

*The University of Virginia
Department of Biology*



Graduation 2021

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.

The *Andrew Fleming Prize* is awarded in recognition of completing a doctoral dissertation of outstanding quality, originality and significance in the 2020 calendar year. The Fleming Prize was established in 1929 to perpetuate the memory of Andrew Fleming, an avid student of Biology, particularly entomology. This year, our recipients are **Drs. Jennifer McDaniels** and **Yu Yong**.

The *James Norman Dent Award* is awarded to a student publishing or completing a dissertation in the area of developmental biology or endocrinology during the last calendar year and for demonstrating dedication to the principles of scholarship and personal integrity that marked the tenure of Professor Dent at the University of Virginia. This year our recipient is **Omar Guessoum**.

The *Biology Teaching Award* is given to a faculty member who has shown extraordinary excellence in the classroom. This year, our recipient is **Dr. Jessamyn Manson!**

2021 Diploma Ceremony

Welcome and Introduction

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

Faculty Remarks

David Kittlesen, Assistant Professor of Biology

Jessamyn Manson, Assistant Professor of Biology

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

Jennifer Güler, Assistant Professor of Biology

Student Remarks

Awarding of Diplomas

Prof. Dorothy Schafer - Graduate Diplomas

Prof. Sarah Siegrist - Distinguished Majors

Prof. Michael Wormington, Jennifer Güler, Jessamyn Manson - Bachelor Diplomas

Closing Remarks

Prof. Deborah Roach



Doctor of Philosophy

Robin Costello

Advisor: Prof. Edmund Brodie

Dissertation: 'The ecological causes and adaptive consequences of social behaviors in forked fungus beetles (*Bolitotherus cornutus*)'

Wenfan Ke

Advisor: Prof. Eyleen O'Rourke

Dissertation: 'Modeling Chronic Complex Diseases and Treatments in *Caenorhabditis elegans*'

John Leonard

Advisor: Prof. Masashi Kawasaki

Dissertation: 'Temporal Processing Revelations in a Weakly Electric Fish'

Liza Mitchem

Advisor: Prof. Edmund Brodie

Dissertation: 'Personality and plasticity across time, space, and context in forked fungus beetles (*Bolitotherus cornutus*)'

Yu Yong

Advisor: Prof. Christopher Deppmann

Dissertation: 'Regulation and function of axonal spheroids in the peripheral nervous system.'

Distinguished Majors

An,Alexander Chantima	Bachelor of Arts with Distinction
Armstrong,Matthew Robert Grosse	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction
Asfour,Tony Dani	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Baker,Olivia Marie	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction
De Hoyos,Henry Newkirk	Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction
Ene,Nnenna Audrey	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction
Haynes,Claire Marie	Bachelor of Science with High Distinction
Hirt,Ashley Kathryn	Bachelor of Science with Distinction
Honeycutt,Ethan Sebastian	Bachelor of Science with Highest Distinction
Kilgore,Madison Olivia	Bachelor of Science with High Distinction
Minor,Elizabeth Claire #	Bachelor of Arts with Distinction
Moscovich,Tamara Cecilia	Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction
Reddy,Mahima Sahadev	Bachelor of Science with Highest Distinction
Waterhouse,Claire Elise	Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction
Woods,Kate Sheila	Bachelor of Arts with Highest Distinction

Richard D. Katz Research Symposium Awards*:

1st Place - Henry De Hoyos

2nd Place - Olivia Baker

3rd Place - Nnenna Ene

* The Richard D. Katz Undergraduate Research Symposium gives the Distinguished Majors Program candidates an opportunity to present their research findings to Biology students and faculty.

Bachelor of Science

Abernathy,Haven Renee

Ahmed,Nayel Hasan

Angel,Savannah Danielle

Balu,Aaryan

Bass,Ezra Michael #*

Bergner,Michael Richard

Boscia,Alexis Rae

Calvert,Victoria Grace

Daniel,Rachel Madison

Flynn,Shelby Marie

Goodhart,Rebecca Clare

Harding,Catherine McLaughlin

Hardison,Rachel Elizabeth

Holsey,Jordan Christopher

Laichetty,Ankith

Leigh,Arnold Young

Letai,Christopher Taylor #*

Loyd,Riley

Malapati,Pumoli

Murphy,Brianna Fisher

Neubauer,Benjamin Edward

Nguyen,Bao Hoang #

Prakash,Amith

Price,Zola Alexandra

Setia,Karishma

Siddiqui,Faraaz Ahmad #

Smith,Carrie

Tancredi,Christina Grace

Theiler III,Hans Peter #*

Tu,Natalie Pam #

White,Benjamin Harris

Wolfe,Cecily Esther

Bachelor of Arts

Abbott,Andrew Cole	Chahal,Jasmanet Singh
Abdelaziz,Abdelrahman Adel Mohamed	Chang,Tae Yoon
Adhikari,Subani	Chen,Toomsin #
Adnane,Ellyes Seen	Chen,Yuantao
Ahmadi,Sean	Chintuya,Onon
Ahmed,Shaazia	Choi,Dahsom
Al Rawi,Laila Nadine	Choudhury,Zuhayr Mahtab
Al-Eryani,Razan	Clarke,David Franklin
Alvis,Madison Grace ~	Clary,Ashley Ann
Anika,Tasfia Fairij	Comerford,Grace Elizabeth
Arnold,Lucas MacGregor	Conde,Alyssa Marie
Azizi,Arash Mohammad	Connolly,Megan
Baah,Solomon Opoku	Crabtree,Luke Jackson
Bajpai,Dhruvum Shankar	Crosser,Sydney Nicole
Balish,Cameron Elizabeth	Crow,Ryley Scott
Barmore,Cara Lynn	Crumpton,Makayla Brooke
Base,Thomas David	Cryer,Destiny
Bassett,Derek Lee	Culver,Alexander Kevin
Battista,Michael Richard	Danis,Jonathan Edward
Batuwangala,Kisal Randika	D'Arpa,Emily Cristina
Bautista Neughebauer,Monique Luminitza	DeLong-Maxey,Morgan Dakota
Beidas,Lena	Dhanireddy,Chitanya
Bell,Kara Nicole	Diaz,Dimitri Manuel
Benevento,Anna Camilla	DiPetto,Joseph Clifford
Benn,Elijah Roy	Donberger,Allyson Elena
Benothmane,Sarah	Dotterweich,Kathryn Ann
Bertone,Alexander Michael	Elmore,Emily Alexandra
Bettis,Justin Charles	Elyaderon,Aaron Kad
Betts,Gracen Ashley	Epperson,Morgan
Borgonia,Danielle Elenita Gutierrez	Fagerli,Anna Elizabeth
Bowden,Heather Nicole	Fairman,Samuel Redmond
Bradford,Nicole Marie	Fallon,Yanni Alexander
Brite,Gabrielle	Fapohunda,Moronkeji
Brown,Caleb Scott	Farmar,Grace Frances
Calcuttawala,Zainab Yusuf	

Fisher,Carter Brooks
Fisher,Kelly Elizabeth #
Fox,Hunter James
Franklin,Marguerite Sinclair
Franks,Ryan Lloyd #
Freeland,Devon Osbourne
Gallagher,Grace
Galloway,John Walker #
Garrett,Madison Nicolle
Genda,Craig Alexander
Geronimo,Emiliana Ruthmarie
Gess,Briana Lyn
Gess,Tristan Lynn
Glennon,Daria Alysse
Gmelich,Caroline Casey
Goins,Margaret Lynette
Goodwyn,Andrew Richard
Guan,Wei Lin #
Guarneri,Julia Grace
Hagopian,Anastasia Eleni
Haider,Young Min
Hall,William Harrison
Hallinan,Caleb Patrick
Han,Yu #*
Harper,Logan Robert #
Hatim,Muhammad Omer
Hatley,Maya Grace
Hawks,Sydney Elizabeth-Jewel
Hecht,Mitchell Edward
Heller,Teresa Marie
Heninger,Matthew
Her,Cameron Sukgoo
Hernandez,Ana
Hernandez,Susana
Herron,Makayla Cherie
Hess,Kayla Anne
Higginbotham,Benjamin Harold
Hilado,Michelle Beth
Hoang,Lan Anh Pham
Hobbs,Annegrethe Joy
Hogan,Jessica Anne
Huang,William Tien-Yun

Huffman,Chance Dwayne
Huggins,Audrey
Huynh,Annie Tuyet Nhi
Hwang,Hyun Ha
Isiadinso,Tamera S
Ivanova,Christiana Toneva
Jackson,Cameron
Jafari,Noah
James,Olivia Mei
Jang,Jessica Junghyun #
Jang,Youjin
Jeong,Hejin
Jeong,Shua
Jin,Emmanuella
Joshua,Taamson Mehdaar
Kachadorian,Tyler
Kalyan,Megha Ranjani
Kanu,John Palour
Karandikar,Pooja
Karimpuzha,Vaishnavi Balarajan
Kaskel,Justine Yoon
Kelly,Cameron
Khatri,Vivek Nanda
Khokhar,Umbur Shakeel
Khuong,Hallie Han
Kim,Jae Woo
Kim,Margaret Eunha
Kim,Shiyun
Kim,Yeonji
Kinney,John Henson #
Kirkpatrick,Summer Ann #
Kirschke,Emma Suzanne
Kling,Tyler
Knight,Jalen Marie
Kokoneshi,Kris #
Komoniewski,Margaret Anne
Kornell,Hanna Lease
Kunwar,Kritan
Kwaji,Gabriel Wadzani
Lambert,Carson Kennerly
Larkin,Catherine Hayne
Larsen,Julia Elise

Launi,Michelle Elizabeth #*
Le,David
Lee,Harang
Lenderman,Ryanne Marie
Levin,Jamie Marie
Lewis,Kristen Mae
Lewis,MacKenzie Joyce
Li,Hanzhang
Lieu,Brigitte Alexis
Lin,Maggie
Link,Maya Bhargava
Lloyd,Rachel
Lohmar,Brendan James
Long,Claire Marine
Loynab,Mohammad Ashraf
Lucas,Carlin Nicole
Luong,Tiffanie
Lynch,Virginia
Mabe,Mickayla Anne
Majetic,Caroline Grace #
Makarem,Rany Roger
Malapaka,Meghana #
Mantha,Bhargavi
Marine,Catherine Blair
Martin,Casey
Mauck,Isabel Valentine
Maynor,Alexander Nathaniel
McLaughlin,Clare Campbell
McPherson,Bruce Peter
Mehta,Shreyas Prashant
Milicic,Andjelika
Minor Jr.,Larry Charles
Morris,Heather
Morrisroe,Erin Elizabeth
Muncy,Cristina E
Muriel,Danielle Malia
Nannapuneni,Naga Sameera C
Natarelli,Nicole Christine
Negrón Damsky,Alisa Denise

Neider,Matthew Aaron
Nguyen,Anna Elizabeth
Nguyen,Ashley Anh Thu
Nguyen,Ashley Khuc
Nguyen,Janice
Nguyen,Lisa
Nguyen,Quang Thien
Norris,Grayson Rose
Obule,Jasmine Ime
O'Neill,Christopher George
Oram,Layne McKenna
Ortega,Joelle-Delrose
Park,Kody Tae-Soon
Parsa,Brian Ramin
Patel,Bhavik A
Patel,Dev Rajeshkumar
Patel,Tishani
Payne,George
Pendala,Vyshnavi #
Pendergast,Alyssa
Perez,Raymond McGearry
Perini-Anderson,Jaden Anthony
Perry,Jessica Rose
Pfeifer,Brian Edward #
Pham,Lam-Phong Nguyen
Pham,Nguyen Ho Phuong
Phua,Shu Jing
Pieri,Matteo Federico
Pistulka,William
Poirier,Matthieu Charles
Poyner,Heather Elizabeth ~
Pyron,Hunter
Qiu,Xinyue
Qiu,Xu
Rader,Jon Paul Augustus
Ramasubramaniam,Shreya
Revelli,Pietro Carlo Annibale Matteo
Ridout,Gianna Isabel
Rizvi,Jon Osajah

Rollins, Grace Celeste
Ross, Kaila Lukas
Ross, Mallorie Perry
Rush, Emma Jean
Rush, Mikayla Ariana
Ryan, Siobhan Elizabeth
Santarosa, Julia Evelyn
Santucci, Olivia Marie
Schinstock, Madison Lee
Scholle, Erica
Sehidou, Camiellalouisa Dione
Sharpe, Hannah #*
She, Jane
Shelton, Aja Danielle
Shoukry, Rita Salah
Smallets, Sarah Elizabeth
Smith, Brennah
Smith, McKenna Kathleen
Solis, Fatima Carolina
Sorot, Aditya
Srivastava, Swati
Stevens, Joseph Luciano
Stombres, Katherine Anne
Sucic, Danielle Nicole
Summers, Paige Emma
Sunderlin II, James Sterling
Sweeney, Paxton John Gaylord
Tabor, Grace Vandavelde
Tandon, Mihir
Teklu, Helen
Thomas, Kyle
Thompson, Andrea Pauline
Tillet, Emily Marie
Tippit, Sophie Ingrid
Tomlinson, Rachael Elise
Tribastone, Benjamin Carl
Troy, Sarah Elizabeth
Tse, Justin Hylum
Tucker, Isabella Rose
Urushanov, Aslan
van Leeuwen, Luke Nicholas
Veivia, Audrey

Vila, Valentin
Villa, Nicole Siena
Vo, Ken Kim-Long
Vukicevich, Caroline Anne
Walker, Emma Louise #
Waquin, Guadalupe
Weatherford, David Osina
Weathers, Nathan Wyatt
Werenskjold, William Clay
Whindleton, Ciarra Marie
White, Jessica Mary-Kathleen Ayanna
Wickersham, Elizabeth
Wolpert, Luke R.
Woods, Claire Elaine
Woyer, Samantha Kelsey
Yang, Evan Yo Cheng #
Yao, Ricky
Yoon, Sei Young
Young, Shannon Mary
Zainab, Momna
Zent, John Marshall
Zhong, Yuelin
Ziskind, Daniel

Program Key

Biology Peer Teacher #

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant *

Environmental & Biological
Conservation Specialization ~

All graduate information is as of May
18, 2021.

Congratulations Graduates!



Cover design by Ms. Joanne Chaplin