

# BGSA APRIL 2025 *Newsletter*

## ELECTIONS AND GENERAL MEMBER MEETING (1/29/2025)

WE HOSTED OUR FIRST-EVER ELECTIONS AND GENERAL BODY MEETING, OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING OUR ORGANIZATION. ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WERE FILLED, MARKING A STRONG AND ENTHUSIASTIC START TO OUR COMMUNITY.





# Special thanks to

Faculty advisor, Prof. Dr. Eric Stabb  
Head of the Department, Biological Sciences, UIC

Dear Prof. Stabb,

We are thankful for your continuous  
support and encouragement.

Best regards

BGSA, UIC

## MEET THE ELECTED TEAM





# BOARD MEMBERS



- Nikolas Ballut
- 2nd Year PhD Student
  - E&E
  - Minor Lab



- Samira Umar
- 4th Year PhD Student
  - E&E
  - Gonzalez-Meler Lab



- César Alexander Siete
- 1st Year PhD Student
  - MCDB
  - Chuang Lab



- Fariha Islam
- 3rd Year PhD Student
  - MCDB
  - Lynch Lab

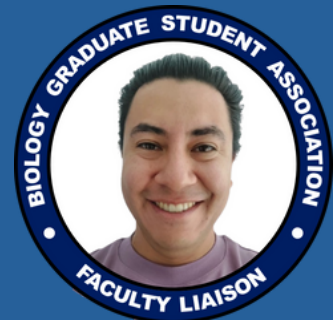
## OFFICERS



- Hamida Nooreen Mahmood
- 3rd Year PhD Student
  - MCDB
  - Stone Lab



- Luisa Mestriner
- 2nd Year PhD Student
  - Neuro
  - Gong Lab



- César Fuentes
- 3rd Year PhD Student
  - E&E
  - Gonzalez-Meler Lab

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Budget, Grants, and Fundraising

- Fariha Islam
- Sarah Dietzen
- Fabiola Rios
- Samira Umar

### Elections and Amendments

- César Siete
- Pritha Das
- Soraida Quintero

### Media and Communications

- Hamida Nooreen Mahmood
- Sage DeLong
- Fabiola Rios
- Frances Crable
- César Siete
- Shreya Karuvat Anand
- Shalmolee Das
- Samira Umar
- Pritha Das

### Events

- Luisa Mestriner
- Folashade (Gloria) Olorunfemi
- Jessica Montoya
- Sangita Ghimire
- Hamida Nooreen Mahmood
- Shawn Arreguin
- Shreya Karuvat Anand
- Soraida Quintero
- Frances Crable
- César Siete
- Samira Umar

### Track Representative and Faculty Liaison

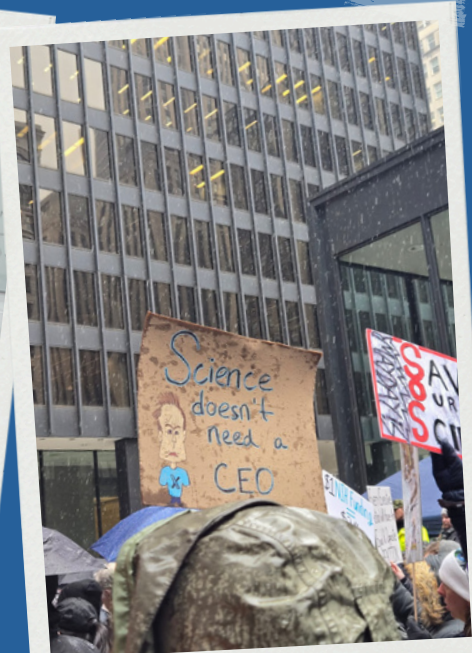
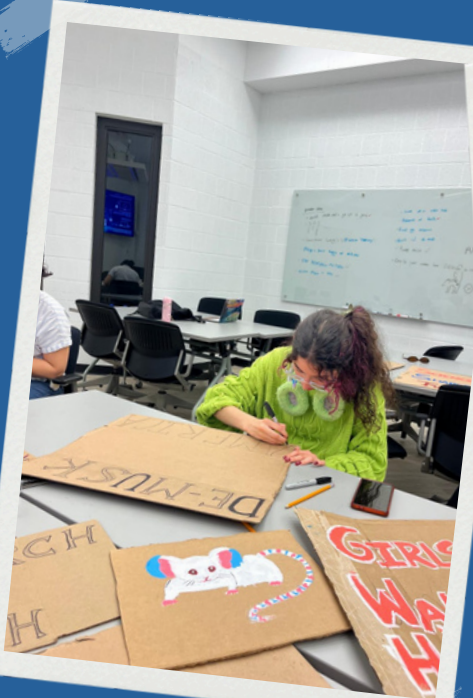
- César Fuentes
- Shawn Arreguin
- Pritha Das
- Kiersten Oderman
- Frances Crable
- Noah Skelly
- Chloe Berna

# LOOKING BACK TO OUR PAST MONTHS



## BIOS GRAD RECRUITMENT DAY (2/21/25)

OUR MEMBERS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN RECRUITING FUTURE UIC BIOS GRADUATE STUDENTS. FROM PRESENTING POSTERS ON WEST CAMPUS TO USHERING THEIR BUDDY ON EAST CAMPUS. THE DAY WRAPPED UP WITH A PIZZA PARTY WHERE MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH RECRUITS.



## STAND UP FOR SCIENCE 2025

MARCH (3/7)/2025

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THIS RALLY MEANT TO DEFEND SCIENCE AS A PUBLIC GOOD AND PILLAR OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THEY AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO PARTICIPATED CALLED ON POLICYMAKERS, INSTITUTIONS, AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF SCIENCE, PROTECT ITS ACCESSIBILITY, AND ENSURE ITS BENEFITS SERVE ALL PEOPLE.



# STAR OF THE MONTH



Sage DeLong  
Graduate Student at Escalante Meza Lab  
Biological Sciences



Sage DeLong received the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) Student Research Grant for their research project titled **"The internal and external drivers of the release of defensive chemical secretions in an arachnid."** This is a once-in-a-lifetime society grant of \$1500 that will go toward transit costs and paying undergraduate assistants. Take a look at the species they research, *Leiobunum vittatum*!

# APRIL BIRTHDAY



LUISA MESTRINER (4/28)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

COMING  
SOON



## Clothing Swap

When: 4/23/2025

Where: Molecular Biology Research  
Building (MBRB), Room: 4074

Time: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Bring damaged clothes or new/old  
clothes you don't wear anymore –  
grab anything that catches your eye,  
or leave it with BGSA to donate to a  
women's shelter or local thrift.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH BGSA



Watch our April newsletter video here: <https://youtu.be/YyjuTN78aCY>