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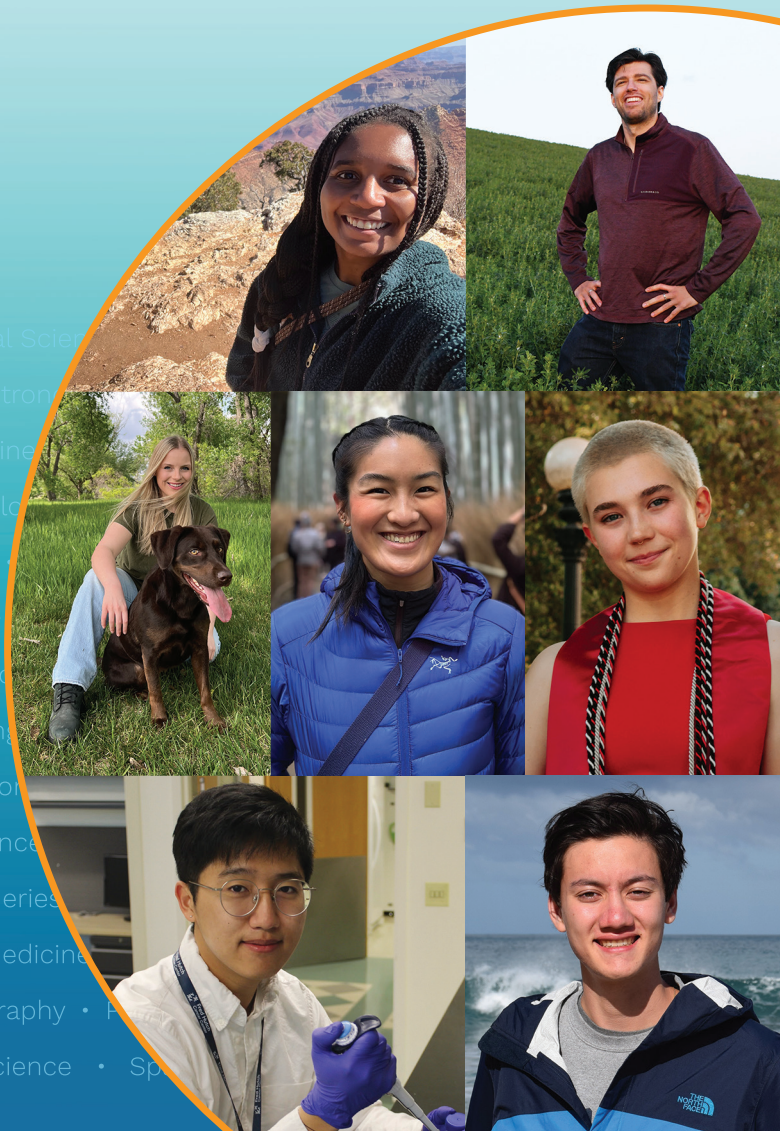
Achievement Rewards for College Scientists

ARCS FOUNDATION SEATTLE CHAPTER'S

Scholar Bio Booklet 2025



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2025-2026

ARCS Foundation Seattle Chapter Scholars

Our Mission:
ARCS® Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering, and medical research.

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Recipient Schools:
University of Washington and Washington State University

Stephanie Adaniya – UW *MD/PhD – Biochemistry*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Endowment (24th)

Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Brown University. Since learning about protein structure in high school through Science Olympiad, she has been fascinated with how post-translational modifications can make or break the nuances of protein structure and function. Stephanie is entering the graduate phase of her MD-PhD at the University of Washington under Dr. David Baker. She hopes to expand the kinds of protein machinery we can design to capitalize on endogenous post-translational modifications under pathophysiological signaling states. In the future, Stephanie hopes to serve her community as a geriatrician and lead research towards therapeutic advancements in dementia and other diseases that affect older adults. Stephanie grew up playing the sanshin (Okinawan banjo) with her parents and loves singing Okinawan songs with her friends and family.

Leslie Alamo Tapia – UW *Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Ronald and Darlene Howell ARCS Endowment, UW (2nd)

Leslie received a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Since she was young, she has been interested in understanding traits like skin color. She has gained insight into how model organisms can be used to understand the genetic basis of complex traits during her professional career as a lab technician in the Kruglyak Lab. Leslie's current research has motivated her to improve her skills and training to have a productive and impactful career in scientific research. Even though she is more experienced with genetics, she is also interested in other areas such as developmental biology, stem cells, and aging. Leslie loves to go on walks with her Chihuahua dog, Bruno. She also loves to travel, where she enjoys trying new foods.

Nick Allen – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology*
Janet & Roderick McNae (2nd) WSU

Nick achieved a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology at Colorado State University. After his undergraduate program, Nick worked as a Research Associate at GT Molecular where he developed assays for cancer and pathogen detection. His decision to commit to graduate school was born out of a desire to further his growth as a scientist while also pursuing research that aligned with his interest in infectious disease. At WSU, he is excited to get involved with research focused on virus-host interactions and outbreak prevention. He is also excited about his participation in the NIH Protein Biotech Training Program and the new perspectives it will offer. Once he completes his degree, Nick hopes to leverage the skills and knowledge he acquires to continue to the development of outbreak surveillance strategies and infrastructure. Outside of research, Nick loves adventuring with his family, hanging out with his cat, and playing soccer.

Annabella Amato – UW *Oceanography*
Oceanus ARCS Endowment (9th)

Annabella (Bella) received her undergraduate degree from UCLA with a major in Biology and a minor in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Her biology background complemented a strong interest in chemistry and earth sciences, which helped Bella established an appreciation for marine biogeochemistry, both in our present and past oceans. She quickly developed an interest in using geochemical techniques to study the Earth's past climate and oceans, leading her to a number of research experiences in the field of paleoceanography. Going forward, Bella is excited to begin her graduate studies at UW Oceanography, where she will be investigating changes in deep ocean carbonate preservation over the last glacial cycle using 230-Thorium. Bella aims to have her research contribute to the overall understanding of how past ocean carbonate chemistry changes can inform our modern climate crisis. In her free time, Bella likes to run, do yoga, and try out new sushi spots.

Anvitaa Anandkumar – UW *Medicinal Chemistry*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (142nd)

Anvitaa received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry with a minor in Evolutionary Medicine from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She has always been interested in topics that walk the line between processes and pathways at a cellular or structural level and their larger impact, whether it be on immediate biological function, or even more largely, on human life. She also enjoys tackling problems that often involve a multi-faceted interdisciplinary approach. Anvitaa currently works as an associate scientist in the Pharmacokinetics, Dynamics and Metabolism Department at Pfizer, which has given her an excellent step into the world of pharma/biotech. She looks forward to expanding on this knowledge during her time in graduate school at UW. In her free time, Anvitaa enjoys dancing, spending time outdoors, and traveling.

Walter Avila – UW *Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management (QERM)* Camille & Jim Uhlir ARCS Endowment (19th)

Walter received his Bachelor of Science in Biostatistics from Emory University and his Master of Science in Data Science from Fisk University. His research interests lie in aquatic ecology and conservation, focusing on how environmental stressors affect the resilience of aquatic species. Walter has conducted extensive research in the biomedical sciences but is now excited to apply his quantitative training to aquatics research. His passion for this field began with a childhood hobby of fishkeeping and has grown into a commitment to protecting aquatic ecosystems through research. At UW, he is interested in studying disease dynamics in wild Puget Sound Chinook salmon. His long-term goal is to work as an aquatic quantitative ecologist for a government agency. Outside of research, Walter enjoys playing the saxophone, volunteering in park beautification, and playing ultimate frisbee.

Kristina Baker – WSU *Entomology*
Eve and Chap Alvord (29th)

Kristina graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. It was here she gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for all aspects of biology. She participated in UCR's Dynamic Genome Program where she gained a newfound interest in research. Following that botany project, she joined another botany lab where she honed her skills as a researcher. Kristina has always been passionate about wildlife and the natural world, and by the end of her time at UCR she had fallen completely in love with the field of entomology. An internship allowed her to gain valuable experience in an agricultural IPM lab. She hopes to continue her work in Lepidopteran IPM as a graduate student to ensure global food security. In her free time, Kristina enjoys reading, hiking, and cuddling her two cats.

Kristin Bennett – UW *Chemical Engineering*
Mike & Nancy Eck with Jim & Trish Rogers

Kristin received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with a focus on Nano and Molecular Engineering from the University of Washington. She is currently a researcher in the Nance Lab at UW, where she develops ex vivo tissue models to study traumatic brain injury (TBI), integrating surface acoustic wave technology to better mimic real-world injury dynamics. Drawn to this field by her background as a U.S. Navy veteran and her passion for translating research into therapeutic advances for fellow service members, Kristin aims to advance our understanding of changes to the brain's microstructure during TBI and use the models to screen therapeutics for treatments. Outside the lab, Kristin is an audiophile, devoted dog lover, and mother of four.

Caroline Blommel – UW *Aquatic and Fishery Sciences*
Marie K. Huwe (1st) with Lindsay F. Eberts & Patti Paxton-Eberts (3rd)

Caroline received a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from Colorado State University. She grew up in Southwest Michigan where she became fascinated by local ecosystems and wildlife before her undergraduate and graduate education in ecology. During her education, Caroline gained skills in programming and statistics with minors in Computational Math and Data Analysis in order to pursue a career in quantitative ecology. She is interested in understanding the demography of long-lived species and how wildlife population dynamics may be impacted by climate change. Her research has taken her across North America from studying arctic nesting geese in coastal Alaska to tagging loggerhead sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. She is passionate about developing and applying creative statistics and modeling solutions to improve the understanding and conservation of vulnerable wildlife populations. In her free time, Caroline loves bird watching, rock climbing, and attending live music.

Caleb Chang – UW *Aeronautics & Astronautics*
MAC Consortium ARCS Endowment (9th)

Caleb earned his Master of Science in Robotics and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Georgia Tech. He has always been fascinated by robots and their ability to perform tasks smoothly and efficiently. However, due to a personal accident, he realized that robots unaware of human intentions or preferences may actually perform worse and even injure surrounding people. To address these issues, Caleb previously worked on safe human-robot teaming in sports applications and on safe driving for autonomous vehicles. At UW, he is excited to continue working on safe robotics and artificial intelligence that adapts to individual needs and preferences. Outside of research, Caleb enjoys biking and finding new restaurants with friends.

Michaela Cheechov – UW *Physics*
Chisholm Foundation Second ARCS Endowment (17th)

Michaela received a bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Oregon. Drawn to both problem-solving and helping better the lives of others, she found a natural fit in biophysics early in her college career. Her research has included computational work on protein simulations and smaller-scale modeling of cellular matrices, exposing her to interdisciplinary topics ranging from chemistry to neuroscience. Michaela is motivated by a desire to contribute to solutions that improve human health and wellbeing while also deepening our understanding of the physical world. She looks forward to discovering new areas of research during graduate school and finding meaningful ways to make an impact through her work. In her free time, she enjoys playing piano, traveling, and playing board games with friends.

Natalia de la Force – UW *Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Sandra & Kent Carlson (3rd)

Natalia earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Washington, Tacoma. Upon graduating, she joined the Cohn Lab at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center to research HIV cure strategies. Natalia felt driven to join this field as a child of an HIV+ person. In her current role as a research technician, she has focused on using advanced gene sequencing technologies and immune cell characterization to better understand how these cells interact in people living with HIV. Doing this work has inspired an interest in chronic inflammation and aging in the context of infectious disease. Natalia hopes to advance these research interests while gaining new experiences as a graduate student. Outside of work, she enjoys practicing the electric guitar, Thai kickboxing, and she also loves to cook.

Anthony Angelo DeLuca – WSU *Plant Pathology*
Washington Friends of Farms and Forests with ARCS

Anthony received an Agricultural Biotechnology bachelor's degree from Washington State University (WSU). He is a researcher with a strong background in plant molecular biology and plant-pathogen interactions. He has worked in the Nematology Lab at WSU's Plant Pathology Department, where he focused on characterizing effector proteins associated with plant-parasitic nematodes. He also studied abroad at the University of Cologne in Germany, where he investigated Ustilago maydis effector proteins. His leadership experience includes participating in a global leadership and sustainability program through WSU in Kenya, which broadened his global perspective and strengthened his cross-cultural communication skills. Anthony is passionate about applying molecular tools to improve crop health and resilience in the United States. In his free time, he enjoys backpacking, fishing, mountaineering, traveling, Gardening, and seeking out new experiences.

Zoë Derauf – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Walker Family ARCS Endowment (15th)

Zoë earned her Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Washington. Prior to her academic career, Zoë danced with Pacific Northwest Ballet. Her research interests lie at the intersection of biology and computer science in the field of DNA computing, where she develops programmable diagnostics using nucleic acids as engineering materials. She was drawn to this area of research by the quiet precision and creativity it demands—where designing interactions between DNA strands feels, in some ways, like choreographing a performance at the nanoscale. Her goal is to develop low-cost, accessible diagnostic tools that can be used in point-of-care settings across the world. Outside the lab, Zoë enjoys backpacking with her dog, testing out new recipes, and practicing yoga.

Ariel Endlich-Frazier – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology & Pathology*
Jim & Trish Rogers ARCS Endowment (8th)

Ariel received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Smith College and a Masters of Science in Biomedical Sciences from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Much of her previous research experiences focus on understanding the basic biology of highly pathogenic viruses, including Ebola, Nipah and Lassa. Her most recent industry experience utilized microorganisms as synthetic biology tools for developing therapeutic antibodies. Ariel currently works in the Letko Laboratory for Functional Viromics focusing on Coronavirus entry. She believes this work will impact our understanding of how viruses cross species barriers, leading to better methods for prevention and treatment of emerging pandemic viruses. When not in the lab, Ariel enjoys reading classic science fiction and exploring the great outdoors with her family.

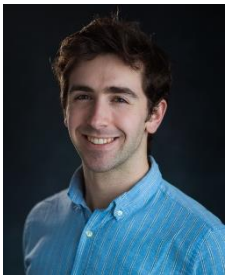
Caleb Fried – UW *Atmospheric and Climate Sciences*
Kristin N. Kenefick ARCS Endowment (3rd)

Caleb received a bachelor's degree in Earth and Planetary Sciences and Physics from Harvard University in 2023. He has pursued research in both of these fields, working on heat transfer in graphene single photon detectors at MIT and on the spatial statistics of modern and past climate at Harvard. At UW, Caleb hopes to combine these interests by approaching climate science from a more physical lens, researching the dynamical mechanisms that govern climate variability of the past, present, and future. He hopes this research can help inform ongoing efforts in global climate adaptation. Outside of science, Caleb's biggest passion is music — he has performed with a variety of orchestras and jazz bands on multiple continents and spent a year in Taiwan learning about the local underground rock scene.

Elaine Gammon – UW *Astronomy*
Alida & Chris Latham (4th)

Elaine (Lainey) received a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics from the University of Georgia. During an introductory astronomy course, she was inspired by how much of the field remains unknown and decided to pursue astrophysics. After two research internships, she discovered a passion for studying galaxy evolution in the early Universe. Lainey is excited by the possible answers that the newest telescopes are just beginning to address. Her current research uses the James Webb Space Telescope to detect dust-obscured galaxies from the first two billion years of the Universe and to model their physical properties. At UW, Lainey plans to continue studying this population using new survey data. She has also found a passion for prison education through tutoring incarcerated adults in jails and prisons over the past three years. Lainey is also an avid hiker and runner in her free time.

Nathaniel Garry – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Second Endowment (23rd)



Nathaniel received a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University. His interests involve studying host-pathogen interactions, and he hopes the promise of better understandings in this area will lead to better therapies for infectious and immunological diseases in the future. He is currently a member of the Cohn Lab at Fred Hutch, contributing to research looking at HIV-1 reservoirs and immune control. After completing his PhD, Nathaniel plans on returning to medical school, and ultimately aspires to become a physician-scientist, able to translate questions addressed by research into treatments in the clinic. When he's not in the lab or at the clinic, Nathaniel currently enjoys triathlon training, skiing, and camping in the PNW outdoors.

Taylor Hatcher – UW *Biology*
Daniel Family

Taylor received an associate's degree in Pre-Medicine from Casper Community College and a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of Wyoming. Her research explores how climate change affects insect biology and physiology, mainly focusing on thermal tolerance, behavior, and species distribution shifts. Taylor's community college coursework and later fieldwork on bumble bee chill coma response and butterfly fieldwork deepened her interest and love for insects. She is passionate about investigating how microclimates, extreme temperature events, and temperature variability impact insects. In the future, Taylor wants to pursue a career in academia, mentoring students from nontraditional and rural backgrounds while continuing research on climate-insect dynamics. Taylor enjoys bowling in her free time at the HUB, hiking and skiing outside the lab with her partner, Rylan, and baking gluten-free treats.

Abigail Holtz - WSU *Molecular Plant Sciences*
Jeff & Jana Foushee ARCS Endowment (7th)

Abigail Holtz received her bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Through her academic studies and hands-on work in plant science research laboratories she has cultivated an interdisciplinary background ranging from from long hours in the lab, to late nights wrangling data, and early mornings spent in the field. Through it all, she has found that the beauty of plant science comes from how the alien nature of plant life inspires creativity of thought when approaching a research question and hopes that by studying the mechanisms and functions behind highly adaptive traits such as photosynthetic structures she can lay groundwork for future advancements in crop resilience and green energy. Outside of plant science, Abigail enjoys creative hobbies such as painting and crafting.

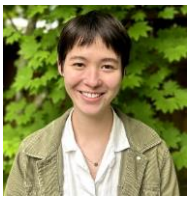
Andrew Hoover - UW *Epidemiology*
Charles & Delphine Stevens Family Fndn ARCS Endowment (3rd)

Andrew received his bachelor's degree in Public Health Sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2024 and his Master of Science from their Environmental Health Sciences Department in 2025. His research aims to understand and intervene on the health effects that socially disadvantaged communities face from environmental exposures, particularly through avenues related to health literacy and the neighborhood environment. He is passionate about creating translational science that empowers communities to reduce their exposure to toxic chemicals. In the future, he hopes to pursue a career in academia where he can conduct environmental justice research while teaching public health courses. In his free time, Andrew loves being outside, whether it is going on walks, hiking, or traveling.

Bryce Inman – UW *Pathobiology*
John W. and Elaine A. Zevenbergen, Sr. ARCS Endowment (41st)

Bryce graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Professionally, his work studied pathogens in Alaska, such as COVID-19, the highly pathogenic avian influenza, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis. He has spent the majority of his efforts designing and testing molecular sequencing tests that can rapidly characterize drug resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is a disease that Alaska has historically battled for decades, where it remains endemic in rural Native Alaskan communities. Bryce hopes to further his understanding of both the disease and the emerging phenomenon of multi-drug resistance. Bryce was born in Kodiak, Alaska where his family moved so his parents could pursue nursing school at UAA. His family has worked throughout healthcare, from nurses to EMTs, so he has been surrounded by the world of healthcare his whole life. The first in his family to pursue a PhD, he hopes to carry that forward in the form of bench-to-bedside clinical research as it relates to endemic tuberculosis in the State of Alaska.

Maja Johnson – UW *Neuroscience*
Lauren Dudley



Maja graduated from Amherst College in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts after double majoring in Biochemistry & Biophysics (BCBP) and Asian Languages & Civilizations (ASLC). After graduating, Maja dove into neuroscience research by working in a lab studying neurodegenerative diseases in human brainstems. After discovering a passion for neuroscience research, they joined the Geng Lab at UW studying the molecular mechanisms of social behavior in zebrafish. Maja's projects have focused on elucidating epigenetic mechanisms in the brain, and they are generally interested in molecular neuroscience and epigenetics. After getting a PhD in neuroscience, Maja hopes to continue exploring molecular questions in neuroscience and ultimately start their own lab. Outside of research, Maja plays ultimate frisbee, rock climbs, and enjoys cooking.

Mariah Jordan – WSU *Molecular Biosciences*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (144th)

Mariah received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Colorado State University and a Graduate Certificate in Personalized and Genomic Medicine from the University of Colorado Anschutz. Her undergraduate honors thesis focused on the oncolytic ability of recombinant Myxoma Virus expressing Walleye Dermal Sarcoma Virus orfC. She later worked at the University of Colorado Anschutz studying platelet, complement system, and immune cell interactions in the context of Pulmonary Hypertension. Mariah has a particular interest in genomics and multi-omic approaches, which led her to pursue a graduate degree in Molecular Biosciences at Washington State University. While her prior work provided a strong research foundation, she is eager to broaden her expertise in regenerative medicine and tissue repair. Outside the lab, Mariah enjoys hiking, paddle boarding, and traveling with her dog, Millie.

Juliana Karp – UW *Astronomy*
Nancy Mee & Dennis Evans (5th)

Juliana received a bachelor's degree in Astrophysics from Yale University. As an undergraduate, they also conducted research at Stanford's Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Their interests lie at the intersection of galaxy formation and cosmology, with a particular focus on the interactions between dark matter and galaxies and the nature of dark matter. Having previously used satellite galaxies, galaxy clusters, and strong gravitational lensing to explore these questions, Juliana is excited to delve into stellar stream and high-redshift galaxy formation studies at UW. After their PhD, they hope to become a professor. In their free time, Juliana swims and figure skates competitively.

Allie Kreitman – UW *MD/PhD - Genome Sciences*
Eleanor & Charles Nolan (6th)

Allie earned her bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology with a minor in Mathematics from Colorado College. Her first classes sparked a passion for combining biology, mathematics, and medicine to understand and treat disease. She has since pursued diverse research experiences, including modeling HIV evolution, studying how Epstein-Barr Virus can cause lymphoma, and tracing COVID-19 transmission through the Caribbean. Now an MD/PhD student at the University of Washington, Allie studies cancer evolution to better understand how we can use knowledge of the various cellular populations in an individual patient's cancer to predict resistant disease and plan therapy. Ultimately, Allie wants to become a pediatric oncologist, simultaneously treating patients and studying their diseases to develop better treatments. In her free time, Allie loves exploring the outdoors and training her dog, Echo.

Hallie Lazaro – UW *Neuroscience*
Janet & Roderick McNae (3rd)

Hallie received a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from Boston University. In her professional career, Hallie has gained a variety of research experiences including hematology research, genetic research, and neuroscience research. Her research interests span across several neuroscience disciplines, such as mechanisms of consciousness, anesthesia, and chronic pain. Hallie looks forward to applying her research to create new techniques and potential therapies. In her free time, Hallie loves to cook and practice martial arts.

Lily Leaverton – UW *Mechanical Engineering*
Althea Stroum ARCS Endowment (37th)

Lily earned a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle. She has long been passionate about developing clean energy solutions to combat climate change. Her research interests focus on battery materials, specifically improving battery longevity and understanding internal electrochemical processes. Through her undergraduate research, she gained firsthand insight into the complex network of variables affecting battery performance, driving her curiosity to learn more. Lily is excited to return to UW for a doctoral program, where she hopes to deepen her research and explore how creativity comes into play in the lab. She aspires to create reliable energy alternatives to fossil fuels to build a sustainable future for generations to come. In her free time, Lily enjoys spending time outdoors backpacking or skiing, and reading.

Megan Levy – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Nancy & John Zevenbergen ARCS Endowment (40th)

Megan received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has a sustained interest in viral-host interactions, and the lessons in evolution, immunology, and public health which we can glean by studying the spread of pathogens. After completing her bachelor's degree, Megan worked for three years at the National Institutes of Health researching Respiratory Syncytial Virus and exploring live-attenuated vaccine design in the RNA Viruses Section. As a graduate student in the Malik Lab, Megan will continue work in the lab characterizing the interaction between the innate immune protein MxA and orthomyxoviruses, as a means of better understanding this critical restriction factor. Outside the lab, Megan loves to read, find new live music and comedy and explore parks in the Pacific Northwest with her husband, and spend time with their three rabbits - Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme.

Valerie Lynch – UW *Genome Sciences*
Micki E. and Robert J. Flowers ARCS Endowment (11th)

Valerie received her bachelor's degree in Biology with honors, along with a certificate in Design Strategies, from the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, she moved from Texas to Seattle to begin working as a researcher in the Schweppe Lab at the University of Washington. Her research in the Schweppe Lab includes exploring mammalian development through gastruloid models, developing targeted quantitative assays for pharmacokinetics, and optimizing technology for mass spectrometry. She is excited to apply the skills she has gained through this research as a graduate student in the UW Genome Sciences program. In her free time, Valerie enjoys crocheting, dining at interesting restaurants and cafes, and exploring Seattle's unique charm and vibrant parks.

Brennan Mahoney – UW *MD/PhD - Neuroscience*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (143rd)

Brennan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Utah. His interest in translational neuroscience took off while working as a home health aide during his undergraduate studies. Listening to the experiences and perspectives of his patients, most of whom had moderate to severe neurological deficits, led him to seek out work in neuroscience research. He completed an undergraduate thesis project focusing on sensory integration and continued work in this field before joining the MSTP at UW. He currently works in the lab of Dr. Tom Reh, which is developing methods to induce regeneration of previously injured neurons within the mammalian retina. His current work provides the opportunity to learn the principles of neuronal damage and regrowth and apply those principles to develop treatments for diseases and injuries that result in permanent neuronal damage and loss. In his free time, Brennan loves exploring nature, listening to and making music, and spending time with his wife and two cats.

Laurella Marin – UW *Astronomy*
ARCS Light in honor of Amy Rudolf

Laurella (Ella) received a bachelor's degree in Physics from Dartmouth College. She became fascinated with the mysteries of the Universe during her sophomore year and has spent her time engaged with astronomy research ever since. She has experience working in Dr. Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil's dwarf galaxy group at Dartmouth College, Dr. Phil Massey's massive star group at Lowell Observatory, and Dr. Ana Bonaca's stream team at the Carnegie Observatories. During her time at graduate school, Ella hopes to continue to use stellar streams to pursue questions about galactic evolution and dark matter. She plans to continue working with observations while incorporating simulations into her investigations. Ella loves hiking, skiing, reading, and traveling.

Cecilia Martindale – UW *Environmental Health Sciences*
Jeff & Jana Foushee Family ARCS Endowment (6th)

Cecilia received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cornell University and a master's degree in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Washington. She has long-standing interests in the reciprocal relationship between human and environmental health. While working at University of Utah, the juxtaposition of her work studying neurological disability and daily visual reminders of Salt Lake Valley's high air pollution led her to wonder exactly how air quality affects health across the population broadly and in highly exposed groups. In her graduate study so far, she has developed her interests through both large-scale and community-engaged studies of climate-related health hazards like wildfire smoke and heat. She is passionate about conducting scientifically rigorous work that directly benefits communities. Cecilia loves running, spending time with friends and family, and exploring Washington through tide pooling and birdwatching.

Jimjohn Milan – UW *Biology*
Mary Dunnam and Sarah Dunnam (7th)

Jimjohn (Jj) received a bachelor's and master's degree in Marine Biology from the University of California San Diego. He has been captivated by aquariums and exhibits his entire life and was always curious about the social decisions fish make within their large schools. During his academic career, Jj has investigated a range of research topics involving different species of fish including observing the display behavior of the sarcastic fringehead, evolutionary morphology within the maxilla of the longjaw mudsucker, and schooling behavior in the micro-glassfish. His research experience has given him the passion to apply this knowledge towards investigating the social dynamics of fish populations that are under significant stress due to climate change. In his free time, Jj likes scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming, exploring the intertidal, and a relaxing day at home.

Maria Mitchell – UW *Environmental & Forest Sciences*
Pendleton & Elisabeth Carey Miller Foundation (9th)

Maria (Mia) earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, with a focus on Conservation Science and Policy, from Brown University in 2023. She has gained computational experience in fire modeling from Los Alamos National Laboratory and fieldwork and ecological research from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. As a member of the Harvey Lab at UW, Mia hopes to center her research on fire ecology, forest resiliency, and the impacts of wildfire on microclimates in the Western Cascades. She is particularly interested in the intersection of remote sensing technologies, disturbance ecology, machine learning, and computational science. In her free time, Mia enjoys playing guitar, backpacking, watching movies, and camping.

Michael Moore – UW *Nursing Science*
Pamela H. & Donald W. Mitchell ARCS Endowment (9th)

Michael (yup, just like the film director) received his bachelor's degree with honors in Psychology from the University of Michigan. He received his Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Yale University. He clinically practices as a nurse practitioner at Harborview Medical Center, where he specializes in providing person-centered addiction medicine care largely for Seattle's unhoused population. His research works to lower and prevent harms from substance use such as overdose, while honoring and respecting the patient as a whole person. Further, he is specifically interested in supporting those who identify as LGBT and struggle with substance use. Outside of clinic and research, he loves to create art (color pencils and watercolor), play his Nintendo, and be in nature and in community.

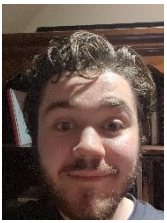
Megan O'Brien – UW *Civil and Environmental Engineering*
Dooley-Short ARCS Endowment (6th)

Megan earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from Baylor University. During her master's studies, she gained experience in wastewater-based epidemiology through SARS-CoV-2 variant monitoring for the state of Texas. She developed a strong interest in addressing health disparities, recognizing that some communities are underrepresented in clinical data, while wastewater offers a more inclusive, population-level view of disease spread. Her current research focuses on detecting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in wastewater and translating findings into antibiotic stewardship strategies. By sequencing resistance genes from wastewater, she aims to better understand gene transfer mechanisms and how resistance spreads in the environment. Megan is committed to developing long-term, practical solutions for the AMR crisis. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and reading science fiction**.**

Christopher Oliveira – UW *MD/PhD - Genome Sciences*
Zevenbergen Capital Investments (39th)

Chris received his bachelor's degrees in Biology and Economics from the University of Virginia. Through his undergraduate research and postbaccalaureate work at the NIH he became curious about the immune system and the ways in which it works (and sometimes doesn't). Chris is currently interested in leveraging new tools and techniques in genomics and epigenomics to identify driving factors in autoimmune disease. In pursuing an MD/PhD, he is driven by research questions that improve care for patients while deepening our understanding of disease and hopes to leverage his work to ultimately improve clinical outcomes and therapeutic options for patients. In his free time, Chris enjoys getting outdoors through cycling and trail running, spending time playing board games or trivia with friends, and trying new restaurants and cafes in Seattle.

Henry Olson – WSU *Electrical Engineering & Computer Science*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (145th)



Henry received a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity with a minor in Mathematics from Purdue University Northwest. During his undergraduate, Henry learned that he loved research. This happened while working in High Performance Computing at the Rosen Center for Advanced Computing. He hopes to continue his research journey by pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at Washington State, where there he'll be joining the HARP lab as a research assistant. His research interests include Programming Languages, Compilers, and Garbage Collectors. After achieving his Doctorate, Henry hopes he'll be continuing his research as a professor. For his leisure, Henry likes to play No Limit Hold'em, Dark Souls, and volleyball.

Casey Propst – UW *Pharmaceutics*
Becky & Jack Benaroya ARCS Endowment (19th)

Casey received his three bachelor's degrees (Biological Chemistry, Molecular Engineering, and Chemistry) from the University of Chicago. Influenced by his participation in Moderna's COVID-19 mRNA vaccine trial as an adolescent, he has sought to make meaningful contributions to medicine throughout his undergraduate career. His most recent research attempted to understand T cell localization and phenotypes in lymphangiogenic melanoma for use in adoptive cell therapy design. Although he is currently undecided between academia versus industry in the long term, Casey strives to advance cancer immunotherapy development wherever life takes him. Throughout his time as an undergraduate at UChicago, Casey sang baritone and beatboxed for the Ransom Notes A Cappella group. He particularly enjoys trying new restaurants and biking on sunny days.

Avery Pruitt – WSU Integrated Physiology and Neuroscience
Rick & Jacque Doane ARCS Endowment (7th)

Avery received a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from Washington State University. During her time there she worked in Dr. Fuchs lab studying the neurobiology of cocaine addiction where she was able to contribute to two publications (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40204057/, https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38802479/). This ignited her passion for addiction research and motivated her to attend graduate school in order to expand her knowledge in the field. Specifically her research interests include the role that retrieval of drug-associated contextual memories may play in triggering relapse behaviors. She is passionate about furthering our knowledge of the neurobiology of addiction in order to encourage the development of more effective treatment strategies for those suffering from substance use disorders. Her career goals include continuing her research as a postdoctoral researcher and eventually having a lab of her own. In her free time, Avery enjoys playing video games, reading books, and hiking with friends.

Amanda Stafford – UW *Nursing Science*
Joanne & Bruce Montgomery ARCS Endowment (13th)

Amanda received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Samual Merritt University and Master in Social Work and Master in Public Health from New Mexico State University. Amanda has 25 years of experience as a nurse and nurse manager working with underserved populations with the majority of those years being dedicated to working in HIV prevention and care. Amanda has a profound interest in better understanding the modifiable barriers to HIV prevention and treatment and in working with collaborative teams to develop programs that directly address those barriers and meet clients where they are in life. Amanda looks forward to continuing this research and teaching at the UW School of Nursing. Amanda loves riding her bicycle, spending time with her three sons, and traveling.

Charlie Thel – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Gladys Harrington in honor of Eve Alvord ARCS Endowment (28th)

Charlie graduated from the University of Virginia in 2021 with degrees in Biochemistry and Economics. He is interested in studying mechanisms of heart disease as it is the leading cause of death in the US. While improvements in clinical care and therapeutic options have dramatically lowered cardiovascular mortality, the downward trajectory has slowed in recent years, necessitating new ways to treat heart disease. To contribute to this cause, Charlie recognized the importance of deeply understanding clinical medicine and research, which is why he is pursuing an MD/PhD. After graduate school, he plans on pursuing additional research training in either internal medicine or a surgical subspecialty. Ultimately, he plans on running a translational cardiovascular lab as a physician-scientist. Charlie is a runner and loves descending mountains by ski or bike.

Jahna Thompson – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology*
Patty and Jimmy Barrier - WSU Ross Barrier (8th)

Janah earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with honors from Southern Oregon University. Afterward, she completed a Master's in Biotechnology and Biodefense at Johns Hopkins University, where she deepened her focus on infectious disease research and global health security. Now pursuing a Ph.D. in Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Washington State University, her research focuses on how environmental and human-driven factors influence the emergence and evolution of zoonotic pathogens. Jahna is drawn to this field by a desire to better understand microbial ecology and contribute to global health through prevention and preparedness. After earning her Ph.D., she plans to continue conducting research and may also pursue science journalism to help bridge the gap between science and the public. Outside the lab, Jahna enjoys creative writing, listening to musicals, crafting, and experimenting in the kitchen with cooking and baking. She is also a self-proclaimed "crazy cat lady" and has five fantastic feline friends at home.

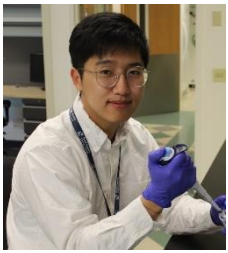
Marika Van Slageren – WSU *Molecular Biosciences*
Betsy Maurer and Andrew Schulman (2nd)

Marika received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Biotechnology from Dordt University. She has always been passionate about working in melding the fields of biology research and agriculture. Marika has worked as an IVF embryologist at Trans Ova Genetics where she was able to work with cattle and goat embryos. She has also gained research experience in the organic chemistry field working on the synthesis of the core-2glyan of the CCR5 glycoprotein. At WSU, Marika hopes to eventually focus on the reproductive sciences for her graduate degree and is not yet assigned a laboratory, instead she is going through rotations to find where she will fit best. Marika enjoys reading, baking, working with animals, and skiing when she has the chance.

Morgan Wu – UW *MD/PhD - Genome Sciences*
K. J. "Gus" and Connie Kravas ARCS Endowment

Morgan received her bachelor's degree as a double-major in Biology and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. Her experiences in biostatistics and cellular biology from a single-cell perspective have motivated her to ask questions about cell fate and communication in the exquisitely coordinated process of development. Combined with her love of children, her curiosity has led her to pursue an MD/PhD at the University of Washington, where she can simultaneously study the genetic and molecular processes that lead to congenital developmental disorders and the treatment and care of affected kids. In her free time, Morgan loves playing beach volleyball, cooking up something new, and enjoying music with her cats.

Peter Yong – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Carlyn & George Steiner ARCS Endowment (13th)



Peter received his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota. He is currently an MD/PhD student at the University of Washington studying genitourinary cancer biology. His graduate training is with Dr. Andrew Hsieh at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center where he is modeling tumorigenesis to find novel therapeutic vulnerabilities. Peter plans to become an academic clinician and researcher, leading translational research that improves treatment for cancer patients. Outside of the lab, Peter enjoys spending his time bouldering, hiking, and skiing with friends and family.

SECOND YEAR SCHOLARS

Florence Adesope – UW *Civil Engineering*
ARCS New Member Class of 2023/2024

Evelyn Andrade – WSU *Chemistry*
Geri and Chris Carlson

Sam Barkal – UW MD/PhD - *Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Joanne & Bruce Montgomery ARCS Foundation Endowed Fellowship in Honor of the American Lung Association (6th)

Teanna Barrett – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Walker Family ARCS Endowment (14th)

Tomas Bencomo – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Oliver W. Press ARCS Endowment (3rd)

Eleftheria Beres – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
ARCS Light in honor of Molly Pengra

Madeleine Carhart – UW *Physics*
Harriett & John Morton (5th)

Teal Coil-Otto - UW *Applied Mathematics*
Althea Stroum ARCS Endowment (36th)

Richard Colwell - UW *Materials Science and Engineering*
Zevenbergen Capital Investments LLC (38th)

Kaitlyn Crookwell – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology & Pathology*
Loch Anderson & Allyn Perkins (8th)

Tryssa de Ruyter – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology & Pathology*
Catherine Mee (6th)

Mark Anthony Dunn – UW *Aeronautics and Astronautics*
ARCS Seattle Chapter in honor of PACCAR Inc.

Solomia Dzhaman – UW *Mechanical Engineering*
Susan & William Potts ARCS Endowment (5th)

Lance Fredericks – UW *MD/PhD – Pathobiology*
Kristin N. Kenefick & Nancy P. Norberg ARCS Endowment (5th)

Zealon Gentry-Lear – UW *Microbiology*
William & Ruth Gerberding ARCS Endowment (13th)

Claire Gervais – UW *Chemistry*
Nicole A. Boand ARCS Endowment (6th)

Christina Giannella-Nicolaides - UW *Applied Mathematics*
Dorothy Lewis Simpson ARCS Endowment (20th)

Ella Haefner - UW *MD/PhD - Biochemistry*
Fairway Fund ARCS Endowment (9th)

Stephanie Hart – WSU *Chemical Engineering*
Judy Rogers (3rd) Floyd Rogers Memorial

Emily Humphreys - UW *Biology*
Mary & Peter Kerr (2nd) with Gail & Larry Ransom (3rd)

Kunal Jha – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Cindy & Stan Freimuth ARCS Endowment (1st)

Kelly Kim – UW *Neuroscience*
Karen Cameron in honor of Kevin Cameron (2nd)

Marissa Laramie – WSU *Global Animal Health*
Lynn & Mikal Thomsen ARCS Endowment (19th)

Ashton Larkin – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Lisa & Mike Losh ARCS Endowment (8th)

Nga Yu Lo – UW *Applied Mathematics*
Althea Stroum ARCS Endowment (35th)

Katherine Lovelace – UW *Statistics*
Andrea Ellison Hess (6th)

Matthew Magoon – UW *MD/PhD – Bioengineering*
Vicki J. & Thomas W. Griffin in Honor of Paige & Griffin Thoreson ARCS Endowment (9th)

Nora McNamara-Bordewick – UW *MD/PhD - Biochemistry*
Nancy P. & Douglas E. Norberg ARCS Endowment (6th)

Taylor McNees – WSU *Plant Pathology*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (140th)

Taylor Moreno - UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Vijay Raghavan & Bairavi Vijay

Gilliane Nwafor – UW *Nursing Science*
Bobbie & Richard Berkowitz ARCS Endowment in Nursing Science (2nd)

Alexandra Papesh - UW *Earth and Space Sciences*
Trish Keegan & Tom Lennon - Terry Keegan Memorial 4th

Quinn Peters – UW *Pathobiology*
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ARCS Endowment (5th)

Erin Peterson – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular & Cellular Biology*
Virginia M. Dickenson Memorial ARCS Endowment (10th)

Baylie Ann Phillips – UW *Materials Science and Engineering*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (138th)

Matteya Proctor – WSU *Neuroscience*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (141st)

Connor Quiroz – UW *Aquatic and Fishery Sciences*
Polly & Andrew Kenefick (2nd)

Raisha Rahman – UW *Oceanography*
Alden Garrett & Charles Eriksen (2nd)

Griffin Rangel – UW *Medicinal Chemistry*
Candice Rosenberg Peterson ARCS Endowment (18th)

Kaitlin Riggan – WSU *Molecular Plant Sciences*
ARCS Seattle Chapter in honor of Lyndi and Bob Taylor

Veronica Sikora – UW *Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Rosa Ayer ARCS Endowment (12th)

Ryan Talusan – UW *Bioengineering*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (139th)

Lucy Tian – UW *MD/PhD - Neuroscience*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Endowment (22nd)

Chelsea Weeks – WSU *Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology*
Aven Foundation ARCS Endowment (7th)

Emily Zhang – UW *Applied Mathematics*
Chisholm Foundation ARCS Endowment (16th)

THIRD YEAR SCHOLARS

Genevieve Aguilar – UW *Nursing Science*
Pamela H. & Donald W. Mitchell and ARCS Endowment (8th)

Hailey Akins – UW *Chemistry*
Gladys Harrington in honor of Eve Alvord ARCS Endowment (27th)

Celine Atkinson – UW *Oral Health Sciences*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (135th)

Megumi Azekawa – UW *Nursing Science*
Doris L. Carnevali ARCS Endowment in Nursing (3rd)

Raelynn Cameron – UW *Nursing Science*
Joanne & Bruce Montgomery ARCS Endowment (12th)

Hank Cheng – UW *MD/PhD – Genome Sciences*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (136th)

Nikol Damato – UW *Environmental and Forest Sciences*
Kathy Fraser (4th) with Sally and David Wright (4th)

Kimberly Derderian – UW *Neuroscience*
ARCS Light in honor of Marcia Lewis

Alex Doan – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Joanne & Bruce Montgomery ARCS Foundation Endowment in Honor of the American Lung Association (5th)

Kathleen Durkin – UW *Aquatic and Fishery Sciences*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Endowment (21st)

Maria Garcia – UW *Biology*
Camille & Jim Uhlir ARCS Endowment (17th)

Maya Gong – UW *Oceanography*
Alicia & Jeff Carnevali ARCS Endowment in Oceanography (3rd)

Sarah Hadley – UW *Medicinal Chemistry*
Allison and Steve Harr (3rd)

Luan Heywood – UW *Earth and Space Sciences*
Karyl and Elias Alvord (5th)

Ula Jones – UW *Earth and Space Sciences*
Margery S. Friedlander ARCS Endowment (8th)

Jane Keth – UW *Chemical Engineering*
Althea Stroum Endowment (34th)

Mitch Kluesner – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Washington Research Foundation ARCS Endowment (137th)

Yongjun (Joseph) Kwon – WSU *Chemical Engineering*
WSU Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education

Medina Lamkin – UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Virginia M. Dickenson Memorial ARCS Endowment (9th)

Chloe Leach – WSU *Immunology and Infectious Diseases*
Janis Mercker

Kate LeBlanc – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Endowment (19th)

Annabelle Souza – UW *Pathobiology*
Melissa and Eric Jones

Nancy MacKenzie – UW *Neuroscience*
John W. and Elaine A. Zevenbergen, Sr. ARCS Endowment (36th)

Taydin Macon – WSU *Entomology*
Zevenbergen Capital Investments (35th)

Alyssa Maine – WSU *Immunology and Infectious Diseases*
Alicia and Jeff Carnevali in Honor of Sophia R. Carnevali (3rd)

Gygeria Manuel – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Chisholm Foundation Fellowship (15th)

Kaylie McCracken – WSU *Chemistry*
WSU Pullman Chancellor

Eric Mei – UW *Atmospheric Sciences*
Rosa Ayer ARCS Endowment (11th)

Bria Metzger –UW *Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Tina & Karl Neiders (4th)

Angela Montemayor –UW *Computer Science and Engineering*
Vicki & Gary Glant ARCS Endowment (11th)

Peter (Wes) Maughan – WSU *Crop & Soil Science*
Cassa Hanon (2nd) with ARCS Foundation

Manali Nayak – UW *Atmospheric Sciences*
Becky & Jack Benaroya ARCS Endowment (18th)

Karina Pastrana – WSU *Molecular Biosciences*
Washington Research Foundation (134th)

Sean Perez – UW *Genome Sciences*
Candice Rosenberg Peterson ARCS Endowment (17th)

Pip Petersen – UW *Astronomy*
ARCS Foundation Seattle Chapter

Clare Riley – WSU *Chemistry*
ARCS Light in honor of Kitti Lile

Gabriel Rodriguez – UW *Aeronautics and Astronautics*
Dorothy Lewis Simpson ARCS Endowment (19th)

Amanda Rokicky – UW *Biology*
Jeff & Jana Foushée Family ARCS Endowment (5th)

Mary Steele – WSU *Plant Pathology*
Alice Gautsch Foreman (1st) with Missy and Kurt Zumwalt (2nd)

Abby Strominger – UW *Chemistry*
Mark A. Jones ARCS Endowment (6th)

Derrick Tang – UW *Oral Health Sciences*
Keith & Mary Kay McCaw Family Foundation ARCS Endowment (20th)

Justin Thomas – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Michael & Marti Young ARCS Endowment (3rd)

Rebecca Villa – UW *Pathobiology*
Carlyn & George Steiner ARCS Endowment (12th)

Stevie Walker – UW *Oceanography*
Kristin N. Kenefick & Nancy P. Norberg ARCS Endowment (4th)

Olivia Waltner – UW *Genome Sciences*
Nancy & John Zevenbergen ARCS Endowment (37th)

Amelia Wilhelm – UW *MD/PhD - Molecular and Cellular Biology*
Julie Tall ARCS Endowment (8th)

Riku Yasutomi – UW *MD/PhD – Genome Sciences*
Eve and Chap Alvord (26th)

Brayden Young –WSU *Immunology and Infectious Diseases*
Jenny and Scott Wyatt (4th) with Debbi and John Wilson (4th)

COLIN MARQUIS
Materials Science & Engineering
University of Washington
2021-2024 PACCAR, Inc.

Dorothy L. Simpson Leadership Award

Photo credit: Michelle Enebo Photography

The 2025 Dottie Simpson Leadership Award recipient Colin Marquis' focus on innovation, excellence and mentorship started early. Colin spent his undergraduate years at Western Washington University, where he served as both a Teaching and Research Assistant, garnered numerous academic awards, participated in leadership roles in STEM extracurriculars, and majored in physics.

Having joined the PhD program in the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Department at the University of Washington in 2021, Colin's research seeks to advance the frontier of materials science, applying 3D printing to fabricate aerospace and marine components from high-strength polymers. Drawing inspiration from the natural armor of fish scales, he has developed an innovative material with promising applications in flexible personal protection and lightweight armors. Colin's contributions to the University of Washington extend far beyond his research. He has been recognized as MSE Teaching Assistant of the Year, Graduate Student Mentor of the Year, and received the MSE Chair's Award for outstanding service and educational impact.

A proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Colin actively supports Indigenous and underrepresented students through his role as a mentor with UW's First Nations Launch team and the Washington Space Grant Consortium. He also contributed to organizing high powered rocket launch events in partnership with rocketeers from the Yakima Nation. His remarkable dedication, innovation, and generosity make him an exceptional representative of UW and a true asset to the academic community.