

## GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH AWARDS (GIAR)

March 2025 Grant Cycle

Grant Recipients by Discipline

ANTHROPOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Leah	Harrell	Masters Student	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Estimating Biological Affiliation for Individuals Buried at San Ignacio Church in Bogotá, Colombia
Chiamaka	Mangut	Doctoral Student	Columbia University in the City of New York	Archaeology, Environment and Food Security in the Holocene: Ancient Adaptations on the Jos Plateau, Central Nigeria.
Talitha	Pam	Doctoral Student	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Negotiating Boundaries: Exploring Insecurity, Identity, and Media Influence Among North-Central Nigerian Diasporic Communities.
Rebecca	Wu	Doctoral Student	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Quantifying chronic and acute stress in infant fecal biomarkers and microbiome
BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Chelsea	Bishop	Doctoral Student	University of Manitoba	Beyond Testosterone: Investigating the "Feminization" of Male African Ground Squirrels
Ricardo	Gibert	Masters Student	California State University-Northridge	Gecko Wars: Competitive Behavioral Displacement Among Co-occurring Invasive House Geckos ( <i>Hemidactylus</i> spp.)
Daja Lanae	Key	Undergraduate Student	University of Memphis	Chemical Mate Choice Copying in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> – A Naturally Occurring Behavior?
Ruby	Mustill	Doctoral Student	Texas A & M University-College Station	What is the function of adolescence in female non-human primates? An empirical test of one adaptive hypothesis
Keelee	Pullum	Doctoral Student	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Tradeoffs between behavioral tolerance and resistance during parental care
CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Alan	Abraham	Masters Student	University of Rochester	Understanding the Role of Tropomyosin Receptor Kinase B in Retinal Ganglion Cell Survival
Maria Paula	Dalla Vechia Benati de Medeiros	Masters Student	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Evaluation of NMDA Receptor Functioning in Non-Ketotic Hyperglycemia
Matthew	Dias	Doctoral Student	Florida International University	High Throughput Screenings for DNA Gyrase Inhibitors

CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY CONT.				
Jean	Jin	Undergraduate Student	University of Pennsylvania	Investigating activity of Ten-eleven Translocation Enzyme 1 in the mammalian germline
Rashmi	Karki	Doctoral Student	Washington University in St Louis	Understanding and targeting histone H2A.Z acetylation in breast cancer through pharmacological inhibition of histone deacetylase (HDACs) enzymes
Heena	Khurana	Doctoral Student	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Elucidating the role of a molecular scaffolding complex in the development of light-sensing compartments in photoreceptor neurons
Catherine	Lalman	Doctoral Student	Thomas Jefferson University	Role of the nuclear pore complex in regulating pathological repair in response to lens injury
Thomas	Manzoni	Doctoral Student	University of Delaware	The Ocular Lens Capsule Regulates Tissue Biomechanical Properties
Jonathan	Miller	Masters Student	James Madison University	Characterizing the Mcoln1 <sup>-/-</sup> mouse retina as a model of early retinal degeneration
Stéphanie	Roy	Undergraduate Student	University of Ottawa	To characterize the implication of the dopamine transporter in the regenerative functions of intestinal stem cells
Kaavian	Shariati	Doctoral Student	University of California-Los Angeles	Regenerative Blueprints: Biomaterial and Stem Cell Dynamics in Bone-Vascular Restoration
CHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Joshua	Hardin	Doctoral Student	Emory University	Development of chemomechanical motors capable of receiving dynamic and continuous inputs
John	Tressel	Doctoral Student	University of California-Santa Cruz	Ultrafast Synthesis of Single Atom Catalysts for Onsite Electrochemical Disinfection of Water
Vincent	Xiong	Undergraduate Student	Northwestern University	Exploration of Supramolecular Platinum Fluorescence in Lipid Film Environments
CLIMATE SCIENCE				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Paloma	Siegel	Doctoral Student	University of Colorado Boulder	Examining Liquid Water Percolation in Temperate Alpine Ice Core Water Isotope Records

COMPUTER SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Subhanon	Bera	Doctoral Student	Institute for Advancing Intelligence, TCG CREST	Classification of Treatment Response in Brain Tumors and Head & Neck Tumors Using Features Extracted from Dynamic Contrast-Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (DCE-MRI) Through Advanced Clustering Techniques, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Reinforcement Learning, Along with Pharmacokinetic Modeling Incorporating Three-Compartment and Novel Approaches for Improved Accuracy in Treatment Assessment.
Ranjini	Bhattacharya	Doctoral Student	University of South Florida-Main Campus	Game Theory and Tumor Angiogenesis: Understanding the Dynamics of VEGF Evolution
Waverly Rose	Brim	Masters Student	Johns Hopkins University	AI-Enabled NLP for Oncologic Decision Support
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Rebeca	Appelmann	Undergraduate Student	Purdue University-Main Campus	Assessing gray fox occupancy along forest edges in Indiana using camera traps
Leah	Crenshaw	Doctoral Student	Cornell University	Landscape-scale influences on the value of shade coffee to bird communities in the Panamanian Highlands
Helen	St. John	Masters Student	James Madison University	Habitat preferences for breeding monarch butterflies: Are milkweed and nectar plants enough?
Whitney	Watson	Doctoral Student	New Mexico State University-Main Campus	Assessing brown-capped rosy-finch calls for presence of geographic dialects across the breeding range
ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Bridget	Harter	Doctoral Student	University of South Carolina-Columbia	Habitat fragmentation filtering nocturnal moth communities by traits
Alexis	Hurley	Undergraduate Student	Xavier University	Removal of Ketamine from Environments
Emma	Kelsick	Doctoral Student	University of Georgia	Nitrogen cycling gene expression during compounded fertilizer and flood disturbances
Samuel	Leonard	Doctoral Student	Princeton University	How competitor-induced evolution affects species coexistence

ECOLOGY CONT.				
Kayla	Martinez	Masters Student	University of Denver	The effects of artificial light at night on life history traits and host-parasite interactions
Audrey	Moizan*	Doctoral Student	University of Manitoba	Scavenger guild dynamics in a tundra transition zone
Hailey	Paskert	Masters Student	California State University-Sacramento	The Longitudinal Effects of Dams on Macroinvertebrate Community Structure and Function
Paula Ximena	Sarmiento Garnica	Masters Student	Universidad Nacional de Colombia	Impact of Forest Fires on the Bird Community in Forest Remains in the Department of Tolima
Natalí Belén	Villalba	Doctoral Student	Universidad Nacional de Cordoba	Insect diversity and interaction networks mediated by management in agroecosystems
Chi	Wei	Doctoral Student	Old Dominion University	Effects of flexible dispersal on mitigating inbreeding in a cooperatively breeding bird
ENGINEERING				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Katherine	Fors	Masters Student	Boise State University	Evaluating the Effect of Hyaluronic Acid Supplementation on Meniscal Wear Behavior
Binay	Nayak	Doctoral Student	Iowa State University	Chemically Synthesized Nanoresonators for Optical Metamaterials
Belinda	Truong	Undergraduate Student	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Locomotory Control of Roach-Bots with an Alternative Energy Source and Stimulation Strategy
GEOSCIENCES				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Alaina	Helm	Doctoral Student	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	An Integrated Field Study for Improving Understanding of Fluid-Rock Reactions in Subduction Zones
PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Madison	Grayson	Doctoral Student	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	Characterization of the relative sensitivity of lymphocytes and their subtypes as a function of proton dose and LET
Isaac	Lopez	Doctoral Student	Iowa State University	Constraining Common-Envelope Evolution with Eclipsing Hot Subdwarf Binaries
Ava	Polzin	Doctoral Student	University of Chicago	The Baryon Cycle in Low-Mass Galaxies

PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY CONT.				
Rujuta	Purohit	Doctoral Student	Boston University	Simulating weak lensing of Type Ia supernovae for the Nancy Grace Roman Telescope
Ezequiel	Zubieta	Doctoral Student	Universidad Nacional de La Plata	Identifying the nature of timing noise in neutron stars
PHYSIOLOGY/FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Carolene	Botha	Masters Student	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Development and Clinical Validation of a Low-Cost Fundus Camera for Retinal Screening in Underserved Communities
Asha	Dillon	Undergraduate Student	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Disrupted Autocrine Signaling in POMC Neurons Exacerbates Obesity
Makayla	Guinn	Doctoral Student	Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi	Metabolic effects of pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs) in the blubber of free-ranging dolphins
Kristen	Rosamond	Doctoral Student	University of Missouri-St Louis	Impact of immune activation on the gut microbiome of wild nestling birds
PSYCHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Monica	Carbajal	Doctoral Student	University of Memphis	CB1R-Meditated Inhibition of Nucleus Accumbens Dopamine Activity on Goal-Directed Behavior in Rats Perinatally Exposed to Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol ( $\Delta$ 9-THC)
Anna	Gruzdeva	Doctoral Student	Cornell University	The role of hunger-promoting hypothalamic neurons in spatial learning during foraging
Samantha	Kline	Masters Student	College of William and Mary	Does Cognitive Control Moderate Conflict Processing?
Breanna	Nguyen	Undergraduate Student	Yale University	Patient Preferences Predictor
SYSTEMATICS/EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Lucy	Day	Undergraduate Student	Arizona State University-Tempe	An Investigation of Genetic Polymorphisms in Mosquito Populations to Understand Vector-Borne Diseases Spread Across Areas At-Risk in the USA
Fakher	Lankak	Masters Student	University of Tehran	Iranian Neurergus Newts: A Unique Perspective on Ring Species Theory
Siena	McKim	Doctoral Student	University of California-Santa Barbara	How amphipods transform goo to successful marine silks

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