



CLASS OF 2025



# *Program*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. William Adams

### **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

### **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Dusty Kinnear

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. William Adams

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>

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

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

Teaching Assistant Professor

**Stephanie Renfrow**

Teaching Associate Professor

**Warren Sconiers**

Teaching Associate Professor

**Derek Sweeney**

Teaching Assistant Professor

## *PhD Graduates*

**Laura Rea**

**PhD**

*Dissertation Title: The Role and Magnitude of Microscale Processes on the Human-Altered Sulfur Cycle*

Advisor: Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

## *Undergraduates – Honors Theses*

**Aaron Schmidt**

***summa cum laude***

*Thesis Title: Understanding Trends in the Photosymbiosis of a Marine Bivalve using Stable Isotopes*

Advisor: Dr. Jingchun Li

I'd like to thank my mom, dad, family & friends who have been there for me and supported me through everything. I'm also grateful to my advisor Dr. Jingchun Li, her lab, and Dr. Pieter Johnson for their guidance on my thesis. I've made great friends and memories at CU and look forward to next steps.

# *Undergraduates*

**Cassidy Arnett**

**Zade Baldwin**

I give thanks to all my beloved family members who helped me through this journey. Your collective support, gratitude, and care made it possible for me to be where I am now.

**Brooke Bauer**

**Sadie Beers**

**Hayes Benenson**

**Ashley Biggs**

**Andres Buendia**

**Sarah Michelle Miranda  
Cabug**

Thank you to my Mom, my Dad, Emily, Nick, John, Gail, and my friends for helping me reach this goal. To my husband Branden - thank you for supporting me and loving me. I love you all!

**Suah Chang**

**Mason Collier**

**Mark Cox**

**Karen Cragg**

**Grace Cross**

**Ella Dietz**

**Annabella DiLorenzo**

**Dahlia Duarte**

**Talli Fox**

**Mariya Garmenova**

I would like to thank my parents for being my biggest support system throughout this entire journey. They gave me something they never had. Their sacrifices led to my success and I truly couldn't have done this without their unconditional love and devotion to me. I am very lucky to have them as parents. I would also like to thank my sister and my friends for cheering me on. There were many times I felt the stress weigh heavily on my shoulders and I thought I couldn't be successful. It is because of those closest to me that I was able to push myself through the harder moments and give myself grace as I worked through it all. I would also like to thank my professors who saw potential in me and dedicated their time and energy to my success. I had many professors who truly changed the course of my studies in the most positive way. Finally, most of all, I would like to thank God for blessing me with this life and an opportunity for an incredible education. He has allowed me to live a blessed life and has been my biggest source of support, love, and encouragement. Now that I am done with undergrad, I will embark on a new journey. I am on a path to become a registered dietitian. Soon, I will start my masters program and get one step closer to a career I dream of having. I am unsure where I will go with that career, but I know it's something I am looking forward to.

**Christofer George**

**Yasmeen Gonzalez**

**Rowan Hall**

**Timo Heine**

**Covey Hurd**

**Alexis Juanillo**

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**Dusty Kinnear**

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**Connor Mackey**

Thanks to all who supported me academically and personally through this chapter of my life. A special thanks to Dr. Ryan St Laurent and Dr. Nancy Emery for inspiring me to find and pursue my passion in ecology. I hope to see you all out in the field!

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**Brayden Noe**

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**Leah Purcell**

Thank you to my parents for supporting me throughout my college experience.

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**Jaicey Stanich**

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**Sylvia Stebler**

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**Mia Symington**

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**Leah Terry**

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**Connor Thomas**

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**Liliana Wagner**

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**Ridley Warner**

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**Nikola Wolfgeher**

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**Kelly Xiang**

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*CONGRATULATIONS*

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