



# SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

## Spring 2026



### **The Next Breakthrough in Biology Starts with a Student Who Needs Your Support.**

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## **Undergraduate and Graduate Student Stories**



**Annually, Research on Capitol Hill** brings together undergraduate researchers from the U of U and Utah State to share innovative work with legislators, citizens, and state leaders, showcasing how student research shapes Utah's future. This year, three biology students were among those representing the U. [>Story](#)



**Prisca Amematsro is turning heads in biology — and beyond.** A 2025 Beckman Scholar, she brings a mathematician's precision to the [Caron Lab's](#) cutting-edge research on how evolution and environment shape the brain.

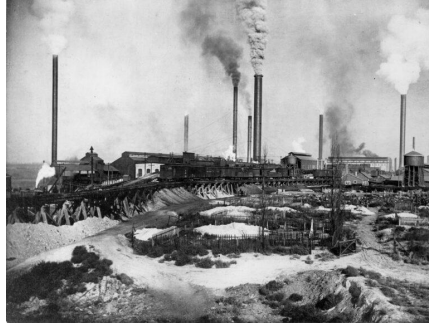
[>Story](#)



**Hallucinogenic Mushroom.** “It sounded so bizarre that there could be a mushroom out there causing fairytale-like visions [appearance of little people] reported across cultures and time,” Colin Domnauer, PhD student says." [>Story & Video](#)

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**Life Evaluated | Research News**



**Banning lead in gas worked. The proof is in our hair.** Prior to the EPA, est.1970), Americans lived in communities awash with lead, a dangerous neurotoxin that accumulates in human tissues. "...regulations have been very important," said [Thure Cerling](#), distinguished professor of geology and biology. [>Story](#)



**January's Science@Breakfast featured Jessica Brown.** Fungi are everywhere. In our soil, in our bird feeders, and even in the air we breathe. Brown reassured us that the vast majority of these interactions are harmless. But, there are some species of fungi that can spell danger." [>Story](#)



**Assistant Professor Michael Werner** discusses new research uncovering nematodes living inside microbialites in the Great Salt Lake — bacteria-built rock structures that resemble some of the oldest life forms on Earth: [>Listen here](#)

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## Honors and Lasting Legacy



# U of U names Distinguished Professor Baldomero “Toto” Olivera the Inaugural recipient of the K. Gordon Lark Endowed Chair of Biological

**Sciences.** Olivera's pioneering research on venomous cone snails mirrors the legacy of the department's founder. [>More](#)

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