

# Graduate Honors Convocation

Virtual Ceremony  
Thursday, June 10, 2021  
4:30 PM



# Program

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Frank M. LaFerla, PhD**

Dean and Chancellor's Professor

## Graduate Convocation Awards

**R. Michael Mulligan, PhD**

Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

## Procession of Students

## Closing Remarks

**R. Michael Mulligan, PhD**

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

## Message from Dean LaFerla

Dear Graduate Honorees,

Congratulations on receiving awards at our UC Irvine School of Biological Sciences 2021 Graduate Honors Convocation. Although we still cannot meet in person to applaud your achievements, we are pleased to host a virtual celebration to recognize each one of you. I would especially like to thank our donors for their steadfast support.



As you know, the idea of "life interconnected" underscores our school's foundational theme, MIND|BODY|WORLD. Over the past 15 months, the global COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated precisely how interconnected life is.

Your research is extremely important to UCI, to the state of California, to our country and to the world. Discoveries by students like you will continue to enhance the quality of life on the planet. You inspire great hope that the next generation of researchers will make breakthroughs to safeguard our world for many generations to come.

Best wishes,

*Frank LaFerla*

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD  
Dean and Chancellor's Professor

## Message from Associate Dean Mulligan

Today, we honor you with prestigious awards based on your impressive achievements, academic excellence and deep commitment to research and teaching. Although we cannot be together in person, we hope you, your families, friends and faculty will join together to celebrate your incredible accomplishments and enjoy our virtual honors event.



On behalf of the BioSci Graduate Education team, it's my pleasure to wish you continued success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

*R. Michael Mulligan*

R. Michael Mulligan, PhD  
Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

## 2021 Golden Apple Winner

*Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching*

### Matthew McHenry, PhD

Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology



## Robert Warner Award for Outstanding Achievement in Nucleic Acid Biochemistry

*The Robert Warner Award is given to PhD students who demonstrate the greatest promise for outstanding research careers in nucleic acid biochemistry.*

### Kyle Cole

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Kyle's innovative research includes development of novel tRNA synthetases that respecify amino acid charging and make novel in vitro evolution experiments possible.

## Edward Steinhaus Teaching Award

*Since 1970, the Edward Steinhaus Teaching Awards have been presented to outstanding graduate students with promising futures as educators.*

### Tori Raquel Tucker

Developmental and Cell Biology

Tori Tucker ran outstanding discussion sections that lead to thoughtful discussion and critical thinking.

### Jordan Randall Croy

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Jordan Croy is exceptionally good at interacting with the students in a kind and courteous manner, and inspiring his students to have high academic standards.

### Gemma Rose Takahashi

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Gemma Takahashi developed novel course materials that became part of the curriculum and were shared with the other lab sections.

### Angeline Joan Dukes

Neurobiology and Behavior

Angeline Dukes demonstrated teaching excellence that inspires the next generation of future scientists.

## Graduate Fellowship Award

*The Graduate Fellowship Award is given to a doctoral student early in their program who has outstanding academic achievements and great promise as a researcher.*

### Kendra Emily Walters

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Kendra Walters developed creative research approaches that lead to high impact academic publications.

## William D. Redfield Graduate Fellowship Award

*The William D. Redfield Graduate Fellowship Award is awarded to graduate students within a broadly defined area of molecular biology.*

### Emily Elizabeth Miyoshi

Neurobiology and Behavior

Emily Miyoshi uses computational approaches to address innovative questions at the interface of functional genomics and neurodegenerative diseases.

## Barbara K. Burgess Fellowship Award

*The Barbara K. Burgess Fellowship Award provides student support or financial aid to a deserving post-doctoral researcher who has demonstrated excellence in their research.*

### Dr. Stephanie Jeanelle Hachey

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Stephanie Hachey is a master at organizing collaborations, and recently led a multidisciplinary team to win first place in the campus New Venture Competition.

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## Dr. William F. Holcomb Scholarship

*The Dr. William F. Holcomb Scholarship is given to doctoral students in the biomedical sciences or marine biology who have exhibited distinguished academic accomplishments through their research publications and communication of research activities to scientific and laymen audiences.*

### Lucas Ustick

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Lucas Ustick is a productive and insightful scientist who can integrate tools and concepts from diverse topics such as geoscience, microbiology, bioinformatics and evolutionary biology.

## Allergan Foundation Graduate Award

*The Allergan Foundation Graduate Student Award recognizes a student who shows outstanding scientific promise, as evidenced by his/her research accomplishments. Award winners are selected based on additional criteria such as academic performance, work experience and leadership potential.*

### Joshua Daniel Crapser

Neurobiology and Behavior

Joshua Crapser is a highly productive scientist who brings great technical expertise along with experimental craftsmanship to produce superb and exquisite data.

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## Edward K. Wagner Award in Virology

*The Edward K. Wagner Award is given to an outstanding graduate or undergraduate student studying virology.*

### Amanda Nicole Pinski

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Amanda Pinski investigates mechanisms of Ebola virus pathogenesis, and demonstrated how viral proteins interfere with the host's innate immunity.

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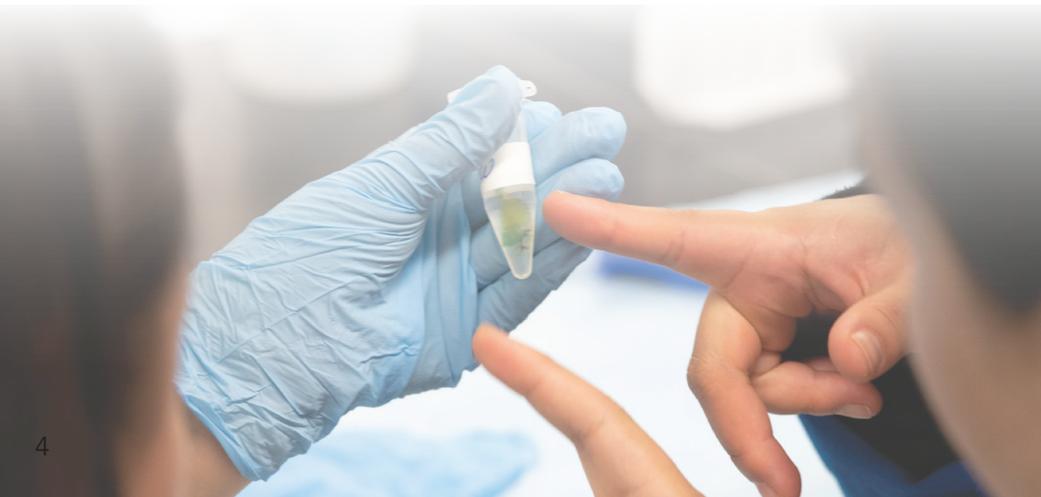
## Susan V. Bryant Graduate Fellowship Award

*The Susan V. Bryant Graduate Fellowship Award recognizes Dr. Bryant's overwhelming contributions in the field and is given to doctoral students studying developmental biology with an emphasis in stem cell regeneration.*

### Katherine Williams

Developmental and Cell Biology

Katherine Williams uses next gen sequencing technologies to assess transcriptomic and epigenetic contributions to muscular dystrophy.



## Joseph H. Stephens Memorial Fellowship Award

*The Joseph H. Stephens Memorial Fellowship Award is given to a graduate student doing work in the area of Dr. Stephens' graduate study, biochemistry and molecular biology.*

### **Karissa Jade Munoz**

Developmental and Cell Biology

Karissa Munoz studies how host cell biology is altered by Chlamydia in host pathogen interactions.

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## Grover C. Stephens Memorial Fellowship Award

*The Grover C. Stephens Memorial Fellowship Award is given to a graduate student in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, with a preference towards students who are working in comparative/evolutionary physiology.*

### **Ashley Nichole Peterson**

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Ashley Peterson studies how highly invasive species are successful through predation behavior, and how behavior can play a critical role in invasion ecology.

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## Krishna and Sujata Tewari Scholar Award

*The Krishna and Sujata Tewari Scholar Award is given to students who demonstrate proclivity and aspirations in science and/or medicine. Two awards are given annually, one to graduate students in Biological Sciences and the other to medical students pursuing an MD or PhD in the School of Medicine.*

### **Nicholas Samuel Rhoades**

Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Nicholas Rhoades is an inquisitive and extremely motivated scientist, and at the same time, a patient and engaging mentor.

## Howard A. Schneiderman Fellowship Award

*The Howard A. Schneiderman Fellowship Award recognizes excellence in research, and is awarded to graduate students who have completed their second year of study.*

### **Tiffany Nada Batarseh**

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Tiffany Batarseh is creative, smart, motivated, dedicated and organized, and has an incredibly bright future ahead of her.

### **Rachel Waymack**

Developmental and Cell Biology

Rachel Waymack has shown how "shadow enhancers" use mechanisms to suppress noise in gene expression for stability in developmental processes.

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## Brian G. Atwood '74 and Lynne H. Edminster Graduate Fellowship

*Brian Atwood received his BS in Biological Sciences from UCI in 1974, followed by an MS from UC Davis and an MBA from Harvard. He was co-founder of Cell Design Labs. This new award from Brian and his wife, Lynne Edminster, supports graduate students who display excellence and innovation in research.*

### **Jonathan Hasselmann**

Neurobiology and Behavior

Jonathan Hasselmann works at the intersection of Alzheimer's disease, learning and memory, and neuroinflammation by using human stem cells in mice.



## Special Thanks to Our Donors

The Warner Family

Professors Emeriti Susan  
Bryant & David Gardiner

The Steinhaus Family

Ann Stephens '70, '71

The Redfield Family

Drs. Nita '92 &

The Burgess Family

Debu Tewari '93, '97, '14

The Holcomb Family

Drs. Krishnansu '94 &  
Meagan Tewari '01

The Allergan Foundation

The Schneiderman Family

Judith Wagner

Brian G. Atwood '74 & Lynne H. Edminster

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## Give the Gift of Discovery

To learn how you can help further our mission of education  
and research excellence, please contact:

**Andrew DiNuzzo**

adinuzzo@uci.edu

949.824.8387

**Robyn Martinelli**

robyn.martinelli@uci.edu

949.824.2734

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