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**MCDB Honors Degree Recipients**

Amaneet Kaur Brar, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Zoe Donaldson

Thesis: *Scoring Behaviors by Training a Machine Learning Model for Complex Behavioral Analysis.*

Xavier Thomas Cisneros, magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Christopher Lowry

Thesis: *Effects of M. vaccae NCTC 11659 on Cell Activation and Rates of Phagocytosis in Naïve and LPS-challenged Microglia.*

Kevin K Ember, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Michael Stowell

Thesis: *Structural Analysis of OSK1 Binding to Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors Using Cryogenic Electron Microscopy*.

Adriana Samanta Espinoza, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Pei-San Tsai

Thesis: *Small Molecule Treatment of Testicular Function in Aged FGF Signaling-Deficient Mice.*

Morgane Malena Herlory, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Maciej Walczak

Thesis: *Post-Translation Modifications Control Tau Structures through Site and Size Specificity.*

Savannah Rose Huyvaert, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Kelly Doran

Thesis: *Elucidating Streptococcus agalactiae and Staphylococcus aureus Polymicrobial Interactions in Diabetic Wound Infections*.

Ethan James, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Natalie Vergara

Thesis: *Human Retinal Organoids Derived from iPSCs Recapitulate Hallmarks of Familial Alzheimer’s Disease*.

Abigail Dawoon Jeong, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Edward Chuong

Thesis: *The Hidden Enhancer: LTR18 and its Effect on Ovarian Cancer*.

Shay Jewels Juarez, cum laude Advisor: Dr. Lee Niswander

Thesis: *Integrin β1 Role and Function in Neural Tube Closure in TMEM132a Mutant Mice*.

Jackson Raymond Kominsky, summa cum laude \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_Advisor: Dr. Thomas Cech

Thesis: *Towards Visualizing the Process of ‘Kleptocytosis’: Varroa destructor Stealing Vitellogenin Protein from Apis mellifera.*

Danny Morrison, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Nausica Arnoult

Thesis: *Heterochromatin and its Effects on Telomeric MiDAS in U2OS*.

Lauren Celeste Phillips, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Shelley Copley

Thesis: *The Contingency of Metabolic Pathway Evolution on Pre-existing Enzymes*.

Ian David Rutherford, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Christopher Lowry

Thesis: *Time course analysis of the effects of M. vaccae NCTC 11659 on proinflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokine mRNA expression in naïve and lipopolysaccharide-challenged BV-2 microglial cells*.

Kate Ann Schinkel, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Aaron Whiteley

Thesis: *Development and optimization of biosensors to detect signaling molecules in bacterial immune defenses*.

Melia H Scholl, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Steve Schmidt

Thesis: *Biodiversity and Metabolic Pathways in Antarctic Cryoconite Bacteria*.

Sophie Marie Whitehead, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Nausica Arnoult

Thesis: *The Function of PARP and DNA Repair Genes on DNA Repair*.

Thea Zlatkov, summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Bradley Olwin

Thesis: *The Fibrotic Tissue Environment in Aged Mice Limits Muscle Regeneration by Muscle Stem Cells*.

**colorado.edu/mcdb**

**Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology**



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**Spring Recognition Ceremony**

**Noon Thursday May 8, 2025**

CU Recreation Center

Upper Gymnasium

**Ceremony Program Commencement 2025**

**Processional** Please Remain Seated

**Welcome** Dr. Lee Niswander

 Chair, MCD-Biology

**Commencement Speaker** Drs. Kenneth S Krauter & Michael Klymkowsky

 Professors of MCD-Biology

**Student Speaker** Adriana Samanta Espinosa, B.A.

**Doctoral & Masters Candidates presented by** Dr. Gia Voeltz

 Professor, MCD-Biology

**MCDB Advanced Degree Recipients**

Paul Gendler Advisor: Dr. Sara Sawyer

Thesis: Investigating Viral Spillover: How Dengue and HIV Adapt to New Hosts

Emma Worden-Sapper Advisor: Dr. Sara Sawyer

Thesis: *Emerging orthoflaviviruses and influenza A virus genome dynamics*.

Ryan Sayegh \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Advisor: Dr. Aaron Whitely

Thesis: Defense against predatory bacteria

Galen Squiers Advisor: Dr. Jingshi Shen

Thesis: *Leveraging genome-wide CRISPR screening to identify the non-canonical function of COMMD3 in endosomal trafficking*.

**Honors Degree Recipients presented by** Dr. Christy Fillman

 Teaching Professor of Distinction, MCD-Biology

**Undergraduates presented by** Dr. Lee Niswander & Dr. Jenny Knight

 Chair, MCD-Biology & Professor, MCD-Biology

**Closing Remarks** Dr. Lee Niswander

 Chair, MCD-Biology

**Candidates for Bachelor’s in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology**

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| Bethel Kassa AbayWilliam Jeffrey AbramsMirabelle P. Adams ○Grace Stockwell AddisonDanya Al Nazal ◊\*₼Sarah Yousef AlqallafKatie Jane AshtonAbigail Kristeen Awad \*○□Titus Joshua BardJay Alexander Bentley \*◊₼Chailyn Berggreen \*□Luke David BiggerstaffEmily Hannah Hadley BivrellLauren Micah BloomfieldAstrid Ann BorsholmEeshan Borthakur ● ◊Jessica Nicole Bowman ◊Thomas Boyle \*Amaneet Kaur Brar \*○□Ivan BretonAimee Tien BuiAimi Shizuko Bull \*□○Carlos Alberto Caceres ◊Lauren Elizabeth CampbellMia Lian Chaw ◊●Natalie Alexis Chen\*□◊Christina Cheng \*□○Sydney Marie Ciechanowicz ●◊○Xavier Thomas Cisneros ◊□Sarah Frances Crawford □\*Daniel Michael DeBattistaJeremiah Diaz ●Sierra Katherine Dooley ◊Taylor Nicole Downs ●John Robert Dwyer \*◊Kevin K Ember ◊●Ariel Lucas Eraso\*Adriana Samanta Espinoza ~₼○Lia Brewster Farrell \*□◊Claire I FaulknerPeyton Diane Ferguson ●Adam Jacob Field \*₼Chloee Janae Foucher \*○₼Keira FranzLogan Lynn GaspardJonathan William Gerwien ●Ambree Corrine GilbertMadeleine Rose Gonshak ●Charlotte Marie GunnGabrielle Clio GustafsonLauren Elizabeth HaltermanJustin Dominic Hein ◊\*○ ₼Abigail Elizabeth Helbig ○Ana Luiza Henneberg Ribeiro | Morgane Malena Herlory □\*Barbara Elizabeth Hilton ○Clay Aldridge Hittle ○Bill HoangCaleb Isaac Hodges ◊●Allison Joyce Hoffman ○₼\*Jessyca Danielle HogueChloe Danielle Hollard ○●Sara Grace Hughes ○Cameron Michelle HunterAyan J Husein ○Savannah Rose Huyvaert \*□○Abby Christine Inman ○◊□\*Noemi Marta Ira \*□Ethan James ₼◊Abigail Dawoon Jeong\*₼○◊Juliana Rosemarie JohnsonEmily Littlefield JohnstonShaylie Jewels Juarez ●Zaynah Khan ●Lily Jean Klein-PadillaJackson Raymond Kominsky ○₼~Willa S Kopp-Devol \*□Melody S. KoskellaManford Samuel Krout◊Sophie Monica Kvaratskhelia ~◊Emily Jean Landingham ○◊Madeline Mae Langan ○◊Emma Violet Lawless ◊□\*Charleton Sarkis LeMieux ~₼Eyosias B Lemma ◊Misha Noel Lewis ○●Angelina Isabella Lovato ◊Ryan LowellHanna Lee Ludwick ●Graycee Kae MaldonadoAnnie Mei Yue McCall Manassee\*□Yohana Alito Markos ◊\*Isabella Mercedes MartinezMia R. Maslowski \*□Aiden David MathesAvery Jordan MatthewsYana Maria Medvedeva ◊\*□Chiara Olivia Miller ◊ ₼\*Andrew J MokarryNarges Moradi ○Daniel Morrison \*₼Julia Anne Munro ◊Sara Ali MusaniJenny Anhthy Nguyen\*₼○◊Charles John Offerdahl\*□Teagan Osoba ●ReAnna Owens ○●Abigail Tyler Petursson | Lauren Celeste Phillips \*□○◊Ellie May Pramenko ○₼\*Logan Michael Pritchard \*○◊₼True Rappold ◊Elle Louisa Rau ○□\*Jack Canyon Respet ○□Josiane Robinson ○Talbott Skye RobinsonSidney RomeKaitlyn Marie RoseSadie Michelle Ruckel ○Ian David Rutherford ₼\*Julia Anna Rydel □Maria Vladimirovna Safronova ●Lily Elizabeth Salle ●Ryan Sayegh ~₼Harrison Michael SchachterKatarina Ann Schinkel ~₼Melia Scholl □\*Ryan Hideki Schubert\*₼○Hannah Marie ScottAurora Keshavarz SelvasRhea Bincy Skariah ◊Madeleine Frances Stone\*Kyra Morgan SwaffordLauryn Evelyn Tharp □Evan Thoresen □\*Emma Elizabeth Topping ○Will Griffin VanniJacqueline VargasViravee Vashisht\*□Javiera Paz Vasquez AndradeLauren Elizabeth VoitAneesh Amit WaikarChase Davis WalkerJade Brianne WellsSophie Marie Whitehead ○₼~Richard Joel Williams \*□Evan Andrew Wood ₼◊\*Wyatt Henley Young \*◊□Analise Zelem**A black screen with yellow lines  Description automatically generated with low confidence**Thea Zlatkov □\*◊**Key**○ Additional Minor(s)◊ Additional Major(s)● Cum Laude□ Magna Cum Laude₼ Summa Cum Laude\* High Distinction (3.75-4.0)**A black screen with yellow lines  Description automatically generated with low confidence**~ Chancellor’s Recognition (4.0+) |

**Refreshments are located at the entrance of the ceremony location.**