

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 Janiszweski

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 Krzykowski *

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

Thesis: “*Introduction of a lin-65 mutation into a C. elegans transgenic reporter strain and its effect on HPL-2 localization*”

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

Jasmine 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*”

DiemMy 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 Joesph 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 Prah

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

Thesis: *"Metagenomic Analysis of an Extreme Volcanic Environment and its Application to Life on Mars"*

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.**