

## Biological Sciences student awards, Spring 2022

### Sofia Cook – Renlund Medallion



Robert N. Renlund Preprofessional Award in the Allied Health Field: Established in memory of Dr. Robert Renlund, a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences, this medallion is awarded to two students for excellence in premedical or preprofessional studies. This award is donated by the Preprofessional Club.

Sofia transferred from William Paterson University and became a biological sciences/pre-medical student at Rowan, with minors in chemistry and romance languages. She is a member of the Bantivoglio Honors College and the Tau Sigma National Honors Society. She volunteers at Inspira Hospital and is a certified lifeguard. In the summer of 2021, participated in research at Binghamton University, where she was awarded 1st place poster presentation at their research symposium. She is a member of Dr. Rashanique Quarels' lab in the Department of Chemistry at Rowan.

### Alex Saavedra – DOSA award (two awards given)



Alex Saavedra was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society at his community college, where he volunteered and represented his college at the PTK convention. He transferred to Rowan University as a biology education major and is starting his M.A. in STEAM education. Alex serves as a senator for the Student Government Association, and as a Rowan Project IMPACT Scholar, an organization focused on increasing male educators in K-12. He represented Rowan and spoke at the Fourth Annual NJ Convening on Diversifying the Teacher Workforce in 2021. Alex participates in the Men of Color Network, visits local schools to work with students and faculty, and mentors new IMPACT scholars. He volunteers at the Praxis Lab tutoring education students. Alex has also tutored students at the Shady Lane Child Development Center and AVID Tutor in Swedesboro. He is fluent in Spanish and uses this regularly in working with students.

### **Naman Srivastava – DOSA award (two awards given)**



Naman Srivastava, is graduating with a B.S. in biological sciences. Since his freshman year, he has conducted research with Drs. Eli Moore in environmental sciences and Stephanie Spielman (formerly) in biological sciences. Naman has published a lead-author paper on this work with another paper currently in preparation. He is an exceptionally talented musician and artist participating in Rowan’s Biomedical Arts and Visualization program, and he has achieved recognition for projects uniting biology and music and/or fine art in external competitions. Furthermore, he founded the Rowan University chapter of the American Physician Scientists Association, and he has lead an initiative to establish a new “ArtSci Symposium” across Rowan University campuses. He plans to pursue M.D./Ph.D. studies with a long-term interest in research in natural products chemistry and discovery of novel therapeutics in nature.

### **Michael Hoban - Excellence in Biological Sciences Medallion**



Excellence in Biological Sciences Award: This award is presented to a graduating student who excels in the field. The student must have an outstanding record of involvement in research opportunities within the department or within the community of biology. This award is donated by the Biology Club.

Michael is graduating with a degree in biological sciences and has worked as a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Kruse for two years. He presented at the College of Science & Mathematics Summer Undergraduate Research Program Symposium in 2021 and will be presenting as a first author poster presentation in person at the XI International Congress for the Study of Social Insects in July in San Diego 2022. He established and runs the new student club in beekeeping, which has over 100 members in less than one year. Michael has expressed interest in perusing a graduate degree in entomology.

## Ashley Priore - Tahamont Medallion



Maria Tahamont Award: This award is presented to a graduate who has excelled in the study of biological sciences and is named after retired Department of Biological Sciences faculty member Dr. Maria Tahamont.

Ashley Priore transferred to the Department of Biological Sciences from Rowan College of South Jersey in a cohort of meritorious students supported by an NIH Bridges to Baccalaureate Program. Ashley is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences. In addition to maintaining an outstanding academic record, Ashley conducted research in the laboratory of Dr. Claude Krummenacher, where she identified protein markers of breast cancer cells. Ashley is an exceptional student who follows her passion for science and care for others and plans to pursue medical studies. Ashley is a true role model for transfer students and a deserving inaugural recipient of the Maria Tahamont Award.