

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

DIVERSITY FELLOWS PROGRAM ORGANIZERS

Andy Sposato - Ph.D. Student



Andy Sposato earned her B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona. She is from a small town in Southern Nevada where temperatures are high, rainfall is low, and the pride and joy is the world's tallest ice cream stand - exactly the kind of questionable claim small towns are notorious for. Andy is a PhD Candidate in the Gagnon Lab (<https://www.gagnonlab.org/> (Links to an external site.)) where she researches the roles of individual germline stem cells during adult tissue homeostasis in zebrafish. She also founded the LGBTQ+ STEM Interest Group in the College of Science with friend and colleague, Dylan Klure. When she isn't in the lab or riding her road bike, Andy enjoys painting and watching good films. She is pictured here among the cacti she grew to love in Tucson.

Kent Golic - Professor

Dr. Kent Golic is a Professor at the University of Utah school of Biological Sciences, <https://www.biology.utah.edu/people/details.php?id=136>. (Links to an external site.)

Shannon Nielsen - Biology Graduate Advising

Shannon Nielsen is the Graduate Program Coordinator for the School of Biological Sciences. She is one of the most important sources of support for graduate students in SBS. Many of us don't know what we'd do without her.

Thien Vu - Ph.D. Student



Thien Vu earned his Bachelor in Biochemistry and Psychology from the University of Puget Sound. He is from Vietnam, and the first in his family to go to college and graduate school. He is in Dr. Erik Jorgensen's laboratory (<https://www.thejorgensenlab.org/> (Links to an external site.)). At the neuronal synapse, packets of neurotransmitters, called synaptic vesicles, have to be at the ready so they can release neurotransmitters within a millisecond of an action potential. Thien studies how synaptic vesicles are docked and ready to go. Outside of the lab, Thien enjoys

hiking, swimming, reading books, going to the movies, and watching cat videos. Thien is pictured here with Thomas Hunt Morgan's Nobel prize medal.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The School of Biological Sciences first implemented the Diversity Fellows Program in the fall semester of 2019 thanks to the initiative of then Director, Dr. Denise Dearing, with support from graduate students - Kendra Autumn, Amanda Cooper, Dane Larsen, Andy Sposato, and Thien Vu - Professor Kent Golic, Graduate Program Coordinator Shannon Nielsen, and others. This program was designed to support applications to biology graduate programs from marginalized community members who have been historically excluded from STEM. Through a collaborative effort of graduate students, post-docs, and faculty, Diversity Fellows are guided through the graduate school application process covering topics including crafting a personal statement, interviewing, and more. The School of Biological Sciences is dedicated to improving equitable practices, including those related to graduate program applications, to foster an inclusive environment where people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, undocumented and first-generation students are welcome and valued in scientific research here at the University of Utah and other institutions.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the following faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the University of Utah for their contributions to our video materials:

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WEB/ONLINE LEARNING AND EDITING SUPPORT

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