

Department of Biology Honors Reception

Friday, May 19, 2023

12:00 p.m.

Chaparral Hall CR5122



*California State University
Northridge*



University Awards

The Wolfson Scholar Award

Natalie Castillo

Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student

Shanelle Wikramanayake

2023 Distinguished Thesis/Graduate Project Competition

Shanelle Wikramanayake

College of Science and Mathematics Awards

Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Promise in Science and Mathematics

Jack Dirck, Rachel Gutner, Hannah Merges, and Avetis Mishegyan

Donald E. Bianchi Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Danielle Barnas

Georgia L. Bianchi Heald Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Carmen Hernandez-Perez

Wujack Harrison Pre-Med Scholarship

Pionik Shahgholian

Robert Nolan Scholarship

Ryan Victory

Hugo and Irma Oppenheimer Award

Shane Jordan

Robert R. Sprague Foundation Scholarship

Natalie Castillo

Southern California Edison STEM Scholarship, CSM Match

*Diego Gomez, Jonathan Huang, Sandra Illescas, Melita Mehzabin,
and Christy Rodriguez*

Department of Biology Awards

Graduate Awards

Donald E. Bianchi Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Award

Michelle Alcantara

Donald Bianchi Outstanding Graduate Research Award

Amanda Di Maso

Donald Bianchi Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award

Hannah Merges

Julie Gorchynski, M.D. Research Graduate Student Scholarship

Sandra Illescas

*Scholarship in Ecology, Behavior, and Natural History
Honoring Jim Dole and Betty Rose*

Shane Jordan

Bob and Doris Tracy Memorial Graduate Fellowship Award

Rachel Gutner

Hugo and Irma Oppenheimer Biology Department Award

Amanda Di Maso, Rachel Gutner, and Hannah Merges

The Richard Duenckel Garden Club Scholarship

Lexi Alter

Undergraduate Awards

Outstanding Student-Faculty Research Collaboration Award

Ithan Cano and Mariano Loza Coll

*Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology, Areas of Cellular,
Molecular, Physiological, or Developmental Biology*

Kit Cheung

*Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology, Areas of Ecology,
Evolution, Ethology, or Systematics*

Natalie Castillo

Bennett-Bickford Biology Scholarship

Diana Ibrahim

*Judge Julian Beck Outstanding Graduating Senior
Biology Department Award – Cell & Molecular*

Audrey Todd

*Judge Julian Beck Outstanding Graduating Senior
Biology Department Award – Ecology & Evolution*

Natalie Castillo

Ian & Kathy Leslie Scholarship in Biology

Melissa Mailhot, Jigar Patel, and Afifeh Tarighat

*Dr. Celina Barba-Simic Biology Scholarship
in Honor of Steven Oppenheimer*

Pablo Segundo

*Lieberman Family Foundation Biology Scholarship
For Outstanding Undergraduates*

Erick Gonzalez

*Newhall Land and Farming
Southern California Ecology Scholarship*

Rainey Barton

*Bob and Doris Tracy Memorial
Undergraduate Scholarship Award*

Natalie Castillo

Prakriti Suri Memorial Award

Afifeh Tarighat

Student Presentation Awards

Nicole Bisente

- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
Advisor: Dr. Robert Espinoza

Ithan Cano

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Mariano Loza Coll

Amanda Di Maso

- *Graduate, 2nd Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Cristian Ruiz Rueda

Jack Dirck

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Robert Espinoza and Dr. Jeanne Robertson

Rafael Estrada and Pablo Segundo

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Cristian Ruiz Rueda and Allea Cauilan

Diana Ibrahim

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Riley Jones

- *Graduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Mark Steele

Vivian Vy Le

- *Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Ray Hong

Marisa Mackje

- *Graduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Ray Hong

Elizabeth Ortiz

- *Graduate, 2nd Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Kelber

Cynthia Petrossian

- *Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Mariano Loza Coll

Amy Sariles and Nikjita Opel

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Melissa Takahashi

Aaron Stibelman

- *Graduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Melissa Takahashi

Audrey Todd

- *Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium*
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Kelber

Luke Tomaneng

• Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Kelber

Shanelle Wikramanayake

• Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

Advisor: Dr. Jeanne Robertson

Maya Zarafshan

• Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2023 CSUN 27th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

***Master's Candidates with
Distinguished Academic Records - Biology
(GPA of 3.885 or higher)***

Michelle Alcantara

Benjamin Chubak

Barbara Czarnecka

Amanda Di Maso

Melissa Gutterman

Shane Jordan

Jessica Peria

Cynthia Petrossian

Aaron Stibelman

Shanelle Wikramanayake

Emily Wilson

***Graduating Seniors with Distinguished
Academic Records - Biology
(GPA of 3.50 or higher)***

Alejandra Alamilla

Rose Marie Aquino

Shannon Arias Ortega

Adrian Arimie

Sadie Armijo

Nikki Atashbar

Roberto Avitia

Andrea Azar

Tania Balian

Sonali Bhardwaj

Natalie Castillo

Dylan Castro

Victoria Cerrillos

Heidi Chow

Stephanie Deam

Tara Devane

Destinee Estrada

Raphael Estrada

Simran Ghotra

Megan Hampton

Erik Hernandez Catalan

Carmen Hernandez-Perez

Sandy Illescas

Razelle Javellana

Nattali Kazma

Bitu Khazali

Nicholas Majarian

Mikaela Maughan

Ify Mbeledogu

Mayra Meza

Janette Mireles

David Mkrtumyan

Inga Nazaryan

Katherine Orr

Jessica Pacheco

Madison Quiram

Axel Ramirez

Arman Refahi

Cruz Robison

Adriana Rocha

Amberly Sanden

Hovhannes Sargsyan

Julie Selman

Asatur Serardaryan

Sanjiti Sharma

Sabrina Sharma

Elina Sharma

Gabi Thompson

Audrey Todd

Luke Tomaneng

Cierra Vigil

Natalie Yeghiayan

Roksana Zare