

Candidates for Bachelors in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

Mason T Goettsche
Cora Ella Goodwin**
Finneas Rutherford Gordon
James D Green *
Caroline Caterson Greene *
Emmaline Ngoc-Tran Ha
Aiden Joseph BaDa Henke
Jackson John Heupel*
Barbra Elizabeth Hilton
Anna Sofia Holstine
Anesa Hrnjic
Estefania Ibarra Luna
Tina Maria Illetschko*
Sydney Paige Johnson
Braxton Connor Jones**
Kyle Thomas Kerley
Richard Maurice Kim *
Jack Reagan Kipperman
Zoe Elizabeth Kite
Keaton Riley Kley
Emma Eve Knutson
August James Kuca*
Emily Jean Landingham
Alexander Bjorn Larsson
Andy Lau
Aaron Agrafojo Levy*
Alexis Bailey Littlehorn
Carolina Natividad Loa
Lizeth Loera Martinez
Isabel Maria Long
Maya Lonnon
Eleazar Lopez Jr
Jamie Ma
Soren Jacob Maret*
Kyra Nicole Markert
Michaela McCright**
Avery Miyoko McGraw
Juliana Medina
Rachel Suzanne Meier
Egla Mesfin Mengistu
Sunanda Mitra
Alexander Ross Mommer*
Merritt John Montano*
Manu Narasimha Moorthy
Diego Armando Navarro

Angelina Ndoni
Lanis Michlyn Neal
Eli Jentinus Netel*
Jenny Anhthly Nguyen*
Maya Marie Nussbaumer
Joseph Anthony Pagano
Aidan Walker Palermo
Riley Davis Pennell
Katie M Pham
Cole D Piltz
Nyla Prasad
Trevor Daniel Preuss
Anna Michelle Pruneski
John Patrick Rambasek
Macklin John Riley*
Madelyn Alexa Rohr
Annie Hope Rosenfeld
Musa Lee Ryan
Richard Lee Sandoval
Margeret Kathrine Schemel
Michaela Schoen
Savannah Dawn Sheets
Ethan Wade Sievers*
Abemelik Alemshet Sjong
Rhea Bincy Skariah
Anna Lillian Smith
Zachary Maxwell Solem
Maria Michalina Sawinska
Benjamin Rip Stephenson
Jeffery L Stinemetze
Whitney Yen Thong*
Zebulon James Trovinger**
Timothy Joshua Vallejos
Sarah Nicole Vasten
Romen Michael Vigil
Danielle Sophia Volden*
Omar Widaa
Jacob T Witten
Jak Andrew Woodmansee
Barrett Ashley Woods*
Ethan Davis Wrenn
Geena Fleur Yee
Joe Yang Jiao Young**
Kangyi Zhao



Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology



Spring Recognition Ceremony
12:00 PM Saturday May 2, 2026
CU Recreation Center
Upper Gymnasium

*High Distinction (3.75-3.99)

**Chancellor's Recognition (4.0)

Ceremony Program Commencement 2026

Processional _____ Please Remain Seated

Welcome _____ Dr. Tin Tin Su
Chair, MCD-Biology

Commencement Speaker _____ Lisa Zwerdinger, M.D.
Clinical Professor, Family Medicine, UC Anschutz

Student Speaker _____ Olivia Neilly, B.A.

Doctoral & Masters Candidates presented by _____ Dr. Michael Stowell
Professor, MCD-Biology

Honors Degree Recipients presented by _____ Dr. Christy Fillman
Teaching Professor of Distinction, MCD-Biology

Undergraduates presented by _____ Dr. Jenny Knight
Professor, MCD-Biology

Closing Remarks _____ Dr. Tin Tin Su
Chair, MCD-Biology

Advanced Degree Recipients

Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Isabel Bravo, MA
Alexzanah Griffin, MA
Olivia Joyner, MA

Katherine DaPron, PhD Advisor: Dr. Marcelo Sousa
Thesis: Mechanical Stability as a Determinant for Secretion

Skip Maas, PhD Advisor: Dr. Leslie Leinwand
Thesis: Natural Inspiration and Molecular Insights into Skeletal Muscle Atrophy
Progression and prevention

Hope Townsend, PhD Advisor: Dr. Robin Dowell
Thesis: Integrating Transcriptomics with Genomics for Improved Discovery of
Biological Pathways of Disease

MCDB Undergraduate Honors Degree Recipients

Layla Denisse Borja Najera, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Aaron Whiteley
Rylee Ella Cline*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Pieter Johnson
Anne Morris Earthman**, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Christopher Link
Sophia Noel Feghali*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Leslie Leinwand
Madison Emily Graves*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Gia Voeltz
Kellie Ha*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Rachel Rowe
Ian Micheal Denizhan Kitchen*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Robert Batey
Deven Lemercier*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Kristi Anseth
Ankit Mukkamala**, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Lisa Hiura
Nejwa Anwar Munir*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Karen Bailey
Olivia E Neilly**, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Zoe Donaldson
Richard Benjamin Parker*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Lee Niswander
Hannah Buchanan Polatsek*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. David Root
Julia Marie Renz*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Zoe Donaldson
Gina Marie Ricci, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. David Root
Thomas Jonathan Stille*, <i>summa cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Karolin Luger
Andres Vassaux*, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Jerry Stitzel
Lauren Marie Vogt, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Sigrid Van Den Abbeele
Catherine Elinor Woods-Killam, <i>magna cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Nausica Arnoult
Sierra Zeller, <i>cum laude</i>	Advisor: Dr. Maciej Walczak

Candidates for Bachelors in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

Ishita Agrawal*	Faith Christen
Javier Agular Jr	Ally Grace Chen
Ashley Afrahemaah Agyepong*	Kriticaphon Chuenchit
Mohamed A Almrabat	Marie Geneveive Ciminski
Reyna Michelle Amkie Konik	Christopher Michael Clay Jr
Paola Arriaga	Grace Abigail Cochran
Sophia Marie Arrington	Neko Conner*
Bria G Baack*	Kayla Nicole Dayhuff
William Francis Ballard	Daniel Michael DeBattista
Bianca Jade Ballinas	Colin J Deftos*
Alyson Nicole Baran	Jenna Lynn Delmar
Skylar William Bates*	Jackson James Doran
Paige Annika Behrens	Jessica Reece Doty
Angelina Leone Berstein*	Maxwell James Elder
Astrid Ann Borsholm	Yazmin Sade Falero
Heidi Francisca Brent	Kai Alexander Fayngersh
Nana Afia Amankwa Broni	John Thomas Ferguson III
Alec James Brookes	Micheal Fitzpatrick
Regan Nicole Brown	Anna Michelle Fleming
Elizabeth Marie Burnett	Henry Robert Foisie *
Phoebe Simone Chaffee	Simone Elise Gillott
Julia Jordan Chapman*	Caleb John Girard