

*The University of Virginia
Department of Biology*



Graduation 2020

The *Distinguished Majors Program in the Department of Biology* provides students the opportunity to conduct a significant body of independent research culminating in a formal written thesis and oral presentation at the Annual Richard D. Katz Research Symposium. Based on a vote of the faculty, following an evaluation of each student's academic achievement, the degrees of Distinguished Majors may be conferred with one of the following honorifics "with Distinction," "with High Distinction," or "with Highest Distinction."

The Undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Peer Teaching Programs in Biology offer students opportunities to serve as teaching assistants or learning facilitators for Introductory Biology laboratories, under the supervision of professors or graduate teaching assistants. Participants in these programs help create an effective learning community by promoting collaborative problem solving, while also increasing individualized attention.

2020 Diploma Ceremony

Welcome and Introduction

Deborah Roach, Ph.D. Professor & Chair of the Biology Department

Faculty Remarks

Sarah Kucenas, Associate Professor of Biology & Co-Director of Distinguished Majors Program

Ignacio Provencio, Professor of Biology

David Kittlesen, Assistant Professor of Biology

Jessamyn Manson, Assistant Professor of Biology

Michael Wormington, Associate Professor of Biology & Director of Undergraduate Program

Barry Condron, Professor of Biology

Awarding of Diplomas

Prof. Robert Cox - Graduate Diplomas

Prof. Sarah Kucenas - Distinguished Majors

Prof. Jessamyn Manson & Michael Wormington - Bachelor Diplomas

Closing Remarks

Prof. Deborah Roach



Doctor of Philosophy

Adam Huckaby

Advisor: Prof. Jennifer Güler

Dissertation: 'Mechanisms and genomic features of copy number variation in malaria parasites'

Jennifer McDaniels

Advisor: Prof. Jennifer Güler

Dissertation: 'Understanding molecular strategies of resistance used by the malarial parasite, Plasmodium falciparum'

Sumanth Manohar

Advisor: Prof. Robert Grainger

Dissertation: 'The role of homeobox transcription factor six3 in vertebrate eye development'

Xin Yuan

Advisor: Prof. Sarah Siegrist

Dissertation: 'Coordination of Insulin-mediated Neural Stem Cell Proliferation and Stem Cell Niche Development'

Yunlu Zhu

Advisor: Prof. Sarah Kucenas

Dissertation: 'Novel Roles of Glial Precursors in Early Neurogenesis'

Distinguished Majors

Akingbesote, Ngozi Damilola	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Atkeson, Trevor	Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction
Boehling, Julia Ross	Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction
Carlson, Torun Anne ~	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction
Gibson, Tess	Bachelor of Science with Highest Distinction
Jain, Priyanshi	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Li, Andria	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction
Mancusi, Joesph	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Miranda, Leilani	Bachelor of Arts with Distinction
Nolasco, Bryan	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Oliveira, Christopher	Bachelor of Science with Highest Distinction
Steinson, Emma	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction

Richard D. Katz Research Symposium Awards:

1st Place - Tess Gibson
2nd Place - Julia Ross Boehling
3rd Place - Torun Anne Carlson

Bachelor of Science

Cyphers, Valerie Elizabeth	Nigro, Alexandra Rose
Du, Eva Sichen	Patki, Tejal Atul
Duncan, Grace Anne	Pizzuti, Joseph
Fulper, Melinda Ellen	Stutz, Kate Emily
Gandhi, Krishna #	Suhrie, Grace Rebecca
Hentschel, Eden Nicole	Thaxton, Amber
Hu, Xizi	Tolerico, Matthew
Kelley, Megan Elizabeth	Walker, Kendra Nicole
Miller, James Wyatt	Williams, Sydney Desiree
Mills, Tyler Wesley	Williamson, Fiona
Munagala, Sai Ravi Teja	Wilson, Elizabeth Meade

Bachelor of Arts

Abouelsaad, Monica
Adams, Lauren Delaney
Addis, Tobias Kim
Ageeb, Nardin Mohsen
Akram, Shawn
Al Samet, Sulaiman Mohassen
Amezquita, Jonathan
Anderson, Nicolas
Anthony, Nicholas Andrew
Atkins, Adrienne Virginia
Atkinson, Azaria Monet
Atkinson, Sarah Colleen
Azizi, Arian A
Bagous, Mira Mariam
Bailey, Makenzie Brooke
Baker, Jordan Danae
Ballman, Madison Channing
Baloch, Shally
Barakat, Nadim
Bardhi, Elissa
Barlow, Austin
Bartolozzi, Matthew Peter O'Neill
Bautista Neugebauer, Abes
Beddow, Thomas Philip
Bengson, Chelsea Judiann Fleur C.
Bennett, Amanda
Bentley, Grace
Bhatia, Nibha
Bilal, Sasha
Biong, Awar Monytwic
Brainard, Lydia Maxwell
Brashears, Olivia Carrington
Brooks, Daniel Jennings
Buchanan, Christene Jordan
Burlingame, Makayla Dale
Burmeister, Trenton David
Burns, Nathaniel Matthew Harrison
Canter, Sarah Elizabeth
Carrington, Tariq Jalil
Chaudhry, Ahtesham Najeeb
Chaudhry, Alia
Chen, Gina
Chen, Joanna
Choi, Daniel
Conlan, Caroline Elizabeth
Cornelius, Julia
Cosgro, Ryan Patrick
Crafton, Elizabeth
Critzler, Parker Marie
Cubbage, Travis Colton
Curran, Amber Lee Kabo
Cyphers, Jennifer Emy
Dahimene, Nadia Doudja
Dalby, Claire E
Daneshvar, Naaz
Daniel, Katherine Brooke
Daniels, Ivana Alisandrea
Davis, Maura Madeleine
DeCorte, Arianna Daisy
Delaney, Sarah Veronika
Devairakkam, Eric Alphaeus
Dineen, Courtney Brooke
Do, Megan
Donahoe, William Baker
Downes, Margaret Hollis
Dozier, Caitlin Noel #
Dunn, Jordan Taylor
Ellena, Stephanie Roberta
Elmasry, Julian
Elyaderon, Aaron Kad
Fekkak, Ghita
Feng, Yayi
Follante, Aubrey Madison
Fondin, Mathieu Brice
Fortner, Haley Elizabeth

Franklin,Rachel Lovelace
Freitas,Alisha Jeanne
Fuller,Linea Alexandra
Funston,Quinn Lydia
Gaumer,Jacqueline
Given,Phillip True
Goetz,Anneliese Bridget
Goldstein,William Matthew
Gonzalez,Abimael
Goodwin,Tyler Alexis
Gunawardena,Tharidu
Madushan
Gupta,Arnav
Guraya,Kelsey Kaur
Hall,Philip Jordan
Han,John Divine
Hanna,Sarra
Harms,Sabrina Dorothy
Harrington,Kelly Brooklyn
Harvey,Summer Victoria
Heimberg,Alexander Adam
Herbas,Favio
Higgason,Noel Marie
Hilliard,Bradley Stockton
Hogg,Bryan
Hong,Joyce Xinyi
Hunderup,Sarah Grace
Hurst,John Lawrence
Ibarra,Leslie Soledad
Jang,Hee Joo
Jay,Dejah M
Jeon,Eun Ji Michelle
Johnson,Alexander Emil
Joshi,Priyashma
Justis,Virginia Tabb
Kagel,Brian Thomas
Kang,Juhee #
Kannan,Swapna
Kanno,Tomoya
Kapoor,Sejal

Katz,Joshua David
Keat,Karl
Kelly,Olivia Adelaide Camille
Keng,Kelly
Khodaei,Yasmin Mohtaram
Kidd,Trevor Adams
Kim,Jieun
Koffman,Christopher Ross
Lake,Katherine Eleanor
Larkin,Bailey
Larmon,Olivia Danielle
LaRose,Julianna Shayne
Larsen,Kathryn Nicole
Layton,James Townsend
Lee,Christopher
Lee,Seung Whyan
Lee,Skylar Rose
Lee,Teresa Clare
Levit,Michael
Lewis,Benjamin Foster
Lewis,Hannah Marie
Li,Tianhe
Lin,Stephanie Lopez
Lin,Xiaofan #
Liu,Denis
Livingston,Marika
Lloyd,Marin Phasopheap
Loperfito,Alexandra Grace
Louri,Nadia
Lu,Yulan #
Luong,Paul
Madonick,Darby Sara
Magro,Caitlin Barbara
Mahdi,Ayah
Mainor,Seara Isabel Barros
Malak,Alisha
Manohar,Priya Ambika #
Maravilla Villanueva,Kimberly Montserrat

Marcantonio,Olivia Marie
Margraf,Christopher Joseph
Martin,Danielle
Masak,Ryan Michael
May,Emily Leigh
McCormack,John Joseph
McNeilly,Ryan Aubrey
Meiheriguli,Tuerxun
Mendez Medina,Ana Stefany
Miller,Victoria Rose
Mills,Bailey Elizabeth
Min,Kyung Yun
Mitchell,Sara Chandler
Moody,Jenna Elizabeth
Mortemousque,Luc Nelson
Mullaney,Avery Madison
Nallamothe,Rupa
Nanziri,Sarah Catherine
Napa,Madhumita
Natarajan,Aasritha Subramanian
Neves,Carolyn Barreto #
Nguyen,Julia Minh Thu
Nguyen,Megan Thaonhu
Nguyen,Toby Van
Nketsia-Tabiri,Kojo
Nordin,Robert
Oh, Ji Su #
O'Leary,Mia Araquel
Oline,Jane Houston
Outten,Joseph Hunter
Oxford,Madison Asha
Padalia,Jay Yogesh
Paleo,Roxanne Helena
Palmore,Meredith Elaine
Palumbo,Katherine Barrett
Patel,Poonam
Pedersen,Bryan Michael
Pierce Jr.,Fletcher Nelson

Piland,Annie Ahn
Poehls,Sydney Marie
Query,Helen Elizabeth # *
Rector,Ian Vedder
Reid,Kaitlyn Elizabeth
Rhodes,Michael Alexander
Rice,Taylor Tibitha
Rizvi,Saim H
Robertson,Janie Marie
Robinson,Jessica Cherie
Rogers,Quinn Catherine
Rosa,Ariel Isai
Rosenberg,Healy
Rosser IV,William Henry
Ruland,Matthew Michael
Santagati,Lily Ann
Saunders,Sterling Andrews
Savino III,John Richard
Schafft,Emese Janka
Scherer,Robert Joseph
Shah,Anuja Hemang #
Shankar,Meghna Sarojini #
Shinkle,Andrew Thomas
Silva,Veridiana Veneroni
Silvey,Scott Gregory
Simmons,Caroline Rose
Simoni,Margarita
Sims,Lavinia Monet
Slocumb,Taylor Renee
Soni,Atman Parimal
Spangler,Emily Madeline
Sutermeister,Dominic Alan
Sword,Maren Elizabeth
Taylor,Jeannie Elizabeth
Tehreem,Zukhruf Ahmed
Tembe,Connor Patrick
Thomas,Austin Waters Wingfield
Toufas,Berkley Ellis
Tran,Angela Le
Tran,Christine

Vasquez, Marie
Walker, Glen Dalby Randolph
Wang, Yizhou #
Wasserman, Anna Elise
Weaver, Mary Evelyn Maggie
Williams, Derek Vincent
Williamson, Madeline Grace
Wing, Taylor Marjory
Xie, April Hui
Yang, Chenyu # *
Yoo, Rebecca Hahn
Yuan, John
Yuhas, Emily Deanna
Zellars, Janelle Elizabeth
Zulfikar, Aman

Program Key

Biology Peer Teacher #

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant *

Environmental & Biological
Conservation Specialization ~

All graduate information is as of May
13, 2020.

Congratulations Graduates!



Cover design by Ms. Joanne Chaplin