

# Biology AT IOWA

POINTS OF INTEREST | ISSUE 1 | 2024

## PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES

### Lori Adams

Lori Adams, Director of the [Iowa Sciences Academy](#) (ISA), has been promoted to Professor of Instruction in the Department of Biology effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Adams teaches undergraduate courses Ways of Knowing Science (BIOL:1808) in the fall semester, Communicating Research (BIOL:4898) in the spring semester, in addition to ISA student development courses and the two-course sequence as part of the [Latham Science Engagement Fellowship Program](#).

Dr. Adams was also appointed as a Provost Faculty Fellow for Faculty Development and Student Success for 2024-2025. In this role, Dr. Adams will assist with working on strategies to support faculty development and student success that align with the UI strategic plan.

### Jessica Cooke

Jessica Cooke joined the [Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank](#) (DSHB) in June 2024 as Senior Scientific Curator. Dr. Cooke was previously an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

## Jan Fassler

Jan Fassler, Professor of Biology, has been named as the Director of Graduate Studies for the [Integrated Biology \(iBio\) Graduate Program](#) effective July 1, 2024. We thank **Bryan Phillips**, Professor of Biology, for his years of service as the Director of Graduate Studies since July 2019.

## Andrew Forbes

Andrew Forbes, Professor of Biology, has been named as the Associate Chair for the Department of Biology effective July 1, 2024. In this role, Dr. Forbes will serve as a strategic partner for the Department Chair, **Tina Tootle**. Dr. Forbes joined the Department of Biology in 2010.



## Anne Martin

Anne Martin will be joining the Department of Biology in May 2025 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Martin is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar in Dr. Adam Miller's Lab at the University of Oregon Institute of Neuroscience. Her research focuses on the overlap between electrical and chemical synaptogenesis using larval zebrafish. We are excited that Dr. Martin will be joining our department in 2025!

## John Manak

John Manak, Professor of Biology, has been named as the Director of the [Biomedical Sciences undergraduate program](#) effective July 1, 2024. We thank **Jan Fassler**, Professor of Biology, for her years of service in this role.



## Katheryn Rothenberg

Katheryn Rothenberg, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Quantitative Morphogenesis Lab at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering, will be joining the Department of Biology as an Assistant Professor in August 2024. Her research focuses on cell adhesion mechanobiology. We are excited to have Dr. Rothenberg join our department soon!

## Anna Ramsey

Anna Ramsey joined the Department of Biology in May 2024 as a Research Intern in **Tina Tootle's** lab.

## **Jeff Shander**

Jeff Shander joined the Department of Biology in March 2024 as a Research Associate in **Alan Kay's** lab.

## **Chris Stipp**

Chris Stipp has been promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2024. Dr. Stipp joined the Department of Biology in 2003. His research concentrates on cancer cell biology with a focus on tumor progression and metastasis, and how cancer cells develop resistance to anti-cancer targeted therapies.



## **Cathy Yea Won Sung**

Cathy Yea Won Sung, an NIH K99/R00 awardee, will be joining the Department of Biology in August 2025 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Sung is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Hearing Biology and Therapeutics at NIH's National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Her research focuses on identifying the role of macrophages during ototoxic drug-induced hearing loss with interests including

investigating the biology of the blood-labyrinth barrier.

We are excited that Dr. Sung will be joining our department in 2025!

# **NEW GRANT AWARDS**



## **Sydney Arlis (Manak Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Sydney Arlis is currently funded by a pre-doctoral trainee position from a National Research Service Award (NRSA T90) in Oral Health Research from NIH's National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) for 2024. The position can be renewed for up to two subsequent years.

## **Adrianna Caro (Green Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**



Title: Role of the immune response in spiral ganglion neuron death after hair cell loss

Sponsor: NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) Pre-doctoral Fellowship (F31)

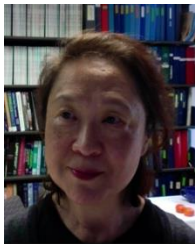
Role: Principal Investigator

Total Award: \$36,262.00

Time frame: 1 year (6/6/2024 – 6/5/2025)

## **Chi-Lien Cheng**

**Professor of Biology**



Title: The evolution and development of fundamental reproductive structures: sporangia

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Role: Principal Investigator

Total Award: \$750,000.00

Time frame: 4 years (7/15/2024 – 6/30/2028)

## **Andrew Forbes**

**Professor of Biology**



Title: Discovering eukaryotic symbionts across diverse insect communities

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Role: Principal Investigator

Total Award: \$290,025.00

Time frame: 3 years (4/1/2024 – 3/31/2027)

## **Mei-ling Joiner**

**Assistant Research Scientist (Eberl Lab)**



Title: Genetic basis of the evolution of insect hearing

Sponsor: The Royal Society and University of Leicester

Role: Principal Investigator

Total Award: \$5,740.00

Time frame: 1 year (3/31/2024 – 3/30/2025)

**Sarit Smolikove**  
**Professor of Biology**



Title: Mechanisms for the propagation of R-loop induced chromosomal fragments in the germline

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)

Role: Principal Investigator

Total Award: \$550,000.00

Time frame: 3 years (5/1/2024 – 4/30/2027)

## HONORS & AWARDS



**Lori Adams**

**Director, Iowa Sciences Academy; Professor of Instruction, Department of Biology**

Lori Adams received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' (CLAS) Distinguished Professor of Instruction Award, which recognizes candidates who excel in teaching, institutional and professional service, and their record of publications at time of advancement. The two-year award carries a one-time financial award, which may be used for research and teaching initiatives.

Dr. Adams was selected for the award among those promoted to Professor of Instruction. She is interested in enhancing undergraduate biology education through research experience opportunities, mentoring, and the practice of scientific teaching. Dr. Adams teaches courses in communicating research, student development, and more.

**Sydney Arlis (Manak Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Sydney Arlis received a 2023-2024 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the UI Council on Teaching. Awardees of the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award received \$1,000 and were presented with a certificate at a reception held on May 2, 2024. Sydney was nominated for this award by **Albert Erives**, Associate Professor of Biology, for the course Introduction to Developmental Biology in the Fall 2023 semester.

Sydney also received a Best Oral Presentation Award for her talk, "Defining the role of ISM1 in craniofacial development," at the NEUcrest Conference, Presqu'île de Giens, Hyères-les-Palmiers, France, March 3-6, 2024.

**Hunter Brown (Tootle Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics**

Hunter Brown received an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics Predoctoral Training Grant (T32) for 2024-2025.

### **Baylee Bruce (He Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics**

Baylee Bruce received an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics Predoctoral Training Grant (T32) for 2024-2025.

### **Seren Castellano**

#### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biology (Genetics and Biotechnology track) and Iowa Sciences Academy student**

Seren Castellano received an award for 2<sup>nd</sup> place as Best Oral Presentation at the 2023-2024 IINSPIRE LSAMP Annual Conference held at Iowa State University on February 9-10, 2024. The title of Seren's presentation was, "Analyzing Evolutionary Mutation Rates in *Polyomaviridae*."

### **Tyler Draayer (Logsdon Lab)**

#### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biology**

Tyler Draayer, majoring in Biology (BA), was awarded an Independent Creative Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) Fellowship from the Office of Undergraduate Research for the summer of 2024.

### **Quinn Eldridge**

#### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biomedical Sciences and Iowa Sciences Academy student**

Quinn Eldridge received an award for 3<sup>rd</sup> place as Best Poster Presentation at the 2023-2024 IINSPIRE LSAMP Annual Conference held at Iowa State University on February 9-10, 2024. The title of Quinn's poster was, "Characterization of *Chlamydia trachomatis* Type III Secreted Effector Protein CT584."

### **Ashley Goll (Tootle Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Program**

Ashley Goll received a Summer 2024 Fellowship from the UI Graduate College.

### **Camille Hanes (Weiner and Dailey Labs)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience**

Camille Hanes received a Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship from the UI Graduate College for the Spring 2024 semester.

## **Mason Heidebrink (Eberl Lab)**

### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biology**

Mason Heidebrink was awarded a Summer Fellowship from the Office of Undergraduate Research.

## **Emily Hirsch (Phillips Lab)**

### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Emily Hirsch received a Summer 2024 Fellowship from the UI Graduate College.

## **Jasmyn Hoeger**

### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biology (Cell and Developmental Biology track) and Iowa Sciences Academy student**

Jasmyn Hoeger received a 2024 Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award from the UI Office of Undergraduate Research. Read more about Jasmyn and her research [here](#).

## **Jinye Liang (He Lab)**

### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Jinye Liang received the Carol B. and Robert G. Lynch Department of Biology Graduate Award for Summer 2024. This award is intended to support graduate students as they receive a combination of didactic training, research exposure, and tailored mentoring. The fund also supports career development in the form of graduate student travel to scientific meetings and publication costs. Jinye is studying the evolution of acquired stress resistance in pathogenic microbial species. This award provided her the opportunity to explore the evolution of the catalase protein between multiple pathogenic microbial species.

The Lynchs received their PhDs in Zoology from the University of Iowa – the late Carol in 1971 and Robert (Bob) in 1972. Their bequest to the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program is in honor of their advisers, Hugh Dingle and Joe Hegmann.

## **Kelsi Mann (Houston Lab)**

### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Kelsi Mann received the Michael J. Dykstra Graduate Scholarship for Summer 2024. This scholarship provides support for a graduate student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program. Kelsi is researching the genes that regulate axis patterning in early vertebrate development. The award has enabled her to explore the interaction between Hif-1a and the Spemann-Mangold Organizer during dorsoventral patterning of early *Xenopus* embryos.

Dykstra, who earned both his B.A. (1969) and M.S. (1971) in Botany at the University of Iowa, believes strongly in higher education and hopes that his gift will provide educational support for future leaders in scientific research and teaching.

### **Briante Najev (Neiman Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Briante Najev received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Dissertation Writing Fellowship for Summer and Fall 2024 for her dissertation entitled, "How do environmental stressors influence a snail with variable ploidy and reproductive modes?" Her dissertation investigates how nutritional limitation and population density influence the chromosomal makeup of the destructive, globally invasive New Zealand mud snail. The CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship is awarded annually to 10 graduate students, providing time and funding for the completion of a PhD dissertation. The fellowship provides a total of \$14,000 to each student.

### **Lily Nelson (Dailey Lab)**

#### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Neuroscience**

Lily Nelson was awarded a Summer Fellowship from the Office of Undergraduate Research.

### **Jahnvi Pandya**

#### **Graduate Research Assistant and Career Counselor, Iowa Sciences Academy**

Jahnvi Pandya received an Excellence in Mentoring Award at the 2023-2024 IINSPIRE LSAMP Annual Conference held at Iowa State University on February 9-10, 2024.

### **Danielle Talbot (Tootle Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Program**

Danielle Talbot received a 2023-2024 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the UI Council on Teaching. Awardees of the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award received \$1,000 and were presented with a certificate at a reception held on May 2, 2024. Danielle was nominated for this award by Darren Hoffmann, Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, for the course Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology in the Fall 2023 semester.

Danielle also received the Award for Superior Achievement in Student Teaching from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. This award is presented to the graduate student in Anatomy and Cell Biology whose teaching performance is judged outstanding by the course directors in the department. Anatomy and Cell Biology held their Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony on May 1, 2024.



## **Lydia Watkins**

### **Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Biology**

Lydia Watkins was one of three students selected as the 2024 Iowa Neuroscience Institute (INI) Summer Scholars. The INI Summer Scholar Program supports University of Iowa undergraduate students who plan to pursue research during the summer in the lab of an INI faculty member. Lydia does research in the lab of Isabel Muzzio, a Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. As INI Summer Scholars, each student receives a stipend of \$5,000 and has the opportunity to attend a summer undergraduate seminar series and a variety of informal events. For the news release about the announcement of the three recipients of this award, visit <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/iowanewscience/content/ini-names-3-undergraduate-summer-scholars>

## **Jacob Wells (Malkova Lab)**

### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Jacob Wells received a Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship from the UI Graduate College for the Spring 2024 semester.

## **Brady Williquett (Manak Lab)**

### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Brady Williquett received a Summer 2024 Fellowship from the UI Graduate College.

## **2023-2024 BIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS RECIPIENTS**

### **CLIFFORD W. HESSELTINE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience student of junior or senior standing who has a strong academic record (GPA of at least 3.5) and excellence outside the classroom.

#### **Recipient: Deven Strief**

##### **Deven Strief**

Major/Interest: Biomedical Sciences with a Pre-Medicine interest

Hometown: Eldridge, IA

Faculty Research Advisor: Michael Dailey, Ph.D.

### **BIOLOGY OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD**

#### **(2 recipients)**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience undergraduate student who has been an outstanding undergraduate teaching assistant for the 2023-2024 academic year.

#### **Recipients: Veda Amalkar and Abbie Townsend**

**Veda Amalkar**

Major: Biomedical Sciences with a Pre-Medicine interest  
Hometown: West Des Moines, IA  
Nominated by Angie Cordle, Ph.D.

**Abbie Townsend**

Major/Interest: Neuroscience with a Pre-Medicine interest  
Hometown: Cedar Falls, IA  
Nominated by Angie Cordle, Ph.D.

**ARTHUR J. AND FLORA D. LEVIN EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARD  
(2 recipients)**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience undergraduate student for excellence in teaching through the Teaching Internship in Biology (BIOL:4897).

**Recipients: Jenna Atkins and Omar Montiel-Martinez**

**Jenna Atkins**

Major: Biology (Genetics and Biotechnology track)  
Hometown: Cedar Falls, IA  
Nominated by Amr El Zawily, Ph.D., and Hanxi Tang for Teaching Internship in Biology: Foundations of Biology (BIOL:4897:0001), Spring 2024 semester.

**Omar Montiel-Martinez**

Major/Interest: Biology (Genetics and Biotechnology track) with a Pre-Physician Assistant interest  
Hometown: Franklin Park, IL  
Nominated by Angie Cordle, Ph.D., for Teaching Internship in Biology: Human Biology (BIOL:4897:0002), Fall 2023 semester.

**ARTHUR J. AND FLORA D. LEVIN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience student undertaking laboratory research in the Department of Biology and who possesses the potential to make an outstanding contribution in research.

**Recipient: Cole Belcher**

**Cole Belcher**

Major: Biology (Integrative Biology track)  
Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN  
Faculty Research Advisor: Bin He, Ph.D.  
Nominated by Bin He, Ph.D.

### **EVELYN HART WATSON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience student undertaking laboratory research in the Department of Biology who has a GPA of at least 3.0. The recipient of this award can apply for either an upcoming academic year or summer fellowship.

**Recipient: Lily Nelson**

**Lily Nelson**

Major/Interest: Neuroscience with a Pre-Medicine interest

Hometown: Clive, IA

Faculty Research Advisor: Michael Dailey, Ph.D.

### **LOWDEN PRIZE FOR OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT IN BIOLOGY**

This award recognizes a Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Neuroscience student who has been highly engaged with the Department of Biology's outreach and recruiting events/activities.

**Recipient: Gabriella Snyder**

**Gabriella Snyder**

Majors: Biology (Genetics and Biotechnology track) and Anthropology (Medical Anthropology track)

Hometown: Adel, IA

\*This award is funded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

## **SPRING 2024 GRADUATES**

The following Ph.D. and M.S. students in the Department of Biology graduated in the Spring 2024 semester. Congratulations to all of these students on their achievements and hard work!



**Tara Hicks (Smolikove Lab)**

Ph.D. in Integrated Biology

Dissertation Title: "R-loops' effect on chromosome stability and temporal regulation of DSB processing in the *C. elegans* germline"



**Kelley Renninger (Cheng Lab)**

Ph.D. in Integrated Biology

Dissertation Title: "Characterization of Phytohormone Signaling in *Ceratopteris richardii*: Reproductive Transition and Meristematic Activity"



**Lindsey Snyder (He Lab)**

Ph.D. in Genetics

Dissertation Title: "Evolution of stress response regulators and adhesion genes in pathogenic yeast"



**Merve Addemir (Summers Lab)**

M.S. in Integrated Biology

Thesis Title: "The NGF Enigma; Exploring NGF in Axon Survival"



**Athena Kvamme (Cheng Lab)**

M.S. in Integrated Biology (non-thesis)



**Zhenshen Zhang (Green Lab)**

M.S. in Integrated Biology

Thesis Title: "The adaptive immune response: a potential cause of spiral ganglion neurodegeneration after deafening"

## ALUMNI NEWS

### **Morgan Anderson and Precious Pate (Neiman Lab)**

Morgan Anderson (B.S. in Biology/Integrative Biology track, Spring 2024) and Precious Pate, were selected to present at the Research in the Capitol event on March 25, 2024, at the Iowa Statehouse in Des Moines. Each year, 20 students from the three regent universities (Iowa, Iowa State, UNI) bring research posters to display at Iowa's Statehouse. Students use their posters as a backdrop to discuss their work with Iowa's legislators. The title of their presentation was, "Analyzing Endopolyploidy in freshwater snails." Morgan and Precious were also students in the [Iowa Sciences Academy](#) program.

### **Cole Belcher**

Cole Belcher received a B.S. in Biology (Integrative Biology track) in Spring 2024 and will be joining the Pathobiology M.S. program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

this fall. Cole was an undergraduate researcher in **Bin He's** lab since his sophomore year.

### **Nicole Boodhoo**

Nicole Boodhoo, who recently graduated in Spring 2024 with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences (high distinction) and was a 2023-2024 Latham Fellow, was selected as the 2023-2024 recipient of the Tom Rocklin Meet the Challenge Award in the category of Excel. Nicole was recognized for this award at the Hawkeye Excellence Awards Recognition Ceremony held on April 25, 2024, at the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU) Main Lounge. The purpose of the Meet The Challenge Awards is to recognize undergraduate students who exemplify the values promoted by The IOWA Challenge through their actions within the University of Iowa and surrounding communities. Each year one winner is selected for recognition in each of the five IOWA Challenge areas: Excel, Stretch, Engage, Choose, and Serve. Winners receive a \$500 award sponsored by the UI Office of the Provost and the Division of Student Life.

Nicole also was selected to present at the Research in the Capitol event on March 25, 2024, at the Iowa Statehouse in Des Moines. Each year, 20 students from the three regent universities (Iowa, Iowa State, UNI) bring research posters to display at Iowa's Statehouse. Students use their posters as a backdrop to discuss their work with Iowa's legislators. The title of Nicole's presentation was, "A novel stress mechanism in SUDEP pathophysiology: the possible role of corticosterone."

### **Kalynn Culver**

Kalynn Culver was accepted into the Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling at the University of Utah. She will begin the two-year Master's of Science program in the fall. Kalynn received her B.S. in Biology (Genetics and Biotechnology track) in Spring 2023.

### **Laura Evans**

Laura Evans, a Department of Biology alumna (B.S. in Neuroscience, 2022), is currently in South Korea serving as an English Teaching Assistant after receiving the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award for 2023-2024. She is helping elementary school students improve their English while designing projects aimed at fostering cross-cultural engagement.



### **Sofia Gomez**

Sofia Gomez, who earned a B.S. in Biology (Cell and Developmental Biology track) in Spring 2023, will be joining the Cell Biology, Stem Cells & Development Ph.D. Program at

the University of Colorado, Denver, this fall. Sofia is currently a Research Intern in **Tina Tootle's** lab.

### **Jennifer Jiman**

Jennifer Jiman, who received a B.A. in Biology in Spring 2023, was the winner of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Award to South Korea for 2024-2025. With this award, Jennifer will teach English and start a book club for elementary school children. For an interview with Jennifer written by Ben Partridge, a Senior Designer with UI International Programs, visit <https://international.uiowa.edu/news/2024/04/ui-alumna-jennifer-jiman-awarded-fulbright-south-korea>.

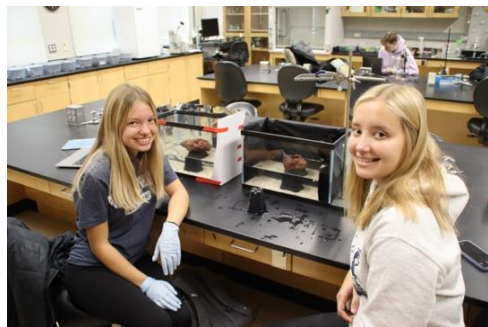
### **Jorge Moreno**

Jorge Moreno, who received a B.S. in Biology (Evolutionary Biology track) in 2018, is co-first author on a paper published in *Nature* in April 2024 entitled, "[Emx2 underlies the development and evolution of marsupial gliding membranes.](#)" While at Iowa, Moreno worked in the lab of Biology Professor, **Maurine Neiman**, and was a student in the Iowa Biosciences Academy (now Iowa Sciences Academy) program. Moreno went on to earn a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at Princeton University and is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City.

### **Margaret Mungai**

Margaret Mungai, who graduated in 2020 with a B.S. in Biology (Neurobiology track) and Honors in Biology, has been accepted into the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at UCLA beginning this summer. During her time at the University of Iowa, Margaret received an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award (2019) from ICRU (Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates, now known as the UI Office of Undergraduate Research) and was a student in the Iowa Biosciences Academy (now Iowa Sciences Academy) program. Since leaving Iowa, Margaret has worked in a research lab at UC Berkeley, spent time in Spain on a [Fulbright Study/Research grant in Biology](#), and worked in a research lab at Vanderbilt University. This past year, Margaret completed a postbac in the NIH Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program.

### **Stephanie Rocca and Danielle Saldana**



Stephanie Rocca (B.S. in Biology/Genetics and Biotechnology track, Spring 2024) and Danielle Saldana (B.A. in Biology, Spring 2024) are co-first authors on a paper published in *microPublication Biology* based on their independent project studying the behavior of crayfish in the Animal Behavior Laboratory course (BIOL:3245) in the Spring 2024 semester. Additional collaborators include **Merve Addemir** (B.S. in Biology/Neurobiology track, 2021;



and M.S. in Integrated Biology, Spring 2024); Julianna Koenig; **Bin He**, Assistant Professor of Biology; **Olga Miakotina**, Instructional Services Specialist; and **Dan Eberl**, Professor of Biology. Read the full paper here:

<https://micropublication.org/journals/biology/micropub-biology-001184>

### **Kartik Sivakumar**

Kartik Sivakumar, B.S. in Neuroscience with Highest Distinction (December 2022), was recently accepted into the School of Medicine at West Virginia University where he will enter the MD/PhD Program beginning in the Fall 2024 semester. Sivakumar, from Marion, Iowa, worked in Dr. Nandakumar Narayanan's lab in the Department of Neurology as an undergraduate researcher and continued there as a full-time researcher after completing his bachelor's degree. Sivakumar earned several awards during his time at the University of Iowa including the Iowa Neuroscience Institute's Summer Scholar Award, the Lowden Prize for Engagement and Outreach in Biology, and was chosen as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences December 2022 Commencement Ceremony speaker. Sivakumar also received a minor in Philosophy and a Certificate in Clinical and Translation Science.

### **Hanxi Tang (He Lab)**

Hanxi Tang, who graduated in Spring 2021 with a B.S. in Biology (Cell and Developmental Biology track) with Highest Distinction and is currently an M.S. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program, will be defending her thesis on July 9, then will be joining the Chemical and Systems Biology Ph.D. program at Stanford University this fall.

### **Luke Zaabel**

Luke Zaabel, who recently graduated in Spring 2024 with a B.S. in Neuroscience (highest distinction) and a minor in Biology, received the 2023-2024 Stevens Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship. This accolade was established in memory of Guy and Adeline Stevens by their daughter, University of Iowa Assistant Professor Emerita Harriet Stevens. The scholarship is awarded each year to a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who demonstrates professional promise and personal integrity, as well as holds a minimum grade point average of 3.80.

### **Career Development Series Talks by Biology Alumnae**



Rajula Elango



Beth Osia

**Rajula Elango** (Ph.D. in Integrated Biology, 2017) and **Beth Osia** (Ph.D. in Integrated Biology, 2020) gave Career Development Series talks hosted by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC). Drs. Elango and Osia studied under the mentorship of **Anna Malkova**. Dr. Elango's talk entitled, "My Career Path to a Government Research Lab," was held on April 16, 2024, via Zoom, while Dr. Osia's talk entitled, "Career Transition as

a T32 Postdoc at a Cancer Research and Treatment Center,” was held on June 25, 2024, also via Zoom.

Dr. Elango is a Principal Investigator in the Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and leads the Stalled Replication Repair Group. She holds a secondary appointment in the institute’s Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology Laboratory. Her group works to track the molecular fate of DNA-protein crosslinks (DPCs), which are deleterious DNA lesions where a protein is covalently linked to a DNA strand. Dr. Osia is currently a Postdoctoral Research Scientist at City of Hope studying RAD52 synthetic lethal interactions.

The Career Development Series talks are intended to show the spectrum of scientific careers and career development resources for HCCC trainees. The series brings together key speakers who have strong ties to Iowa and who have developed careers in industry research, academics at small colleges or large universities, government funding agencies, Intellectual Property law, and clinical laboratories.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### **Lori Adams**

**Director, Iowa Sciences Academy; Professor of Instruction, Department of Biology**

Career Panelist at the UI Department of Mathematics’ Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day, Iowa City, IA, March 30, 2024.

“Reflecting on Your Mentoring Practice,” Workshop Facilitator at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Women’s Faculty Development Conference, Iowa City, IA, February 16, 2024.

### **Sydney Arlis (Manak Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

“Defining the role of ISM1 in craniofacial development,” oral presentation at the NEUcrest Conference, Presqu’île de Giens, Hyères-les-Palmiers, France, March 3-6, 2024.

### **Quinn Eldridge**

**Undergraduate Researcher majoring in Biomedical Sciences and Iowa Sciences Academy student**

“Characterization of *Chlamydia trachomatis* Type III Secreted Effector Protein CT584,” poster presentation at the American Society for Microbiology 2024 Microbe Conference, Atlanta, GA, June 16, 2024.



### **Ashley Goll (Tootle Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Program**

“Prostaglandin regulation of the nucleoskeleton promotes collective cell migration,” poster presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), National Harbor, MD, March 6-10, 2024.

### **Jasmyn Hoeger**

#### **Undergraduate Student majoring in Biology (Cell and Developmental Biology track) and Iowa Sciences Academy student**

Jasmyn Hoeger attended the 2024 World Congress on In Vitro Biology held in St. Louis, MO, June 8-12, 2024. Jasmyn planned and led a Student Networking Luncheon on “The Proper Use of English in Scientific Writing” in addition to workshops on “Single Cell RNA Sequencing” and “Templated Editing in Eukaryotic Systems for Gene Therapy and Agriculture.”

### **Jinye Liang (He Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

“Divergence of TORC1-mediated stress response leads to novel acquired stress resistance in a pathogenic yeast,” oral presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), National Harbor, MD, March 6-10, 2024.

### **Elisabeth Nacino (Tootle Lab)**

#### **Undergraduate Researcher**

“Prostaglandin regulation of the nucleoskeleton promotes collective cell migration,” poster presentation at the Microbiology Undergraduate Research Poster Session, EMRB Atrium, Iowa City, IA, April 25, 2024.

### **Ryan Pellow (Comeron Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

“Impact of *de novo* transposition events on the 3D nuclear architecture and sequence structure of telomeres and centromeres in multigenerational heat-shock lines of *Drosophila melanogaster*,” oral presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), National Harbor, MD, March 6-10, 2024.

### **Anna Ramsey (Tootle Lab)**

#### **Research Intern**

“Heat shock alters nucleolar morphology in *Drosophila* nurse cells,” poster presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), National Harbor, MD, March 6-10, 2024.

## **Danielle Talbot (Tootle Lab)**

**Ph.D. student in the Cell and Developmental Biology Graduate Program**

“Fascin controls nucleolar function and morphology during *Drosophila* oogenesis,” oral presentation at The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), National Harbor, MD, March 6-10, 2024.

## **Amr El Zawily, Brandon Waltz, John Logsdon, Erin Irish, and Hanxi Tang**

“Foundations of Biology (BIOL:1411), an excellence in teaching and learning story between past, present, and the future,” poster presentation at the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Showcase, Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City, IA, April 18, 2024.



## **2024 Spring Undergraduate Research Festival**

Several undergraduate students affiliated with the Department of Biology and/or the Iowa Sciences Academy presented at the 2024 Spring Undergraduate Research Festival held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. For the full list of presenters and their abstracts, visit <https://our.research.uiowa.edu/surf-2024-presenters-abstracts>

# **FACULTY SEMINARS**

## **Bin He**

**Assistant Professor of Biology**

The University of Texas at San Antonio, South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases

Title: “Tough and sticky – Evolution of stress response and adhesin gene family in pathogenic yeasts”

Date: February 22, 2024

University at Buffalo, Department of Biological Sciences, Buffalo, NY

Title: “Tough and sticky – Evolution of stress response and adhesin gene family in pathogenic yeasts”

Date: March 28, 2024

**Maurine Neiman**  
**Professor of Biology**

University of Houston, Department of Biology and Biochemistry

Title: "Sex in the Wild (and especially in New Zealand)"

Date: January 23, 2024

Carleton College, Department of Biology

Title: "Phenotypes and Genomes in the Absence of Sex"

Date: February 26, 2024

Grinnell College, Department of Biology

Title: "Sex in the Wild (and especially in New Zealand)"

Date: May 8, 2024

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

### Recognizing the impact of faculty and staff identified by the Class of 2024

The graduating Class of 2024 recognizes many UI faculty and staff members for making a positive difference in their lives during their time at the University of Iowa.

Among those identified were several in the Department of Biology. Check out the full list of all UI faculty and staff identified [here](#).

### The Emergence of Cicadas!

Department of Biology Professor, **Andrew Forbes**, was recently featured by local media regarding the emergence of two different types of cicadas in some areas of the U.S. Click on the links below for the videos and podcasts.

Dr. Forbes on [CBS2](#)

Dr. Forbes on [KCRG-TV9](#)

Dr. Forbes on [Iowa Public Radio podcast](#) (Dr. Forbes' interview is in the second half)

Dr. Forbes on [Iowa Public Radio bonus episode](#) about all things cicadas.

In addition to Dr. Forbes' popularity with the local media, Biology Professor, **Dan Eberl**, along with Biology Assistant Research Scientist, **Mei-ling Joiner**, collaborated with Ben Warren, who was recently visiting from the University of Leicester in the UK, to study the hearing systems of insects and were doing field work at Macbride Nature Recreation Area as they studied the cicadas that emerged this spring. Dr. Warren was also featured on [KCRG-TV9](#) along with two researchers from Michigan State University, who are doing audio work with cicada sounds not only above ground but also sounds that cicada nymphs potentially make below ground.

## Summer 2024 REU in Interdisciplinary Evolutionary Sciences



Ten students from universities and colleges throughout the U.S. are participating in the Summer 2024 REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) at the University of Iowa run by **Andrew Forbes**, Professor of Biology. The focus of this REU is training in evolutionary science with students working on research projects across several disciplines. Throughout the 10-week program, students receive training in research best practices, participate in career workshops,

create a digital poster based on their research, and make formal research presentations. Click [here](#) for more information about the REU.

## Professor Manak Holds “Good Genes Gone Bad” Webinar

To kick off Rare Disease Week in February 2024, Department of Biology Professor, **John Manak**, had the honor of leading a globally broadcast webinar entitled, “Good Genes Gone Bad.” In this webinar, Dr. Manak (AKA Dr. DNA) discussed DNA and detailed the genetics of all porphyrias (inborn errors of heme biosynthesis that result in extremely debilitating clinical features). Dr. Manak was also appointed to the American Porphyria Foundation Scientific Advisory Board in 2023.

Click [here](#) to watch the webinar on YouTube.

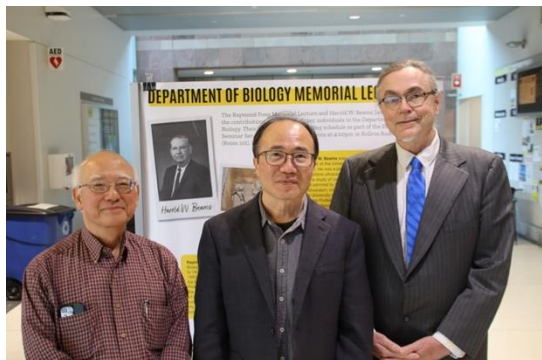
## 2024 Latham Project Engage Showcase



The 2024 Latham Project Engage Showcase was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, in the lobby and auditorium in Biology Building East. The event highlighted the group and individual projects from fourteen Latham Fellows. The students created science outreach and engagement projects that were shared with the general public. Projects included illustrated books, educational brochures with activities for kids, board games, videos and podcasts, and more!

The [Latham Science Engagement Fellowship Program](#) supports undergraduate students interested in communicating science in the public sphere. Fellows receive training in science communication methods, acquire project management skills, and strengthen future career/award applications by designing and implementing science outreach projects. The program is under the [Iowa Sciences Academy](#), which is administratively housed in the Department of Biology and is directed by **Lori Adams**.

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Harold W. Beams Lecture



From left to right: Chun-Fang Wu, Jing W. Wang, and David Hemingway, grandnephew of Harold W. Beams.

The Harold W. Beams Lecture, established in honor of Professor Beams, was held on Friday, May 3, 2024. The featured speaker for the lecture was **Jing W. Wang**, a UI Biology alumnus who completed his Ph.D. under **Chun-Fang Wu**, Professor of Biology. Dr. Wang is currently Professor and Chair in the Department of Neurobiology at the University of California San Diego.

Professor Beams was an outstanding scientist and teacher in the Department of Zoology (now Biology) at the University of Iowa for 41 years (1930-1971). He was a pioneer in cell biology in

using the air turbine ultracentrifuge and the electron microscope in the study of cell organelles. In his honor, the University of Iowa established the Carver/Harold W. Beams Distinguished Professorship in Biological Sciences in 1989. To further recognize his achievements, colleagues and friends created the Harold W. Beams Lecture in 1992.

For more information about Dr. Beams and this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Wang, please see the [pamphlet](#).

## BBBS STEM Night with the Department of Biology

Bigs and Littles of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County (BBBS) visited the Department of Biology on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, for a fun-filled evening on experiments involving the microscopy of cheek cells and behaviors of hissing cockroaches. This community outreach event was led by **Olga Miakotina**, Instructional Services Specialist in the Department of Biology.

## Years of Service

### 25 Years

#### **Nicole Kohler**

Administrative Services Coordinator,  
Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB)

### 30 Years

#### **Marlys Boote**

Graduate Program Coordinator,  
Department of Biology



## Happy Retirement! Karla Daniels

Karla Daniels, Associate Research Scientist and chief curator of the Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB), retired at the end of June 2024 after 33 years of service. We wish Karla a happy and healthy retirement!

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Dan Eberl Professor of Biology

Dolezal, D.M., M.A. Joiner & **D.F. Eberl** (2024) Two distinct functions for *Lim1* in the *Drosophila* antenna. *microPublication Biology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.17912/micropub.biology.001229>

Loh, Y.M., Y.Y.J. Xu, T.T. Lee, T.S. Ohashi, Y.D. Zhang, **D.F. Eberl**, M.P. Su, A. Kamikouchi (2024) Differences in male *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* hearing systems facilitate recognition of conspecific female flight tones. *iScience*. 27(7): 110264.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2024.110264>

Rocca, S.M., D.N. Saldana, M. Addemir, J.A. Koenig, B.Z. He, O.L. Miakotina, **D.F. Eberl** (2024) Reflective environment heightens crayfish aggressive and fearful behaviors. *microPublication Biology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.17912/micropub.biology.001184>

Sutton, D.C., J.C. Andrews, D.M. Dolezal, H. Li, Y.J. Park, **D.F. Eberl**, S. Yamamoto, A.K. Groves (2024) Comparative exploration of mammalian deafness gene homologues in the *Drosophila* auditory organ shows genetic correlation between insect and vertebrate hearing. *Public Library of Science ONE*. 19(2): e0297846.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0297846>

Warren, B. & **D.F. Eberl** (2024) What can insects teach us about hearing loss? *The Journal of Physiology* 602(2):297-316.  
<https://doi.org/10.1113/JP281281>

Zhang, B., H. Duan, J. Kavalier, **D.F. Eberl** & E.C. Lai (2023) A nonneural miRNA cluster mediates hearing via repression of two neural targets. *Genes & Development* 37:1041-1051.

<https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.351052.123>

Note: Artwork featured on front cover of [Genes & Development November/December 2023; 37 \(21-24\)](#).



The following paper is published online in preprint form:

Gregory, E.S., Y.Y.J. Xu, T.T. Lee, M.A. Joiner, A. Kamikouchi, M.P. Su & **D.F. Eberl** (2024) The voltage-gated potassium channel *Shal* (K<sub>v</sub>4) contributes to active hearing in *Drosophila*. *bioRxiv* preprint <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.01.24.577143>.

## Andrew Forbes

### Professor of Biology

Ward AKG, Zhang YM, Brown GE, Hippee AC, Prior KM, Rollins S, Sierra N, Sheikh SI, Tribull CM, **Forbes AA**. 2024. Speciation in kleptoparasites of oak gall wasps often correlates with shifts into new tree habitats, tree organs, and gall morphospace. *Evolution*. 78:174-187.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/evolut/qpad202>

## Bin He

### Assistant Professor of Biology

The following paper is published online in preprint form:

Snyder LF, O'Brien EM, Zhao J, Liang J, Zhang Y, Zhu W, Cassier T, Schnicker NJ, Zhou X, Gordan R, **He BZ**. Evolution of a Eukaryotic Transcription Factor's co-TF Dependence Involves Multiple Intrinsically Disordered Regions Affecting Activation and Autoinhibition. Version: v1. *bioRxiv* preprint. 2024 April

<https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.04.20.590343>

## John Logsdon

### Associate Professor of Biology

Fields, P. D., J. R. Jalinsky, L. Bankers, K. E. McElroy, J. Sharbrough, C. Higgins, M. Morgan-Richards, J. L. Boore, **M. Neiman**, and **J. M. Logsdon, Jr.** 2024. Genome Evolution and Introgression in the New Zealand mud Snails *Potamopyrgus estuarinus* and *Potamopyrgus kaitunuparaoa*. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, Volume 16, Issue 5, May 2024, evae091.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/gbe/evae091>

## Maurine Neiman

### Professor of Biology

Najev, B. S. L., and **M. Neiman**. 2024. Invasive freshwater snails are less sensitive to population density than native conspecifics. *Ecology and Evolution*, Volume 14, Issue 5, May 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11161>

## Krista Osadchuk

### Assistant Professor of Instruction

Krista Osadchuk and Molly Hokkanen. [Biology Concepts from the Human Perspective](#). Textbook. ISBN 9781684783649. Great River Learning. Jan 2024.

## Tina Tootle

### Professor and Chair, Department of Biology

Mellentine S, Ramsey A, Brown H, Li J and **TL Tootle**. (2024). Specific prostaglandins are produced in the migratory cells and the surrounding substrate to promote *Drosophila* border cell migration. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology: Editors' Showcase 2023: Insights in Cell Adhesion and Migration*. 2024 Jan 12:11:1257751.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2023.1257751>

## Joshua Weiner

### Professor of Biology; Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Leon WRM, Steffen DM, Dale-Huang FR, Rakela B, Breevoort A, Romero-Rodriguez R, Hasenstaub AR, Stryker MP, **Weiner JA**, Alvarez-Buylla A. The clustered gamma protocadherin PcdhyC4 isoform regulates cortical interneuron programmed cell death in the mouse cortex. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. 2024 Feb 6;121(6): e2313596120.

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2313596120>

Hanes CM, Mah KM, Steffen DM, Marcucci CG, Fuller LC, Burgess RW, Garrett AM, **Weiner JA**. A C-terminal motif containing a PKC phosphorylation site regulates  $\gamma$ -Protocadherin-mediated dendrite arborization in the cerebral cortex *in vivo*. *Developmental Neurobiology*. 2024; 1-19.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/dneu.22950>

# SUMMER 2024 EVENTS & DISSERTATION/THESIS SEMINARS

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BioBlitz at the Ashton Prairie Living Laboratory

Discover the fascinating world of plants, animals, and fungi at the University of Iowa's [Ashton Prairie Living Laboratory](#)! We invite you, your friends, and family to participate in the [4<sup>th</sup> Annual BioBlitz](#), taking place from 9 a.m.–noon on Saturday, July 13.



The event is free, but [registration is required](#). BioBlitz is open to all ages (families welcome!) and no prior experience is required. Once registered, additional details will be provided. For more information, click [here](#).

Join a team of researchers from the University of Iowa in collecting, observing, and recording biodiversity in and around the prairie. Contribute your findings to a significant research project that explores how diversity changes over time in this unique ecosystem.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the Ashton Prairie Living Laboratory and contribute to valuable research. Mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, July 13!

## Summer Undergraduate Research Conference

The Graduate College at the University of Iowa will sponsor its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) on Wednesday, July 24, from 1:00-3:30pm at the Iowa Memorial Union (IMU), Main Lounge. This conference will bring together undergraduate students who have been conducting summer research projects in UI departments and programs across the university's colleges. Students will be assigned to one of three 45-minute time slots: 1:00-1:45pm, 1:50-2:35pm, or 2:40-3:25pm.

<https://grad.uiowa.edu/summer-undergraduate-research-conference-surc>

## Summer 2024 Dissertation/Thesis Seminars

### Hanxi Tang (He Lab)

#### M.S. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program

Title: "Investigating divergence of Acquired Stress Resistance among yeast species and establishing a flow cytometry-based assay for post-stress survival quantification"

Date/Time: Tuesday, July 9 at 9:00am CDT

Location: via Zoom

### Emma Thornburg-Suresh (Summers Lab)

#### Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience

Title: "Unraveling the role of Stathmin-2 palmitoylation in maintaining axon health"

Date/Time: Tuesday, July 9 at 1:00pm CDT

Location: Kollros Auditorium (Room 101), Biology Building East (BBE)

### Ryan Pellow (Comeron Lab)

#### Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program

Title: "Impact of *de novo* Transposition on the *Drosophila melanogaster* Genome: Effects on the 3D Nuclear Architecture and Telomere Dynamics"

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 10 at 12:00pm CDT

Location: Room 106, Biology Building East (BBE) and via Zoom:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/98585489930?pwd=bfnvCqOKJtJNGjDoJadyVMoclI0CE.1>  
(Meeting ID: 985 8548 9930; Passcode: 961110)

### **Jinye Liang (He Lab)**

#### **Ph.D. student in the Integrated Biology (iBio) Graduate Program**

Title: "Evolution of Acquired Stress Resistance in an Opportunistic Yeast Pathogen"

Date/Time: Thursday, July 11 at 1:00pm CDT

Location: Room 106, Biology Building East (BBE) and via Zoom:

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/91290305663>

(Meeting ID: 912 9030 5663)

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

### **Jeffrey Schabilion (December 18, 1942 – June 24, 2024), Professor Emeritus**



Jeffrey Schabilion, Professor Emeritus, passed away at the age of 81 on June 24, 2024. Dr. Schabilion joined the Botany Department (now Biology) in 1968 and retired in 2009 after an accomplished career as a paleobotanist for over 40 years at the University of Iowa. His career was devoted to teaching courses on the subjects of botany, plant diversity, ecology, and evolution; and also his organization of several tons of fossil plant specimens that he collected over many years.

Dr. Schabilion's contributions include serving as Chairman of the Botany Department from 1980-1986. His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.iowacremation.com/obituary/2024/Jun/Dr.-Jeffrey-T.-Schabilion>

### **Barbara Stay (August 31, 1926 – February 6, 2024), Professor Emerita**



Barbara Stay, Professor Emerita, passed away at the age of 97 on February 6, 2024. Dr. Stay joined the Department of Zoology (now Biology) in 1967 and retired in 2008 after a productive career in research and teaching for over 40 years. She had an indelible influence on her peers and students and collaborated with scientists around the globe. Dr. Stay was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and received her bachelor's degree at Vassar College in 1947. She went on to achieve an M.A. degree and then a Ph.D. in Biology at Radcliffe College/Harvard University in 1948 and 1953, respectively. Her

achievements have been recognized by numerous awards over the years including Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1989), Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Iowa (1999), Fellow of the Entomological Society of America (2001), and Achievement Award in Invertebrate Neuropeptides (2008), to name a few. Her recognition would extend beyond the esteem of her colleagues in the scientific community as the lay press picked up on

breakthrough discoveries made by Dr. Stay and her colleagues around the globe regarding cockroach milk. Dr. Stay, dubbed by colleagues as “Cockroach Lady,” was believed to have had the world’s largest collection of cockroaches while at the UI. In an interview with *USA Today* in 2018, Dr. Stay said she believed she was the first person to ever milk a cockroach. In addition to training graduate and undergraduate students in research, Dr. Stay taught seminar courses on Insect Reproduction and Development, Histology, Histologic Technique, and Introductory Biology to large classes of non-majors. She was known for running a hard-working and welcoming research laboratory, for giving lectures easily understood by non-native English speakers, and her ice dancing agility.

Dr. Stay’s obituary can be found here:

<https://www.amigone.com/obituaries/Barbara-Ann-Stay?obId=30688096>