SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The scholarships and awards listed below are available specifically for majors in the Department of Biological Sciences. To be considered for any, you must submit the “Scholarship Application, California State University, Chico” form to the University Financial Aids Office by **February 15**. This form and further information is available online at [http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/csuChico.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/fa/scholarships/csuChico.shtml)

Scholarships require recipients to maintain **full-time enrollment** (12 units undergraduates, 8 units graduates). All scholarships and awards also require a minimum 2.00 GPA and may require a higher GPA. If you have submitted a complete University Scholarship Application, you will be considered for departmental scholarships. Separate applications are required for the Omicron Theta Epsilon George E. Corson Honor Award and Vesta Holt Field Studies Merit Project Award, the Friends of the Herbarium Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award, and the Robert E. Thomas Merit Award.

**DESCRIPTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

**DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**RALPH AND RUTH K. CHOISSER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
The estate of Ruth Choisser established an endowed scholarship in memory of Ralph L. and Ruth K. Choisser. Ruth was a 1920 alumnus of CSU Chico and teacher in the Oakland, CA area her entire career. **CRITERIA:** Awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and who will be pursuing a career in law or medicine.

**PHILLIP A. COTHERN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Phillip A. Cothern was a 1979 CSU, Chico graduate who was a Biological Sciences major. His interests were in wildlife biology. In October 1995, he was killed in an automobile accident. **CRITERIA:** Major in biological sciences with emphasis in organismal biology.

**DORIAN AND PAULA DODDS INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP**
Dorian is a CSU Chico biology graduate and a local dentist. **Criteria:** 3.0 GPA in Sciences, either Microbiology or Cell/Molec option major who is preparing for professional studies or graduate school; recipient must be interested in pursuing a career that involves helping people; preference is for student who has overcome hardships or obstacles in achieving their academic goals.

**DUANE DURKEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Duane Durkee was a Biology graduate in the class of 1966. When he died, Mr. Durkee willed his substantial coin collection to CSUC to endow an annual scholarship fund for biology students. This scholarship will pay $4,000 towards tuition and other school fees for up to six students per year, and is open to all current biology and microbiology majors. **CRITERIA:** Minimum 3.0 GPA. May be eligible twice.

**GARRETT GIBSON MEMORIAL BOTANY SCHOLARSHIP**
Garrett Gibson received his master’s degree in botany from CSU Chico and was a researcher at the Vina Plains vernal pools working with the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. **Criteria:** Minimum 3.0 GPA, graduate student with major in botany or a botanical thesis topic. May be eligible twice.

**MEGAN HUDZIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Established in memory of a Biological Sciences graduate student by her family. **Criteria:** Any Biology major

**P & T PROGRESSIVE BIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**
Established by an anonymous donor to be split between Biology and Kinesiology

**CLARK PORTER BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP**
Clark Porter is a 1948 CSU Chico biology graduate and retired senior scientist from Monsanto. **Criteria:** Major in biological sciences; open to junior, senior, and graduate students, preferably member of Omicron.

**STERLING E. ROOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Sterling E. Rood was a local veterinarian. **Criteria:** First preference for a returning teacher who is a Biological Sciences major. Preference given to teachers returning to college as biology majors with the intent of a career change or to further their education with a degree in biology. Junior or senior biological sciences majors with financial need and potential will also be considered.

**DR. AND MRS. “SIB” WEST SCHOLARSHIP**
Dr. and Mrs. Sib West were very interested in wildlife and wanted to support students interested in wildlife studies. Criteria: Minimum 2.8 GPA, continuing or transfer student with a major in the Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal option in Biology, and an interest in wildlife studies.
DESCRIPTION OF AWARDS  Awards do not have a full-time enrollment requirement, but may require supplemental materials (letters of recommendation, etc.).

GEORGE E. CORSON HONOR AWARD  [http://www.csuchico.edu/omicron/corson.htm] for application process
Dr. Corson was a botanist, Omicron adviser and supporter, and faculty member of the Department of Biological Sciences.  CRITERIA: Major in biological sciences, microbiology, or botany. Senior or graduate student, active member of Omicron Theta Epsilon and has completed a minimum of 15 units in the major. Awards based on GPA, at least one letter of recommendation, letter of intent from the applicant addressing Omicron involvement, curricular and extracurricular biological activities, and professional goals.

VESTA HOLT FIELD STUDIES MERIT PROJECT AWARD  [http://www.csuchico.edu/omicron/vesta.htm] for application process
Vesta Holt was a field biologist and the founding faculty member of Omicron Theta Epsilon.  CRITERIA: Major in biological sciences, open to junior, senior, and graduate students. Holt Awards will be made on the merit of the proposal, statement of purpose from the applicant (including a detailed itemized budget) and letters of recommendation. Awards may be made to attend a field station or participate in a summer field experience of the applicant's choice (for credit), or to do field research during the summer or regular academic sessions while enrolled in specified CSU Chico Biology courses (e.g. BIOL 399). Award monies may only be applied to fieldwork, courses, etc. taking place between May 1 of the year of the award and April 30 of the following year.

JIM JOKERST FIELD BOTANY AWARD  [http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/jokerst/jokerst_award.html] for application process
Jim Jokerst was a CSU Chico biology graduate student and professional botanist.  CRITERIA: Second semester junior, senior, or graduate students are eligible. Projects must be part of Independent Study or Thesis coursework. Projects must be botanically or ecologically oriented, and must be field oriented or include an important field component. Applications are assessed by the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Herbarium solely on the basis of the merits of the project.

WES DEMPSEY MERIT AWARD
Wes Dempsey is an emeritus Faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences.  CRITERIA: Open to Junior, Senior or Graduate students conducting biological field studies at Eagle Lake Field Station, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, or any public nature preserve in northern CA.

ROBERT E. THOMAS MERIT AWARD
Dr. Thomas is a professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences.  CRITERIA: Senior graduating same year application is submitted with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from CSU, Chico. Applicants must be graduating in the Cellular and Molecular Biology option. Funds distributed to recipient upon matriculation to a graduate program that is science-based.

OUTSTANDING MICROBIOLOGY STUDENT

OMICRON THETA EPSILON UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS
Eligibility - The Applicant Must:
• Be an active member of Omicron Theta Epsilon at least one semester prior to application and currently be participating in the organization.
• Be a full time student during the semester in which the award is granted.
  ◦ Undergraduates: 12 or more semester units.
  ◦ Graduates: 8 or more semester units
  • 4 units will be considered full-time for TA's teaching 2 or more labs and for Graduate Assistants
Evaluation - Applicants will be considered on the following merits:
• Participation in Omicron Theta Epsilon (50%)
• Personal Essay (10%)
• Research Proposal (40%)
Application - Each Applicant Should Submit:
• A research proposal stating the nature of the research project, the null hypothesis (if applicable), some background on the proposed project, and an estimated budget for the funds being requested. (5 pages maximum)
• A brief personal essay stating your background in biology and your future goals. (2 pages maximum)
• A letter of recommendation from the sponsoring professor(s).
The award committee is comprised of: Omicron President, Executive Officers of Omicron, and the Omicron Faculty Advisors.
DUE: 1st of October, November, December, February, March, April