

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Minority Undergraduate Student Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that **Camya Robinson** is the recipient of the inaugural minority student undergraduate scholarship, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Camya is a junior at the University of Florida, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She expects to graduate in May 2020.

Camya grew up in the city of Jacksonville, 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.

Camya has taken full advantage of the DDCS program. She has cared for rescued wildlife in northeast Florida and studied sea turtle nesting habitat and predator-prey dynamics in mangroves and salt marshes at the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. Last summer, she was a field technician with the Idaho Fish and Game Department, studying wolf populations with camera traps, elk populations with radio telemetry and GPS, black and grizzly bear populations with hair snares, amphibian populations for chytrid fungus and restoring cavity nesting bird structures. As a DDCS, Camya developed a research project studying the effect of microplastic beads on the clearance rate of ctenophores. While still a sophomore, Camya presented her findings at the Florida Chapter's 2018 Spring Meeting last April and again at the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting in August. Camya plans on pursuing a master's degree in quantitative ecology, eventually obtaining a doctorate degree. She intends to positively impact the next generation as a professor.

The FLTWS Minority Undergraduate 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, **Camya** will receive a check for \$1,500 at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 10-12 April 2019 in Melbourne Beach, Florida.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee