. Tyler McMillen as a grader. With this background in teaching and research, Jordan plans to attend graduate school after completing her degree.

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: Dean Marie Johnson

Jacqueline Barron is a Freshman Nursing student. As a first-generation student from immigrant parents, Jacqueline grew up “in a crowded home,” learning lessons about patience, determination, and helping others through assisting her parents and sister. Her anatomy teacher inspired her to pursue Nursing, leading her to discover her dream of working in Labor and Delivery or as a pediatric nurse. After graduation, Jacqueline plans to work and then return to CSUF to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing or attend Nurse Practitioner’s school.

Junior **Drashuna Pilcher** is a CSUF Nursing student. As a first-generation college student, her pursuit of higher education was ignited by witnessing her parents’ unwavering dedication to providing her with a better future. Drashuna plans on becoming an Intensive Care Unit nurse and would like to return to her hometown of San Bernardino to help historically underrepresented groups get the care they need. After two years working in the ICU, Drashuna wants to attend the CSUF Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist school to gain her Doctorate and become an anesthetist.

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: Ms. Lauren Meier

Loraine Corona graduated from the Pre-Health Post Baccalaureate Program at Cal State Fullerton in the fall of 2022. In Fall 2024, she will be matriculating to the Tilman J. Fertitta College of Medicine at the University of Houston. She is a first-generation and nontraditional college student with a prior career in marketing and advertising. She has dedicated her time to serving in hospice, memory care facilities, with the homeless, and the LGBTQIA community. As a physician, she will continue her service and dedication to marginalized communities.

Sebastian Momdjian is a Public Health major completing his final semester at CSU Fullerton where he serves as the Vice President of CSUF's Pre-Dental Society. During his two years at CSUF, he has maintained a GPA of 3.92, held a part-time job as a Dental Sterilization Technician, and volunteered over 100 hours locally. He has accepted admission to Western University of Health Sciences Dental Program and will begin his Doctor of Dental Medicine studies this coming Fall semester, aiming to further contribute to his community as a dental health care professional.

KENNETH L. GOODHUE-MCWILLIAMS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Presented by: Ms. Lauren Meier

Abraham Asmare is a junior Biology major at Cal State Fullerton with a concentration in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Abraham is a CSUF Student Health Professions Association board member and volunteers in the Emergency Department at St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton. Abraham also serves as the NSM – Inter-Club Council Chair, helping to organize and fund events and activities for the clubs in NSM. At St. Jude, he provides support and services to patients, and, as the Volunteer Manager notes, "His thoughtfulness and kindness are humbling to watch."

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, 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: Ms. Lauren Meier

Jenilyn Pham is a CSUF sophomore majoring in Public Health with a concentration on Global Health and a minor in Child and Adolescent Studies. She plans to explore her interest in the medical field working with children as a child life specialist or pediatric nurse. In addition to her academic studies, Jenilyn has been volunteering with Children's Hospital of Orange County since June 2023 where she works in the radiology department. In this role she enjoys working as a part of the healthcare team to serve patients and bring joy to children as they wait for their appointments.

GROUP C – DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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 undergraduate mathematics majors.

Presented by: Dr. Cherie Ichinose

Ashley Thibodeaux has a 3.86 GPA in the math teaching concentration and serves the department as a Titan Math Apprentice, mentoring students on foundational math skills and problem-solving techniques. She has conducted research in mathematics education and has highly proficient computational skills. She's a fantastic model of a scholar, and her mathematical talent and determination are inspirational to all.

Presented by: Dr. Cherie Ichinose

Jennifer Webb has a 3.91 GPA in the math teaching concentration. Before attending CSUF, Jennifer attended her local community college where she worked as both an SI Leader and SI Mentor for two years. Jennifer continues to play an active role in our department mentoring students through her role as a TMMT Scholar, participating in tenure-track faculty searches and this summer, she will be a MISS tutor.

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

Established by the Dr. Russell V. Benson and Betty L. Benson Endowment Fund for Graduate Mathematics Students. Awarded to students pursuing a Master's degree in the Department of Mathematics.

Presented by: Dr. Armando Martinez-Cruz

Edgar Lucatero is a math teacher and a Titan at heart. He received his B.A. in Mathematics, Teaching Concentration from CSUF. He is finishing his first year as a graduate student and is currently a TA. He aspires to inspire others to love mathematics. Edgar is a first-gen college student and is already a fantastic role model for our community.

Presented by: Dr. Kristin Kurianski

Brittnie Villasenor earned her bachelor's degree in applied mathematics in 2022 and is now pursuing a Master of Science in computational applied mathematics. Brittnie was a 2022 SoCal Data Science Fellow, a Supplemental Instruction Leader, a Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics member, and is now a Teaching Associate in the Mathematics Department.

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.

Presented by: Dr. Kristin Kurianski

Alexandra Ojeda has greatly impacted the CSUF math department, from supplemental instruction to serving as Teaching Apprentice. She is interested in mathematics education and has co-authored a book review about advocating for students of color in mathematics with Dr. Marzocchi. She is a pleasure to work with and her steady presence in McCarthy Hall testifies to her commitment to academic excellence.

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.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Glesser

Terisa Harlow is a mathematics major in the teaching mathematics concentration. Despite simultaneously working multiple jobs during her time at CSUF, she remains committed and devoted to her studies, showing improvement every semester. Additionally, she has been doing mathematics education research with Dr. Stone-Johnstone and hopes to start another project soon on the effectiveness of corequisite courses on students in calculus classes.

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.

Presented by: Dr. Bridget Druken

Victoria Bender graduated with her BA in Mathematics, Teaching Concentration in Spring 2023 and is currently in the Master's in Mathematics, Teaching Option program where she works as a TA. Victoria enjoys dancing, working out, and going to Disneyland (especially for snacks). Fun fact: Victoria met her husband in their first year at CSUF in a Calculus SI session, and they are expecting their first child this August. Victoria plans to teach at a community college after her Master's.

BRANDON NGHI TRAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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

Presented by: Dr. Matthew Rathbun

Jordan Incledon is an LSAMP Research Scholar with a 4.0 GPA. Her research on knot fibrations with Dr. Rathbun has led to poster presentations at So Cal Conferences for Undergraduate Research and Joint Mathematics Meetings, and talks at the Pure Math Seminar and the CSU Mathematical Sciences Conference. She's done research with Dr. Druken, run a crochet workshop, and volunteers for Math Club. She intends to complete a Ph.D. in Mathematics.

THE MAIJIAN QIAN AND BOB HOUGHTON MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Dr. Maijian Qian and Mr. Bob Houghton to recognize distinction in mathematics study and to provide financial assistance.

Presented by: Dr. Jessica Jaynes

Alondra Gonzalez is an applied mathematics major who has a passion for data science. As a 2023 SoCal Data Science Fellow, she investigated the unique contributions of distal upper extremity motor deficits to stroke impairment and functional outcomes under the joint supervision of Drs. Behseta and Jaynes and a UCI professor. She will spend summer 2024 at USC in the Los Angeles Biostatistics and Data Science Summer Training Program.

LAWRENCE WEILL APPLIED MATHEMATICS SCHOLARSHIP

Established by family and friends in memory of Dr. Lawrence Weill, professor of applied mathematics at CSUF from 1980 to his retirement in 2001, to assist students who are pursuing a degree in Applied Mathematics.

Presented by: Dr. Kristin Kurianski

Sasha Tafolla is a senior pursuing a bachelor's in applied mathematics. She is an ambitious student who was a 2022 SoCal Data Science Fellow, conducted research in the Neurocognitive Aging and Analytics Research Education program, and is a Supplemental Instruction Leader.

She is currently the SIAM Student Chapter Treasurer and is conducting research on a mathematical model for tumor growth and treatment.

THE JAMES FRIEL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established by James and Elizabeth Friel to assist students majoring in Mathematics who are studying Probability and Statistics or Actuarial Science.

Presented by: Dr. Riley Casper

Aaron Kim is currently a sophomore seeking his mathematics degree in the actuarial science concentration. An active citizen in the department, Aaron has begun research with Dr. Loc Nguyen. The Mathematics Department is proud to award the inaugural James Friel Family Endowment to one of our brightest.

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.

Presented by: Dr. Armando Martinez-Cruz

Yesenia Mena Sanchez is passionate about education and loves teaching and learning mathematics. She holds a B.S. with a major in mathematics from CSU San Marcos, and a mathematics credential and a M.A. in Teaching from UC Irvine. She is a mathematics teacher at her Alma Mater, San Clemente High School, where she also coaches cross country. Congratulations Ms. Sanchez!

THE KATHRYN GODSHALK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the family of Mrs. Kathryn Godshalk to recognize distinction in Mathematics study.

Presented by: Dr. Kristin Kurianski

Victoria Bender graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in the mathematics teaching concentration from CSUF in 2023, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in the mathematics teaching

option. Victoria is very thoughtful and meticulous in her academics. After obtaining her master's, she plans to teach at the community college level.

THE NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP: TRANSITIONING MATH MAJORS INTO TEACHING (TMMT)

Established by Drs. Cherie Ichinose, David Pagni, Adam Glesser, and Antoinette Linton who were awarded this National Science Foundation funded Robert F. Noyce grant for 2024-2028.

Presented by: Dr. Cherie Ichinose

Eduardo Castaneda is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching Mathematics, with expected completion in Spring 2025. He grew up in Coachella Valley in Desert Hot Springs where he aims to become a math teacher for the local high school. Eduardo participated in the Southern California Data Science program and is one of our top scholars with a GPA of 3.69.

Ivan Ortega is one of our top scholars with a GPA of 3.54 and is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching Mathematics. Ivan worked as an AVID Tutor at Segerstrom High School for two school years, where he witnessed the post-pandemic effects on student learning. This experience only reaffirmed his goal of teaching math and helped him discover an interest in mentoring.

Ashley Thibodeaux is one of our top scholars with a GPA of 3.86 and is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching Mathematics, with an expected completion in Fall 2024. Ashley joined the Titan Mathematics Apprentice Program in Fall 2022, where her passion for mathematics education was strengthened, and reaffirmed her desire to teach mathematics at the high school level.

Jennifer Webb is a top scholar with a GPA 3.91 and is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Teaching Mathematics, with expected completion in Fall 2024. She has been an apprentice for TMMT since fall of 2022. She hopes to join CSU Fullerton's single subject credential program in the spring of 2025. She has a strong passion for helping others and also loves the subject of math.

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. Ionel Tifrea

Raymond Hartig joined our masters program after he completed a mathematics and physics degree at Whittier College. His research focuses on understanding nonlinear effects related to thermoelectricity in nanoscale systems. Raymond is an outstanding graduate student and he plans to pursue a PhD after his degree at CSUF.

Ryan Johnson is an undergraduate Physics major who works in the Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-wave Physics and Astronomy with Dr. Jocelyn Read. His research focuses on describing model uncertainty for gravitational-wave observations. Ryan also composes music. He anticipates graduating Spring 2025 and hopes to continue his research contributions with a Masters and PhD in Physics.

Samantha Lee joined the Physics Master's program with a degree in Mathematics from UCLA. She is interested in a career in quantum information science and has joined Dr. Passante's physics education research group, where she studies student learning in quantum information. She is designing an undergraduate lab experiment on quantum cryptography that will provide a real-world application of ideas they have learned in early physics courses.

Evan Negrete joined CSUF and the Department of Physics in Fall 2023. He will start research on the subject of collective motion of nematodes. He is an excellent student on the Dean's Honor List, and he plans to continue with a graduate degree after his bachelor's at CSUF.

Elsie Romero is a junior Physics major. She transferred from civil engineering to physics in Spring 2024. She is attracted to soft matter physics because of curiosity to discover the connection between fundamental principles and intriguing daily life phenomena. Her research focuses on the effect of different ions and electric field on wetting behaviors.

Hunter Seropian is a first year graduate physics student. He is working in the electron scattering lab of Dr. Leigh Hargreaves, making high precision measurements of electron hydrogen ionization dynamics. These measurements will be used to critically test state-of-the-art theoretical approaches to the electron molecule scattering problem.

Andrew Sykes is a freshman Physics student. He has been devoted to both his coursework and research. He has great potential to grow into a dedicated researcher in computational physics. He performed well in the preliminary training in computational research upon joining the Shen research group. His research focuses on the effect of different crystallographic surfaces on wetting behaviors on cellulose surfaces.

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. Jocelyn Read

Christopher Badolian is a double major in both Biochemistry and Physics in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He has done research in Chemistry with Dr. Paula Hudson and excelled in his coursework across the Physics curriculum. Christopher anticipates graduating in Spring 2024 and is considering PhD programs in both Chemistry and Physics.

Ryan Johnson is an undergraduate Physics major who works in the Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-wave Physics and Astronomy with Dr. Jocelyn Read. His research focuses on describing model uncertainty for gravitational-wave observations. He is also a Dan Black Fellow and anticipates graduating in Spring 2025. Ryan hopes to continue his research contributions with a Masters and PhD in Physics.

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. Joshua Smith and Dr. Nabila Tanjeem

Travis Counihan is a graduating senior in physics. He has maintained a 3.77 GPA and three straight semesters on the Dean's list while also conducting research in the Nicholas and Lee Begovich Center for Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy.

Nichole Stenersen, a junior in the physics department, has demonstrated extraordinary skills in independent project design and problem-solving in experimental physics. She pursued an ambitious final project, persisted through failures, overcame challenges on her own, and surprised everybody with her design of a Bluetooth-controlled car. She discovered her passion for hands-on experiments, which will pave the way for her future success in experimental science.

NITZBERG AWARD FOR EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS

The Norman Nitzberg Award is presented to a physics student for excellence in experimental physics and use of the machine shop or constructing lab related apparatus.

Presented by: Dr. Leigh Hargreaves

Daniel Murphy is a graduating Physics Major. He worked in the electron scattering lab with Dr. Leigh Hargreaves studying the ionization dynamics for low-energy electrons on molecular hydrogen. Daniel will be moving to graduate study in Fall, with offers at Georgia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University.

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

Alyssa Garrett is an undergraduate geology major. She is completing her undergraduate thesis with Dr. James Parham on 15-million-year-old sea turtle fossils from bonebeds in Kern and Orange Counties. She is preparing her thesis for publication in a scientific journal and will expand the project as a graduate student in the Department of Geological Sciences starting this fall.

Jonathan Munoz is an undergraduate geology major. His thesis research with Dr. Ginny Isava studies how incoming preparation affects student success in introductory geology classes. Jonathan plans to use his degree to work in environmental monitoring.

Olivia Napoli is a rising senior geology major. She is studying lithium-bearing pegmatites for her thesis with Dr. Phelps. After a brief

pause in her studies, Olivia has come back this year stronger than ever. This summer, when not working on research, she plans to start applying to graduate schools.

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

Roberto Ruiz receives the Searchers Gem and Mineral Society Award for his great interest in minerals and rocks as demonstrated by his exceptional performance in Earth Materials and Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology. Roberto is an outstanding student with a 3.91 GPA. His senior thesis with Dr. Laton develops protocols for water agencies to locate suitable injection sites for treated wastewater.

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

Jennifer Diaz is a first-generation undergraduate Earth Science major. She is completing her senior thesis with Dr. Metcalf on the origins and evolution of the Rattlesnake Creek terrane in the Klamath Mountains and is presenting her results at a professional conference. Jennifer has taken a wide range of courses and is also completing a GIS Certificate.

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. Andrew Petit

Celine Diep is a biochemistry major in Dr. Petit's research group, where she uses high-performance computing to unravel the light-driven chemistry of atmospherically relevant molecules. Recently, Celine has begun working to identify the specific pathway through which benzene quenches electronically excited nitrogen monoxide. Celine is an exceptional, first-generation college student who plans to pursue a PharmD after graduating from CSUF.

ROBERT C. BELLOLI FUTURE CHEMISTRY TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is open to graduating senior majors in Chemistry and Biochemistry committed to becoming chemistry teachers in junior high or high school and who have applied to the secondary teaching credential in chemistry and passed the CSET in chemistry.

Presented by: Dr. Paula Hudson

Alex Hobrath is a BS chemistry major, who started at CSUF in Summer 2022 as part of the inaugural Summer STEM Academy. In addition to tutoring high school students, on campus he works in our Chemistry and Biochemistry stockroom, is an SI leader, and is a member of the Hudson research lab. He maintains a 4.0 GPA with plans to graduate in Spring 2025 and become a high school teacher.

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. Stevan Pecic

Adriana Rodriguez is an undergraduate second year student pursuing a B.S. in Biochemistry. Currently, she is working in Dr. Pecic's lab on his medicinal chemistry project. This project explores designing multiple ligands that act as non-addictive treatments for chronic pain. After graduation, she plans to pursue a masters' or PhD and is focused on becoming a pharmaceutical scientist.

Presented by: Dr. Paula Hudson

Alex Hobrath is a BS chemistry major, who started at CSUF in Summer 2022 as part of the inaugural Summer STEM Academy. In addition to tutoring high school students, on campus he works in our Chemistry and Biochemistry stockroom, is an SI leader, and is a member of the Hudson research lab. He maintains a 4.0 GPA with plans to graduate in Spring 2025 and become a high school teacher.

GLENN AND TAKESHI NAKAYA SCHOLARSHIP

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

Presented by: Dr. Julia Chan

Aline Vu is a biochemistry major in Dr. Keppetipola's research laboratory. Aline started undergraduate research as a freshman and enjoys learning and understanding about processes involved in gene regulation. She is currently engaged in conducting experiments to determine how gene expression is controlled by reversible phosphate modifications in neuronal cells.

CONSTANCE BEECH EIKER AND RAYMOND V. ADAMS CREATIVITY FELLOWSHIP

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. Joshua Smith and Nabila Tanjeem

Travis Counihan is a graduating senior in physics. He has carried out experiments to measure the optical properties of crystalline silicon at

cryogenic temperatures. He will bring his keen intellect to the CSUF Master's in Physics program upon graduation.

Gargi Mansingh, a first-year M.S. student in the physics department, received this award for performing experimental research in soft matter physics. She studies how microscopic particles respond to light and rapidly assemble into crystalline structures. She has shown keen interest, dedication, and skills for materials physics research and plans to continue finding answers to new questions in the field of nonequilibrium self-assembly.

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: Mrs. Debbie Stevens

Shriyas Timbadia is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Danielle Zacherl. His research focuses on the effects of sedimentation on Olympia oysters. Shriyas is actively involved as a research technician in projects such as the Upper Newport Bay Living Shoreline Project and the San Diego Reef Ball Project. He aspires to contribute to the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems as a marine biologist or conservation scientist.

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. Catherine Brennan

Kristen Latour is a graduate student in Dr. Catherine Brennan's lab where she is studying the immune response of *Drosophila*. Kristen is a first-generation college student and she plans to pursue a career in academia.

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: Dr. Misty Paig-Tran

Jordyn Neal is a graduate student working with Dr. Misty Paig-Tran. She is exploring the mechanisms of prey processing in large-scale planktivorous fishes, using the megamouth shark and oarfish as models. Jordyn was awarded the prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and volunteers with the Aquarium of the Pacific. Her goal is to become a principal investigator and teach marine biology and human anatomy.

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.

Paulette Matthews, President/Chair

Clarissa Lopez, Vice Chair/Director of Finance

Aicha Boulakoro Mangué, Director of Administration

Jose Rivera-Hernandez, NSM ICC Advisor

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. Dimensions highlights undergraduate research and faculty mentoring by annually publishing CSUF students' best work in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, earth science, 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.

Aaron Kim, Section Editor: Mathematics
Christian Giron, Section Editor: Mathematics
Marlene Lopez, Section Editor: Biology
Jonathan Sarti, Section Editor: Chemistry
Brennen Woodward, Section Editor: Geology

**Special THANKS to Fernando Del Rosario's Graphic Design class
for creating our cover!**

LYLE WALLACE SERVICE AWARD

Given for outstanding service to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Presented by: Dr. Allyson Fry-Petit

Amanda Tsang is earning a BS in biochemistry. She has been a member of the Fry-Petit lab for 4 semesters. Her research focuses on oxygen transport in ceramic membranes. Amanda is the president of the Chemistry and Biochemistry club and a Chemistry Supplemental Instruction Leader. After graduation, Amanda wants to pursue a Master's in chemistry.

MARK LACKEY AWARD 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. This award is funded through the Titan Shops Scholarship Program.

Presented by: Dr. Stevan Pecic

Leah Duong is a graduate student who joined Dr. Pecic's lab in Spring 2023. She is pursuing her M.S. degree in Chemistry after obtaining her B.S. in Chemistry at CSUF. Her current research is in the medicinal chemistry area with a focus on studying the structure-activity relationship of dual inhibitors in treating chronic pan. In the future, she hopes to continue this path and develop therapeutics for existing medical conditions in an industrial setting.

CLEMENS-KNOTT² SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by faculty members Diane Clemens-Knott and Jeffrey R. Knott. It is awarded to an undergraduate who will be attending the CSU Fullerton field camp or a similar geologic-mapping-focused field camp in the upcoming summer. Women are encouraged to apply.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Ryan Mcmichael is a first-generation college student returning after active duty. He holds a 3.5 Major GPA while working multiple jobs to support himself and his three girls, he teaches jiu jitsu to children, volunteers for a veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves communities after natural disasters and is working on a thesis with Dr. Bonuso. In addition to this award, Edison STEM-NET awarded Ryan with a \$3750 Student Research Fellowship for his work on how fossil marine organisms reacted to rising sea level.

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

Cory Stratton receives the Candice L. Jones Outstanding Service Award for his successful and productive role in leading the Geology Club in 2023-2024. He is currently working with Dr. Akciz to decipher the not-so-straightforward evolution of the Borrego Springs Shear Zone.

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: Dr. Paul Stapp

Miles Bosarge is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Paul Stapp. Miles has taught BIOL 254L over the past five semesters. Miles is an effective instructor both in the lab and the field. His down-to-earth approach helps students appreciate that he truly wants them to succeed. Miles implements active learning strategies, encourages group participation, and works to ensure everyone can contribute to the positive learning environment in his classes.

GROUP E – RESEARCH AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

OUTSTANDING U-RISE SCHOLAR AWARD

Given to a graduating scholar of the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE) Program who has demonstrated a commitment to Biomedical research career, performed high quality research, and excelled in their coursework, as well as being accepted to and attending a PhD program in fall. This award is made possible by the Titan Shops Scholarship Program.

Presented by: Dr. Math Cuajungco and Dr. Veronica Jimenez Ortiz

Aubree Krager is a graduating senior from the Mathematics department. Aubree's thesis project involves statistical modeling and machine learning techniques to create predictive models for neurodegenerative diseases. She hopes that her research work can contribute to a better understanding of the primary factors associated with Alzheimer's disease and its diagnosis. Aubree has been accepted into a PhD program and will be attending graduate school this fall.

Faye Yun is a graduating senior from the Chemistry and Biochemistry department. Faye's thesis project involves the design, synthesis, and biological evaluation of new 4-phenylthiazole compounds as potential inhibitors of two enzymes involved in pain and inflammation pathways. She hopes to identify drug compounds that could be used for a pre-clinical model of chronic pain. Faye has been accepted into a PhD program and will be attending graduate school this fall.

RADM PAMELA SCHWEITZER AND MR. PAUL SCHWEITZER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP

The RADM Pamela Schweitzer and Mr. Paul Schweitzer Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship was created to support Biological Science students pursuing research addressing public health, social determinants of health, health inequities, and/or students planning to pursue a career in the health professions or public health

Presented by: RADM Pamela Schweitzer and Mr. Paul Schweitzer

Briea Gasca is a molecular and biotechnology student carrying out undergraduate research in Dr. Ramirez' lab since Fall 2022. Her work focuses on the utilization of biological products to fight hard-to-treat infectious diseases. Her results have been included in three peer-reviewed publications. She is a continuing undergraduate and plans to perform research throughout her career at CSUF and apply for PhD programs.

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.

Presented by: Dr. Danielle Zacherl

Gabriella Funes is an undergraduate in biological science, with a concentration in molecular biology and biotechnology. She is a scholar in the Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE) Project at CSUF, where she has conducted research on the behavior of honeybees in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. She is planning on a research career in the agricultural sciences.

DHARM VIREO PELLEGRINI MEMORIAL RESEARCH GRANT

This grant was established by Laura Pellegrini, William Pellegrini, and Nancy Rinebold, in memory of Dharm Vireo Pellegrini, a self-taught ornithologist. It is intended to provide financial assistance to undergraduate or graduate biological science students undertaking ornithological field research.

Presented by: Dr. Paul Stapp

Saatvika Deshpande is an M.S. student in Dr. Stapp's laboratory. Her thesis project is focused on determining the dietary composition of free-roaming cats in southern California, which likely includes native birds. Saatvika is also a Park Naturalist at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach, home to the federally endangered songbird, Least Bell's Vireo. Saatvika is interested in restoration of urbanized natural areas.

CSUF RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL SAFETY OFFICE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established by two staff members from the CSUF Research and Instructional Safety Office (RISO): Sue Fisher – Director (retired), Skip Hines – Chemical Hygiene Officer (retired), in memory of Irene Duncan – Secretary.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Olivia Napoli is a rising senior geology major. She is studying lithium-bearing pegmatites for her thesis with Dr. Phelps, although her geological curiosity expands to many areas of the field. After a brief pause in her studies, Olivia has come back this year stronger than ever. This summer, when not working on research, she plans to start applying to graduate schools.

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. Ryan Cammarota

Laura Ulloa is a first-year M.S. student in Dr. Cammarota's lab. Her research project integrates computing and synthesis to build a predictive model for guiding the derivatization of amines in drug-like molecules into sulfamides. Laura plans to pursue her Ph.D. in organic chemistry and work in industry.

DR. ANDREW AND KAY MONTANA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMISTRY

This scholarship was established in 2021 in memory of the late Dr. Andrew Montana, former faculty member and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who passed away in 2007. This scholarship is given to a full-time undergraduate and graduate student involved in research.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Petit

John Baker is a first-year graduate student in Dr. Keppetipola's research group. John's thesis research project aims to determine how two very similar proteins can exert different functions to exert tissue-specific gene expression patterns. After completing graduate studies, John plans to go to medical school.

Presented by: Dr. Michael Groves

Dominic Milla is a very talented student working in the lab of Dr. Michael Groves. His project involves using machine learning to predict the physical hole defects in boron-carbon 2D materials where he is using GPUs to train neural networks to accelerate evolutionary algorithm searches. He currently has a 4.0 GPA heading into his senior year and has plans to pursue graduate studies.

BRAD VAN MOURIK INTERFACE OF COMPUTERS WITH CHEMISTRY SCHOLARSHIP

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. Michael Groves

Chaya Belland is a strong student who is very caring and empathetic to her peers. Her project involves examining how to break unstrained carbon-carbon bonds which would lead to more efficient fuel cells and the upcycling of plastics. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, she is considering joining industry and pursuing a PhD. In either case, her goal in 5 years is to be doing work that matters and makes a positive impact on people's lives.

PHIL BERRIMAN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE WITH INSTRUMENTATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship honors many years of service that Phil Berriman provided the department as Instrumentation Technician. It recognizes excellence on a research project that makes significant use of instrumentation.

Presented by: Dr. Ryan Cammarota

Patrick Carnie is a 2nd year graduate student in Dr. Salzameda's organic chemistry laboratory working on novel methods to synthesize a variety of biologically active compounds using a flow chemical reactor. Patrick has steadily mastered several scientific instruments including repairing and maintaining the lab's chemical flow reactor. Patrick's high mechanical aptitude and passion for scientific research has been a great addition to the laboratory and embodies the spirit of the Phil Berriman Research Excellence with instrumentation scholarship.

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. Allyson Fry-Petit

Patrick Walthall is earning a BS in Biochemistry. He has been a member of the Fry-Petit lab for 3 semesters. His research focuses on oxygen transport in ceramic membranes. He is an outstanding chemistry supplemental instruction leader and a member of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Club cabinet. He plans to pursue a PhD or MD-PhD after graduation.

NOORANI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the Noorani Family to recognize the valuable role faculty play in supporting undergraduate students and the education they receive in the lab conducting research. This scholarship is given to undergraduate students who have shown outstanding performance in both coursework and research to provide financial support for undergraduate studies at CSUF.

Presented by: Dr. Stevan Pecic

Paulina Dole is a third year student pursuing her B.S. in Biochemistry. As part of Dr. Stevan Pecic's research lab, she is exploring medicinal chemistry with a focus on developing therapeutic approaches for Alzheimer's disease. Paulina is also involved on campus as Vice President of the Student Health Professions Association and co-chair of social media for the Chemistry and Biochemistry club. Off-campus, she recently interned with CHOC's Medical Intelligence and Innovation Institute and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Presented by: Dr. Paula Hudson

Rumeysa Gurler is a very strong student majoring in biochemistry. She has excelled in her coursework at CSUF and has had especially good experience in her laboratory courses. She is in her second year of research in the Hann lab, where she studies second-generation biofuel and their catalysts that are used to convert the fuels into energy and value-added products. She has made a strong contribution to the research lab, where is a quick learner and has contributed to two different projects.

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. Rich Laton

Irvin Matamoros is working to understand the groundwater/surface water interaction of the Santa Ana River. This research involves both UAV thermal imagery and ground-based monitoring of the River through a series of seasonal sampling events. His work will shed light on the overall water resources of the Inland Empire area.

Daisy Quiroz has excelled both in class and as a Teaching Assistant in our department. Daisy is finishing her MS thesis using sediment from Big Lake (CA) to understand how California's hydrology has changed during the past 23,000 years. She has presented her work at the 2023 American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Daisy is presently employed by the United States Geological Survey as she finishes her thesis writing and prepares for her defense

JOHN D. COOPER FIELD CAMP AWARD

Annual award to a declared Geological Sciences Major with outstanding performance in GEOL 481A-Geology Field Camp. Selected by field camp instructor with approval of all full-time geology faculty.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Sadie Durning receives the Cooper field camp award for outstanding performance in Geol 481A field camp. Her geologic maps were meticulously mapped, drafted, and interpreted. Sadie graduated with a BS in Geology and a 3.95 CSUF GPA in summer 2023 and received numerous awards and scholarships. Sadie is now an MS student in Dr. Memeti's lab examining magmatic systems in Yosemite.

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

Joana Camargo Ramirez is a first-generation undergraduate Geology major, tutor, and Geology Club officer. She is completing her senior thesis with Dr. Metcalf on the origins and evolution of the Eastern Hayfork terrane in the Klamath Mountains and is presenting her results at a professional conference. Joana plans to attend CSUN in the fall to start a M.S. program in geology

Sofia Kabbara is currently working with Dr. Akciz on the structural evolution of deeper parts of a fault zone near Borrego Springs, CA. She has received the John. D. Cooper Field Camp Scholarship award to participate in our capstone summer field camp class.

Cory Stratton is currently working with Dr. Akciz to decipher the not-so-straightforward evolution of the Borrego Springs Shear Zone. Cory has received the John. D. Cooper Field Camp Scholarship award to participate in our capstone summer field camp class.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES ALUMNI FIELD CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Established through the generosity of the alumni and friends of the Department of Geological Sciences, this scholarship is awarded to a declared geology major with 2.5 GPA or better for the previous academic year. The recipient of this scholarship must also demonstrate excellence in fieldwork and enroll in summer field camp.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Matias Gibertoni is an excellent and hard-working student. His undergraduate research thesis focuses on lake sediments from the Mojave Desert to infer how Glacial Lake Mojave changed during the late-Glacial to Holocene transition. As a part of this project, Matias spent 8 days in the Mojave Desert collecting samples, where he demonstrated resilience, positivity, and a leadership mentality. Excitingly, Matias found the best tufa sample every collected from Glacial Lake Mojave and will soon be a co-author on a manuscript.

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

Lauren Gregory is the jack of all trades and a master of whatever the heck she wants to be. Her curiosity and determination have led her to many successes from sailing across the Pacific to snagging a coveted NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program grant, to mastering geology with a BS in biology. Lauren's research with Dr. Bonuso focuses on documenting reef recovery after Earth's largest mass extinction. After CSUF, she's off to be the boujee Rory Gilmore of Geology, as she continues to a PhD at Yale in the Fall.

ARMSTRONG CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARD

This award is established by emeriti faculty members Tish Armstrong and Phillip Armstrong and recognizes their desire to promote undergraduate student attendance at professional meetings.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Jarrold Burges is an undergraduate student in Geology and Computer Science. He is completing his senior thesis with Dr. Metcalf on desktop application to manage and store detrital zircon geochronological data in a SQL database and is presenting his results at the Geological Society of America Conference in Spokane, Washington.

Joana Camargo Ramirez is a first-generation undergraduate Geology major, tutor, and Geology Club officer. She is completing her senior thesis with Dr. Metcalf on the origins and evolution of the Eastern Hayfork terrane in the Klamath Mountains and is presenting her results at the Geological Society of America Conference in Spokane, Washington.

Jennifer Diaz is a first-generation undergraduate Earth Science major. She is completing her senior thesis with Dr. Metcalf on the origins and evolution of the Rattlesnake Creek terrane in the Klamath Mountains and is presenting her results at a professional conference. Jennifer has taken a wide range of courses and is also completing a GIS Certificate.

PAUL DELAND MATHEMATICS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Established by Dr. Paul DeLand to encourage undergraduate mathematics majors to participate in research and present that research in professional settings.

Presented by: Dr. Jessica Jaynes

Aubree Krager is an extremely active young researcher. Aubree has been engaged in numerous undergraduate research opportunities, including the NSF SoCal Data Science Program, Dr. Behseta's Alzheimer's Data Research Team, and the NIH Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE) Program. In Fall 2023, she won the Best Data Visualization Award for her poster presentation at the Orange County Biostatistics Symposium. She has been admitted to various UC Ph.D. programs in Statistics for Fall 2024.

Presented by: Dr. Matheus Bartolo Guerrero

Liz Villa was selected for the NSF's SoCal Data Science and Dr. Behseta's Alzheimer's Modeling programs. In her research project entitled "Exploring the Effect of a Group of Predictors on Alzheimer's Disease Progression Using Statistical Machine Learning Techniques", she developed sophisticated computer code for the analysis of Big biomedical Data. Liz is joining UC Santa Cruz for her PhD studies.

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 have significant mathematical accomplishments outside of courses.

Presented by: Dr. Matheus Bartolo Guerrero

Aubree Krager is this year's recipient of the prestigious Stiel Prize in Mathematics. During her undergraduate studies, Aubree has achieved a long list of remarkable accomplishments, including her selection to the NSF's SoCal Data Science, NIH's U-RISE, and Dr. Behseta's Alzheimer's Modeling group. Aubree has won multiple undergraduate research awards across the country and has received admissions from top PhD programs in Statistics.

Presented by: Dr. Riley Casper

Du Tran is consistently a top performer in many of his classes, has conducted research projects with multiple faculty, and has presented his work at eight different research conferences, resulting in a publication in the Electronic Journal of Geometry. He is also a facilitator for the Fullerton Math Circle and was our Department's first student to participate in the Cal-Bridge math program. Du plans to pursue a PhD in mathematics and has been accepted to several graduate schools.

FERGUSON RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Established by alumni James Ferguson and his family to support exceptional undergraduate student research in the Department of Mathematics and to enhance the student-scholar experience for our students and the teacher-scholar dynamic for our faculty members.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Glesser

Jaden Segovia is a Ph.D.-bound pure mathematics major. Conducting research on a variety of topics, including graph theory and analysis, he presented his findings at an Mathematical Association of America conference, and the So Cal Conferences for Undergraduate Research. He also has been a wonderful contributor to the department, participating in events such as the problem solving seminar, the Putnam exam, as well as tutoring students in upper-division courses.

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. Andrew Petit

Saray Angulo transferred to CSUF in Fall 2024 from Fullerton College and is pursuing a BA in Chemistry. Saray participated in the Project RAISE summer research program, where she began performing research in the Petit group. Saray's work has led to a paradigm shift in our understanding of why photobases have such spectacular properties after absorbing light!

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – B.A. IN EARTH SCIENCE

Awarded to a junior or senior Bachelor of Arts in Geology major with an exceptional CSUF GPA. The number of units completed in Geology and the related fields are factored into the selection process.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Kaylee Sullivan receives the BA Outstanding Academic Achievement Award because of her remarkably high GPA in major and non-major courses. Kaylee consistently receives impressive marks across a diverse range of geoscience courses. Her devotion to coursework is an inspiration to her peers in the department. Congratulations Kaylee!

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – B.S. IN GEOLOGY

Awarded to a junior or senior Bachelor of Science in Geology major with an exceptional CSUF GPA. The number of units completed in Geology and related fields are factored into the selection process.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

David Rogoff is a veteran of the Air Force, single father of 2, and runs his grandmother's avocado farm in Temecula. As if this weren't enough, he has maintained a 3.64 GPA and worked with Dr. Woods on an undergraduate thesis project reconstructing environmental conditions in the oceans 250 million years ago. He plans to return to CSUF to pursue his Master's degree in the Fall.

OUTSTANDING MAJOR AWARD – B.A. IN EARTH SCIENCE

Awarded to an upper-division Bachelor of Arts in Earth Science major who demonstrates high quality performance in classes and service to the department, university, or community.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Alondra Ruiz Contreras is a dedicated, hard-working student with a great attitude. Although not required for the BA, Alondra chose to complete a research thesis for her degree. As a part of this project, she spent 8 days in the Mojave Desert collecting samples, countless hours in the research lab, and endured the editing process associated with thesis writing. Clearly, Alondra went above-and-beyond for her BA degree.

OUTSTANDING MAJOR AWARD – B.S. IN GEOLOGY

Awarded to an upper-division Bachelor of Science in Geology major who demonstrates high quality performance in classes and their undergraduate research project, as well as service to the department, university, or community.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Sofia Kabbara, with her 3.71 GPA, receives the Outstanding Major Award – B.S. in Geology. Sofia is currently working with Dr. Akciz on the structural evolution of deeper parts of a fault zone near Borrego Springs, CA.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARD

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

Presented by: Dr. Paula Hudson

Christopher Badolian is a BS Biochemistry and BS Physics double major graduating this Spring 2024 with nearly a 4.0 GPA... just ONE "A-"! He has been recognized for his achievements in Analytical Chemistry, research, and as an Outstanding Chemistry SI Leader. Christopher has been a key member of the Hudson research lab since Fall 2021 and is now trying to narrow down where he will start his PhD this Fall. We will miss you, Christopher, and can't wait to see what you will do next!

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTS AWARD

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

Presented by: Dr. Julia Chan

Ugo Umekew-Odudu is a fourth-year student and will be graduating with a B.S. in Biochemistry in Spring 2024. He has a cumulative GPA of 3.93 and has been on the Dean's List twice. He is currently conducting chemistry education research with Dr. Chan where his research focuses on studying the effect of growth mindset on first-year chemistry students' perceptions, attitudes, and motivations towards learning chemistry in first-year general chemistry courses. This research has resulted in a recent publication in a peer-reviewed journal, where he is

listed as a co-author. After graduation, Ugo is interested in pursuing a Master's in Public Health.

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.

Presented by: Adam Glesser

Dao Bui fits the description of the student worthy of the Rose Klein scholarship, namely, a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance in completion of Math 401, one of two capstone courses in the Teaching Concentration for our mathematics majors. Dao graduated from high school in Vietnam, but is poised to apply for the Teaching Credential Program and eventually teach high school mathematics in California.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

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

Presented by: Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace

Daniel Tellez is concluding his final year as an undergraduate physics major. His research focuses on using supercomputers to simulate colliding black holes and the gravitational waves they emit, especially simulations with unequal masses and high spins. Daniel also has assessed the accuracy of simulated gravitational waves and has contributed code to SpECTRE, a next-generation numerical-relativity code.

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. Amybeth Cohen

Makayla Perez is majoring in biological science. She is in Dr. Nikolaidis' Lab, investigating the impact of various treatments on protein export. Makayla is a scholar in the COMPASS program. Makayla also works at the City of Anaheim and is an active member of SACNAS at CSUF. Makayla's future career goals include earning a Ph.D. in molecular biology, stem cell biology, or cancer biology.

Presented by: Dr. Math Cuajungco

Kirsten Clerre Rafanan is majoring in biological science. She is in Dr. Cuajungco's lab as a NAARE scholar investigating human genetics in neurocognitive disease. Kirsten has participated in many off-campus organizations, including the American Red Cross, and she is an active member of the Pasa Kaibigan club at CSUF. Kirsten's future career goal is to be a pharmaceutical scientist for drug design and manufacturing.

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. Amybeth Cohen

Gabriella Funes is an undergraduate in biological science, with a concentration in molecular biology and biotechnology. She is a scholar in the Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE) Project at CSUF, where she has conducted research on the behavior of honeybees in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. She is planning on a research career in the agricultural sciences.

GROUP G – GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

RACHEL CARSON SCHOLARSHIP IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY GRADUATE

Presented by: Dr. Danielle Zacherl

Taylor Naquin is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Danielle Zacherl. Her thesis is based on assessing the impact of biofoulers on the compressive strength of our native Olympia oyster in the San Diego Bay. Taylor is a former SCERP (Southern California Ecosystems Research Program) student. She envisions herself working for the US Navy as a biologist or pursuing a PhD.

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 M.S. Biology applicant with a stellar academic record, relevant research experience, strong recommendations, and potential for success as a research student at CSUF.

Presented by: Dr. Misty Paig-Tran

Jessica Clark is a graduate student working with Dr. Misty Paig-Tran. Her thesis explores finding humane and low stress alternatives to current euthanasia procedures for freeze-adapted fishes. Jessica has a passion for marine biology and volunteers her time with both the CSULB Shark Lab and the Pacific Marine Mammal Care Center. Jessica works as a Biologist Trainer at the Laguna Ocean Foundation.

MURRAY FELLOWSHIP

Established in 2021 by Dr. Steven Murray, Emeritus Professor, former Chair of the Department of Biological Science, and former Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, to support student research with preference for graduate students committed to pursuing advanced degrees/careers related to Coastal Marine Science.

Presented by: Dr. Misty Paig-Tran

Julia Teeple is a graduate student and former SCERP scholar working with Dr. Misty Paig-Tran. Her thesis focuses on manta ray filtration using advanced modeling techniques. She is an accomplished scientist, working on projects ranging from armadillo armor to oarfish filtration. Julia is currently a Building Bridges to the Professoriate Fellow and was awarded an NSF GRFP Honorable Mention.

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: Mrs. Elaine McClanahan and Mr. Larry Murdock

Barbara Orozco is a graduate student in Dr. Jennifer Burnaford's lab. Her research focuses on how sand movement impacts the intertidal mussels. Barbara also works with the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network as a field technician helping with long term monitoring of rocky intertidal areas along the California coast. After graduation, she plans to pursue a PhD, and a career in environmental consulting or in academia.

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 outstanding biology, chemistry, and geology graduate students.

Presented by: Mrs. Susannah Burica and Mr. Alan Coppel

Gabriela Guzman is a MS Biology student in Dr. Paul Stapp's lab investigating the diets of roof rats in Southern California for her thesis. She is a first-generation college student and is the current president of the Biology Graduate Student Club. Gaby plans to enter a PhD program and is interested in a career in academia.

Linh Kiim is a CSUF alumni who returned to pursue his master's in fall 2023. He is a member of the Fry-Petit lab where he is working on two projects that utilize operando diffraction methods to study structural changes in oxygen transport membranes and the synthesis of superconductors. He is looking forward to his first trip to perform experiments at a national lab soon.

Jinka Kawaski is a MS Geological Science student researching the use of glass beads as filter material in water wells. Glass beads have been proposed to have properties that make them more efficient in developing wells and allowing for better flow into the wells. Her research

has great potential to change our understanding of filter material's impacts on groundwater flow to a well.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING MASTER'S CANDIDATE 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. Ionel Tifrea

Mauricio Gomez Lopez is a long time member of the Soft, Living, and Active Matter Lab run by Dr. Ahmed. He is an avid lover of cats, coffee, jazz, literature, and science. His research focuses on understanding nonequilibrium fluctuations in living systems and he has published 4 papers with more in the pipeline. After his Masters, he will pursue his PhD. He has offers from Princeton, Berkeley, Michigan Ann Arbor, Brandeis, USC, CU Boulder, and many others.

PHYSICS OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSOCIATE AWARD

The award is for the best Teaching Assistant in Physics.

Presented by: Dr. Geoffrey Lovelace

Kyle Panone is a second-year master's student in the Department of Physics. His research has focused on using SpECTRE, a next-generation numerical-relativity code, to model thermal noise in the reflective coatings of the mirrors used in gravitational-wave detectors, which is the most important noise limiting how sensitive the detectors are to gravitational waves. Kyle has also used SpECTRE to model nearly black holes colliding nearly head-on.

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

Awarded to the best first-year graduate student in the M.S. in Computational and Applied Mathematics program in honor of Dr. Theodore Hromadka's parents.

Presented by: Dr. Kristin Kurianski

Jacob Keck earned his bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from UC San Diego in 2021 and is now pursuing a Master of Science in Computational Applied Mathematics. Jacob has excelled in his first year of the CSUF graduate program, engaging actively in class discussions, submitting high-quality work, and assisting his peers in mastering course content.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN GEOLOGY

Awarded to a Geology graduate student who demonstrates excellent performance in classes and in their research as evidenced by, but not limited to, publications, presentations, collegiality, and/or leadership in the department.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Samantha Dunn is an exemplary graduate student with excellent work ethic and great enthusiasm for research and teaching. She has received several competitive grad student grants and the prestigious Association of Women Geoscientists Brunton award for excellence in field work. She has presented her research on volcanic-plutonic connections with Dr. Memeti at several international conferences and is now preparing a publication.

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN GEOLOGY

Awarded to a Geology graduate student teaching associate (TA) who demonstrates outstanding performance based on, but not limited to, Student Opinion Questionnaires, in-class visitations by faculty, teaching, collegiality, and/or mentoring other TAs.

Presented by: Dr. Adam Woods

Caitlin Bates is a second-year masters student working with Dr. Vali Memeti. She has worked as teaching assistant for GEOL 101L and GEOL 303A. Her teaching style is thoughtful and connects well with students, and she is enthusiastic in her desire to get others as excited about geology as she is.

**MARIA LINDER NIELSON
ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP**

This scholarship was established by the late Dr. Maria Linder, former faculty member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, to recognize excellence in biochemistry research.

Presented by: Dr. Stevan Pecic

Amanda Reyes is a graduate student in Dr. Pecic's lab. Previously, she earned her bachelor's degree in biology from CSUF and worked as a laboratory technician in a medical diagnostics laboratory, specifically working with COVID PCR tests. She is pursuing a master's in biochemistry, and her current research focuses on identifying a DNA aptamer-based biosensor. In the future, she plans to contribute to the research of therapeutics for novel and existing diseases.

GROUP H – FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

OUTSTANDING LECTURER

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Freddi Bruschke is an outstanding lecturer who teaches a wide variety of courses, lower to upper division in the Geological Sciences and beyond. These classes serve not only students pursuing degrees in Geology but also provide General Education to non-majors and serve those seeking degrees in honors and education. Dr. Bruschke constantly updates and revises course materials and evaluates pedagogical approaches to best convey course subject matter in exciting and innovative ways. Her educational impacts extend well beyond CSUF classrooms as highlighted by her status as a Hydrolearn fellow and involvement in the Digital Ethnic Futures Project. Dr. Bruschke is active in promoting the better livelihood of educators at CSUF (in particular as founding member of the CSUF Womens Faculty and Staff Association) and avidly supports DEI efforts both here at CSUF and abroad.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Alison Miyamoto is a biologist whose research focuses on developmental and cancer biology. She directs the inaugural Creating Opportunities through Mentorship and Partnership Across Stem cell Science (COMPASS) program at CSUF, funded by a five-year \$2.88 million grant by the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). COMPASS is a life-changing program that prepares first-generation undergraduates from low-income households for the stem cell biology workforce; over \$1.67 million of the grant directly supports student stipends, tuition, travel, and research internships at sites such as Stanford, UCI, UCLA, and biotechnology companies. Previously, Dr. Miyamoto served for 13 years as the Internship Coordinator for the Bridges to Stem Cell Research program, also funded by CIRM. In addition, Dr. Miyamoto has been extremely active in the Biology Department's Undergraduate Advancement Committee for 15 years, helping to design and implement innovative strategies to advise over 1500 Biology majors each year. With outstanding dedication and creativity, Dr. Miyamoto has worked tirelessly to champion student success.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Michael Groves is highly deserving of the Outstanding Research Award. Dr. Groves joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 2016 and has established a highly productive theoretical physical chemistry lab. His research interests range from using machine learning to predict new materials to understanding the essential catalytic reactions to form industrially relevant feedstocks of hydrogen peroxide and phenol. Dr. Groves collaborates with many scientists; these collaborations have resulted in 15 publications and the submission of several collaborative proposals demonstrating Dr. Groves' ability to contribute significantly to the field through teamwork. He has relentlessly pursued funding to ensure his group continues to do cutting-edge research and has received \$1,507,663 in the last five years. Dr. Groves has also received the prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award, which supports early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

OUTSTANDING UNTENURED FACULTY MEMBER

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Dr. Joya Cooley is an outstanding researcher and mentor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Cooley has obtained substantial external funding, published seminal papers in top journals, and successfully mentored undergraduate and graduate students in her classroom and research lab. Dr. Cooley presented her research results at numerous regional and national meetings all while implementing innovative teaching practices in her courses that improve student success and are popular with students. Dr. Cooley supervised 28 undergraduates and 2 Master's students in research, 18 have presented their work at local, national, and international conferences, and 3 appear as co-authors on a peer-reviewed publication. She contributed to 11 funding proposals, and was awarded a total of \$999,181 in external grants. Dr. Cooley is a most valuable colleague who has performed brilliantly in her teaching, research, and service and we are thrilled to award her the 2024 NSM Outstanding Untenured Faculty Award.

STAFF EXCELLENCE FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, INITIATIVE, AND CREATIVITY AWARD

Presented by: Dr. Marie Johnson

Ms. Mika Perez is most deserving of this award. She serves in the front office of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry where she skillfully functions as the face of the department to entering students, faculty, and staff. When not assisting visitors, Mika maintains the department website, promotes the department via social media accounts, and plans and executes department events. Her positive attitude and outstanding service and initiative have been noted by everyone who interacts with her. Mika has taken over department travel and worked to find answers to vexing travel dilemmas and provide support to make the process less cumbersome for travelers. Her fingerprints can be seen all over the fifth-floor hallways and display cases. Mika's selfless service and endless patience make her a go to resource for all department members. We are honored to have Mika Perez on our team and we recognize her for her many contributions with this 2024 NSM Staff Excellence Award.

**THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING ALL THE HARD
WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR NSM STUDENTS,
FACULTY, AND STAFF!**

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