2016-2017 Graduate Equity Recipients
Alina Adamian
A recent alumnus of California State University, Northridge, with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, I am now a proud M.S. Candidate continuing my education and research in Dr. Cindy Malone’s Research Laboratory. My project focuses on the regulation of a microRNA (miRNA), an oncomiR, which has been implicated in several different types of cancers, including small lymphocytic lymphoma and mantle cell lymphoma. We aim to identify the regulatory elements driving transcription of this gene as well as the evolutionary conservation of transcription factors across species. In addition to my research, I immensely enjoy my role as President of the award winning CSUN Biology Club. The club focuses on community outreach and the promotion of future scientists with our “Scientist for the Day” events at local elementary and junior high schools. In addition, as College Research Recruiter for the NIH Build PODER program, recruiting students into an amazing funded undergraduate research program with guidance into Ph.D. programs brings me joy every day!

Katie Alegria
I am a second year master’s student in the General Experimental Psychology program at CSUN. Currently, I am a research assistant in Dr. Erica Wohldmann’s Learning and Memory Lab, where I have contributed to research on how to people learn and apply calorie information. My thesis will continue to examine cognition, focusing on its relationship with technological nature. This fall, I have begun my second semester as a lab instructor through CSUN’s teaching in research and statistics programs. The combination of my research and teaching experience has fueled my passion to continue onto a Ph.D. program in cognitive psychology.

Gabriela Almendarez
I am in my final year as a Master’s student in the Rhetoric and Composition program in the English department. My research project frames Rigoberto González’s memoir, Butterfly Boy: Memories of a Chicano Mariposa, as an exemplary case study of New Mestiza/o theory and its relation to the “third space” of hybrid identity. In the fall of 2017, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree where I will extend my current research by considering postmodern literature’s relation to discourses of mixed-race people and mixed nationalisms in late twentieth-century multiethnic American literature. My wish is to return to the CSU system as a scholar and educator where I will serve linguistically and culturally diverse students.
Maira Areguin
I am a second year graduate student with the Department of Psychology. I received my B.A. in Psychology, and Chicana@ Studies from UCSB. My current research examines health disparities’ association with discrimination, among Latin@ rural farm working communities. My interdisciplinary research approach borrows from literature in Psychology, Public Health and Chican@ Studies. My goal is to create an inclusive framework that examines the experiences of Latin@ rural farm working communities.

Anthony Cobos
I am a first year masters student in Dr. Robert Espinoza's lab. I have done research in Southeast Asia for the past 4 years in my undergraduate institute and have been a part of numerous new species discoveries. My goal in joining Dr. Espinoza's lab is to take my past research a step forward. We plan on looking at the differences in metabolism between geckos that live in the forest vs. those that live in caves. In doing so we will find if, metabolically speaking, it is easier to establish oneself in a cave, or in the forest. I plan on pursuing a PhD, after my masters, to continue researching different systems in the tropics.

Grant Coughlin
This year I decided to continue my education. After working in the film-scoring industry for several years, I realized that earning a doctorate and becoming an educator would fulfill me more than any other career. With the help of Dr. Liviu Marinescu, my study of the compositional techniques of early 20th-Century string quartets has been fruitful. With the support of the Graduate Equity Fellowship, I will be able to continue my scholarly research and hopefully publish my analyses.
**Tangier Davis**

Tangier is interested in exploring the psychological and physiological consequences of prejudice on people of color. Recently, race and prejudice have become popular discussion topics in both the media and everyday conversations. This is not the first time that race has been on the forefront of the country’s mind, but it is one of the first times that the discussion has shifted to the effects of prejudice on the marginalized group. In previous conversations, we discussed motivations for having prejudices, but there was not much discussion about the effects of being a member of the group that society is prejudiced against. However, now that the devastating consequences of prejudice are playing out on a national stage, we must gain more insight into the experiences of marginalized groups.

**Alexis Estrada**

I am a Master’s Candidate in the Marine Biology division of Biology, working in Dr. Mark Steele’s lab. I received my Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Marine Biology at California State University, Northridge. My research investigates factors contributing to the apparent population growth of green abalone at Santa Catalina Island. I am conducting field-based research focusing on the habitat, density, and recruitment of green abalone which will provide a better understanding of what is happening with this population and why. I would like to pursue post-graduate and career academic research after completing my MS in biology. I plan to continue in academic research in a PhD program to further research abalone populations, their ecology, and their recovery.

**Desiree Goetting**

I am a first year Master’s candidate in the Biology department and I am currently researching a deeply conserved sleep-signaling pathway in the nematode, *C. elegans*. I believe that studying this sleep-signaling pathway will help us begin to bridge gaps in our knowledge about how sleep is genetically regulated and provide valuable insight into the core function of sleep. My education is very meaningful to me because I am a first generation college student. I hope to go on to pursue a PhD and teach after completing my Master’s degree.
Zara Kuredjian
My name is Zara Kuredjian and I am an MA student in California State University, Northridge's Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. I am a Visual Arts student with an emphasis in Painting and Drawing. My current focus is on notions of displacement, reappropriation, and narrative. My work is deeply rooted in trauma theory, queer theory, materialism, and post human philosophy and I investigate these notions through materials, performance, writing, and record keeping. My desire, through visual art is to build a visual language that accurately communicates complex information to my audience, while fostering critical dialogue that continues and builds upon a larger framework within contemporary discourse.

Cody Russell
I am a 3rd year graduate student in the Ecology and Evolution division of the biology department. I am working on my master’s thesis in Dr. Paula Schiffman’s lab. I received my B.A. and B.S. from CSUN (Communication Studies 2005 & Environmental Biology 2014). My research is in the field of forest ecology and climate-growth relationships of forest species. My project is focused on a conifer species in the Pine family called *Pseudotsuga macrocarpa* (“big-cone Douglas fir”) which is found only in the mountains of southern California. I am interested in how this species is responding to changes in the climate over the last 100 years and whether this response varies across an elevational gradient. I am using dendrochronology (“tree-time”) to extract and analyze core samples from these trees. My goal is to earn a PhD and eventually become a research professor at the university level.

Lena Vincent
My research interest lies in the application of synthetic biology to various scientific disciplines. As a MS. candidate in Dr. David Bermudes’ laboratory, I am using genetic engineering techniques to develop the use of bacteria as safe and potent drug-delivery vectors to tumors and address some of the major problems facing traditional cancer treatments. I plan to continue onto a Ph.D. program where I can further my skills as a biologist and prepare for my future career as an academic researcher and faculty member. An important long-term objective of mine is to share my excitement for science by inspiring students of diverse backgrounds to participate in scientific research.