

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Undergraduate Diversity Student Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that **Keara Clancy** is the recipient of the diversity undergraduate scholarship administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. This is the second year this award has been presented. Keara is a senior at the University of Florida, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She expects to graduate in May 2020.

Keara grew up in both the Philippines and south Florida. As an undergraduate at the University of Florida, she was selected as a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar (DDCS), a program designed to increase the number of students from groups currently underrepresented in the conservation workforce. Scholars with a demonstrated interest in environmental issues and cultural diversity receive training, support, mentorship, and financial assistance for research experiences and internships. They participate in an intensive conservation skills and leadership program, work with agency, faculty and graduate student mentors on group research projects, attend national and regional professional meetings, and engage in mentoring and conservation-based social networks. The ultimate goal of the program is to ensure the success of a broad diversity of professionals in the field of conservation.

Keara has been actively involved with nature since childhood. In high school, she volunteered at a nature center, inspiring young students to respect and love wildlife. Since coming to UF, she has assisted with projects on bonneted bats, southeastern kestrels, invasive ants, gender dynamics in entomology, speciation in frogs, nest depredation by ants, and insect identification. Keara has conducted independent research on woodpeckers and chytrid fungus invasion. She is very active in a number of conservation organizations, including Florida Wildlife Federation and diversity and inclusion committees at UF, but she is especially involved with the Natural Resources Diversity Initiative, where her passion is using live animals to immerse children from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in a love of nature. She intends to positively impact the next generation as a professor, researcher or naturalist.

The FLTWS Undergraduate Diversity Student Scholarship was established in 2018 to recognize and financially assist an undergraduate student from an under-represented background wishing to pursue a career in wildlife biology in Florida. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, financial need, personal goals, contribution to Florida wildlife, a letter of reference from a wildlife professional and an essay reflecting on their minority status and how they will contribute to increased diversity and inclusion in the field of wildlife. As this year's recipient, **Keara** will receive a check for \$1,500 at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 25-27 March 2020 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee