

2023 President's Outstanding Student Award Recipients
W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation

Name	Major	Concentration	Nomination Statement
Mackenzie Elaine Weiland	Ecosystem Science & Restoration	Aquatic	Mackenzie has excelled in courses while being a leader on campus. She has served as a Resident Assistant, Learning Assistant, organized restoration field events, tutored English for Afghan refugees, and was part of developing a children's book about fire ecology, cultural and prescribed burning. She worked with Dr. Gómez for her thesis research investigating the role of fish predation on the differences in amphibian larvae detectability in the restored floodplain ponds at Milltown State Park.
Fin Arohk Malone	Ecosystem Science & Restoration	Terrestrial	Fin focused on climate, ecohydrology, and forest ecology through courses and his work as a hydrology tech and research assistant with the MT Climate Office. His thesis research explores how watershed patterns in microclimate can limit seasonal forest growth. His research emphasizes the importance of elevation, topography, and aspect in microhabitat water availability which limits tree growth and length of its growing season. Fin is also a musician, composing and recording his own music.
Meredith Claire Eiden	Environmental Science and Sustainability	Ecosystem Science and Restoration	Meredith is smart, hard-working, and adventurous. Her internship at Flathead Lake Biological Field Station sparked a passion for zooplankton, which led her to a senior thesis with Missoula Parks and Recreation examining zooplankton as indicators of recovery for restoration of gravel pit ponds. She is also developing a worm composting system for the UM Garden and studied abroad for a semester in Cork, Ireland. Meredith excels at all she does and we are excited to see where she goes next!
Rachel Anne Edmondson	Environmental Science and Sustainability	Environmental Policy and Planning	Rachel is engaged and curious, always looking for ways to use course material to solve problems and promote a sustainable and just world. She's an all-start academic who demonstrated an exceptional dedication to her fellow students as a Learning Assistant. In this role, she went above and beyond, holding dozens of study

sessions to help her peers through complicated material. She crushed every class, and always gave back.

Brooke Dayle DeRuwe

Environmental Science and Sustainability

Resource Conservation

Brooke has an infectious enthusiasm for environmental science and for ocean conservation in particular. She worked on a sea turtle project at the Mote Marine Laboratory, studied abroad in Greece, and interned at Flathead Lake Biological Station. Brooke is also an incredible campus leader, serving as a UM Advocate and an ESS Ambassador. She volunteered at every opportunity to talk with prospective students and to mentor incoming students, demonstrating remarkable generosity and dedication.

Lillian A. Simko

Environmental Science and Sustainability

Sustainable Livelihoods Comm

Lily is an exceptional student with a near perfect GPA who has dedicated herself to conservation and community development. She received a Franke Sustainability Fellowship to study with Round River Conservation Studies in Patagonia, where she collected data on endangered flora and fauna for use in conservation planning. She has worked on organic farms, taught kids about macroinvertebrates, and served as a Community Development Coordinator for UM Housing.

Molly Elise Schmit

Environmental Science and Sustainability

Water Resources

We've been incredibly impressed with Molly's commitment to water resources and hydrology. As a hydrology intern with the Forest Service, she employed a wide range of cutting-edge technologies and field techniques to perform stream and fish surveys, minimize sediment contributions to streams, and assess forest health. Her internship supervisor rated her performance as exceptional and we very much agree.

Hannah Rae Shafer

Geography

No Concentration

Hannah demonstrated her enthusiasm for and interest in Geography from the moment she stepped into Stone Hall. In our courses she always gravitated towards challenging topics that are important and relevant to society. Her insatiable curiosity and willingness to learn led her to research experiences as a field botanist, GIS wizard and professional cartographer. We are confident that she will succeed in launching

her own freelance cartographic and GIS services business. Congratulations, Hannah!

Crystal Rei Tafoya	Geography	Physical Geography	Crystal simply loves to learn, especially when it comes to learning how Earth's systems interact. She is interested in all aspects of physical geography and gravitated towards geography as a major because, as she puts it, "nearly every field of study comes together to form one integrative science." She appreciates how she has been inspired at UM to ask questions, to think integratively, and to be confident in her skills. She plans to pursue graduate studies in the geographical sciences.
---------------------------	-----------	--------------------	---

Jazzelle Bibiana Elias	Parks, Tourism & Recreation Management	No Concentration	Jazzelle Elias is an exceptional student in the Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management program with an impressive GPA, part of the Honors College, and on the Dean's List. She consistently exceeds expectations in classes and in her numerous internships and projects that address complex issues. Beyond her spectacular scholastic achievements, Jazzelle brings passion and critical thinking to anything she works on and is truly a wonderful and genuine person. PTRM looks forward to all her success!
-------------------------------	--	------------------	---

Juliet Cecile Warren	Resource Conservation	No Concentration	Juliet started in pre-law, but a summer as a wildland firefighter altered her trajectory forever. She changed her major so she could focus on fire and fuels management, and her academic work in Resource Conservation has been exemplary. She volunteers extensively on prescribed fire projects in the Blackfoot Valley and was selected for UM's Prescribed Fire Practicum in Georgia. Juliet is also a competitive powerlifter and will be working for the Forest Service in Missoula after graduation.
-----------------------------	-----------------------	------------------	--

Jenna Lauren Asnault	Wildlife Biology	Aquatic	Jenna has a passion for learning, challenging herself, and conserving wildlife. She will graduate with High Honors in Wildlife Biology, with concentrations in both Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife. She has worked as a wildlife technician studying amphibians, bats, and restoration ecology. She also led a field-intensive honors thesis on emerging wildlife survey techniques and presented this research at the Montana Wildlife Society
-----------------------------	------------------	---------	---

Conference. Jenna will no doubt excel as a wildlife professional!

**Nicole Patricia
Bealer**

Wildlife Biology

Terrestrial

Nicole performed exceptionally well in academics, field research, and community service. Her twin interests in mathematics and statistics together with wildlife biology will serve her well in graduate research in wildlife conservation. Nicole is mature, pleasant to work with, an excellent communicator, and inspiring leader. She pursued multiple independent research projects and was a leader in two student clubs on campus. She won best presentation awards at UMCUR and Montana Wildlife Society.