

A woman with long brown hair is wearing a black VR headset. She is looking down with a slight smile. The background is a blurred laboratory or workshop with bright lights and equipment.

**Simmons**  
UNIVERSITY

# RESEARCH AT SIMMONS

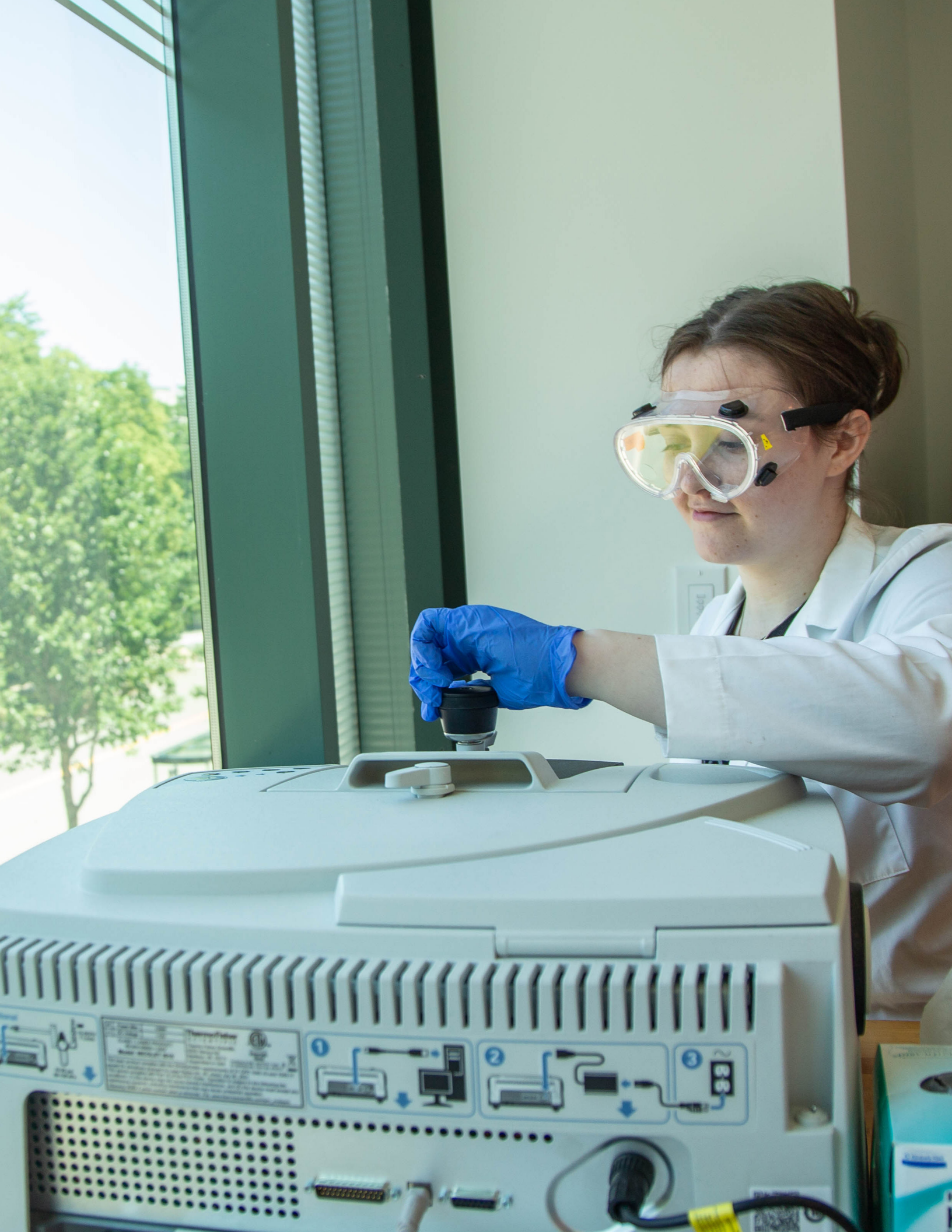
REPORT ON FUNDED PROJECTS AND SELECTED FACULTY  
AND STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2024

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Center for Faculty Excellence

The Office of Research  
and Fellowships

Controller's Office



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# LETTER FROM

# THE PROVOST

## DEAR SIMMONS COLLEAGUES,

I am pleased to share with you the Annual Report on Research at Simmons for fiscal year 2024 (FY24). This report highlights the continued growth and impact of our research, scholarship, and creative activities at Simmons. This past year marked significant expansion in not only the number and scope of proposals submitted, but also in the investments we made to support a thriving research infrastructure.

Simmons faculty submitted **18 proposals** to a diverse array of funders, including the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, and the **Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)**. Faculty across disciplines – from Chemistry and Nutrition to Social Work and Library and Information Science – continue to pursue funding to advance inquiry and practice in their fields.

Simmons expended over **\$3 million in external funding**, supporting a wide range of impactful activities. Highlights include:

- A **NASA award** to Dr. Arpita Saha to support DREAM-WSTEM, a mentoring and research training program for women in STEM.

- Continued funding from the **NSF, the NIH, and the IMLS**, supporting projects in synthetic biology, trauma-informed social work, and library leadership education.
- Institutional participation in national partnerships and learning communities, including **HHMI's Inclusive Excellence initiative and the AmeriCorps Jumpstart and Public Health programs**.



A major institutional milestone this year was the **approval and implementation of Simmons' new Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) indirect cost rate**. Previously, Simmons operated under a Salaries & Wages (S&W) indirect cost rate model. Transitioning to the MTDC indirect cost rate model better reflects the true cost of administering research. This change positions us for long-term growth from cost recovery on externally funded scholarship.

Simmons continues to support research and scholarly development internally. This year, we awarded:

- **Funding through the Faculty Research Support Fund (FFR) and Faculty Development Fund (FDF)**, supporting travel and

professional development for 20 faculty across thirteen disciplines. The funds supported faculty engagement in the region (such as Rhode Island and New York), the nation (such as California and Louisiana), and the world (such as Lithuania, Italy, and Cape Verde).

- **Graduate Research Awards and Graduate Travel Awards for 19 students**, supporting conference presentations at the Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) Convention, the New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Conference, the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Annual Conference, and more.

Our student scholars explored topics ranging from trauma-informed yoga for children to Brer Rabbit in Holocaust retellings. Their work brings Simmons' values of inclusion, innovation, and rigor into national and international research spaces.

At the end of this year, the Provost's office created a new model for how internal funding for faculty and graduate student research and travel will be disseminated. Starting in FY25, these funds will be shifted to the Schools for faculty support and to the Division of Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity for graduate student support. We anticipate that this new model will simplify the process of applying for

internal awards for our faculty and graduate students.

Simmons' sponsored research and scholarly activities are thriving thanks to the dedication, creativity, and vision of our community. From mentoring women in STEM to elevating diverse narratives in literature and health, Simmons researchers continue to push boundaries and make meaningful contributions.

We look forward to building on this momentum in FY25, guided by our commitment to expanding opportunity, advancing knowledge, and supporting the full life cycle of research at Simmons.

Thank you to all faculty, staff, students, and partners who contributed to an exceptional year.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Cosner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Cosner  
Provost

# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



**MEGHAN DORAN**

***DIVISION OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, SUCCESS, AND DIVERSITY***

**AmeriCorps, Jumpstart 2024**

Total Award: \$98,201

Expenditures FY24: \$78,934

Dates: 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024

Through AmeriCorps funding, Dr. Meghan Doran oversees the Jumpstart 2024 program, which places Simmons students in preschool settings to support early childhood literacy development for young children from under-resourced communities. The initiative helps ensure that all children are prepared for school while providing Simmons students with meaningful community-based learning and leadership experiences.



**SANDA ERDELEZ**  
***SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES***

**San Jose State University /  
Institute of Museum and  
Library Services (IMLS), “iLead:  
Preparing Tomorrow’s Library  
Leaders”**

Grant: \$35,631 (prime award to  
SJSU: \$146,770)

Dates: 8/1/2023 – 7/31/2024

Dr. Sandra Erdelez received funding through a collaborative IMLS grant for the iLead project, which prepares future leaders in library and information sciences. The initiative supports leadership development and training for graduate students entering the profession, equipping them with skills to lead diverse, inclusive, and evolving library environments.



**MELINDA GUSHWA**  
***SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK***

**US Department of Health  
and Human Services  
(DHHS), “Institute for  
Trauma Treatment in  
Schools”**

Total Award: \$2,929,616

Expenditures FY24: \$519,649

Dates: 9/30/2021 –  
9/29/2026

Dr. Melinda Gushwa continued to lead The Institute for Trauma Treatment in Schools, a multi-year initiative focused on training the next generation of school-based mental health professionals to address trauma in educational settings. Funded by DHHS, the project trains MSW students and school-based practitioners nationwide, expanding the reach and capacity of trauma-informed care in schools.



**VANESSA ROBINSON-  
DOOLEY**  
***SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK***

**Multiple federal grants (as  
co-PI), totaling over  
\$600,000 since 2019**

Professor Vanessa Robinson-  
Dooley, Director of the PhD  
Program in the School of  
Social Work, was honored

with one of two University Awards for Excellence in Research. Since joining Simmons in 2019, Robinson-Dooley has co-led more than \$600,000 in federally funded grant projects and published eighteen articles in peer-reviewed journals and an edited book. Her research centers on the health and wellness of Black men, an area that remains critically understudied.



**ARPITA SAHA**  
***DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS, SCHOOL OF  
SCIENCES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS***

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),  
“DREAM-WSTEM (Dynamic Research Education Academy  
for Mentoring Women in STEM)”**

Grant: \$749,126

Dates: 8/1/2023 – 7/31/2026

Associate Professor Arpita Saha received a landmark grant from NASA to spearhead DREAM-WSTEM, a holistic, tiered mentorship and research training program designed to support and empower Simmons students in STEM fields. As Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Saha oversees the multi-year project. The first of its kind at Simmons, the award includes DREAM-paid summer internships and sustained mentoring experiences throughout participants’ undergraduate experience, cultivating successful STEM career pathways. In recognition of her commitment to science education, Dr. Saha also received one of two University Awards for Excellence in Research.

# PROPOSALS

**18** TOTAL PROPOSALS

## PROPOSALS BY SPONSOR TYPE

Federal

**9**

Non-Profit/Foundation

**9**

Proposals

Principal Investigator (PI)	Department	School	Sponsor	Prime Sponsor (if subaward)	Program	Title	Due Date	Amount Requested
Beatty, Jacqueline	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (ANDF)		Margene Wagstaff Fellowship for Innovation in Dietetics Education	Exploring the Use of a Digital Tool to Support Interprofessional Education and Sense of Belonging Among Nutrition and Exercise Science Students	1/25/24	\$3,000
Beatty, Jacqueline	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)		Flex Spending Grant	Inclusive Teaching Learning Communities	5/5/24	\$30,993
Bettivia, Rhiannon		School of Library and Information Sciences	Rutgers University	Institute of Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS)	National Leadership Grants for Libraries	Storytelling Across Time: Building a Pan-Disciplinary Community Around Provenance Documentation, Metadata, and Modeling	9/20/23	\$20,129
Cavanagh, Sarah	Center for Faculty Excellence		National Science Foundation (NSF)		Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE)	Transforming Learning and Equity in UBE by Cultivating an Ecosystem of Feedback (TUnE-Bio)	1/23/24	\$496,043
Cohn, Tanya	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)		All of Us Research Program	Exploring LGBTQA+ Gender Identities, Demographics, Social Determinants of Health, and Healthcare Access/Utilization	9/15/23	\$11,956
Elias, Joe	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	American Chemical Society (ACS)		Petroleum Research Fund	Functionalized Heterobimetallic Sulfides for Electrocatalytic CO2 Reduction	3/8/24	\$54,999
Erdelez, Sanda		School of Library and Information Sciences	Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)		National Leadership Grants for Libraries	ILISe: Promoting Diversity Through a Shared and Inclusive Curriculum	3/20/24	\$249,510
Putman, Michelle		School of Social Work	University of Washington	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program	Building capacity to reduce falls for people aging with long-term disability through evidence-based strategies	4/8/24	\$173,700
Rissmiller, Patricia		School of Nursing	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)		Community-Based Health Initiative Request for Proposals	Wellness Model: Promoting Behavioral Health at Fenway High School	9/1/23	\$415,590
Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Science Foundation (NSF)		NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM)	S-STEM: Success at Simmons (S3)	3/11/24	\$1,997,525
Salvia, Meg	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (ANDF)		Molly Kellogg Grant for Advancement in Nutrition Counseling	Impacts of the Dietitian-Client Relationship, Dietitian Training, and Clinical Supervision: An Evaluation of Key Components to Improve Nutrition Counseling in Eating Disorders Treatment Settings	2/20/24	\$3,000
Saunders, Laura		School of Library and Information Sciences	Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)		National Leadership Grants for Libraries	Promoting Diversity Through a Shared and Inclusive Curriculum	9/20/23	\$247,885
Sellers, Christina		School of Social Work	Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)		MGH Community Health Impact Funds	Simmons University School-Based Suicide Prevention Initiative	5/17/24	\$74,997
Sellers, Christina		School of Social Work	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)		Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training-Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults (BHWET-CAY) Program for Professionals	Simmons Mental Health Access, Response, and Training (SMHART)	7/14/23	\$1,058,158
Stubbs, Amber	Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Science Foundation (NSF)		NSF Linguistics	Collaborative Research: Investigating the Formal Constraints on English Verb Phrase Ellipsis using a Syntactically Annotated Corpus	7/17/23	\$384,960
Trichtinger, Lauren	Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences	School of Sciences and Health Professions	American Psychological Foundation (APF)		Society for General Psychology and Interdisciplinary Inquiry Mary Whiton Calkins Grant	Exploring Psychological and Physiological Markers of Discrimination among Sexual and Gender Minorities	6/12/24	\$3,992
Yulong, Li		School of Management	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	National Science Foundation (NSF)	Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Computing in Undergraduate Education	Revolutionizing FinTech Education Through Inclusive AI and Computational Tools	5/30/24	\$200,000
Zhang, Mei			Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)		Research Grant Program	Survive and Thrive in the Institutional Scholarly E-Book Market: A Case Study for a Not-for-Profit E-Book Vendor	3/25/24	\$5,000

# EXTERNAL AWARDS

**5** EXTERNAL AWARDS

**\$815,643** TOTAL AWARDED

## PROPOSALS BY SPONSOR TYPE AND TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT

Federal

*5 awards*

**\$815,643**

Awards

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR	PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD)	TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT AWARDED
Saha, Arpita	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)		DREAM-WSTEM (Dynamic Research Education Academy for Mentoring Women in STEM)	8/1/23	7/31/26	\$749,126
Erdelez, Sanda	Dean's Office	School of Library and Information Sciences	San Jose State University	Institute of Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS)	iLead: Preparing Tomorrow's Library Leaders	8/1/23	7/31/24	\$35,631
Gildawie, Kelsea	Psychology	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Yale University	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Yale/NIDA Neuroproteomics Center	6/1/24	5/31/25	\$11,175
Robinson-Dooley, Vanessa**		School of Social Work	Kennesaw State University	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Healthy Together: A Self-Management and Support Intervention for Low-Income African American Men with Multiple Chronic Conditions	6/1/22	1/31/23	\$3,000
Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer**	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	National Science Foundation (NSF)	Distributed Learning for Undergraduate Programs in Data Science at Diverse Universities	10/1/22	9/30/25	\$16,711
								\$815,643

\*\* Simmons received this award before FY24, but it was not included in previous annual reports

# EXPENDITURES

**32** GRANTS MANAGED

**9** FEDERALLY FUNDED

Direct  
costs

**\$919,798**

Indirect  
costs

**\$96,551**

**23** PRIVATE FUNDED

Direct  
costs

**\$2,010,361**

Indirect  
costs

**\$23,868**

Expenditures: Federal Funding

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR	PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD)	TITLE	GRANT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE	Since start date		FY24 as of 06/30/24		INDIRECT COST RATE
									AMOUNT AWARDED	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES	FY 24 DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	FY 24 INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	
Doran, Meghan	Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity		Jumpstart	Americorps	Jumpstart 2024	400031	9/1/23	8/31/24	\$98,201	\$82,258	\$78,934	\$3,323	4.21%
Eredelez, Sanda	Dean's Office	School of Library and Information Sciences	San Jose State University	Institute of Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS)	iLead: Preparing Tomorrow's Library Leaders	400060	8/1/23	12/31/24	\$36,631	\$25,533	\$16,522	\$5,644	51.5%
Gushwa, Melinda		School of Social Work	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)		Institute for Trauma Treatment in Schools	400037	9/30/21	9/29/26	\$2,929,616	\$2,085,997	\$519,649	\$17,896	8.00%
Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Science Foundation (NSF)		Collaborative Research: Multisite REU in Synthetic Biology	400018	3/1/19	8/31/24	\$299,377	\$298,715	\$62,904	\$0	58.7%
Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	National Science Foundation (NSF)	Distributed Learning for Undergraduate Programs in Data Science at Diverse Universities	400045	10/1/22	9/30/25	\$50,151	\$16,179	\$10,944	\$5,235	51.5%
Saha, Arpita	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)		DREAM-WSTEM (Dynamic Research Education Academy for Mentoring Women in STEM)	400059	9/1/20	2/29/24	\$749,126	\$185,943	\$141,727	\$46,581	51.5%
Thomas, Kristie		School of Social Work	Arizona State University	Americorps	AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps	400058	8/31/22	7/31/25	\$88,047	\$21,437	\$20,366	\$1,071	5.26%
Veilleux, Nanette	Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Science Foundation (NSF)		Collaborative Research: Exploring Variation in English Intonational Acoustic Phonetics from Grammatical Perspectives	400043	8/15/21	1/31/26	\$143,545	\$118,230	\$41,812	\$9,617	51.5%
Young, John	Biology	School of Sciences and Health Professions	National Science Foundation (NSF)		RUI: Unraveling the Developmental Genetics that Underlie Anuran Limb Initiation	400036	4/1/21	3/31/26	\$315,757	\$220,527	\$26,941	\$7,183	51.5%
											\$919,798	\$96,551	

Expenditures: Private Funding

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR	PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD)	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE	Since start date		FY24 as of 6/30/24		F&A/INDIRECT RATE
									AMOUNT AWARDED	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES	FY 24 DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	FY 24 INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	
Agarwal, Naresh		School of Library and Information Sciences	iSchools		iSchools Research Project	404106	4/1/23	3/31/26	\$4,500	\$624	\$624	\$0.00	0.00%
Brown, Lisa	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (ANDF)		Nutrition Diversity Men-tors: Eat Right	404051	6/1/16	6/30/25	\$10,000	\$8,316	\$612	\$0.00	0.00%
Brown, Lisa	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Heinz Family Foundation		Educational Development for Integrative Functional Nutrition	823004	12/14/22	6/30/25	\$30,000	\$8,965	\$8,965	\$0.00	0.00%
Brown, Lisa	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Heinz Family Foundation		Heinz Diversity Mentor	823005	1/1/23	6/30/25	\$20,000	\$6,365	\$6,365	\$0.00	0.00%
Christian, LaDonna		School of Nursing	Helene Fuld Health Trust		Dotson Bridge and Mentoring Program	823006	3/30/23	3/31/26	\$680,041	\$139,431	\$126,755	\$12,676	10%
Cody, Nakeisha	Provost's Office		McGrath Foundation		Global Initiative Fund For The Future	404401	12/1/18	6/30/24	\$500,000	\$496,856	\$481,165	\$0.00	0.00%
Cody, Nakeisha	Provost's Office		Anonymous Donor		Simmons' Leadership Innovation Hub	823002	12/15/22	12/31/27	\$425,000	\$239,405	\$179,027	\$0.00	0.00%
Dimitri, Noelle		School of Social Work	RIZE Massachusetts		Harm Reduction Training (HaRT) Scholars Program	404093	1/1/22	12/31/23	\$138,342	\$142,639	\$138,074	\$4,564	15%
Doran, Meghan	Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity		Mass Humanities		Reading Frederick Douglass Together	404110	6/26/24	3/6/24	\$300	\$311	\$311	\$0.00	0.00%
Ethier, Kristen		School of Social Work	Arizona State University (ASU)	Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	Expectant and Parenting Youth in Foster Care	404108	4/1/23	6/30/24	\$8,700	\$8,700	\$7,565	\$1,135	15%
Graves, Daren		School of Social Work	Boston College	John Templeton Foundation	Building Communities of Practice to Foster Civic Character in Crew	404099	9/1/22	8/31/24	\$58,826	\$53,530	\$26,440	\$3,966	15%
Gurney, Richard	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)		Inclusive Excellence 3 Learning Community (IE3LC)	404100	11/1/22	10/31/28	\$189,000	\$51,415	\$45,063	\$0.00	0.00%
Gurney, Richard	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)		HHMI I3	404107	6/1/23	10/31/25	\$16,471	\$9,779	\$9,779	\$0.00	0.00%
Gushwa, Melinda		School of Social Work	Boston Children's Hospital (BCH)		Simmons Workforce Wellbeing Empowerment Project (SWWEP)	404081	5/1/22	4/30/25	\$298,393	\$142,785	\$109,443	\$0.00	0.00%

Expenditures: Private Funding

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR	PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD)	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE	Since start date		FY24 as of 6/30/24		F&A/INDIRECT RATE
									AMOUNT AWARDED	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES	FY 24 DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	FY 24 INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES	
Hamilton-Mason, Johnnie		School of Social Work	King Boston		King Boston Visiting Scholar	404096	1/1/22	12/31/25	\$102,612	\$91,607	\$9,390	\$748	10%
Herman, Jennifer	Center for Faculty Excellence		Davis Educational Foundation		Responding to Students' Needs through Re-imagined Pedagogy and Course Design.	823003	11/21/22	12/31/25	\$299,750	\$184,853	\$124,564	\$0.00	0.00%
Metallinos-Katsaras, Elizabeth	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Heinz Family Foundation		Integrative Functional Nutrition Program	823008	12/28/22	6/30/24	\$60,000	\$66,438	\$42,773	\$0.00	0.00%
Prelack, Kathrina	Nutrition	School of Sciences and Health Professions	University of New England (UNE)		Improving Cultural Awareness and Competency in Diabetic Students Caring for Aging Patients and Individuals with Different Abilities through Stimulation	404109	6/5/20	6/30/24	\$2,000	\$1,935	\$1,935	\$0.00	0.00%
Rissmiller, Patricia		School of Nursing	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center		A Wellness Model: promoting Behavioral Health at Fenway High School	823010	1/1/24	12/31/26	\$416,666	\$8,568	\$7,789	\$779	10%
Sellers, Christina		School of Social Work	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)		Integrated Suicide and Substance Use Intervention for Adolescents in Substance Use Treatment	404043	1/1/22	12/31/25	\$89,992	\$72,575	\$22,306	\$0.00	0.00%
Shlosser, Heather		School of Nursing	Jewish Communal Fund		Neurosoftware Licensing and Hololense contribution	823009	7/24/23	6/30/25	\$160,250	\$120,610	\$120,610	\$0.00	59%%
Smulski, Holly	Human Resources		Commonwealth of Massachusetts		HireNow	402006	3/24/22	2/28/26	\$64,000	\$53,767	\$3,605	\$0.00	0.00%
Staffier, Amy	Student Financial Services		Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education		Mass Gilbert Grant 16	402050	7/1/24	6/30/25	\$539,700	\$537,200	\$537,200	\$0.00	0.00%
											\$2,010,361	\$23,868	

# INTERNAL AWARDS

## FACULTY FUND FOR RESEARCH

Awardees

**1**

Amount  
awarded

**\$2,500**

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Awardees

**19**

Amount  
awarded

**\$9,500**

## GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND

Awardees

**2**

Amount  
awarded

**\$1,500**

## GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL FUND

Awardees

**17**

Amount  
awarded

**\$6,638**

# FACULTY FUND FOR RESEARCH

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	TITLE	AMOUNT AWARDED
Ethier, Kristen		School of Social Work	Raised by the State: A Pilot Study of Adult Narratives of Developing in Dual Foster Care and Criminal Legal Contexts	\$2,500

# FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE/LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT AWARDED
<b>Amado, Abel Djassi</b>	Political Science and International Relations	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	Institute for Philosophical Studies International Conference	Praia, Cape Verde	Traveling abroad and attending a conference	\$500
<b>Brewer, Kristen</b>	Public Health	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Annual Conference	St. Louis, MO	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Campos Fleitas, Claudia</b>	Behavior Analysis	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Conference	Philadelphia, PA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Elias, Joe</b>	Chemistry and Physics	School of Sciences and Health Professions	American Chemical Society (ACS) National Conference	New Orleans, LA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>George, Sheldon</b>	English	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	Modern Languages Association (MLA) Annual Convention	Philadelphia, PA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Hussey, Lisa</b>		School of Library and Information Science	American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference	San Diego, CA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Krcmar, Chantal</b>	Political Science and International Relations	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference	San Francisco, CA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Kriesberg, Adam</b>		School of Library and Information Science	Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting	London, England	Traveling abroad and attending a conference	\$500
<b>Leiter, Valerie</b>	Public Health	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Conference	Washington, DC	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Li, Yunxin</b>	History	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	American Historical Association (AHA) Conference	San Francisco, CA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Ogden, Lydia</b>		School of Social Work	European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR) Conference	Vilnius, Lithuania	Traveling abroad and attending a conference	\$500
<b>Putnam, Michelle</b>		School of Social Work	Gerontology Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting	Tampa, FL	Attending a conference	\$500

# FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE/LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT AWARDED
<b>Robinson-Dooley, Vanessa</b>		School of Social Work	Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference	Arlington, VA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Robinson-Dooley, Vanessa</b>		School of Social Work	University System of Georgia (USG) Teaching and Learning Conference	Athens, GA	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Steen, Jeffrey</b>		School of Social Work	National Association of Social Workers (NASW) National Conference	New York City, NY	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Torres Gregory, Wanda</b>	Philosophy	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) Conference	Toronto, Ontario	Traveling abroad and attending a conference	\$500
<b>Veilleux, Nanette</b>	Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences	School of Sciences and Health Professions	Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges North-east Region (CCSCNE) Annual Conference	Albany, NY	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Williams, Gregory</b>	Political Science and International Relations	Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences	New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Conference	Newport, RI	Attending a conference	\$500
<b>Zhang, Mei</b>		School of Library and Information Science	International Conference on Publishing Studies	Rome, Italy	Traveling abroad and attending a conference	\$500

# GRADUATE STUDENT FUND FOR RESEARCH

RECIPIENT	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	TITLE	FACULTY ADVISOR	ADVISOR'S COLLEGE	AMOUNT AWARDED
Bailey, Courtney		School of Social Work	Use of Trauma Center Trauma Sensitive Yoga with Young Children	Kristie Thomas	School of Social Work	\$1,000
Halmo, Rebekah		School of Social Work	Exploring Harm Reduction Acceptability, Substance-Related Stigma, and Cultural Capability Among Health Professionals	Noelle Dimitri	School of Social Work	\$500

# OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS (URF)

## MCGRATH ABRAMS FAMILY FOUNDATION GLOBAL RE- SEARCH GRANT FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The McGrath Abrams Family Foundation Global Research Grant for Graduate Students is a competitive, merit-based award that provides up to \$4,000 to Simmons master's and doctoral students who are conducting international research or creative scholarship initiatives abroad, and/or are investigating global issues critical to their courses of study.

FY24 Award  
Recipients

9

Amount Awarded

\$35,400

### Validation of the Spanish Version of the P-EDE-Q

**Student:** Shikha Advani

**Program:** MSW, Social Work

### Social Work and Artistic Practices: An International and Collaborative Approach to Developing Critical Social Work Practices

**Student:** Danielle Jatlow

**Program:** PhD, Social Work

### Data Dynamics in Collaboration: Exploring the Role of Data Throughout Its Lifecycle in Cross-Country Research Collaboration by iSchool Faculty Around the World

**Student:** Jie Jiang

**Program:** PhD, Library and Information Science

### Queering the Museum or Institutionalizing Queerness: A Comparative Study on LGBTQ+ Museums

**Student:** Marco Lanier

**Program:** MS, Library and Information Science, Cultural  
Heritage and Informatics

### Community-Based Mural in Stöðvarfjörður, Iceland

**Student:** Adrienne Sacks

**Program:** MSW, Social Work

### Research on Japanese Women Who Studied in the U.S. 100 Years Ago

**Student:** Masumi Kagaya Sasaki

**Program:** MA, Gender and Cultural Studies

### Birth Equity Warrior Podcast

**Student:** Tabitha Temple

**Program:** PhD, Social Work

### A Portrait of the Nation as a Haunted House - Masters Thesis Research

**Student:** Betty Thompson

**Program:** MA, Children's Literature, MS, Library and  
Information Science

### Resonances Unearthed: Navigating Liberian Histories Through An Africanist Perspective

**Student:** Youtee Wheagar

**Program:** MS, Library and Information Science, Archives  
Management

## MCGRATH ABRAMS FAMILY FOUNDATION STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The McGrath Abrams Family Foundation Study Abroad and Global Internship Fund enabled undergraduate students to study abroad or conduct a global internship through SIT during the summer of 2023. These scholarships covered full tuition, room and board, airfare, and other travel expenses.

FY24 Award Recipients	Amount Awarded
9	\$121,826

Study Abroad Italy: Food Security and Nutrition

Student: Amelia Brackett '25

Major: Nursing

Study Abroad India: Traditional Medicine & Healthcare Practices

Student: Daniela Carrasquillo '25

Major: Biochemistry

Study Abroad Netherlands: Human Trafficking, Sex Trade, & Modern Slavery in Europe

Student: Stephanie DelCastillo '25

Major: Public Relations and Marketing Communications

Study Abroad Czech Republic: Arts Studios in Creative Writing, Contemporary Dance, & Photography

Student: Kay Hamaty '25

Major: Psychology

Study Abroad Italy: Food Security and Nutrition

Student: Anailys Moreta '26

Major: Finance

Study Abroad Vietnam: Traditional Medicine & Community Health

Student: Olivia Pitocchi '25

Major: Biochemistry

Study Abroad Italy: Food Security and Nutrition

Student: Claudia Santos Cardoso '26

Major: Nursing

Study Abroad Switzerland: Global Health & Development Policy

Student: Zalaikha Wahid '27

Major: Neuroscience, Pre-Med Track

Study Abroad South Africa: Internship in Diplomacy, Politics, & International Relations

Student: Madd Witaconis '26

Major: 3+1 Political Science and Public Policy

## PASSIONATE LEADERS PROJECT

The Passionate Leaders Project (PLP) supports undergraduate students seeking to enrich their academic and professional interests by funding learning opportunities beyond the boundaries of the traditional classroom. Students may request up to \$4,000 through the PLP to fund a variety of activities including global experiences, research, internships, service projects, creative endeavors, and other ambitious undertakings.

PLP Scholars	Total Funding
12	\$32,382

Developing Software to Expand the REEF Center

Students: Maleehah Africawala '25, Fayza Beshir '25, and Emily Douglas '25

Major: Computer Science

Muslims' Experiences with the Healthcare System in Massachusetts

Student: Leila Aydibi '24

Major: Biology (Pre-PA track)

Alternative Therapeutic Care Database

Student: Maya Cohen '24

Major: Social Work

Neurodevelopment in the Fly: Understanding the Potential Non-autophagic Role of the Drosophila gene Atg8a in the development of Tourette Syndrome Related Behaviors

Student: Theo Hatfield '25

Major: Biochemistry

A Salutogenic Approach: Eliminating Barriers to Healthcare Access

Student: Sarina Lau '24

Major: Biochemistry

The Diner Serendestiny: A True Story Film

Student: Ana Lindo '25

Major: Communications

Sahiyo Internship: Ending the Practice of FGM/C

Student: Tanya Samyak '25

Major: Economics, Political Science

Promoting Senior Health Through Intergenerational Caregiving and Dementia Awareness with CareYaya

Student: Abigail Bloom '24

Major: Public Health

Adria: Empowering Fashion Sustainability through Data and Mobile App Development

Student: Adriana Lizeth Campuzano Martinez '24

Major: Computer Science

Girls Rock Camp Adventure: Service, Teaching, and Courage in Creativity

Student: Aria Cooper '24

Major: Arts Administration

# SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM AT SIMMONS (SURPASS)

The Summer Undergraduate Research Program at Simmons (SURPASS) is a paid, intensive summer research experience for undergraduate students and faculty mentors across a variety of disciplines. SURPASS is made possible by generous gifts from many alumni, including Trustee Regina Pisa and Trustee Pamela Toulopoulos '73, as well as support from the Office of the Provost.

SURPASS Scholars	Faculty Mentors	Total Funding
12	12	\$86,610

**Assessing Blood Biomarkers for the Diagnosis of Alzheimer’s Disease**

**Student:** Tanisha Alam '26  
**Major:** Neuroscience and Behavior  
**Mentor:** Dr. Amanda Carey

**El Espejo Spectral: Mexico City’s Mythic Landscape, from Oral Traditions to Digital Frontiers**

**Student:** Alejandra Castellanos Mañón '26  
**Major:** Literature, Spanish  
**Mentor:** Richard Balzano

**The Forgotten Organ: A Qualitative Exploration of Women’s Views on Resistance Training and Protein Intake to Optimize Muscle Health**

**Student:** Emily Crown '26  
**Major:** Exercise Science  
**Mentor:** Tim Hanway

**Katniss Everdeen as a Sign of Feminist Consciousness: The Hunger Games’ Impact on its Original Readers a Decade Later**

**Student:** Alicia Guzman '25  
**Major:** Literature, Communications  
**Mentor:** Dr. Briana Martino

**Effect of lactate on scratch wound healing of C2C12 muscle cells**

**Student:** Piper Kinney '26  
**Major:** Neuroscience and Behavior  
**Mentor:** Dr. Ling Xin

**The Relationship between Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Economic Growth – A U.S. State-Level Analysis**

**Student:** Kaycie McColley '26  
**Major:** Economics  
**Mentor:** Dr. Zinnia Mukherjee

**DeepFakes: The Consequence of Machine Learning and Audio Cloning**

**Student:** Celia Morse '26  
**Major:** Statistics, Computer Science  
**Mentor:** Dr. Nanette Veilleux

**Correlating Anuran limb Positioning with Embryonic Hox Gene Expression**

**Student:** Quynh Nguyen '25  
**Major:** Biology  
**Mentor:** Dr. John Young

**Let’s Get Intimate: Evaluating Colonization’s Impact on Sexual Health Education Within Asian American Communities in Boston and Compiling Boston-Based Asian Sexual Health Resources For Community Members**

**Student:** Angie O’Connor '25  
**Major:** Communications  
**Mentor:** Matoaka Kipp

**The Combat Zone: Social Control and Boston’s Failed Zoning Experiment**

**Student:** Emma Parrish '25  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Mentor:** Erin Graves

**Investigating the role of protein palmitoylation in an animal model of Parkinson’s disease**

**Student:** Sarah Samad '25  
**Major:** Neurobiology  
**Mentor:** Dr. Eric Luth

**Exploring NiMn2S4 as a potential catalyst for the conversion of carbon dioxide into non-greenhouse gases**

**Student:** Chloe To '27  
**Major:** Chemistry and Physics  
**Mentor:** Dr. Joe Elias

# FACULTY-STUDENT COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP (FSC)

The FSC Fellowship is a competitive small grant program that supports faculty research and provides funding to students assisting faculty in their research. Student fellows are compensated at a rate of \$15 per hour. They may receive up to \$2,200 (up to 140 hours) over the course of the academic year.

Total Funding
\$22,000

**Menstrual Equity Research Team Graduate Student Fellows:** Katarina Sousa '24, Justine Paragas '26

**Faculty:** Charlotte Powley  
**Department:** Public Health

**Using Synthetic Biology Tools to Generate a Bacterial Biosensor**

**Student Fellows:** Azeemah Solomon '24  
**Faculty:** Jennifer A. Roecklein-Canfield  
**Department:** Chemistry and Physics

**Exploring the Role of Transition Metal Oxides as Catalysts for Nitrite Reduction: Bridging Thermodynamics and Kinetics**

**Student Fellow:** CJ Mae Johnson '24  
**Faculty:** Joe Elias  
**Department:** Chemistry and Physics

**Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Study**

**Student Fellow:** Jo Fletcher '27  
**Faculty:** Kristen Ethier  
**Department:** Social Work

**Understanding Needs for Recovery Following Surgery**

**Student Fellows:** Sophie Nguyen '27, Mahathi Kosaraju '27  
**Faculty:** Laura Rossi  
**Department:** Nursing

**The Political Thought of Angela Davis**

**Student Fellow:** Julia Wilen '24  
**Faculty:** Lena Zuckerwise  
**Department:** Political Science

**Analyzing the Impact of India-U.S. Trade on India’s Manufacturing and Agriculture Sectors**

**Student Fellows:** Amarachukwu Iyke-Uzonwa '25, Mary Rocha '26  
**Faculty:** Niloufer Sohrabji  
**Department:** Economics

**The Effect of the Temporal Bone on Ultrasound Transmission**

**Student Fellow:** Abigail Rothstein '25  
**Faculty:** Phillip Jason White  
**Department:** Chemistry and Physics

**Reproductive Technology Redeemed?: IUDs from the Dalkon Shield to the Present**

**Student Fellow:** Gracyn Delaune '24  
**Faculty:** Valerie Leiter  
**Department:** Public Health

**“Health Together”: A Self-Management and Support Intervention for Low-Income African American Men with Multiple Chronic Conditions**

**Student Fellow:** Laura Stevens (PhD Candidate)  
**Faculty:** Vanessa Robinson-Dooley  
**Department:** Social Work

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE FUND

The Simmons University Undergraduate Student Conference Fund supports student presentations at academic and professional conferences. Grants of up to \$500 were awarded this year.

Students  
**20**

Total Funding  
**\$8,356**

**The Effect of the Temporal Bone on Ultrasound Transmission**

**Student:** Abigail Rothstein '24  
**Major:** Physics  
**Faculty Mentor:** Phillip Jason White

**Investigating Iron and Manganese Thiospinels as Catalysts for CO2 Reduction Reactions**

**Student:** Annabelle Hannah '25  
**Major:** Chemistry, Physics  
**Faculty Mentor:** Joe Elias

**Boston University Conference on Language Development**

**Student:** Aviva Foster '25  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Nanette Veilleux

**Navigating the Iterative Process Between Machine Learning and Linguistics Research**

**Student:** Cameron Jester '24  
**Major:** Data Science and Analytics  
**Faculty Mentor:** Nanette Veilleux

**Like God Made Wheat Instead of Flour: Trans Identity in a Christian Context**

**Student:** Christine Spinosa '24  
**Major:** Political Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Lena Zuckerwise

**Evaluating the Effect of RNAi Silencing on the KRAS Translocation in Pancreatic Cancer Cells**

**Student:** Debora Eduoard '24  
**Major:** Neurobiology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield

**The Consequences of Coloniality: Searching for a Queer Decolonial Feminism in Latin America**

**Student:** Estela Raya-Fouts '24  
**Major:** Political Science, Spanish  
**Faculty Mentor:** Lena Zuckerwise

**Politics of Translation in Healthcare: Translation Policies and Haitian Linguistic Experiences in Boston Hospitals**

**Student:** Finn Gruber '25  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Abel Djassi Amado

# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE FUND

**Reproductive Technology Redeemed?: IUDs from the Dalkon Shield to the Present**

**Student:** Gracyn Delaune '24  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Val Leiter  
**The Putative Guanine Nucleotide Exchange Factor EXC-5 Promotes Neuromuscular Junction Activity in C. elegans**  
**Student:** Hasna Iqbal '24  
**Major:** Biochemistry  
**Faculty Mentor:** Eric Luth

**Painting, Photography and Populism: An Integrative Study on the Regimes of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez and Peru's Alberto Fujimori**

**Student:** Isabella Santos '25  
**Major:** Political Science, Arts Administration  
**Faculty Mentor:** Benjamin Cole

**Investigating Iron and Manganese Thiospinels as Catalysts for CO2 Reduction Reactions**

**Student:** Joy Wilson '25  
**Major:** Chemistry  
**Faculty Mentor:** Joe Elias

**The Global Gag Rule: America's Neocolonial Impact on Ethiopian Reproductive Healthcare**

**Student:** Katarina Sousa '24  
**Major:** Public Health  
**Faculty Mentor:** Abel Djassi Amado

**Determining the Effectiveness of Different Mixed-Metal Sulfide Nanoparticles as Catalysts for CO2 Reduction Reactions**

**Student:** Lonnie Lee '25  
**Major:** Biochemistry  
**Faculty Mentor:** Eric Luth

**Navigating the Iterative Process Between Machine Learning and Linguistics Research**

**Student:** Maddy Guettler '24  
**Major:** Data Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Nanette Veilleux

**Insights into the Mechanism of Hind Limb Initiation in Xenopus Laevis**

**Student:** Milena Chaufan '24  
**Major:** Biology  
**Faculty Mentor:** John Young

**Construction of a synthetic mycobacterium phage genome using gene editing and transformation-associated recombination (TAR) cloning in Saccharomyces cerevisiae**

**Student:** Piper Alyea-Herman '24  
**Major:** Biology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield

**A Fluid Frontier: Cholera Through Latin American History**

**Student:** Sarah Auletta '24  
**Major:** Public Health, Spanish  
**Faculty Mentor:** Richard Balzano

**A Genetic Screen to Identify Synaptic Membrane Genes Regulating dTACC at the Neuromuscular Junction using DrosophilaMelanogaster**

**Student:** Sarina Lau '24  
**Major:** Biology  
**Faculty Mentor:** Seth Johnson

**Interaction Between Perfluoro-Octanoic Sulfonate and Common Antibiotics Induce Developmental Anomalies and Lethality in Xenopus Laevis**

**Student:** Shreya Chattapadhyay '24  
**Major:** Biology  
**Faculty Mentor:** John Young

# RESEARCH AT SIMMONS

REPORT ON FUNDED PROJECTS AND SELECTED  
FACULTY AND STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2024  
(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)