

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Undergraduate Diversity Student Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that **Fana Scott** is the recipient of the diversity undergraduate scholarship administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. This is the third year that this award has been presented. Fana is a junior at Eckerd College, majoring in Biology & Environmental Studies. She expects to graduate in May 2022.

Growing up in Washington, D.C., Fana did not have many opportunities to go hiking or camping, apart from the occasional school fieldtrip. As she grew older, life in the city caused her to lose touch with her early curiosity of nature. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) changed that, when the summer before her senior year in high school, she took her first position as a trail-builder in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, living in a tent for a month of remote field work. She has since served on seven SCA crews conducting various projects across the US. She became an educator at the US Botanic Gardens in D.C., teaching elementary students about plants and nature.

As an undergraduate at Eckerd College, Fana 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, providing them leadership training, mentoring and a conservation-based social network. She is double-majoring in Environmental Studies and Biology, and is very active on campus, serving as a Resident Assistant, a campus EMT and a member of the Environmental Responsibility Committee, to improve campus sustainability initiatives. She has studied bats at Yellowstone National Park and is setting up a campus research project to study the bats of Eckerd College, with her advisor Beth Forys. Fana was selected for the Audubon Florida Conservation Leadership Initiative. She intends to positively impact the next generation as an educator, scientist and conservation advocate.

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, **Fana** will receive a check for \$1,500 and be recognized at the FLTWS VIRTUAL Spring Meeting on March 23 at 9am.

To join the March 23rd Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/95533672097?pwd=SmM1K052bzM3b2MwakFKc3dpd1JqQT09>

Meeting ID: 955 3367 2097

Passcode: 913106

Monica Folk

Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee