Greetings from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program Collaborative! We would like to welcome our 2015 scholars and want you to know how happy we are to have you in our Program. We hope you will make great friends and have amazing and unforgettable experiences over the next two years. We also want to wish our 2014 scholars much luck with their summer internships. With assistance from numerous agencies, non-profit organizations, and tribes, we have come up with a range of internship experiences that we think you’ll find both educational and rewarding. And we would like to express our appreciation to the families of our students and to all of you who lend your time, expertise, kindness, and support in order to make this program possible.

Meet the 2015 Scholars:

The 2015 DDCSP Collaborative Conservation Scholars during closing night ceremonies, along with graduate student mentors and CLW facilitators

In spring of 2015, we selected 25 new students to join our new class of DDCSP Collaborative Conservation Scholars. Five students were selected at each of our 5 partners – University of Florida, University of Arizona, University of Idaho, North Carolina State University, and Cornell University. They are:

- Eliza Bonner, CU, Environmental Science and Sustainability
- Briana Booker, UA, Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Michael Briggs, UI, Wildlife Resources
- Jeanelle Brisbane, UF, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
- Nana Britwum, CU, Agricultural Science/Plant Science
- Keala Bush, UI, Wildlife Resources/Ecology and Conservation Biology
Welcome to the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program Collaborative!

Summer Internships:
Students from the 2014 class of DDCSP Collaborative Scholars have been placed with a wide variety of agencies and organizations in a wide variety of positions. These include:

- **Eanas Alia**, NCSU, is working with the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach, FL, on water quality monitoring in relation to Everglades restoration projects and the Storm Water Treatment Areas.
- **Emily Brown**, UI, is working with the USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, HI. She is working with forest birds to help assess habitat use, survival, and prey availability.
- **Alec Cronin**, UF, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville, FL. His internship is related to mitigation banking for wetlands conservation in Florida.
- **Erica Forstater**, CU, is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Cortland, NY. She is assisting with endangered species research and database development.

JJ LaPlante, senior in Technology, Engineering, and Design Education at NCSU, surveying mountain streams for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana (Photo contributed by JJ LaPlante)
- **Sierrane Gatela**, UA, is working with the Sky Island Alliance in Tucson, AZ, on wildlife tracking and field surveys as well as conservation outreach activities.
- **Hannah George**, CU, is working with the Finger Lakes Land Trust in Ithaca, NY, learning about land trust management and helping to develop preserve management plans.
- **Elyce Gosselin**, UI, is working with the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage, AK. She is helping with a study on climate change, with an emphasis on birds, vegetation, and insects.
- **Bethany Guzman**, UI, is working with the Sitka Tribe in Sitka, AK, on salmon stock assessment and exposure of salmon to harmful algal blooms.
- **Mallory Gyoval**, NCSU, is working with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service in Boqueron and throughout Puerto Rico on a variety of wildlife ecology field research projects related to endangered birds.
- **Sakshi Handa**, NCSU, is working with the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach, FL. She is assisting with projects related to environmental engineering in the Everglades and the Storm Water Treatment Areas.
- **Houston Harris**, UA, is working with the Sky Island Alliance in Tucson, AZ, on habitat restoration projects and development of habitat restoration plans.
- **Katey Huggler**, UI, is working with Idaho Game and Fish in Coeur d'Alene, ID, on wildlife ecology and field research. Her work will include monitoring elk, wolves, birds, and waterfowl.
- **Steven Ingram**, CU, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in St. Petersburg, FL, on marine fisheries stock assessments. He is participating in inshore monitoring activities as well as data analysis related to population trends.
- **Nadia Kemal**, UF, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee, FL, as a communications and public relations representative. She is primarily working with social media and outreach efforts.
- **JJ LaPlante**, NCSU, is working with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Pablo, MT, on water quality data collection, instrumentation, and stream mapping.
- **Sandy Marin**, UI, is working with the Tucson Audubon in Tucson, AZ, as a communications and outreach representative. She is also assisting with bird surveys and conservation efforts.
- **Emily Rankin**, UI, is working with the NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network in Moscow, ID, as a communication and outreach representative. She is working on communicating with the public through resource briefs and posters.
- **Ryan Rodriguez**, CU, is working with the USFS San Bernadino National Forest in Fawnskin, CA, on wildlife monitoring and field research. He is working primarily with California spotted owls and southwestern willow flycatchers.
- **Jaclyn Selden**, UF, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville, FL, on wildlife monitoring and field research. She is working primarily with shorebirds, scrub jays, and black bears.
- **Vanessa Springer**, UA, is working with the Marin Municipal District in Fairfax, CA, on wildlife monitoring and data analysis.
- **Demetrius Tillery**, NCSU, is working with the North Carolina State Climate Office in Raleigh, NC, researching species distribution in relation to downscaled climate models.
- **Alexandra Wilcox**, UA, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in St. Petersburg, FL, on projects related to coral reef ecology, coastal habitats, and mangroves.
- **Victoria Williams**, CU, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville, FL. She is working with wildlife veterinarians on projects that include Florida panther health investigations and chronic wasting disease in deer.
- **Andreenah Wynn**, UF, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee, FL, studying graphic arts and infographics in relation to youth outreach.
- **Xue “Jackie” Zhang**, UF, is working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville, FL, researching payment for ecosystem services and related valuation frameworks.

To learn more about our Scholar's experiences in their own words, visit our blog site: [https://ddcspcollaborative.wordpress.com/](https://ddcspcollaborative.wordpress.com/)

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**Conservation Leadership Week 2015:**
Conservation Leadership Week 2015 was a great success. Despite the cool temperatures and abundant rainfall, the scholars had a great time. The week started at the FLOC Outdoor Education Center, in Harper’s Ferry, WV, where we spent 2 nights camping and enjoying the eastern deciduous forests. Students started getting to know each other while making s’mores around the fire pit, and the friendships really took off during our low-ropes and high-ropes adventures. After a Sunday morning...
hike to the Appalachian Trail, we proceeded to the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). Dr. Mamie Parker got us off to a great start by telling stories of her own experience in the field of conservation, inspiring us with her courage and encouraging us with her positive attitude and advice. During the week, Dr. Thomas Easley, Director of the Community for Diversity in Natural Resources at NCSU led us in discussions of diversity and inclusion. Field activities were led primarily by USFWS biologists, including Blaine Eckberg, Jim Siegel, Julie Devers, Jennifer Volz, Chelsea McKinney, Phil Pannill, Mark Madison, Eric Kelchlin, and Dan Craver. Dr. Christina Romagosa, research assistant professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at UF, led the herpetology and small mammal sessions and Bob Dean led the bird banding session.

To help students understand different paths to careers in conservation, small group discussions were held with our panelists: Dr. Christopher Haney, Chief Scientist at Defenders of Wildlife; Ms. Tabitha Morgan, Policy Analyst at the USDA Forest Service; and Dr. Maya Yamato, Peter Buck Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History as well as Dr. Romagosa and Dr. Easley. Students also spent the week working on group video projects designed to address barriers to diversity in conservation.

We hope that all of our scholars have a great summer, and wish the same to all of the DDCSP Collaborative’s friends and supporters! We look forward to sharing students’ summer experiences with you in our Fall newsletter. If you would like to sign up to receive future newsletters, please click here to provide your email address. For more information about our program, please visit http://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/ddcsp

Best wishes,

Rena Borkhataria
Dr. Rena Borkhataria, Program Director, and the DDCSP Collaborative Team

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