

**Riley Bergmann**'s passion for Florida's native landscapes began with a shift in perspective—seeing plants not as a backdrop, but as vital, individual components of place and identity. With a background in plant science, she aims to pursue a Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida to design spaces that thoughtfully integrate people with Florida's natural ecosystems, fostering both environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the state's unique flora. (\$2,000)

**Alexis Demetropoulos** is a graduate student in the Marine Mammal Science program at New College of Florida. With a background in marine biology from the University of South Florida, she is passionate about protecting Florida's native wildlife and habitats. Her work focuses on the Florida manatee, studying how human activity impacts this species, with the goal of promoting conservation and public awareness.(\$1,500)

**Elizabeth Diehl** is an emerging scholar in environmental horticulture whose work is driven by a core belief that engagement with plants and nature can significantly enhance human health and well-being. Her academic and professional experiences—including leading the University of Florida's Therapeutic Horticulture Program—have centered on exploring how structured plant-based activities improve physical and mental health outcomes. With a focus on strengthening the scientific foundation of therapeutic horticulture, she seeks to pursue doctoral training to advance interdisciplinary research, develop evidence-based practices, and expand access to nature-based interventions for diverse communities.(\$2,000)

A dedicated marine conservation scientist and PhD candidate in applied ecology, **Laurel Field**, focuses on understanding how climate change is reshaping coastal and coral reef ecosystems. With experience spanning the U.S. West Coast, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Caribbean, her work integrates field-based research with community engagement to develop practical, locally informed conservation solutions. Committed to science communication and collaboration, she aims to bridge the gap between research and real-world impact, advancing strategies that support both ecosystem resilience and the communities that depend on them. (\$2,000)

**Adam Goodman** is a PhD candidate in community ecology whose research focuses on understanding how coral reef ecosystems respond to environmental change. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Moorea, French Polynesia, he investigates how reef structure, herbivorous fish, and macroalgae interact to drive ecosystem shifts. His work integrates ecological theory with innovative technologies, including autonomous surface vehicles and computer vision, to generate large-scale, high-resolution data on reef dynamics. In addition to his research, he is deeply committed to mentorship and education, preparing for a future career in academia where he aims to advance ecological science and support the next generation of researchers. Adam is a recipient of the \$5,000 Charles T Bauer Foundation Scholarship.

**Tori Gurino** is a second-year Ph.D. student in Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida, where she studies living shorelines and the role of *Spartina alterniflora* in coastal restoration. Her research focuses on improving plant availability and genetic diversity to

strengthen shoreline resilience and support sustainable ecosystem services. Through this work, she aims to advance science-based solutions that benefit Florida's coastal environments and communities. (\$1,500)

A creative and driven marine science PhD student at Florida State University, **Emma Jackson** blends curiosity, innovation, and problem-solving to advance the study of ocean ecosystems. Inspired by both hands-on fieldwork and an inventive mindset, her work focuses on developing accessible, cutting-edge methods—such as a novel dietary analysis tool for sharks—to better understand marine food webs and inform conservation efforts. With a strong commitment to mentorship, outreach, and scientific accessibility, she aims to bridge the gap between research, education, and real-world environmental impact.(\$1,000)

**Rebecca Juntunen** is a dedicated plant science student whose work bridges agriculture, education, and community engagement. With hands-on experience spanning agricultural research, horticulture industry practices, and leadership in plant-focused programs, she is passionate about building sustainable, community-based food systems. Her background as a middle school teacher and environmental club leader sparked her commitment to empowering others through plant education, while her current work in cropping systems research strengthens her focus on supporting local farmers. She aspires to serve as a county Extension agent, connecting research, education, and community needs to advance sustainable agriculture. (\$1,500)

Driven by a deep compassion for animals and concern for the accelerating impacts of environmental change, **Deane Mungle** committed to pursuing a path dedicated to protecting and advocating for vulnerable species. Witnessing the effects of climate change, habitat loss, and human neglect has shaped her desire to learn, serve, and make a meaningful difference. Guided by empathy and a strong sense of purpose, she hopes to channel her passion into work that not only supports animal welfare but also brings comfort and healing in the face of ongoing environmental and ethical challenges. Deane is the recipient of the \$5,000 Davis Foundation Scholarship.

Coral reefs have shaped **Eli Myron**'s life from an early age, fostering both a deep appreciation for their beauty and a commitment to their protection. His passion for marine conservation was solidified through hands-on experiences—from witnessing reef degradation firsthand to working in grassroots conservation and applied research. Today, as a PhD student at Florida State University, studying coastal infrastructure and artificial reefs, he is focused on developing science-driven solutions that support marine biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem management. Eli is a recipient of the \$10,000 Charles T Bauer Foundation Scholarship.

**Carter Oleckna** is a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida, he studies how seagrass ecosystems respond to climate change and environmental stressors, with a focus on improving water quality and coastal resilience in Southwest Florida. His research and community involvement are dedicated to advancing sustainable, science-based solutions for restoring and protecting these vital marine habitats.(\$1,500)

**Kai Sanchez** is an aspiring botanist with a focused interest in space agriculture and the study of how plants can grow and adapt in extreme environments. With over a decade of hands-on experience at the University of Central Florida Arboretum and Herbarium, he has developed strong skills in plant identification, ecosystem management, and specimen research. His work ranges from restoring native habitats to correcting botanical records and conducting independent research, all grounded in a deep curiosity about plant resilience. Driven by a vision to support both environmental solutions on Earth and future space exploration, he aims to advance sustainable growing systems for challenging conditions—even beyond our planet.(\$1,000)