

**University of California at Davis**  
**One Health Day 2016 Student Competition Team**

(\* Indicates Team Leader)

**Event Title:** Collaboration in the Face of a Changing Environment



**Nick Booster, B.A**

PhD Candidate  
Rosenheim Laboratory  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, California, USA

Nick's research is concerned with disease ecology and how pathogens drive the evolution of the insect immune system, and, conversely, how the insect immune system drives the evolution of viral pathogens. Specifically, Nick studies a virus that makes big eyed bugs, *Geocoris pallens*, a beneficial agricultural insect, eat their own eggs. This system is a tractable one for examining novel insect virus interactions and examining the evolution of virulence.



**Nathan Brown, MPH**

DVM Candidate, UC Davis  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Davis, California, USA

Nathan is a DVM candidate (Class of 2019) at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and will serve as a Public Health Officer after graduating. Nathan academic plans include large animal/livestock medicine with emphasis in public health. He is particularly interested environmental health, food safety, and zoonotic disease transmission.



## **Marlene Haggblade, BA**

DVM Candidate  
UC Davis School of Veterinary  
Medicine  
Davis, California, USA

Marlene is a DVM candidate (Class of 2019) at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She hopes to use the breadth of her veterinary degree to study our broad biological landscape. More specifically, she is interested in the intersection of human, wildlife, and environmental health. Some of Marlene's previous work includes studying risk factors for snare entrapment in endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda, and studying orphaned chimpanzee personality profiles in Cameroon. Having spent the majority of her life living in sub-Saharan Africa (in Madagascar and Zambia), she aspires to work internationally on issues of conservation, disease transmission, and public health.



## **Benjamin Plourde, BS, MEd**

PhD Candidate  
Integrative Pathobiology  
Foley Laboratory of  
Infectious Disease Ecology  
University of California Davis,  
Davis, California, USA

Benjamin is a Ph.D. candidate in the graduate group of Integrative Pathobiology at UC Davis. He is studying tick-borne pathogens in relation to logging and wildfire. While earning his B.S. in biological sciences and physics he spent three years studying functional plant ecology in tropical second-growth forests. After college, he taught middle school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and concurrently earned his M.Ed. in science education, before returning to research to pursue his passions for teaching and scientific inquiry. He plans to pursue a career in community college teaching.



**\*Risa Pesapane, BS, MS, MS**

PhD Candidate, Disease Ecology  
Foley Laboratory of Infectious  
Disease Ecology  
University of California at Davis,  
Davis, California

Risa is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow pursuing a PhD in disease ecology as part of both the School of Veterinary Medicine and Graduate Group of Ecology at the University of California Davis. Risa's research interests are inspired by the network of direct and indirect interactions between humans and animals in the landscape. She studies connectivity, both socially and spatially, among members of ecological communities that might lead to spillover of either infectious diseases or arthropod vectors. With her career, Risa hopes to contribute to achieving a predictive capacity for emerging infectious diseases and to facilitate the creation of institutions capable of integrating One Health into policy and development.



**Brandon Scott**

MD Candidate

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Los Angeles, California, USA

Bio unavailable