Honoring The GRADUATING CLASS of 2024

Friday • May 10 • 2024
Levine Science Research Center, Love Auditorium
Duke University
WELCOME

LORI SNYDER BENNEAR, Ph.D.
Stanback Dean, Nicholas School of the Environment

INTRODUCTION of CLASS SPEAKER

DEAN BENNEAR, Ph.D.

CLASS SPEAKER

JESSICA L. LEVASSEUR, Ph.D. ‘24

CEREMONY HOST

PRASAD KASIBHATLA, Ph.D.
Professor of Environmental Chemistry
Senior Associate Dean of Research and Doctoral Programs

RECOGNITION of DEGREE CANDIDATES

Master of Science
Doctor of Philosophy

PRESENTATION of AWARDS

The Dean’s Award for Outstanding Research Paper

CLOSING REMARKS

ANDREW READ, Ph.D.
Stephen A. Toth Professor of Marine Biology
Director, Duke University Marine Laboratory

Immediately following the ceremony, all graduates and their guests are cordially invited to a Celebratory Toast outside of Love Auditorium.

Followed by a light reception for graduates and their guests.
MASTER OF SCIENCE
The Master of Science is awarded through The Graduate School at Duke University.

Environment

SHAUNACEE HOWELL (FALL 2023) *
Toxic Mechanisms of ATP Synthase Inhibition and Dopaminergic Neurodegeneration in C. elegans
Advisor: Dr. Joel Meyer

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
The Doctor of Philosophy is awarded through The Graduate School at Duke University.

Environment

MARISSA ARIELLE GUTTENBERG *
Macrophage-Derived Mechanisms of Resolution of Environmental Lung Injury
Advisor: Dr. Robert Tighe

DILLON ELIZABETH KING (SUMMER 2023) *
Sex Differences in Mitochondrial Function and Susceptibility: Mechanisms of Establishment and Evolutionary Origins
Advisors: Drs. Joel Meyer and Susan Murphy

JESSICA LESA LEVASSEUR
Exploring the Utility of Silicone Wristbands for Monitoring Exposure to Chemicals Present in Personal Care Products with a Focus on Parabens
Advisors: Drs. Heather Stapleton and Jennifer Hoffman

WILDERSON ALFONSO MEDINA BARON
Biodiversity Conservation in the Northern Andes: Distribution Patterns, Priorities, and Exploration Needs
Advisor: Dr. Stuart Pimm

MARGARET ELIZABETH SWIFT (FALL 2023)
The Impacts of Climate Change and Veterinary Fencing on Savanna Ungulate Populations, Communities, and Behaviors
Advisor: Dr. James Clark

Marine Science & Conservation

JULIA ANASTASIA BINGHAM (FALL 2023)
Knowledge and Power through Pluralisms and Relationality in the Governance of Salmon on West Coast Vancouver Island
Advisor: Dr. Grant Murray

LEO CHAN GASKINS
Megafauna Utilization of and Impact on Salt Marshes
Advisor: Dr. Brian Silliman

EVERETTE SNYDER NEWTON (FALL 2023)
Harnessing Emerging Robotics Methods to Strengthen Research and Inform Policy
Advisor: Dr. David Johnston

DANA LOUISE WRIGHT (SUMMER 2023)
Insights into the Migratory Patterns and Seasonal Distribution of One of the World’s Rarest Whales, the North Pacific Right Whale
Advisor: Dr. Andrew Read

University Program in Ecology

JONATHAN RICHARD BEHRENS (SUMMER 2024)
Hot, Stressed, and Contaminated: The Movement of Energy and Chemical Contaminants through Stream Ecosystems in Urbanized and Forested Watersheds
Advisors: Drs. Emily Bernhardt and Martin Doyle

CHRISTOPHER LEWIS KILNER (SUMMER 2023)
The Impacts of Disruptive Environmental Change on Vital Microbial Ecosystems
Advisor: Dr. Jean Philippe Gibert

University Program in Environmental Policy

AMANDA CAROLINE LOHMANN (SUMMER 2023)
Ecosystem Impacts of Variable Recruitment in Antarctic Krill Investigated with Long-Term Monitoring and Archived ADCP Backscatter Data
Advisor: Dr. Douglas Nowacek

CATHERINE LANE SCHER (SUMMER 2023)
The Effects of Global Change on Avian Biodiversity
Advisor: Dr. James Clark

ANITA SIMHA (SUMMER 2024)
History is Not the Past: Exploring Historical Contingency in Ecological Theory, Disturbance Recovery and Community Assembly
Advisor: Dr. Justin Wright

AUDREY NICOLE THELLMAN (SUMMER 2023)
Seasons in the Stream: River Ecosystem Phenology in a Changing Climate
Advisor: Dr. Emily Bernhardt

*PhD Certificate in Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health