



# SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

## Fall 2025



### Honoring Excellence: Biology Students Shine at Homecoming

**2025.** Selected for academic excellence, campus involvement, and community service, Isabel DuBay and Gaby Karakcheyeva are two of six outstanding students who exemplify the best of the U of U undergraduate community. [>Learn more](#)

### Thankful: Because of You, Students Thrive

[CLICK HERE to Contribute to Scholarships](#)



**Behind Every Scholarship is a Story of Opportunity and Growth.** Biology seniors Isabella Scalise and Nathan Patchen share how mentorship, research, and financial support have shaped their journeys and prepared them for what comes next. [>Read story](#)



**Meet Abigail Bruzual,** a senior who moved from Ecuador to study biology at the U. In Professor Yoo's lab she's researching how to modify crops for a warming climate.

[>Watch reel](#)

[>Read story](#)



**Grad Student, Paulina Martinez-Koury, Studies the Great Salt Lake.**

In the high salt environment of the north arm, shimmering gypsum crystals hide thriving microbial worlds, proof life can endure brutal salt and radiation.

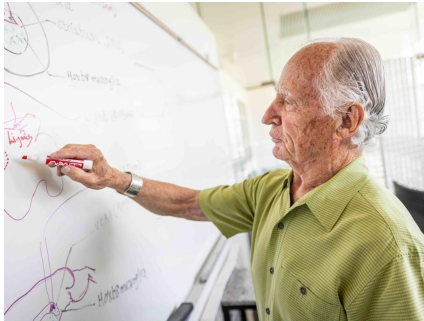
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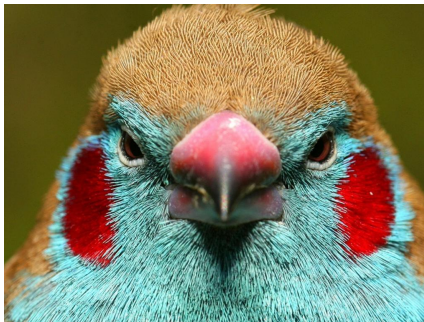
**Life Evaluated | Research News**



**Biology's Newest Neuroscientist Maps When the Brain Decides.** Luo et al. tracked hundreds of neurons in rats and used AI to identify a neural “biomarker,” opening the door to research on circuitry changes linked to emotion, attention, and cognition. [>More](#)



**Research Reveals the Brakes and Gas of Anxiety.** Nobel laureate Mario Capecchi and his team find that brain immune cells, and not neurons, control anxiety in mice. [>More](#)



**BIRDBASE Helps Scientists Track How Species Respond to a Rapidly Changing World.** As a grad student, Professor Cagan Şekercioğlu envisioned a global bird database. 26 years later, it's real. 11,589 species. 78 traits. One open-access tool. [>More](#)

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## Honors and Lasting Legacy



**A Career of Discovery Earns Geology's Highest Honor.** Distinguished Professor, Thure Cerling, has received the Geological Society of America's prestigious Penrose Medal, recognizing his groundbreaking contributions to isotope geochemistry and Earth history. [>More](#)



**2025 Presidential Scholar: Jamie Gagnon.** "What connects this year's Presidential Scholar cohort is their commitment to turning research into real-world impact," says U of U President, Taylor Randall. [>More](#)



**Biologist Phyllis "Lissy" Coley Honored** with a trail named after her on Panama's Barro Colorado Island—home to the world's most studied tropical forest. A pioneer in plant defense research, Coley's work reshaped ecology and linked rainforest conservation to human health. [>More](#)

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## Retirements: Celebrating Science | 2025



**Carrier's Science: Unconventional, Bold, and Brilliant.** Biologist David Carrier didn't just study evolution, he lived it. From chasing antelope to testing punches, his bold experiments explored how humans evolved to run, fight, and survive. Now retired, Carrier leaves behind a legacy of unforgettable stories and discoveries. [>More](#)



**Professor David Goldenberg retires** A biophysical chemist and dedicated educator since 1985, Goldenberg advanced the early understanding of protein folding and played a central role in shaping the curriculum in biology at the U of U, leaving a lasting impact on students and science. [>More](#)

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