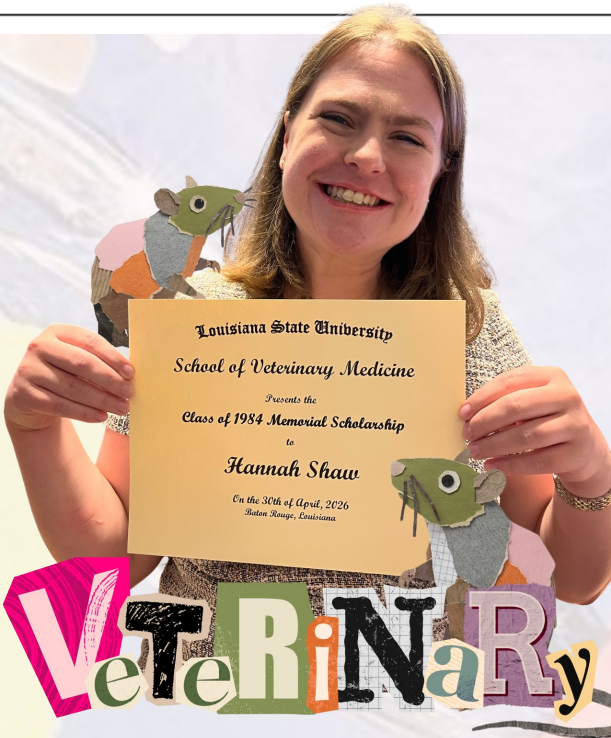


“Former Lab Member Reaches New Heights at LSU”

We are thrilled to share an update on former Fantegrossi lab member, Hannah Shaw, who began veterinary studies at Louisiana State University last fall and has since achieved remarkable success. Hannah was recently honored with the Class of 1984 Memorial Scholarship, a prestigious award granted to an LSU Veterinary Medicine student entering their second year. This scholarship recognizes individuals who exemplify the caring and nurturing aspects of the profession through dedicated service to their peers, school, and community.

Beyond academic service, Hannah was selected as a 2026 LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Summer Research Scholar. To secure this position, they have successfully interviewed and developed a research proposal titled *“Investigating the role of deubiquitination on heroin seeking in rats.”* Their work was highly regarded by the selection committee, which awarded them a \$6,500 stipend for summer research.

Furthermore, Hannah will have all travel expenses covered (including airfare, registration, and lodging) to present their findings at the National Summer Scholars Symposium in Raleigh, North Carolina, this August. These are both highly competitive honors, and we are incredibly proud of the consistent hard work and dedication Hannah continues to display in their professional journey.



“Christian Mitchell Earns Promising Scores for NIH Fellowship”

We are keeping our fingers crossed for July as graduate student Christian Mitchell awaits the final word on an F31 application from the NIH and the National Eye Institute. The F31 is a highly sought after fellowship that supports doctoral students by providing a stipend and covering research expenses, allowing them to focus fully on their training and scientific contributions.

Christian’s application is built around a dissertation project titled *“HDAC3/HK2 axis in endothelial metabolic reprogramming and pathological retinal angiogenesis”*. Beyond the technical aspect of research, the fellowship is also designed to support Christian’s ongoing career development as an emerging leader in the field.

The application recently returned from a rigorous peer-review process with an impact score of 32 and a 22nd percentile ranking. While the official “notice of award” won’t arrive for a few more months, these are very strong scores that put the project in a great position for potential funding.

Working in Dr. Fouda’s lab, Christian has put in a tremendous amount of effort to reach this stage of the application process. Balancing high-level vision research with a clear focus on long-term professional growth is no small feat. We are incredibly proud of her progress so far and look forward to sharing an official update on the fate of her F31 application this summer!

