

CWSS 2020 Scholarship Awards

CWSS awarded \$1000 scholarships to ten deserving students this year



Maren Appert – San Diego State University

Maren Appert is an Undergraduate Student at San Diego State University, graduating in May 2022. She is studying Environmental Science (B.S.) and is in the Weber Honors College. She works with the San Diego Audubon Society (as a Conservation Team Leader and Audubon Advocate) repairing wetland habitat and advocating for the protection of Golden Eagles in San Diego. She also is in San Diego State University's, 'Epsilon Eta', an Environmental Honors Fraternity which (among other things) works to remove invasive species from Rose Canyon and replant oak seedlings. She is passionate about habitat restoration and aims to pursue a career in weed management.



Matthew Fatino – University of California, Davis

A Master's student at UC Davis, Matthew is in the Horticulture and Agronomy graduate group with an emphasis on Weed Science. Matthew is researching the Israeli-developed PICKET decision support system for control of the "A-listed" quarantine pest branched broomrape (*Phelipanche ramosa*) in processing tomato.



Kelsey Galvan – California State University, Fresno

An entering Master's student at California State University, Fresno in the Plant Science graduate program. Basing my thesis research on the weed waterhemp, focusing on its herbicide resistance to glyphosate. Since it is known to be resistant to more than a few herbicides, by studying the biology and physiology as to why it is resisting any sort of herbicide. In addition, the thesis will include testing other herbicides and it's effectiveness, the herbicides of choice are yet to be determined. Currently I am in progress to earn my CCA, and plan to receive my PCA further in the future.



Nelly Guerra – University of California, Davis

My name is Nelly Guerra, and I am a Master’s student at UC Davis in the Horticulture and Agronomy Group, with an emphasis in Weed Science. My interests include biotic interactions in weed seed physiology and seed bank ecology in strawberry nurseries. My project will include non-fumigant alternatives by using steam to control weed seed emergence and soil pests.



Steven Haring – University of California, Davis

Steven Haring is currently a PhD candidate at UC Davis working with Dr. Brad Hanson. He is studying weed ecology with the goal of developing integrated weed management programs for almond orchards. After graduation, Steven hopes to work in an extension or outreach career that will allow him to collaborate with growers and improve their farm operations.



Guelta Laguerre – University of California, Davis

Guelta Laguerre is majoring in International Agricultural Development at University of California, Davis. She will be a Master’s student next year in Dr. Brad Hanson’s lab.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the CWSS Board for the \$1,000 2020 CWSS scholarship, which has been given to me. I am honored that the board found my application worthy of this award. I sincerely appreciate your generosity and this award will help me a great deal. Thank you so much, and sometimes in the future, I will give it forward. As my favorite quote is “To whom much is given, much is expected “



Alexander Lopez – California State University, Fresno

I am a graduate student majoring in Biology at Fresno State. In my thesis work, I am investigating the origins of recently arisen populations of *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (common waterhemp) in Merced County agroecosystems, using both model-based and non-model-based genetic clustering methods.



Jia Tian – University of California, Davis

My name is Jia Tian, and I am a first-year Master's student at UC Davis in Horticulture and Agronomy Group. Currently, I am in Dr. Mohsen Mesgaran's lab using hyperspectral technology to assess seed quality of weed. My research interest is to apply deep learning in solving environmental problems.



Wenzhuo Wu – University of California, Davis

Wenzhuo Wu is a PhD student working with Dr. Mohsen Mesgaran in the Horticulture and Agronomy graduate group at University of California, Davis. She is conducting research to test the viability of a novel approach for managing weeds by pollinating with irradiated and sterile pollen in unisexual breeding systems. Currently, she is exploring an optimal dose of ionizing radiation which can significantly reduce seed production and seed/flower ratio in Palmer Amaranth. She got a drone pilot certificate this July. In the future she hopes to get a PCA license and contribute to the growing body of scientific knowledge by combining the knowledge from remote sensing, statistics and weed science.



Tong Zhen – University of California, Davis

My name is Tong Zhen, a Master's student at the University of California, Davis. I am working with Professor Mohsen Mesgaran and focusing on ecological weed management. My current project is about the automated survey of weed species along the roads.