

Announcement of the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Student Research Grant Awards:

Our mission was to review all submitted applications, grade them on the quality of the request writing, and to award significant grants rather than small, partial awards. The maximum amount of any grant is \$750. The RAS Grants Committee awarded a total of \$4762 for nine research projects. Proposals for which we provided the entire amount requested are considered fully funded.

First place: **April Soule, Rochester Institute of Technology.** *Investigating Migration Timing Patterns of Thrushes Using Molecular Sexing.* Award: \$715 full funding plus \$50 unrestricted to the student. Sponsor: Susan Smith Pagano, Ph.D.

Andrew Seyler, Rochester Institute of Technology. *Cloning of the Nudix Diadenosine Polyphosphatases from M. tuberculosis and M. leprae to Increase Protein Solubility.* Award: \$650. Sponsor: Suzanne O'Handley, Ph.D.

Bethany Mangioni, Niagara University. *Iron-nitrogen cycling through a seasonal cycle within Devil's Bathtub, a ferruginous meromictic lake.* Award: \$650 (full funding). Sponsors: Dr. Cassandra Marnocha and Dr. William Edwards.

Samantha Wrobel, Niagara University. *Characterization of the lower Niagara River copepod diet and phytoplankton community composition using 16S rRNA and 18S rRNA gene sequencing.* Award: \$633 (full funding). Sponsors: Prof. Coleen Edwards, Dr. William Edwards, Dr. Cassandra Marnocha.

Bailey Hamm, Wells College. *Identifying Differences Between Mycological Colonies Under Treated and Affected Hemlock Trees Afflicted by the Woolly Adelgid.* Award: \$394.00 (full funding). Sponsor: Prof. Jaclyn Schnurr.

Mya Soto, Rochester Institute of Technology. *A HAD Superfamily Phosphoglycolate Phosphatase in Staphylococcus aureus as a Potential Virulence Factor.* Award: \$450. Sponsor: Dr. Suzanne O'Handley, Ph.D.

Brian Hofstetter, Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. *Paternity as a driver of post-fledging brood division and male parental behavior in the socially monogamous black-throated blue warbler.* Award: \$450. Sponsor: Sara Kaiser, Ph.D.

Peggy Chen, Rochester Institute of Technology. *A CTPase Nudix Hydrolase from Mycobacterium tuberculosis as a Potential Novel Antibiotic Target.* Award: \$400. Sponsor: Suzanne O'Handley, Ph.D.

Jebadiah Braunscheidel, Canisius University. *Organic Synthesis of Rhytismatone Natural Products.* Award: \$400. Sponsor: Timothy Gregg, Ph.D.

The money for the grants this year was from the Undergraduate Student Research Grants Fund, with the addition of \$300 from Life Sciences Section, and \$140 in member donations.