Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology Spring Commencement 2021

Thursday May 6, 2021
10:00 AM
Place (Virtual):
https://www.colorado.edu/mcdb/spring-2021-graduation

Spring 2021 Opening Remarks and Commencement Address:
Dr. Lee Niswander – MCDB Chair

Reading of Degree Conferrals by:
Dr. Jennifer Knight

Additional Speakers:
Hannah Kuhn-Gale and Gracie Marilyn Sapp
Advanced Degree Recipients

The Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology department’s primary missions are education, research and service to the University and community. Our graduate program is among the top Research Universities in the world and we are delighted to confer two new Doctoral degrees this fall.

Lara Janiszewski
Doctor of Philosophy Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Advisor: Dr. Amy Palmer
Thesis: "Infection of immune competent macrophages expressing functional Slc11a1 alters global gene expression, regulation of metal ions, and infection outcomes"

Chancellor's Recognition Award Recipients

This award is given to the students that have achieved the highest academic record possible: a perfect 4.0 grade point average – an A in every course they have taken. This year, we are pleased to recognize:

Nia Gwen Hammond * & **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Biochemistry
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Richer
Thesis: “Evaluating the role of NPC1 expression in Triple Negative Breast Cancer”

Brandon Michael Krzyzkowski *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Hannah Louise Kuhn-Gale * & **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Lee Niswander
Thesis: “Multigenerational folic acid supplementation disrupts HMGB1 nuclear localization through decreased reactive oxygen species”
Allison Suzanne Parker *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Hannah Strassburger *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Political Science

Bachelor Degree Recipients

MCDB is among the most demanding majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our graduates often go on to fill leadership positions across America and the world in research, education, health professions, government, journalism and law. Many of our students have second and third majors as well as receiving academic honors. We proudly introduce the class of Spring 2021.

Jordan William Affinati *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Hazim Shabbab Almotery *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Nayef Munsoor G Alotaibi
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Bailey Anderson *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Biochemistry

Valeria Ayala Alonso
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Psychology

Elise Corene Barteld *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Helen Bassett**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): German

**Harris Neil Bendel**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Kelly Louise Bergstrom**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Additional Majors: Psychology

**Hannah J. Besse** *  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction  
Minor(s): Geography

**Cora Elizabeth Bishop**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Daniel Allen Brunker**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): Spanish Language and Literature

**Alyssa Buckley**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**John Lloyd Carter**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Sarah Elizabeth Cates**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Kieran McNeill Cecil**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): Political Science

**Zuhair Chaudhry** * & **  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction  
Magna cum laude  
Advisor: Dr. Chris Link

**Yongze Chen** *
Bachelor of Arts Biochemistry with Distinction  
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Zhe Cheng**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): Sociology

**Benjamin D Christl** *  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

**Alia Clark-ElSayed** * & **  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction  
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Shelley Copley  
Thesis: “Comparing how Pseudomonas putida and Escherichia coli Evolve After Deletion of pdxB”  
Minor(s): French

**Grace Sue Clarke**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): Sociology

**Natalie Marie Clarke**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Madeleine C. Cohen**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Philip Coleman** *  
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience with Distinction  
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Desare' Nicole Comstock**  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Additional Majors: Sociology
Kylie Ann Conway **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Amy Palmer
Thesis: “Characterizing the Role of the Zinc Responsive Protein, MTF-1, in Cellular Zinc Transport and Proliferation”

Taylor Cook
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Lauren Elizabeth Cooper *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Jassmine Cousins
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Psychology

Audrey Curtis
Bachelor of Arts Biochemistry
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Chiara Ruelle Dart * & **
Bachelor of Arts Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. William Robinson
Thesis: “Azacitidine and MCL1 inhibitors in combination may provide novel treatment for patients with melanoma”

Jack Conrad Davis **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience
Magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Zoe Donaldson
Thesis: “The Effects of Acute Oxytocin and Mu-Opioid Antagonism on Pair-Bond Maintenance in Monogamous Prairie Voles”
Minor(s): Philosophy

Alina Andrea Dayn
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Nathan Do
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Spanish for the Professions, Neuroscience
Minor(s): Computer Science

**Jake Anthony Drewes** * & **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Bob Garcea
Thesis: “*In Silico Modeling and Analysis of Murine Polyomavirus Infection*”

**Sarah Jordan Eastwood** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Ivanna Marie Evans**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Kayla Ezell**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Spanish Language and Literature

**Alyssa Fausnaught**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Kela Subar Fetters** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

**Micklaus Garcia**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Ginger W Geng**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Astitwa Raj Ghimire**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Victoria Ilena Glasser**
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Rose Goodman**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Jacob Alan Graser**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Caroline Jane Greene**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Miguel Guerrero Moreno**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): French

**Sabrina Hafeez * & ****
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Biochemistry
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Richer
Thesis: “Reversal of an Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition Program Reveals Heme Catabolism as an Immune Suppressor in Triple Negative Breast Cancer”

**Cassidy Hart * **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Emily Hay-Arthur * & ****
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Neuroscience
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Wright
Thesis: “Trait-like Stability in Individual Responses of Melatonin Secretion Following Consistent Baseline and Sleep Restriction/Circadian Misalignment Sleep”

**Brighid Helen Heaney * **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Business

**Isaac Helmick** *
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience with Distinction
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Andrew Wu Her**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Japanese

**Griffin David Hicks**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Sierra Christine Hirko**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Edward Hoal**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business

**Elisa Victoria Hobson** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

**Coralie Claire Huibregtse**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Cydney Patricia Jardine**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): History

**Megan Elizabeth Joyce** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Anthropology

**Harsha Mrunalini Kalagana** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Spanish Language and Literature
Jack Aiden Kane *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction

Sima Karimi
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Brian P Kearney *
Bachelor of Arts Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Ariel Elisabeth Kennedy
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience
Minor(s): Spanish Language and Literature

Brooke Danielle Kennedy *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Biochemistry

Medhane Kiflom
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Mathematics

Stephen Knight
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Taylor Edward Kring
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): French

Mallika Kumar
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business

Roshan Kumar
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Andrew Lee
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Ying Li
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Biochemistry, Integrative Physiology

Hanalei Mercado Lintag
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Suchita Lulla
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Computer Science

Natalie Luna
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Spanish

Rychen Ly
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Dukehart Houston Wingfield MacMillan
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Molly Rose Madden **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Leslie Leinwand
Thesis: “The functional impact of an embryonic myosin mutation that causes Freeman Sheldon Syndrome”

Kayla Rae Marshall
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Megan Antonette Marsilio *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Business & Philosophy

Abbey Marye **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Cum laude Advisor: Dr. Monika Fleshner
Thesis: “Examining the effects of spaceflight on Hsp72 concentration in livers of mice that have spent extended time in space”
Kyle Takaji McCall  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Minor(s): Education

Camille Lissette Merrick  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Kendra Anastasia Meyers  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Allison Miller  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Additional Majors: Neuroscience  
Minor(s): Business

Hadley Mills  
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience  
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Lisa Erin Mitchell * & **  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction  
Additional Majors: Neuroscience  
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Chad Pearson  
Thesis: “Basal body number scales with cell size in Tetrahymena thermophile”  
Minor(s): Business

Alexis Montague **  
Bachelor of Arts Biochemistry  
Additional Majors: Mathematics, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Pamela Harvey  
Thesis: “Inflammatory Cytokines in Neurodegenerative Diseases: A Systematic Review with Analysis of Temporal Expression in the Central Nervous System”

Jose Santos Navarro Arriola * & **  
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction  
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Leslie Leinwand
Thesis: “Characterizing the Effect of Myh7b ASO Knockdown in Cardiomyocytes Maturation In Vitro”

**Diem My Pham Nguyen** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Spanish for the Professions

**Andrew Nong**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Dalton Stewart North**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Davis John Onesian**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Maddison Marie Orosz**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Sociology

**Marwa Mohamed Osman** **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Robert Spencer
Thesis: “Red Light at Night: Identifying Unexpected Sources of Circadian Disruptions”
Minor(s): Leadership Studies

**Daniel Pack** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Minor(s): Korean Language and Culture

**Kajal Dilipkumar Patel** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Integrative Physiology
Minor(s): Business

**Nicholas Joepsh Peters**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Sharon Pickersgill
Bachelor of Arts Chemistry
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Biochemistry

Gregory Prahl
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

Calista Prananta
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business

Chengrui Qiu
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Lindsey Nicole Rathbun
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business

Heather Janae Reichenbach
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Megan Lee Robinhold
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Women & Gender Studies

Valeria Rodriguez
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience
Minor(s): Business

Emily Louise Rogers
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Fermin Brandon Ruybal
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business

Gracie Marilyn Sapp **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Magna cum laude Advisor: Dr. Zoe Donaldson
Thesis: “Quantifying Differential Neuronal Activity After Prairie Vole Partner Loss”

**Ashwin Sarwal**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Biochemistry

**Jordyn Michelle Schreiber**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Allison Nicole Siclair** *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

**Meghan Anne Skalicky** **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Justin Brumbaugh
Thesis: “Constructing a Tool for Identification of Stem Cells Actively Expressing Histone H3 Wild Type or K-to-M Mutants”

**Alexander George Stein**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**William Joseph Stritzel**
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Rebecca Su**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Biochemistry

**Jordan Summers**
Bachelor of Arts Biochemistry
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Nathan Tenagne Tadele**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience
Eric Traugutt
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Madeleine Katherine Underwood
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

Hendrick Robert van Leeuwen
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Taylor Vaughan *
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology with Distinction
Additional Majors: Spanish Language and Literature
Minor(s): Sociology

Ivy Vien **
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Joel Kralj
Thesis: Uniting Biofilm Treatment Approaches

Justin Lorence Wang **
Bachelor of Arts Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Summa cum laude Advisor: Dr. Brian Hynek
Minor(s): Biochemistry

Zoe Warren
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Integrative Physiology

Chioma Brandie West
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Spanish Language and Literature

Sarah Williams
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Neuroscience

Courtney Johnnae Wilson
Bachelor of Arts Neuroscience
Additional Majors: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Jasmine Amina Wilson**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Eiseec Wong**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Augustus Shujiro Woomer**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Zhenwei Wu**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Brianna Marie Yanover**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Sociology

**Shunyu Yao**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Chuyue Ye**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

**Tessa Josephina Youmans**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Minor(s): Business & Chinese

**Jiaxuan Zhang**
Bachelor of Arts Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Additional Majors: Computer Science
Minor(s): Computational Biology

**Graduation with Honors is determined by the Honors Program of the college and is based on several criteria, including the quality of original scholarly work. Honors are not conferred on a graduate simply by virtue of high grades. The Departmental Honors Program is organized around a student research project undertaken in MCDB or a related department. It is not necessary to take Honors Department courses to qualify. Candidates for Departmental Honors must satisfy GPA requirements, complete a research project, prepare an Honors**
thesis describing the research project in a scholarly fashion and pass an oral examination.

*Graduation with Distinction is noted by the asterisk and is achieved through 30 credit hours completed at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Students must have a GPA average of 3.75 or higher for all course work completed at the University of Colorado and have a cumulative GPA average of 3.75 or higher for all collegiate course work completed at all institutions attended.