

COA Academic Grants 2024

❖ Committee

- Jann Vendetti, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, CA
- Marty Meyer, Pomona College, Pomona, CA
- Christy Visaggi, Georgia State University, Department of Geosciences, GA

❖ Applicant/Application details

- ✧ **37 applications:** Belgium (1), Brazil (1), Canada (3), Estonia (1), India (1), Mexico (2), Germany (1), Spain (1), U.K. (1), USA (25)
- ✧ **16 grants awarded:** 8 Ph.D. students, 5 masters student, 1 postdoctoral researcher, 1 research scientists, 1 undergraduate
- ✧ **Geography of award recipients:** Canada (2), Mexico (1), Germany (1), U.K. (1), USA (11)

✧ Named awards

- Paul & Heather Johnson Award: **Yu Kai Tan, University of Michigan**
- Jacksonville Shell Club Award: **Tim Kinzler, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**
- Walter Sage Memorial Award: **Katarzyn Voncina, Museum of Natural History Frankfurt**
- Clench and Turner Memorial Award: **Lily Buckles-Whittle, University of Saskatchewan**
- Toto Olivera and Donald Dan Award: **Katie Beth Jones, College of William & Mary**
- Anne Joffe Award: **Colleen Hecker, Florida Atlantic University**
- Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Award: **Brianna Davis, Florida Atlantic University**
- Frederic Weiss Memorial Award: **Joanna Griffiths & Tatum Bernat, UC Davis**
- June Bailey Memorial Award: **Indira Kulkarni, Oregon State University**
- **Total amount awarded: \$24,950**

| Recipient name | Amount Awarded | Project Title | Academic Institution | County |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|---|---------|
| Banerjee, Shreya | \$2,000 | Thermal tolerance differences in cryptic species complex <i>Lottia digitalis</i> and <i>Lottia austrodigitalis</i> . | UC Davis | USA |
| Buckles-Whittle, Lily | \$1,200 | Neural Control in Biomineralization for <i>Crepidula atrasolea</i> | University of Saskatchewan | Canada |
| Chavez, Jessica | \$1,500 | Assessing the trade and use of chambered nautilus shells in Bali and Lombok, Indonesia | Oxford Brookes University | U.K. |
| Davis, Brianna | \$1,300 | Investigating the Effects of Temperature on the Uptake, Retention, and Trophic Transfer of Microplastics in Benthic Communities | Florida Atlantic University | USA |
| Escobar, Fernando Ruiz | \$1,800 | Surveying leech-related pathologies in <i>Octopus bimaculatus</i> Verrill, 1883 from Bahia de Los Angeles, Baja California, Mexico | Universidad Autónoma de Baja California | Mexico |
| Griffiths, Joanna & Bernat, Tatum | \$2,100 | Characterization & development of a sex-determining marker for red abalone conservation | University of California, Davis | USA |
| Hecker, Colleen | \$1,550 | Who's That Octopus? Delineation of South Florida's Common Octopus Species | Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton | USA |
| Hughes, Ian | \$1,200 | Towards a more complete phylogeny of Neomphalida gastropods | Harvard University | USA |
| Jones, Katie Beth | \$1,200 | Hatching plasticity: Embryonic responses to disturbance in sea slugs | College of William & Mary | USA |
| Kinzler, Tim | \$1,800 | Tumultuous taxonomy of Hawaiian Thiaridae and their problematic parasites | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa | USA |
| Kulkarni, Indira | \$1,000 | Is the native, non-pest snail <i>Ancotrema sportella</i> susceptible to the biological control nematode <i>Phasmarhabditis californica</i> ? | OSU, Corvallis | USA |
| Roldán, Nefertiti | \$1,600 | Integrating the proteomic and metabolomic response of two molluscs to elucidate the impact of mining pollution on the marine ecosystems. | University of Ottawa | Canada |
| Tan, Andy | \$2,000 | Evolution of vision and defense mechanisms in File Clams (Limida: Limidae) from the vast seas of Western Australia | University of Colorado Boulder | USA |
| Tan, Yu Kai | \$2,000 | How did deepwater carrier snails evolve specialized collecting behavior? | University of Michigan | USA |
| Torres, Luis | \$900 | Conchology for Conservation – A Comparative, Taphonomic Analysis of Molluscan Shells & Echinoid Tests in Light of Conservation Paleobiology | University of Florida | USA |
| Voncina, Katarzyna | \$1,800 | Uncovering the hidden biodiversity of chitons (Mollusca: Polyplacophora) with the tools of ancient DNA | Museum of Natural History Frankfurt | Germany |