



DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Commencement Recognition Ceremony

CLASS OF 2024



Program

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Scott Taylor

INTRODUCTION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Graduate Chair, Dr. Valerie McKenzie

GRADUATE STUDENT DEGREE CONFERRAL

Graduate Chair, Dr. Valerie McKenzie

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM

Honors Council Representative, Dr. Barbara Demmig-Adams

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS STUDENT DEGREE CONFERRAL

Honors Council Representative, Dr. Barbara Demmig-Adams

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Undergraduate Chair, Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CONFERRAL

Undergraduate Chair, Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Nicole Carmel Addison, Master's

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jannetta Nicole Robinson, *summa cum laude*

CLOSING REMARKS

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Scott Taylor

The ceremony will begin at 3:00 and is expected to last approximately 50 minutes.

EBIO Department Research Faculty & Research Interests

More details may be found on our website: <http://www.colorado.edu/ebio/professors>

William W. Adams III Professor	Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, environmental stress, phloem structure & function.
M. Deane Bowers Professor, Curator of Entomology	Insect ecology and evolution, plant-animal interactions, chemical ecology.
Lisa Corwin Associate Professor	Teaching and learning of ecology and evolution, student identity and learning and persistence in scientific fields.
Kendi Davies Associate Professor	Spatial dynamics of communities and populations, invasion, extinction, grasslands, microcosms, habitat fragmentation.
Laura Dee Assistant Professor	Preservation of natural systems and biodiversity, continued provision of ecosystem services under global change.
Barbara Demmig-Adams Professor, Director of Honors Program	Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, mechanisms of plant stress adaptation.
Nancy Emery Associate Professor	Population biology, community ecology, and evolutionary biology—understanding how plants adapt & persist in a changing world.
Luke Evans Assistant Professor	Population and quantitative genetics, adaptation, human behavior and complex traits.
Noah Fierer Professor	Soil ecology, microbial ecology, role of microorganisms in terrestrial ecosystems.
Michael Gil Assistant Professor	Marine ecology, marine ecosystem response to wild animal decision-making and human-driven change, science communication
Eve-Lyn Hinckley Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Chair	Ecosystem biogeochemistry, optimization of agricultural practices, network observatory research design
Pieter Johnson Professor, Director of Honors Program	Ecology of biological change, esp. invasive species & emerging diseases; aquatic ecology & evolution; conservation biology.
Nolan Kane Associate Professor	Evolutionary genomics of adaptation, speciation, hybridization, domestication, and invasion.

Patrick Kociolek Professor, Curator of Diatoms	Taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary history of diatoms, diatoms and water quality, aquatic ecology.
Jingchun Li Associate Professor, Curator of Invertebrates	Invertebrate evolution, biodiversity, symbiosis, marine biology and functional genomics
Erin Manzitto-Tripp Associate Professor, Curator of Botany	Plant systematics and evolution, lichen biodiversity, tropical biology, molecular evolution.
Andrew Martin Professor	Evolutionary and conservation biology, microbial diversity, biogeography.
Andrew McAdam Associate Professor, Department Chair	Behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology, plant-animal interactions, physiological ecology, pulsed resources.
Christy M. McCain Professor, Curator of Vertebrates	Community ecology, montane ecology, climate change, vertebrate population and conservation biology, biogeography.
Valerie McKenzie Associate Professor, Graduate Program Chair	Parasitology, disease ecology, amphibian declines, herpetology, wildlife conservation, land use change, invasive species.
Daniel M. Medeiros Associate Professor	Developmental & genetic bases of vertebrate evolution, developmental gene regulation, evolution of vertebrate head skeleton.
Brett Melbourne Associate Professor	Mathematical ecology of populations and communities, biodiversity, conservation, invasion, extinction.
Isabella Oleksy Assistant Professor	Limnology, biogeochemistry, aquatic ecosystems in mountainous regions, wildfires and water quality, ice phenology
Alisha Quandt Assistant Professor	Mycology, evolution, fungal genomics and systematics, microbe-microbe interactions, insect-pathogenic fungi interactions
Samuel Ramsey Assistant Professor	Entomology, biology of bees, parasites and symbiosis, science communication
Julian Resasco Assistant Professor	Landscape connectivity/corridors, habitat fragmentation, plant-pollinator networks, insect community ecology and conservation
Rebecca Safran Professor	Behavior, morphology, and physiology; population patterns; social and genetic structure; population stability; species boundaries.

Steven K. Schmidt
Professor

Microbial ecology, plant/microbe interactions, biogeochemistry, mycorrhizae.

Stacey D. Smith
Associate Professor

Evolutionary genetics, molecular phylogenetics, plant-pollinator interactions, comparative methods.

Ryan St Laurent
Assistant Professor,
Curator of Entomology

Insect-plant interactions, phylogenetics, systematics, taxonomy

David W. Stock
Associate Professor

Developmental genetic mechanisms of the evolution of teeth in fishes.

Katharine Suding
Professor

Community ecology, restoration, invasion, environmental change, alpine and grasslands.

Scott Taylor
Associate Professor,
Director MRS

Hybridization, speciation, evolutionary ecology, and population genomics (primarily of birds).

Merritt R. Turetsky
Professor

Ecosystem ecology, disturbance ecology including wildfire, carbon and nutrient biogeochemistry

EBIO Teaching Faculty

John Basey

Teaching Associate Professor

Teresa Bilinski

Teaching Associate Professor

Harrison Carpenter

Teaching Associate Professor

Eve Cooper

Teaching Assistant Professor

Caitlin Kelly

Teaching Assistant Professor

Abbey Paulson

Teaching Assistant Professor

Stephanie Renfrow

Teaching Associate Professor

Warren Sconiers

Teaching Associate Professor

Derek Sweeney

Teaching Assistant Professor

MA Graduates

Nicole Carmel Addison

Master's

Thesis Title: Analyzing intra- and inter-specific variation in hissing between sympatric black-capped and mountain chickadees

Advisor: Dr. Scott Taylor

I'd like to thank the Academy - thank you mom and dad for navigating academia with me and for adopting me and not refunding your purchase. I'd like to thank my mom and Matt for being my best friends during my time in Colorado. Thank you to Bri for always keeping in touch and growing with me. Thank you to Scott Taylor and Haley Kenyon and the Taylor Lab for their support in my research. And lastly, thank you to chickadees for hissing.

Undergraduates – Honors Theses

Danielle Bosse

magna cum laude

Thesis Title: Developing a standard method for rearing of Chrysoperla comanche for biological control

Advisor: Dr. Samuel Ramsey

I would like to thank my family for all their support and encouragement- they have been my rock throughout college, and I am eternally grateful. Also thank you very much to my advisor, Dr. Sammy Ramsey, for guiding me through my Honors thesis. I look forward to going to graduate school and continuing my research!

Aja Bos

cum laude

Thesis Title: A systematic literature review of nematomorph parasites: mechanisms of infection and ecological impacts

Advisor: Dr. Warren Sconiers

Thank you to my advisor, Warren Sconiers, and the members of my defense committee who made my thesis possible. Thank you to my friends for all of your support and terrible jokes. Last but certainly not least, thank you to my mom, dad, and brothers, whom I love with all my heart.

Giorgio Francesco Casini

summa cum laude

Thesis Title: How the composition of soil microbe communities impacts the growth of invasive and native plant species

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

I want to thank my family, Teresa Bilinski, Jonathan Henn, the Suding lab, the REACH lab, the Manzitto-Trip lab, and the CU Herbarium. Without their support and encouragement, I would not have made it this far.

Thesis Title: Nutrient limitation of microbial primary producers on post-glacial sediments in the High Arctic (79°N)

Advisor: Dr. Steven Schmidt

I would like to thank my family, friends, mentors, and professors for their unwavering support through my academic journey. After graduation, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in microbial ecology, focusing on soil health, bridging science and community impact, and mentoring marginalized students in STEM.

Undergraduates

Kay Altshuler	I'd like to thank everyone who helped me get this far, and who encouraged me to keep an open mind and remain dedicated to my future in the face of adversity. I plan to attend Law School in the upcoming years.
R. Everett Barthels	Thank you to Robert Jordan, Brandon Sanderson, Robin Hobb, JRR Tolkien, Steven Erikson, and Stephen King for getting me through the last few years. Tai'shar Manetheren, and long days and pleasant nights.
Justin Bueno	
Claire Gibbons	Thank you to my family for all your support and love
Samuel Giffen	
Emma Groenevelt	I'd like to thank Teresa Bilinski, Amy Dunbar-Wallis, Lisa Corwin, and everyone involved with the Boulder Apple Tree Project for creating a fruitful community and providing endless support throughout my undergrad experience!
John Charles Hiatt III	
Max Inman	
Jennifer James	I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support. I would also like to thank Dr. Lisa Corwin for always being there for me and providing me a safe place on campus and for becoming a cherished friend. I also want to thank Dr. Joanna Lambert for giving me so many opportunities and a place at the table in her lab. Finally, I wanted to thank all of my wonderful professors in EBIO if it wasn't for you and your support I wouldn't be here today.
Alexi Lemercier	An astronomical thank you to my parents who made this journey possible, as well as all of the irreplaceable friends and mentors who shaped the journey along the way.
Jace Zook	I would like to express my gratitude to my family, my girlfriend Annie, and my dog Oslo for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout my academic journey and beyond. Following graduation, I plan to apply to Physician Assistant programs as I pursue a career in healthcare.