

# GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH AWARDS (GIAR)

March 2026 Grant Cycle  
Grant Recipients by Discipline

Anthropology				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Ashley	Moelling	Masters Student	University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus	Protecting Ancestral Sites with Indigenous Stewardship: Forest Gardens of the Spiro Mounds
Emily	Kracht	Doctoral Student	University of California-Santa Barbara	Refining the Chronology and Potential Interactions of Ancient Puerto Rican Village Sites
Katherine	Nemeth	Doctoral Student	Washington University in St Louis	Longitudinal associations between living conditions, immune function, and childhood bone growth in low-resource U.S. communities
Summer	Eubank	Masters Student	Boston University	Understanding Energetic Stress Between Two Orangutan Populations in Gunung Palung National Park, Indonesia
BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Abigail	Areaux	Undergraduate Student	Western Michigan University	Exploring trade-offs between male singing behavior and nest defense in Chestnut-sided Warblers
Matthew	Andres	Doctoral Student	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Olfaction as a Potential Mechanism for Disease Detection in Vampire Bats
Siobhan	Calhoun	Doctoral Student	University of California-Davis	Does fear last forever? Investigating the intensity and durability of risk perception patterns across generations using a clonal fish ( <i>Poecilia formosa</i> )
CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Ansley	Elkins	Doctoral Student	Clemson University	Guardians of the Womb - Investigating Sex-Specific Regulation of Xenobiotic Transporters at the Human Blood-Placenta Barrier
Anusha	Shivashankar	Doctoral Student	Trustees of Indiana University	Elucidating the role of Tensin3 as a novel target for mechanosensory signaling and intraocular pressure regulation
Blessing	Emmanuel	Doctoral Student	Old Dominion University	(p)ppGpp-Mediated Regulation of Peptidoglycan Precursor Biosynthesis as a Potential Novel Anti-Sporulation Target in <i>Clostridioides difficile</i>

CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY (Cont.)				
Denice	Moran	Doctoral Student	CUNY Graduate School and University Center	Retinal Development
Dikshya	Pathak	Masters Student	University of Arkansas	TranscriptomeSCN: Multimodal RNA-Seq Integration for Decoding Susceptibility and Tolerance in Glycine max Roots Under Soybean Cyst Nematode ( <i>Heterodera glycines</i> ) Infection
Gabriel	Dasilva	Doctoral Student	University of Delaware	Characterizing SIX3-interacting proteins in mouse eye development
Jessica	LaBella	Doctoral Student	Case Western Reserve University	Genome Structure and Organization of a Novel Permafrost Bacterium
Joseph	Vecchio	Doctoral Student	University of Notre Dame	Improving the immune response to the Mycobacterium bovis BCG vaccine using replication-deficient adenoviruses
Justin	Cheetham	Undergraduate Student	Pennsylvania State University-Penn State York	Evolutionary Origins of Circadian Genes
Kenny	Cheng	Undergraduate Student	Yale University	Structural Basis for Recognition and Cleavage of Bacterial Single-Stranded DNA Triplexes by Specific Endonucleases
Mya	Fillion	Doctoral Student	University of Delaware	top-2 is required for proper chromosome structure during meiosis in <i>C. elegans</i>
Soumen	Sadhu	Doctoral Student	University of New South Wales	The effect of 0.1% topical cyclosporine A eye drops for 12-weeks on the ocular surface innate and adaptive immune response in dry eye disease.
CHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Prabhat	Neupane	Doctoral Student	University of Wyoming	Albumin-Ruthenium Catalyst for selective delivery of cytotoxic drug to the cancer cells via Bioorthogonal uncaging
Xiaotan	Yu	Doctoral Student	University of Notre Dame	Vancomycin–Oxadiazole Conjugates as Dual-Action Antibacterial Agents to Halt Recurrence of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> Infection
CLIMATE SCIENCE				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Fatih	Albayrak	Masters Student	Oklahoma State University-Main Campus	Belowground Microbial Drivers of Forest Carbon Storage Across an Oklahoma Precipitation Gradient
COMPUTER SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Evrin	Ozcan	Doctoral Student	University of Pennsylvania	Artificial Intelligence Derived Risk Stratification for Wound Closure in Pediatric Scoliosis Spinal Fusion Surgery
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Allison	Ricker	Undergraduate Student	Kansas State University	Drought Alters Selective Cardenolide Sequestration in Monarch Butterflies

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY (Cont.)				
Emma	Johnson	Doctoral Student	Duke University	Investigating molecular and physiological responses to a novel heat-associated disease outbreak in the sea urchin <i>Lytechinus variegatus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
Gianna	Mitchell	Doctoral Student	University of Mississippi	Investigating coral chimera formation as a conduit for coral conservation
Greg	Aniolek	Masters Student	Clemson University	Microplastics in Motion: Comparative Uptake and Immune Responses in Coastal Shark Species
Jennifer	Hu	Masters Student	California State University-Northridge	How does amphibian fungal disease in Pacific chorus frogs vary spatially on the California Channel Islands?
Megan	Flanagan	Doctoral Student	Texas State University	Effects of early-life predation stress on physiology, behavior, and development across life stages in Leopard frogs
Zachary	Zagon	Doctoral Student	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Genomic insights into the functional role of coral-associated microbial aggregates to thermal bleaching - implications for coral probiotics and restoration strategies
ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Benedicta	Ottairoegbu	Doctoral Student	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Stress-Induced Shifts in Phytochemistry, Pollination, and Fitness of <i>Physalis philadelphica</i> (tomatillo)
Cameron	McClellan	Masters Student	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	North Carolina, Bats, and the Missing Geological Context: Breaking Ground in Geo-Ecology
Kayla	Koory	Masters Student	Georgia Southern University	Olivine Weathering for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in a Natural Salt Marsh and Its Impact on <i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Kelsey	Green	Masters Student	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	From facilitation to inhibition: Salinity-mediated shifts in fiddler crab– <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> interactions and implications for marsh resilience
Naga Spurthi	Acharam	Masters Student	Auburn University	Quantitative Analysis of Biochar-Induced Architectural Changes in Japanese Maple
Nicole	Burroughs	Doctoral Student	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	The Architecture of Assembly: How Spatially Structured Species Pools Shape Microbial Communities
Purbayan	Ghosh	Doctoral Student	Arizona State University-Tempe	Winter warming, Energetic depletion, and Cold injury risk in a Crevice-nesting ant
Sarah	Guymon	Undergraduate Student	Missouri State University-Springfield	Implications of <i>Azolla caroliniana</i> resilience to mild winters in Ozark lakes
Yiran "Ryann"	Su	Doctoral Student	The University of Montana	The Effects of Heavy Metal Contamination on the Physiology, Behavior, and Fitness of Tree Swallows ( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )
Zoe	Swanson	Doctoral Student	Michigan State University	Ecological Drivers and Physiological Consequences of Internal Microplastic Accumulation in Terrestrial Birds

ENGINEERING				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Johanna	Tsala Ebode	Doctoral Student	Virginia Commonwealth University	Localized PLGA Nanoparticle Delivery of Methotrexate and IKK Inhibitor to Target Inflammation and Cell Proliferation in Deep Infiltrating Endometriosis
Julia	Linke	Doctoral Student	Boston University	Repurposing known drugs to restore ciliated cell function in fibrotic fallopian tube tissues to find first-of-a-kind, non-invasive treatments of female infertility
Laura	Weinstein	Doctoral Student	University at Buffalo	CRISPR/Cas9 Deactivator Priming to Increase Selectivity of Focused Ultrasound-Mediated Brain Genome Editing
Philip	Ogundele	Undergraduate Student	Osun State Univesity	Wearable biosensor prototype for the detection and surveillance of Lassa fever infection in low-resource settings
GEOSCIENCES				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Alexander	Getraer	Doctoral Student	Dartmouth College	Deglaciation of the Laurentide Ice Sheet from its northwestern margin recorded by 10-Be exposure ages
Alexis	Hensley	Doctoral Student	Stanford University	Prospecting for Helium-3 on the Moon using regolith magnetic susceptibility measurements
Ann	Everest	Masters Student	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Structural and Gravitational Constraints, East Pilbara Dome-and-Keel Structures
Felipe	Stanchak	Doctoral Student	University of South Florida-St Petersburg	Ocean temperature drivers of Late Quaternary East Antarctic Ice Sheet behavior: Insights from Sabrina Coast marine sediments
PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Ashwath	Ram	Undergraduate Student	Monroe Community College	Characterizing Cosmic Ray Muon Flux Variability and Its Correlation with Barometric Pressure at a Mid-Latitude Urban Site
Lauren	Schwartz	Doctoral Student	The University of Texas at San Antonio	Lab and Numerical Modeling Study of Venusian Pancake Domes
Maryann Benny	Fernandes	Doctoral Student	Duke University	Protecting the Night Sky for Planetary Defense: Nanophotonic Ultrablack Coatings for Satellite Straylight Mitigation
Raimundo	Ferreira	Doctoral Student	Universidade Nacional do Rio de Janeiro	A multi-band study of globular clusters in dwarf galaxies: From dark matter to the history of star formation
PHYSIOLOGY/FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Chloé	Le Moing	Doctoral Student	Oregon Health & Science University	Facilitating insights: The role of short-term plasticity in flexible cognition
Elise	Samuelson	Doctoral Student	University of South Florida-Main Campus	Digital Preservation of Endangered Crocodylian Anatomy for Morphological Comparison through Dissection and 3D Reconstruction

PHYSIOLOGY/FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY (Cont.)				
Leslie	Ponce	Undergraduate Student	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Precision Diagnostics for Zika and Dengue: A CRISPR-Cas12a and Cas13a Validation Study
Susanne	Hahs	Masters Student	Oklahoma State University-Main Campus	The Functional Evolution of Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone Receptors (Crhr) in Sea Lamprey
PSYCHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Caterina	Berardo	Doctoral Student	United Kingdom, Nottingham Trent University	"You've got a friend in me": Synchrony and Group Belonging in Infancy
Dayanne	Antonio	Doctoral Student	Florida, Florida International University	Preference-Aligned Stress Exposure and Psychological Adaptation
Michael	Vasko	Masters Student	Texas, The University of Texas at San Antonio	Neural Correlates of Spatial Prediction: An Electroencephalography Study
SYSTEMATICS/EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Abdullah	Gohar	Doctoral Student	Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences	Bone mass increases during the land-to-sea transition in whales
Annika	Peterson	Undergraduate Student	Georgetown University	Comparing past pollen and seed gene flow in the disappearing high salt marsh grass <i>Spartina patens</i> using next-generation sequencing
Luis Javier	Madrigal Roca	Doctoral Student	University of Kansas	Temporal Meets Spatial: Leveraging Machine Learning to Forecast Evolutionary Responses to Climate Change in <i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
Miranda	Margulis-Ohnuma	Doctoral Student	Yale University	Evolutionary identity of the vertebrate pelvis via zebrafish lineage tracing
Rubi	Mendez	Undergraduate Student	St. Mary's University	The Role of RP1 and Rhodopsin in the Underdeveloped Retina of a Cave Adapted Salamander