

UOWGS 2018-2019 Award Winners

Karfilis Leadership Award



Kathy Trafton is a 3rd-year PhD candidate in the Earth Science department. She examines pyroclasts' textures (bubbles, crystals) to understand the dynamics of volcanic eruptions. She aspires to work in geohazard mitigation and outreach at a volcano observatory. Her drive to study all things molten dates back to 6th grade, when she watched a documentary featuring Katia Krafft, a prominent French volcanologist. Kathy has worked in many capacities to increase female representation in STEM as both an instructor as an advocate. In college, she tutored K-12 students in science domestically and abroad, particularly working with those with learning disabilities. Between college and graduate school, she attended the EWHA-Luce seminar in Seoul to discuss best practices for supporting womxn in science. In graduate school, she co-founded IgDEAS (Inclusivity and gender Diversity in the Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), a solutions-based initiative that offers

networking, professional development, and bias intervention training to womxn and others in the broader geoscience community.

Travel Awards

Tamara Niella is a 2nd year Ph.D. student in the Psychology Department. Originally from the northeast of Argentina, she studied Economics in Buenos Aires. Then, she did interdisciplinary research in psychology, and coordinated two big projects based on massive social experiments: one related to cooperation, and the other on collective decision-making and the wisdom of crowds. As a doctoral student, her goal is to conduct research in social psychology that can be applied to address real-world social problems and improve public policy design. She is currently studying how people have discussions on polarizing moral issues, and what factors affect their chances of reaching an agreement. Her next project will be focused on the study of how the perception of corruption affects people's moral judgment on whistleblowing and their willingness to report transgressions. The UOWGS Travel Award will help support her attendance as an Oxford Consortium of Human Rights Fellow at the Global Ethics of Human Movement and Migration workshop, where she'll get a chance to attend interdisciplinary lectures and dialogues that will help develop her main career goal, and where she will also give a presentation together with students from different areas such as Law and Political Science.



Heather Le Bleuis is a second year Ph.D. candidate studying in the Institute of Molecular Biology program with the Stankunas lab. She is investigating how the fin regenerates back to its original size and shape irrespective of the extent or type of damage. Her research efforts have uncovered a novel mechanism to explain robust fin appendage regeneration by calcineurin mediated regulation of a growth-promoting "stem cell niche". Le Bleu hopes to improve our understanding of organ development and tissue "scaling" to inspire the next steps to enhance mammalian bone repair. The UOWGS Travel Award will help fund her trip to the 78th annual meeting of the Society for Developmental Biology in Boston, MA where she will be presenting a poster. Le Bleu acknowledges UOWGS support in fostering her opportunity to independently lead a discussion about her thesis work with a large scientific community. Lastly, she is thrilled to represent upcoming female scientists.



Parenting Award



Montserrat Cascante is a PhD student in Thomas Giachetti's Physical Volcanology Lab. She is studying the interaction between hydrothermal systems and eruption dynamics. Her research is focused on Costa Rican volcanoes, particularly in Poas and Turrialba Volcanoes. The parenting award will help her cover the summer expenses for her daughter while she is in the field collecting samples.

Sara J. Staggs Transition Award

Richelle Cabatic is a fourth year undergraduate in the College of Arts and Sciences, as a Physics major and Computer Information Science Minor. Her research while at the UO in the Sutherland lab (Earth Sciences) has involved using GPS tracked icebergs in Greenland fjords to infer ocean circulation patterns. The UOWGS Sara J. Staggs award will greatly help fund her transition across the country to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Richelle will be starting a PhD program at the Thayer School of Engineering, in the Fall . At Dartmouth, she will apply glacial and sea ice dynamics to icy satellites in the outer solar system to learn about icy shell formation.



Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

Elizabeth Wilson is a Biology undergraduate student with minors in Comparative Literature and Global Health. The UO WSG undergraduate summer research award will grant her the opportunity to continue her work for Dr. Phil Fisher at the Stress Neurobiology and Prevention (SNAP) laboratory. There she will code measures of the FIND video coaching intervention as an effective parenting intervention for socially and economically marginalized communities.



Robin Black is a biology undergraduate student in the Guillemin lab. The UOWGS Summer Research Award will help her focus on understanding the complicated host-microbe interactions when it comes to pancreatic beta cell development. Ultimately, Robin's goal is to understand if and how beta cells can be regenerated with the help of microbes. Through this research, Robin is excited to pursue her goal of contributing to optimal global health for all.