

# The Herald Journal

## USU undergraduates awarded CIBR Grants

By USU Media Relations

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In a continuing effort to support future scientists and foster the skills and talents of dedicated students, Utah State University Center for Integrated BioSystems has awarded research grants to ten graduate students from various departments in the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Natural Resources, and Science.

"This program is tremendously enriching for the students. It provides them with an opportunity to gain experience selecting and managing their own research," said CIB Associate Director Kenneth White. "Students who are chosen are given financial support and the rare opportunity to collaborate with students from other areas of campus."

This year's awardees were selected from a very competitive field and will join other graduate and undergraduate students who receive support for their research from the Center for Integrated BioSystems. The students, departments, mentors, and their projects, are listed below:

Anne Justice-Allen, Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences, with Dr. David Wilson, in support of research on "Do Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) Represent a Reservoir Species for *Mycoplasma bovis* Infections in Cattle?"

Jason Brown, Biological and Irrigation Engineering, with Dr. Kamal Rashid, in support of research on "Synchronization and Media Exchange in Large Scale *Caenorhabditis elegans* Cultures."

Yuan Chu, Chemistry and Biochemistry, with Dr. Alvan Hengge, in support of research on "A Mechanistic Study of Phosphoryl and Sulfuryl Transfer Reactions Catalyzed by Protein Phosphatase-1."

Joshua Der, Biology, with Dr. Paul Wolf, in support of research on "Developing Genomic Resources for *BOTH* Phases of the Plant Life Cycle."

Gary Howes, Wildland Resources, with Dr. Karen Mock, in support of research on "Genetic Diversity Among Utah Populations of the Columbia Spotted Frog."

Leigh Latta, Biology, with Dr. Michael Pfrender, in support of research on "The Evolution of Salinity Tolerance in *Daphnia*."

Benson Morrill, Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences, with Dr. Lee Rickords, in support of research on "Biochemical Pathway Flux During the Maternal to Embryonic Transition: Metabolic Profiling of the *In Vitro* Culture-Induced 2-Cell Block."

Shyam Shridhar, Biology/ Plants, Soils and Climate, with Dr. Shaun Bushman and Dr. Paul Johnson, in support of research on “Proteomic Analysis of Salt Stress-Responsive Proteins in *Poa pratensis L.*”

Kirsten Sims, Biological and Irrigation Engineering, with Dr. Sridhar Viamajala, in support of research on “Enzymatic Degradation of Lignocellulosic Biomass: Kinetics of Cellulase Hydrolysis in High Solid Systems.”

Brenda Suh, Chemistry and Biochemistry, with Dr. Joan Hevel, in support of research on “Investigating the Role of the N-Terminal Tail of the Human Protein Arginine Methyltransferase 1 in Enzyme-Substrate Interactions.”

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