

COA Academic Grants 2019

❖ COA Grants Committee

- Jann Vendetti: Chair, Curator of Mollusks, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
- Fabio Moretzsohn, Professor, Texas A&M University
- John Slapcinsky, Collections Manager, Invertebrate Zoology, Florida Museum

❖ Applicant/Application details

- ✧ 45 applications: USA (35), Argentina (4), Brazil (1), Canada (1), Italy (1), México (3).
- ✧ 15 grants awarded: 7 Ph.D. students, 2 masters student, 3 postdoctoral researchers, 1 undergraduate, 2 scientists (college professor and researcher).
- ✧ Geography of award recipients: USA (13), Argentina (1), and México (1).

❖ Special awards

- Paul and Heather Johnson Award: **Ben Burford, Stanford University, California, USA**
- Jacksonville Shell Club Award: **Kendall Feliciano, California Poly. State University, Pomona, USA**
- Walter Sage Memorial Award: **Michelle E. Gannon, Drexel University, Pennsylvania, USA**
- Clench and Turner Memorial Award: **Kylie Palmer, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA**
- Frederic Weiss Memorial Award: **Noah Martin, University of California, Berkeley, USA**
- Toto Olivera and Donald Dan Award: **Sasha Seroy, University of Washington, Washington, USA**
- Anne Joffe Award: ***Not awarded.* No eligible proposals focused on Caribbean or Florida fauna**

- **Total grant sum awarded: \$25,900**

| Recipient | Project title | Institution | Location | Academic status |
|---|---|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| Kendall Feliciano (Jacksonville Shell Club Award) | A phylogenetic analysis of the superfamily Acteonoidea (Gastropoda: Heterobranchia) | California State Polytechnic University, Pomona | California, USA | Masters student |
| Michelle E. Gannon (Walter Sage Memorial Award) | Examining the Suess Effect as recorded by Giant Clam shells through the Industrial Revolution | Drexel University | Pennsylvania, USA | Ph.D. student |
| Tricia Goulding | Using Micro-CT imaging to distinguish microgastropod species in Hawaii (Achatinellidae: Pacificellinae) | Bishop Museum | Hawai'i, USA | Post doc |
| Christopher Hobbs | Extraction of ancient shell DNA to inform systematics and conservation of Hawaiian Achatinellidae | Bishop Museum | Hawai'i, USA | Post doc |
| Ruiqi Li | Identification of potential photosymbiotic genes in marine cockles (Subfamily Fraginae) | University of Colorado Boulder | Colorado, USA | Ph.D. student |
| Kylie Palmer (Clench and Turner Memorial Award) | Life history patterns of modern and fossil <i>Mercenaria</i> during warm vs. cold climate conditions: Implications for conservation paleobiology | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill | North Carolina, USA | Ph.D. student |
| Joshua Lord | How does ocean acidification interfere with gastropod cue sensing and habitat use? | Moravian College | Pennsylvania, USA | Scientist |
| Katie Marchetto | Effects of using livestock for invasive plant management on deciduous forest microclimate and terrestrial gastropods | University of Minnesota | Minnesota, USA | Post doc |
| Noah Martin (Frederic Weiss Memorial Award) | From Food to Firepower: Transcriptomics of nematocyst transport and storage in the nudibranch <i>Hermissenda crassicornis</i> (Aeolidida) | University of California, Berkeley | California, USA | undergraduate |
| Caitlin Meadows | Mustering records of Arctic exploration: Alaskan bivalve distributions in the Chukchi and Bering Seas over the last 150 years | University of Chicago | Illinois, USA | Ph.D. |
| Aaron Ninokawa | Drivers of calcification in marine and freshwater bivalves | University of California, Davis | California, USA | Ph.D. |
| Licenciada Noelia Carolina Sánchez | Conoidean gastropods from Argentine deep-waters | National University of La Plata | Argentina | Ph.D. |
| Sasha Seroy (Toto Olivera and Donald Dan Award) | Investigating patterns of post-metamorphic dispersal of the marine snail <i>Lacuna vincta</i> between eelgrass- and kelp-dominated habitats | University of Washington | Washington, USA | Ph.D. |
| Nancy Y. Suarez-Mozo (Paul and Heather Johnson Award) | Mollusks as bioindicators for inferring environmental changes in a coastal lagoon of the Yucatan Peninsula | Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México | Mexico | Scientist |
| Heidi Waite | Preparing the next generation for climate change: a comparative study of parental effects on larval thermal tolerance in the California mussel (<i>Mytilus californianus</i>) | University of California, Irvine | California, USA | Ph.D. student |