Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Colorado Boulder

Commencement Recognition Ceremony
May 5, 2021
Schedule of Events*
Introduction and Welcome by EBIO Chair, Professor Andrew Martin
Messages from EBIO Faculty
Award Recognition
Honors Student Research Recognition
Degree Recognition
Student Commencement Addresses by Austin Nash and Patricia Todd
Closing Remarks by Andrew Martin

*Ceremony will begin at 12:00 MST and will run approximately one hour total

Awards

Spring 2021 General Biology TA Award
Heather Kenney

2021 Excellence in Teaching Awards
Erik Funk, Chloe Garfinkel, Kathryn Grabenstein, Jesse Harris, Sukuan Liu, and Stephanie Polutchko

2021 Mel Cundiff Endowments
Maizy Brasher, Anna Hirschmann, Alexandra Hopkins, Isabelle Meredith, Emily Pfaller, Olivia Vasquez

Social Media
We would love to have you stay connected with EBIO! Connect with current students and alumni on our social channels. https://www.colorado.edu/ebio/social-media

Facebook
EBIO Club

Instagram
@culebio

LinkedIn
Group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William W. Adams III</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, environmental stress, phloem structure &amp; function.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nichole Barger</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Soil biogeochemistry, dendrochronology, forest ecology, management and restoration of aridland ecosystems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Deane Bowers</td>
<td>Professor, Curator of Entomology</td>
<td>Insect ecology and evolution, plant-animal interactions, chemical ecology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>William D. Bowman</td>
<td>Professor, Director MRS</td>
<td>Plant ecology, alpine ecosystem science, plant-soil and plant-plant interactions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Corwin</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Teaching and learning of ecology and evolution, student identity and learning and persistence in scientific fields.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendi Davies</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Spatial dynamics of communities and populations, invasion, extinction, grasslands, microcosms, habitat fragmentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Dee</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Preservation of natural systems and biodiversity, continued provision of ecosystem services under global change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Demmig-Adams</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, mechanisms of plant stress adaptation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Emery</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Population biology, community ecology, and evolutionary biology—understanding how plants adapt &amp; persist in a changing world.</td>
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<td>Luke Evans</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Population and quantitative genetics, adaptation, human behavior and complex traits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah Fierer</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Soil ecology, microbial ecology, role of microorganisms in terrestrial ecosystems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Flaxman</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Causes and consequences of predator-prey interactions at multiple spatial and temporal scales.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pieter Johnson</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Ecology of biological change, esp. invasive species &amp; emerging diseases; aquatic ecology &amp; evolution; conservation biology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Research Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nolan C. Kane</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Evolutionary genomics of adaptation, speciation, hybridization, domestication, and invasion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Kociolek</td>
<td>Professor, Curator of Diatoms</td>
<td>Taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary history of diatoms, diatoms and water quality, aquatic ecology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>William M. Lewis, Jr.</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Limnology, ecology and evolution of aquatic plants with emphasis on phytoplankton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jingchun Li</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Curator of Invertebrates</td>
<td>Invertebrate evolution, biodiversity, symbiosis, marine biology and functional genomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Martin</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Evolutionary and conservation biology, microbial diversity, biogeography.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew McAdam</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology, plant-animal interactions, physiological ecology, pulsed resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christy McCain</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Curator of Vertebrates</td>
<td>Community ecology, montane ecology, climate change, vertebrate population and conservation biology, biogeography.</td>
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<td>Valerie McKenzie</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Parasitology, disease ecology, amphibian declines, herpetology, wildlife conservation, land use change, invasive species.</td>
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<td>Daniel Medeiros</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Developmental &amp; genetic bases of vertebrate evolution, developmental gene regulation, evolution of vertebrate head skeleton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brett Melbourne</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Mathematical ecology of populations and communities, biodiversity, conservation, invasion, extinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alisha Quandt</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Mycology, evolution, fungal genomics and systematics, microbe-microbe interactions, insect-pathogenic fungi interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Resasco</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Landscape connectivity/corridors, habitat fragmentation, plant-pollinator networks, insect community ecology and conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Safran</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Behavior, morphology, and physiology; population patterns; social and genetic structure; population stability; species boundaries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven K. Schmidt</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Microbial ecology, plant/microbe interactions, biogeochemistry, mycorrhizae.</td>
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Stacey Smith
Associate Professor
Evolutionary genetics, molecular phylogenetics, plant-pollinator interactions, comparative methods.

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

Erin Tripp
Associate Professor, Curator of Botany
Plant systematics and evolution, lichen biodiversity, tropical biology, molecular evolution.

Merritt Turetsky
Associate Professor, INSTAAR Director
Ecosystem ecology, disturbance ecology including wildfire, carbon and nutrient biogeochemistry

Carol A. Wessman
Professor
Landscape and regional ecology, disturbance, land-use/land-cover change, remote sensing/GIS.

EBIO Instructors
John Basey
Teresa Bilinski
Harrison Carpenter
Stephanie Mayer
Stephanie Renfrow
Derek Sweeney
PhD and MA Graduates

Amy Beth Barfield
*Effect of glyphosate on soil microbial communities.*
Advisor: Dr. Steve Schmidt

“I would like to thank my advisor Steve, my committee, my lab mates, the EBIO community, my professors, my family, friends, and colleagues.”

Hannah Elise Frederick
*The Fate of Phosphorus Released from Hypolimnetic Sediments in a Dimictic Lake in Colorado.*
Advisor: Dr. William Lewis

“A huge thank you to my advisor Dr. Lewis for his wisdom and guidance. And thank you to my friends, family, and husband, Matthew, for their endless love and support. My future plans include pursuing a career in environmental science and water quality research in the Great Lakes region.”

Kathleen Sheahan
*Interspecific and Intraspecific Transfer of Symbiodiniaceae in Symbiotic Cnidarian Model Organisms.*
Advisor: Dr. Jingchun Li

“I would like to thank my advisor, Jingchun Li, and my amazing thesis committee, Nancy Emery and Laura Dee for their advice and guidance over the years. I also want to thank my family and friends for supporting me and listening to my many rants about my jellyfish and anemones!”
Undergraduates – Honors Theses

Nyika Garties Campbell  
Thesis Title: The Impact of Early Snowmelt, Warming, and Microtopography on In Situ Geum Rossii Germination Rates in the Alpine  
Advisor: Prof. William Bowman

Shay Ding  
Thesis Title: Nest Insulative Capacity Varies Between Chickadee Species But Not Along an Elevation Gradient  
Advisor: Prof. Scott Taylor

Elizabeth Jaye Enichen  
Thesis Title: May Physical Activity Ameliorate Symptoms and Comorbidities Associated with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection?  
Advisor: Prof. Barbara Demmig-Adams

Zachary Lee Girard  
Thesis Title: Flowering Time and Related Genes in Cannabis  
Advisor: Prof. Nolan Kane

Patrick Matthew Heffernan  
Thesis Title: Exploring the Biogeographic Relationship between Variation in Parasites and Pathogens and Host Plant Dispersal Traits  
Advisor: Prof. Nancy Emery

Madeleine Grace Horan  
Thesis Title: Population Structure of the Endangered Mud Shrimp Upogebia pugettensis  
Advisor: Prof. Jinghun Li

Christopher Thomas Mulligan  
Thesis Title: Harmful Algal Blooms as a Possible Cause of Late Cretaceous Vertebrate Mortality Events in Northwestern Madagascar  
Advisor: Prof. Julio Sepulveda

Richard Sangmin Park  
Thesis Title: Synergistic Potential of Combining Emerging Therapies for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
Advisor: Prof. Barbara Demmig-Adams

Hayley Grace Wuestenberg  
Thesis Title: Assessing the Harmful Impacts of Increased Commercial Shipping on Arctic Marine Mammals: A Systematic Literature Review  
Advisor: Prof. Laura Dee
Undergraduates

Quinn Abrams

Kathryn Adams

Miranda Aker
I would like to thank my mom, my siblings, my boyfriend, and his grandma for the never ending support and encouragement to finish strong and for continually pushing me to reach my goals.

Caleb Allen

Carter Alzamora

Marina Ayala

Kelly Baillie

Katelin Baird
Thank you to my family, friends, and professors for supporting me and helping make CU the best possible school.

Kaitlyn Barthell
I would like to thank my parents, my boyfriend, and all of my friends who have supported me the last 4 years. I am in the Bachelor's Accelerated Master's program and I plan to graduate with my master's next spring.

Alexander Beggs

Cameron Bendalin

Grace Bevier

Richard Biggs III
A big thanks to the people who have shown me such immense kindness over the years, especially my mom. I hope to repay you all someday.

Ryan Bigham

Emma Blanken
I would like to thank my wonderful parents and sister for supporting me throughout my academic career and beyond, love you!

Simone Borelli

Jake Brown

Claire Calcaterra

Nyla Campbell
Thank you so very much to Dr. Bill Bowman and Chiara Forrester for welcoming me into the lab and introducing me to the captivating world of alpine ecology. Working at Niwot Ridge has been one of my favorite parts of the last four years. Thank you Spruce House. And as always, rush CU Alpine Club.
Karina Carrillo-Escobedo  I just want to thank my parents most of all, it is because of you and your support that I am able to be where I am today.

Hailey Castillo

Julie Chou

Coulter Church

Jack Clark  Thank you to Abby and my family. Without love, nothing I have done would be possible.

Alyssa Compton  Thank you to my parents for always supporting me and being the biggest Buff fans I know! After graduation, I will be attending Marquette University to pursue a Master’s of Science in Nursing.

Lauren Conant

Barrett Condon

Gabriela Cortese

Danielle Cree

Emily Curcio

Eastland Davis

Elena DeAndrea  A huge thank you to my wonderful parents, Janice and AJ, and my older sister Madalena for their continued support and encouragement. I will be teaching science next year and I could not have gotten here without them!

Michelle Derderian

Peter DeSisto

Mekides Dessie

Shay Ding  Thank you to all my friends, family, and professors for contributing to me having such a meaningful college experience. These last few years have given me much opportunity to gain knowledge, do the things I enjoy, and pursue my passions.

Andrew Disario

Alienor Doremieux

Finn Downes

Matilde Drake  I would like to thank my family, friends, and professors for supporting me throughout my journey at CU. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for my future career in marine science!

Blake Ebner
Ellie Enichen * 
Ellie hopes to attend medical school in the coming years. She is grateful for the support of her parents, her friends and her wonderful thesis advisor Dr. Barbara Demmig-Adams.

Monica Huacuja Espinosa 
As a first generation graduate I am so thankful for my family’s hard work and support throughout my undergrad. I plan to go to optometry school in the future after taking a few years off to travel and volunteer!

Fox Freeman 
I would like to thank all the faculty mentors from the CUMNH who opened up new opportunities for me in museum sciences.

Zachariah Gabani

Andrew Gaier

Chenchen Gao

Helen Gardner

Courtney Garner

Anna Gaw

Cameron George

Mckayla Giacobetti

Zachary Girard 
Zach will be continuing his passion for Cannabis research this summer, working at a local grow facility. He hopes to pursue graduate school in the near future. He would like to thank all members of the Kane Lab for their advice and encouragement throughout his undergrad career.

Jon Goetzke

Nathaniel Goodman

Sophia Gordon

Irina Grigoryan

Jessica Grinols

Cameron Guisness

Aerin Gurule

Adam Gysin
Kara Haim
I would like to thank my family for always encouraging me and my roommates for reminding me to keep my head up.

Andrew Hakim

Keara Harrington

Brooke Anna Harris
I would like to thank my Mom, Dad, brother Max, and Colin for their continued support in following my dreams of becoming a Pediatric Anesthesiologist!

Merideth Havens
Thank you mom & dad for giving me an education that I would have never been able to get through without you. I also want to thank my friends that I've met during CU that made all the time worthwhile. In the future, I hope to continue to learn and explore new places.

Patrick Heffernan *
Thank you to all of my professors, family, and friends that have made my time here so wonderful, and thank you to the Emery Lab for providing me so many amazing research experiences! I am excited to continue pursuing ecology through a PhD program at the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

Jacquelyn Henderson

McKenzie Heras

Cody Hinkley

Braeden Holt
I would like to thank my parents, family, and friends for supporting me through life and college. I am grateful for the chance to attend a university, to be surrounded by caring people, and to gain higher education. Thank you!

Madeleine Horan *

Monica Huaca Elspinosa

Sarah Illeys

Emma Jacobs

Brandon Johnson

Samantha Kalis

Brian Kearney *

Madison Kornutiak

Madeleine Kriech
Thank you to everyone who has had my back over these past four years. I am a better me because of you all. I’m excited to see what come next! Sko Buffs!

Stephanie Krill
Girija Kulkami
I would like to thank my mom and dad for pushing me to be my best and never settle. My little sister, for being just a FaceTime away at any time. My sweet dogs, for always keeping things light and furry. And my close friends, for becoming family over the past four years.

Dennis Lam

Hannah Laughlin
Thank you to my incredibly supportive friends and family who have helped me get through the last four years! Couldn't have done it without them!

Zoe Lawless

Evan Lejeal

Christina Lemm

Angela Letto

Lindsey Levine
I would like to thank everyone who got me to this point, including my family, friends, and incredible instructors! I've had an incredible experience here and I can't wait to see what lies ahead.

Hayden Lewis
Thank you to everyone who has supported me! Cheers.

Ali Mares

Abby Marynowski
I can not thank the faculty and staff enough for their generosity with their time, compassion, and knowledge.

Camryn Mata
I am moving on to do medical diagnostic testing for Quest Diagnostics! I am so thankful for my time at CU Boulder and my amazing friends and family who supported me through all four years. This place has given me so much to celebrate and I will cherish my time here for the rest of my life.

Jordyn McCarty
I am spending this summer teaching teens sailing and diving in the British Virgin Islands and then I plan on attending graduate school to get my masters in marine biology either in Hawaii or Australia. I would like to thank my parents & grandparents for all that they have done for me.

Aric McCarty

Morgan McIver
Thank you Mom, Dad, and Megan for always supporting me. I couldn't have done this without you all. I love you guys! After graduation, I am moving to Denver to begin my job as a Junior Consultant at Spencer Ogden. I also plan to return to school to complete a masters program.

Paige McIver

Kara McKee

Jackson McKinney

Hailey Meyer-James
Denis Mullarkey: Don’t let your dreams be dreams, just do it!

Chris Mulligan: I’d like to thank everyone in the Organic Geochemistry Lab - I couldn’t imagine where I’d be without their support. I’ll be starting my PhD at UC Davis this Fall, studying early animal evolution through both lipid biomarkers and genomics.

Jade Munsinger

Nathan Murray

Austin Leonard Nash*: I would like to thank my parents for their endless support. Next year, I will be completing the BAM program in the McCain lab. Afterwards, I hope to complete a PhD and pursue a research career with the USFS Research Stations or USGS Science Centers. In memory of my grandfather Leonard Fowell.

Stella Nelson: I want to thank my parents so much for supporting me and paying for this great education. I am hoping to start with work in conservation soon.

Kaitlin Netel

Brooklynn Newberry: I would like to thank both my mom and dad as well as my grandparents who work so hard to put me through school. I am blessed to have the family and friends that I do. I plan to continue my education with a masters degree and work as an environmental analyst.

Luke Nordgren: I’m extremely grateful for everything the E BIO department has done to prepare me for my future. I’d like to give a special thanks to Tracy Halward for making her classes so enjoyable and for being so considerate and understanding of her students.

Ali Ogrodnick

Dylan Oh

Allison O’Leary

Alison Orthel

Franklin Ostrow

Andrew James Otis
Richard Park  
I’d like to thank Barbara Demmig-Adams for encouraging me to pursue an honors thesis. I’d also like to thank my committee members: Christopher Lowry, Pieter Johnson for their assistance. Lastly, I’d like to thank my loving mother for supporting me throughout my undergraduate journey here at CU.

Luke Pelletier

Fatima Pena

Rees Phillips

Alyssa Potter

Cameron Poyd

Jackson Prosser  
I would like to thank my lizard Stitch

Julia Raulinaitis

Marisabel Reinhardt  
I’d like to thank my Mami & Papi, Georgie & Robbie, and the Meatballs for getting me this far! Next year I plan to travel, work, and apply to medical school. SKO BUFFS!

Mackenzie Romig

Joseph Rutten

Chandler Sanchez  
Everyone in the EBIO Department has been fantastic, but a special shoutout to Dr. Stephanie Mayer, for always being down to get nerdy about plants with me!

Joseph Sanchez

Nicholas Sandler

Caroline Schaus  
Thank you to all my friends and family for giving me the support and love I needed to succeed.

Laura Schenken

David Shenfeld

Megan Skahill  
Thank you Boulder for welcoming me with open arms! Transferring was the best decision I’ve ever made! The people and professors are some of the best in the country and I’ll be sad to say goodbye! Sko Buffs forever!

Ruby Maraiya Sloan  
I’d like to thank all of my friends and family for their support throughout my time at CU! I would like to especially thank my mom for believing in me and giving me the strength to overcome the obstacles I encountered along the way. Gracias por todo mamÃ¡, no estarÃ¡ donde estoy sin ti. Te quiero!

Brittany Smith  
Thank you to my Dad, Mom, Austin, and friends for sharing these great memories with me and supporting me. I love y’all!
Caitlin Smith

Joshua Soll I would like to thank my mom, dad, and sister, as well as the rest of my family and friends for all of their love, support, and encouragement during my time in college and in following my interests! I appreciate you all more than you know!

Taylor Staughton I would like to thank all of my friends who have been on this journey with me and have helped me reach this goal. Above all, this achievement was made possible because of my loving and caring parents. Thank you for everything. For the future, I plan to live a life full of laughter and happiness!

Jessica Sternberg

Melinda Stueber

Jill Sutherland I would like to thank my parents, family, and loved ones for always encouraging me and supporting me throughout my time at CU. I plan to attend medical school and become a doctor post graduation.

Taylor Swafford

Joy Tapia

Carmen Tauriello Thank you Mom & Dad :)

Emily Tellschow I’m so grateful for all the people in my life who have always supported me, encouraged me, and believed in me. I couldn’t have done this without you.

Patricia Todd

Destiny Trinidad I want to thank my biggest support team which is my family and friends. I don’ know where i would be without them. These past years were a struggle but it was all worth it in the end! In the future I plan to attend nursing school and get my BSN.

Austin Van

Merle Edward Varney IV Thank you to my entire family, your love and support has made this accomplishment attainable and the journey more enjoyable.

Nicole Varon Mom & Dad, Thank you so much for these past 4 years. Couldn’t have done it without you two! Love you!

Gabriela Vergara

Matthew Weeks

Samantha Williams I’d like to thank my father and sister for being an amazingly supportive inner circle, and my grandparents for giving me the opportunity of a higher education. Additionally, I’d like to thank all my Ecology/EBIO instructors who have given me a safe space to learn. You all are the best!

Kyra Williams
Peyton Willis * I'm planning on attending graduate school to further my degree. Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me and I'm excited to see what the future holds!

Madison Winchester

Ivy Wingfield

Hayley Wuestenberg

Jiewen Yang

Avery Zartarian Thank you to my family for the support and to my friends: zero days since our last nonsense.

*Members of the Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter of the University of Colorado