

# Student Announcements 2023

Join us in congratulating our scientists for all their hard work!

## MAY/AUGUST GRADUATES



DR. JAMIE ALFIERI



R. PETER DORN, MS



DR. MELANIE FLORKOWSKI



DR. MICHAEL MCCLOY



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program

# WELCOME!

## 2023 COHORT: FIRST-YEAR PHD STUDENTS



ADAM BOWER  
BRIGHTSMITH LAB



STEPHEN CAIRD  
YORZINSKI LAB



TOM DODSON  
PERKIN LAB



SERENA  
FARRELL  
BEHMER LAB



BEN LAKE  
YORZINSKI  
LAB



RUBY MUSTILL  
FITZPATRICK LAB



TABITHA OLSEN  
BUTLER LAB



BRIANA SEBASTIAN  
ARMITAGE LAB



MALITH  
VIDURANGA  
SPALINK LAB



MYLES  
WAGNER  
STRADER LAB

# DECEMBER GRADUATES



## **DR. NATALIE AGUIRRE**

Linking plant physiology and chemical communication:  
herbivore-associated volatiles modulate photosynthesis  
and plant resistance to herbivores

Chair: Dr. Anjel Helms



## **DR. AMANDA BECKMAN**

Turkeys in the Anthropocene: Turkeys as a Model  
System for Understanding Human-induced Selection

Chair: Dr. Gil Rosenthal  
Co-Chair: Dr. Sarah Hamer

# DECEMBER GRADUATES



## **DR. RACHEL BUSSELMAN**

Ecological interactions and novel control interventions among hosts, parasites, and neglected arthropod vectors in Texas

Chair: Dr. Sarah Hamer



## **DR. SIMON KIACZ**

Status, Distribution, and Population Modeling of Red-crowned Parrots and Conservation Opportunities of Naturalized Parrots

Chair: Dr. Don Brightsmith

ADMITTED TO PHD CANDIDACY



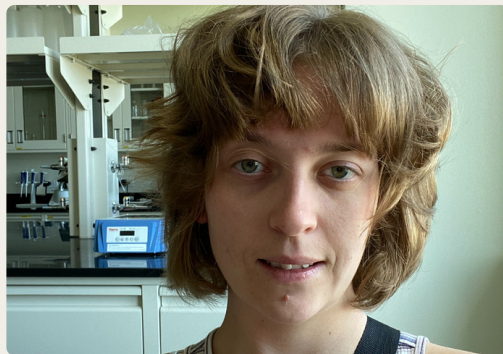
OWEN DORSEY



EMMA LEHMBERG



JORGE MEDINA DURAN



LYDIA MORLEY



BREANN RICHEY



NICOLE SCAVO



KYLE SIMPSON



RYAN WEESNER

PASSED PRELIMS OR  
RESEARCH PROPOSAL DEFENSE

MEREDITH  
ANDERSON



KEITH  
ANDRINGA



CHRIS BRENNAN



ELENA DURAN



MARIA HURTADO-MATERON



GRIFFIN  
NICHOLSON



BROOKE  
TORJMAN



# NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **RACHEL BUSSELMAN**

Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Scholar Award, 2023 (\$20,000)

## **ANGELA HAGGARD**

Accepted into the exclusive University of Texas High-Resolution X-ray CT Facility's short course funded by NSF grant

## **MARIA HURTADO-MATERON**

Good Bull Fund Grant awarded to Darwin Day (2024) on behalf of EEBISO - Acting President (\$3723.75)

## **HANNAH JUSTEN**

Dissertation Fellowship Award 2023  
2023 Schubot Avian Health Director's Award (\$150)  
Poster Award, Life on a Dynamic Planet Symposium 2023  
2023 Schubot Travel Grant, Schubot Center TAMU (\$1,500)  
Poster Award, Gordon Conference Speciation 2023

## **JOSH LERNER**

2nd place Poster Presentation, Life on a Dynamic Planet Symposium 2023

## **KYLE SIMPSON**

George R. Cooley Award for Best Talk in Systematics and Biogeography, Botany Conference 2023

## **NICOLE STEVENS**

2023 NSF GRFP Honorable Mention

## **BROOKE TORJMAN**

Federation of Houston Professional Women Educational Foundation Scholarship, 2023