Department of Biology In-House Research Support Awards
The next applications are due by 5pm, March 8th, 2010

Below is a list of awards for which you may apply. Please note the restrictions for each. The amounts for some of them are considerably higher than the last time they were offered; however, these amounts may change in the future. The Fellowships and Awards Committee (Barbara Whitlock and Isaac Skromne) will consider applications for all awards together. If you receive one award, you are not likely to receive another for the same research: therefore consider carefully which funding sources are the most suitable for you. Fellowship and Awards Committee members will be recused from evaluative discussions of and decisions regarding their own students.

Early-stage awards

1. William H. Evoy Graduate Research Support Fund (“Evoy Fund”) – funds are intended for graduate students in the early stages of their research, in any area. Preference will be given to doctoral students, but masters thesis research may also be supported. This is a one-time award of up to $500.

2. Jay M. Savage Graduate Research Support Fund (“Savage Fund”) – to doctoral students in the early stages of their research; intended for pilot studies in ecology, behavior, and systematics. This is a one-time award of up to $500 for travel, travel-associated expenses, equipment, experiments, or special costs of data acquisition or analysis.

Late-stage awards

3. Kushlan/Frohring Graduate Research Support Fund (“Kushlan Fund”) – makes awards to doctoral students in the final stages of their doctoral research, to facilitate the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation. This is a one-time award of up to $2900, to complete field research (including travel, but not for travel to a scientific meeting) or the final stages of data acquisition and analysis.

Awards for any stage

4. J. Gerry Curtis Plant Sciences Scholarships (“Curtis Scholarship”) – small scholarships (up to $1800) for research in basic or applied plant sciences. These funds are intended to cover research expenses in the field, greenhouse, or laboratory, including the collection of preliminary data to enhance the development of a dissertation proposal. A student may apply for and receive a Curtis award more than once; receipt of a Curtis award more than once depends, however, on evidence of the productive use of the prior award.

About the application: The Fellowships and Awards Committee expects proposals that address a clearly identified fundamental problem in biology that is logistically feasible and for which your system is appropriate. The Committee asks that you organize your application for support according to the guidelines presented below. Reviewers of external grant applications are influenced by the care taken by the applicant in preparing the material. Our Committee does not differ in this regard. These proposals should be polished, professional, and thoroughly proofread. Standard 1” margins
and a font ≥ 11.5 point are required. Your application should include headings I-IX. Sections I-VI must fit within the page limit of the application (two pages). Participation in the graduate symposium will be taken into consideration in awarding these funds. If you have received funds from any of these sources in the past (including the Tropical Biology Fellowship that is no longer offered), you must include in Section VIII a brief report on how funds were spent and what was achieved.

I. YOUR NAME, TITLE OF THE PROJECT, and the AWARD or AWARDS sought.

II. OBJECTIVES. A clear statement of the general problem and your specific objectives.

III. BACKGROUND. Provide the historical and/or logical context of your study. Outline the body of theory relevant to your work in a way that shows what gap you intend to fill, extension you intend to make, or disagreement you intend to resolve – in other words, your rationale.

IV. PROPOSED WORK AND METHODS. This is the heart of your proposal. What specific issues are you examining? Why in this system? Describe the methods you will use to address the problem, how they will produce the data necessary to answer the question you are asking, and how they will be analyzed to establish your results and form your conclusion.

V. SIGNIFICANCE. How will your results bear on the basic scientific question you are asking? How does your study relate to past progress made by yourself and others in answering those questions? How will this award contribute to progress toward your degree?

VI. LITERATURE CITED.

VII. DETAILED BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION. Explain how the funds are to be used and how each of the itemized expenditures supports the research goals. This should be one page in length.

VIII. OTHER CURRENT AND PAST SOURCES OF FUNDS (INCLUDING AMOUNTS) AND DETAILS OF THEIR USAGE. If none, state “none.” Not to exceed two pages.

IX. CURRICULUM VITAE. Not to exceed two pages. Please indicate if you participated in the Biology Department graduate symposium.

X. BRIEF LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM FACULTY ADVISOR. Your application will not be considered without a letter of support from your advisor.

Maximum length for Sections I-VI: Two pages for Evoy, Savage, Kushlan, and Curtis awards.

Sections I-IX should be submitted as a single pdf file by email to whitlock@bio.miami.edu. The letter of support (sect. X) may be sent separately but needs to arrive by the deadline. All application material must arrive by 5pm EST, March 8th, 2010. Incomplete, incorrectly formatted, or late applications will not be considered.