

# Mentor Narratives

# ICUR

**VIRTUAL IDAHO CONFERENCE  
ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

**JULY 23 - 24, 2020**





*My mentor has done a wonderful job in guiding me and helping me learn the research process. I have learned a great deal from him and I have gained a lot of valuable experiences with his help.*



*Dr. Mainali has been extremely helpful in introducing me to a high level of research. I have grown as a student and as a researcher while working under Dr. Mainali. I can confidently say I would not be where I am currently as a student, researcher, and scholar if it were not for Dr. Mainali. The opportunities I have had have pushed me in ways a traditional classroom setting wouldn't have.*



*Thank you Dr. Liljana Babinkostova, Dr. Marion Scheepers, Robert Erbes, and Jay Radcliffe for sharing your expertise, time, and resources with our team. Your passion for education has positively impacted this research and each member of our team.*



*Thank you to Edward, Neil, and Kelly for all of the time and effort you invested in me and this project. I appreciate each of you more than I can express.*



*A huge thank you to Dr. Mary Pritchard and Professor Heather Schoenherr for guiding this research project. And a huge thank you to Charity Wilson who served as a student research mentor for part of this project.*



*Thank you, Dr. Nawal Khadka, for all of your encouragement and support throughout this project. Your mentoring provided me with the insight into research and was very beneficial.*



*My mentor helped me brainstorm my research project as well as guide me through all the intricacies of writing and submitting a grant proposal.*



*Both my mentors, Dr. Mainali and Dr. Timsina, are phenomenal teachers who have guided me for my love of biomedical sciences. Couldn't ask for any better from them!*



*My mentor has been pushing me to better develop the skills that I already have and learn new techniques that will help me in my future work and course work. They have also made it a priority to teach me to do more than just research and data collection. They have made it a goal to get my name into publications and grants, so I may stand on my own in the future.*



*Special thanks to Drs. Amy Moll, Vicki Stieha, and  
Noah Salzman for helping us in this project.*



*Dr. Viskupic has not only guided me through the research process with patience and expertise, but she has also helped me realize my own potential and encouraged me to reach for goals that I had previously thought were beyond reach. I have the utmost gratitude for Dr. Viskupic and all her help.*



*Dr. Masarik has played a pivotal role in my life by helping me grow as a student and as a human. She has had a profound effect on my professional development, and I could not think of a more wonderful, well-rounded mentor for me than her.*

*Thank you, Dr. M!*



*We gratefully acknowledge the mentorship of our engineering faculty: Dr. Georgeanne Purvinis from KCC and Drs. Stephen Parke and Dan Lawrence from NNU.*



*Dr. Robin Allen has been so supportive. She puts in the time to get to know me as a person and a student. She genuinely cares about me and my well-being.*



*Dr. Isaac Castellano is the mentor and support system that I wish every student could have. I have undergone trials and tribulations as a first-generation student, navigating the path towards graduate school, and Dr. Castellano's support and guidance have been an essential part of my academic journey. He has taught me so much and I will be ever grateful for the work that Dr. Castellano does for students at Boise State University.*



*Dr. Clay Robinson has been a pivotal component in the success of this research. He has been there in all stages of the project and we are so thankful for his mentorship.*



*Dr. Tim Thornes has been an incredibly encouraging and helpful mentor. He invests in his students, and he has helped me make my research much better than it otherwise could have been.*



*Thanks for your help. This would not have been possible without you and this has been a wonderful experience that would not have been possible without you.*



*Dr. Schmitz is incredibly passionate and knowledgeable about geochronology and paleoclimatology. His clear, patient teaching and commitment to undergraduate involvement in research has made it possible for me to progress to this point in our project.*



*I would like to thank Dr. Eric Scott Alexander and  
Dr. Linda Kline for their constant support  
throughout my time at Boise State, as well my  
compositional research.*



*My mentor Dr. Gena Nelson has allowed me to pursue my interest for education through research, and has given me opportunities to pursue research outside Boise State University. I could not imagine my undergraduate experience without her and all the support she has provided me to follow my true passions.*



*My mentor has been integral to my research. Her support has been so important to this process, and I'm glad to have someone so dedicated to amplifying student voices on my side.*



*My research professor Dr. Leigh Latta helped with my undergraduate research immensely.*

*He was supportive, ready to answer any and all questions, excited to help, and made my first year of research such a fun, learning environment.*

*I am excited to continue research with him my final year of undergrad.*



*Thank you so much for being an extraordinary  
mentor and guide in this research process.*



*Thank you to Armando McDonald for his knowledge in woody properties and guidance in research through experimental teaching. Thank you to Chelsey Byrd Lewallen for her knowledge in textile properties and guidance in professionalism and management.*



*Dr. Sumiko Gomi educates and prepares undergraduate researchers to conduct their own research projects through patient guidance and practical application of laboratory skills.*



*Clarissa Richardson, Ph.D., offered guidance and assistance in data collection and analysis/dissemination of results.*



*Both Dr. Babinkostova and Dr. Scheepers have been instrumental in guiding me through this project. I have not had much exposure to research before and they have helped me a lot by reviewing my work and clearing my doubts on a regular basis.*



*Dr. Zhu was always helpful and supportive. He was always ready to address my questions and help my learning, and really improved my undergraduate experience.*



*Dr. Scheepers is thorough and dedicated to his students' complete understanding of the material he teaches. He poses interesting questions and looks into fascinating patterns within the field of mathematics.*



*Thank you to Dr. Kuhl for allowing me to conduct this fascinating research in his lab, and his help and patience throughout the project.*



*The undergraduate research mentors I have worked with this summer have made this experience truly one to remember with their unparalleled kindness and dedication to helping those around them. For all they have done to help me grow as a scientist, I thank them.*



*Even if Heather Moon didn't know exactly how to go about a problem, she always helped me figure it out and I would not be here today without her support and assistance. She is not only the best mentor I have had but also the best professor.*



*My mentor has been absolutely crucial to my success with this project. His insight has been extremely insightful, and through his advice I have been able to better develop my skills as a researcher.*



*Dr. McGowan has been instrumental in educating me on the different research methods and techniques used in the field of Neuromuscular Biomechanics, today. His patience and superb teaching ability make him a one of a kind type of mentor.*



*Professor Scheepers is one of the best teachers I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. He believes in each of his students and he cares about their future.*



*Thank you for your instruction, encouragement, and endless patience throughout the duration of this project. The presented research is many months in the making, and you have encouraged me regardless of the circumstances and challenges we have faced - such as a global pandemic.*



*The knowledge and guidance provided by Dr. McDougal allowed those involved to carry out the project and acquire skills vital to our futures. Without his mentorship, this project would not have been possible.*



*Dr. Brian Stone was actively engaged with me in the research, experiment design and set-up, data analysis, and poster creation for this study. He made this process possible as well as an enjoyable learning experience for me.*



*My mentor provided me with the support and resources for my summer project, along with teaching me the skill sets I have been and will be utilizing for my research.*



*Dr. Brown has been an awesome mentor and I have been able to learn so much from him! I'm excited to see where the research leads!*



*Daniel has always enhanced my knowledge in the lab in regards to my lab skills, conceptual understanding, and overall hard work. Especially given the current circumstances, the way he managed to accommodate research at home has made the adjustment easier than I imagined.*



*Dr. Pakala is the most driven and caring professor I have ever had. He actively encourages students to research what most interests them and will bend over backwards to make sure that they can.*



*Dr. Sherry Dismuke guided us through a new area of research which provided us with new skills and a more in-depth perspective of what it means to be a teacher-researcher. We are so grateful for the team of mentors who have supported us, including Dr. Sherry Dismuke, Dr. A.J. Zenkert, and Dr. Lisa Beymer.*



*I admire how patient my mentors are with me and how supportive they are when I am hard on myself. It means a lot to me that my mentors are willing to answer my technical questions and work through problems with me in a patient and accepting manner.*



*My mentor Dr. Maughan helps outline experiment parameters, uses his expertise in the field of study to give insight and advice, and helps me receive proper equipment training.*



*With the help and support from Ashley Farre and Deborah Stenkamp, I was able to learn and accomplish more than I thought I could especially given the current situation. I cannot thank either of them enough for their dedication from the very beginning.*



*I truly appreciate Dr. Brown's guidance throughout the research process as he has taught me to delve deeper into subjects and search for higher reasoning. By serving as a guide and allowing independent research, he has taught me how to effectively evaluate data and interpret research in my own way.*



*I would like to thank my mentor for spending countless hours sharing his knowledge and expertise to help me gain a better understanding of tissue engineering and acquire new skills to become a better researcher.*



*Dr. Volsche has helped me, as a student and researcher, focus on what I want to study.*



*Dr. Rader has given excellent guidance and criticism of my work directing me on the right paths to follow and allowing me to grow scientifically through this and other related projects.*



*Dr. Jankowski creates a supportive and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to learn and explore.*



*Dr. Gena Nelson provided guidance and detailed feedback throughout each stage of the research process. Her time and efforts are greatly appreciated.*



*My mentors are skilled in their fields, and know how to guide me in my research endeavors. They do an excellent job of giving me enough free reign to figure things out for myself paired with the right amount of guidance to not get too far off track. I appreciate all they've done.*



*Keegan Schmidt has been exceptional in his efforts to increase my knowledge, expand my experiences and open opportunities during this project and my overall undergrad education. He has been invaluable in his constant assistance to stay updated on new information and communicate with other scientists and laboratories involved in the project. I am grateful to have had him as my mentor.*



*Dr. Ahmed is eager to help me in this process and I enjoy his method of supporting me. I am appreciative of all the knowledge he is willing to share with me when needed!*



*Lisa Beymer is a very supportive mentor who lends a helping hand whenever needed. She is also a great professor in the college of education and is dedicated to the education of her students.*



*Dr. Charles Peterson, renowned herpetologist, started the digitization initiative of the herpetology collection at the Idaho Museum of Natural History with Dan Giltz in 2018, of which he has graciously included me in the project to continue the work and further develop a standard operating procedure. Dr. Peterson's mentorship has had a profound influence on my professional career in the field of biology and in developing lifelong professional and interpersonal skills.*



*Dr. Daniel Fologea played a critical role in the lab  
as a strong facilitator and a great educational  
resource.*



*My mentors Drs. Murdoch and Launchbaugh have provided irreplaceable guidance in designing and conducting thorough large animal research experiments including data collection, analyses and interpretation. They continue to encourage my growth as a scientist and help me strive to incorporate my passions for engineering, research, and animal agriculture into an interdisciplinary applied project.*



*I had the privilege of having 2 mentors, Alexander Wooding and Dr. Devaleena Pradhan that helped me with every step of my project. Dr. Devaleena Pradhan manages the integrative physiology lab, Alexander Wooding helped me learn lab etiquette, they both taught me various techniques that I used throughout my project.*



*As a research mentor, Megan Cattau facilitated learning and growth through establishing clear expectations and methodology of the research process while providing support and resources.*



*Dr. Lisa Beymer's vision for empowering undergraduate researchers in seeking innovative, collaborative and impactful solutions to acknowledge and meet the challenges of an ever-changing educational landscape inspired our team and enabled us to partake in this important work. We've come to be empowered and emboldened in our quest to advocate for students with disabilities and increased access to education for all so every student may achieve to their fullest potential. Through her generous leadership throughout this project Dr. Beymer has increased our access to important career development, collaboration, and authentic experience opportunities that we as a team are incredibly grateful for.*



*Throughout this research, my mentor has helped me to increase my fluency in the coding languages of Python and MATLAB, Linux command line and shell scripting, my knowledge of the software of Clawpack, and my ability to use parallel computing to solve flooding scenarios. I would like to thank Dr. Donna Calhoun for her willingness to take on me as an undergraduate student researcher and teach me methods and techniques for solving complex problems.*



*Dr. Cornell has helped me see my own potential and also be able to process the changes that are arising as I become more educated than those in my support system.*



*Thank you, Dr. Hillis, for all your time and patience this summer! Your willingness to teach and listen has furthered my admiration for research.*



*Dr. Stephens is my mentor for the University of Idaho 2020 SURF scholarship. He is training me to use the various research equipment in his laboratory as well as giving me guidance to help in completing my research project.*



*My mentor, Dr. James Moberly, helps provide guidance for different experimental procedures and interpretation of results.*



*Nancy was heavily involved in developing the method and acquiring the materials required for the project. She was invaluable in her efforts to keep the project moving when setbacks occurred and assisted with requesting orders and making sure the materials ordered would function as needed.*



*Dr. Johnston is consistently one of the most helpful mentors I have experienced working with. She has high expectations which serves to make her students skilled in every aspect on which she instructs them.*



*Dr. Fologea is an exemplary leader who fosters an environment of equality and learning in the lab. During my involvement with this research, he spoke to all levels of experience and made acquiring new skills and understanding research techniques simple and uncomplicated.*



*Thank you to Dr. Nancy Johnston for the  
guidance and support needed for this project's  
completion.*



*A big thank you to Dr. Nancy Johnston for  
providing a wonderful undergraduate research  
experience for us all.*



*Dr. Oxford is a brilliant and passionate teacher and research mentor. She challenged us to go beyond the scope of her class to investigate a rare disease of our choice. Not only did we learn the subject material, but we also practiced analyzing and writing scientific literature. Dr. Oxford's mentorship was imperative to making this undergraduate research possible despite the troubles that arose during the process. We are so grateful!*



*Dr. Gena Nelson is a phenomenal mentor who gave me a lot of insight and guidance while also helping me build a successful academic intervention.*



*My mentors have really helped me feel like we have been working together in our scientific discovery. I have learned so much from them, and I know I would not be a confident scientist without their help.*



*As a student directly interested in Dr. Nixon's field of study, I have always seen her as an encouraging and resourceful mentor throughout my entire undergraduate education. Through this project, she taught me valuable techniques and skills that I will carry with me for the rest of my research career.*



*Thank you, Dr. Chase, for the incredible guidance  
you have given us throughout this project and  
none of it would have been possible without you.*



*The opportunity provided by Dr. Fulton has allowed me to step beyond the curated simulations of the classroom and experience the challenges of real-world application. She and her graduate students have provided inspiration and guidance at each step of the process, from the initial development phase through implementation and analysis, while still fostering independence and personal skill development.*



*As this is my first undergraduate research experience, I began this summer with a lot of uncertainty which was accompanied by a fair bit of anxiety. I am extremely appreciative for my mentor, Dr. Clare Fitzpatrick, for helping me in becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable as I navigate through this new learning experience.*



*Dr. Kalivas possesses an excellent knowledge of the current literature in chemometric research, and instills in his students a strong sense of ownership and work ethic. I've had the opportunity to learn an incredible amount under his direction and guidance and develop research abilities that I'll be able to employ the rest of my life.*



*Dr. Luke Montrose has provided both broad and specific guidance throughout this research experience. He has demonstrated the importance of making the connection between our work as a student to the overall big picture of the research project.*



*Margrit, Ian, and Casey provide project support by providing access to data from the 2010 Zamfara, Nigeria lead poisoning disaster. They also provide invaluable insight and guidance on data analysis from over a decade's worth of combined knowledge of remediation efforts in Zamfara State.*



*I want to thank my mentor, Dr. Daniel Fologea, for his unending enthusiasm and passion for helping people reach their academic and research goals.*

*He has helped me the last several years to develop as a scientist and student, for which I will always be grateful.*



*Dr. Janet Rachlow has connected me with researchers for interviews, provided resources for my literature review, aided in procuring funding, and edited my proposals and presentations.*



*My mentors are a great resource for me. They are a big source of encouragement to me, for which I am very grateful.*



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*Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk is a powerful mentor who has been critical to my professional and personal development. She helps to guide my thought processes, provides a framework for my experiments, and encourages my confidence as an undergraduate student researcher.*



*Dr. Lisette Waits has fielded this incredible opportunity for me to be able to learn and conduct this caliber of research in a highly competitive field. As an undergraduate, opportunities like this are rare but critical in my development as a researcher; thanks to her help, mentorship, and instruction, I've been blessed to complete this work!*



*My mentor works hard as a professor to provide his students with as many opportunities as he can.*



*Thank you to Dr. House for your support and guidance in UX and ethnographic research.*



*Throughout the project, Dr. Kelly Arispe, Fatima Cornwall, and Dr. Carolina Viera guided and helped answer questions about communicating science to Spanish speaking audiences. This work was also supported by Spanish speaking graduate students in the Ecology Evolution and Behavior program at Boise State.*



*My career path has been forever changed by the mentor-ship I have received in the research lab. I will be forever grateful for everything they have done for me both professionally and personally.*



*I would like to acknowledge Megan Cattau and Peter Olsoy for their guidance through the undergraduate research process, and furthermore thank them for providing their expertise and patience throughout my development as an undergraduate researcher.*



*I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Browning and Dr. Bhattacharya for giving me the opportunity to work in their lab and for assisting my efforts throughout the research.*



*Dr. Warner is an exceptional research mentor. He knows how to create an inviting workplace and makes everyone feel heard.*



*A huge thank you to both of my undergraduate research mentors for all of their hard work and dedication on this project. Without them, it would not have been possible to complete!*



*My mentors have played a crucial part in my undergraduate research experience; they provided guidance whenever I needed it and constant advice. They changed my senior year for the better.*



*I am deeply thankful to Boise State for its funding and facilities, to Dr. Don Warner for the opportunity to work at his lab and for teaching me organic chemistry, and to his student Joey Tuccinardi, who taught me and helped me through my research project.*



*Without Collin and Clay's help, as well as their participation, in this research project it would not have been possible. I'd like to give a huge thank you to both of them for putting in the hours, especially during weekends and holidays.*



*My mentor guides me along a path of success,  
through keeping me on track in hard work, and  
helping me learn about future fields of my  
passion.*



*I would like to thank Dr. Juliette Tinker and  
Danielle Scarbrough for their guidance and  
support through this undergraduate research  
experience.*



*I wish to express my gratitude to my mentor for his guidance, support and time through this undergraduate research experience.*



*Gail Shuck is a fabulous professor; she's very committed to her students. Her values of diversity, kindness, commitment, intellectual curiosity, and transparency reflect her great academic and personal spirit.*



*My mentor showed me what great teamwork looks like and why it is so important in a research setting.*



*I am very grateful for this opportunity to do undergraduate research under my mentor. He is a positive, encouraging, and knowledgeable mentor whose guidance is invaluable.*



*Dr. Kavita Sharma is a diligent and committed mentor who cares deeply about her students and producing quality work.*



*Dr. Hodonu has graciously allowed us to work in his lab continuing the research project studying the pathways of glycolysis and glucose uptake in GMMc cells that he has been working on the last several years.*



*Thank you to Dr. Soumya Srivastava for being an incredible research mentor, professor, and friend.*



*Thank you, Jessica Stanley, for helping me with getting proper equipment and showing me the processes to date apatite minerals. Your effort and dedication to helping me has not gone unnoticed.*



*Dusty Perkins trained me in data entry and analysis, provided background information on leaf characteristics and the study of showy milkweed using a common garden approach.*



*My mentor has helped me transition from undergraduate research to graduate studies; I will be earning my MS in her lab. She has introduced me to many different lab techniques, taught me how to write scientifically, expanded my presentation/communication skills, and challenged me to be a better scientist and researcher.*



*Dr. Rowley has supported my research since my freshman year in 2016. He has encouraged me to take ownership and pride in my research at every turn.*



*My mentor's guidance and hard work was instrumental to my poster and research. He has consistently pushed me beyond what I believed I was capable of; motivating me to achieve a higher level of knowledge, perseverance, and hard work. I especially want to thank my mentor for going above and beyond to stay in touch with me during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. He continued to answer my questions and regularly scheduled Zoom meetings so our research could continue.*



*As my mentor's student, there has been no greater privilege than to learn how to apply my research to make real human change for real human issues.*



*Dr. Evilia has been a phenomenal mentor and advisor to guide me through my academic career. She is patient, supportive, and truly has the student's best interest at heart.*



*I would like to thank Dr. Brian Jaques and Allyssa Bateman for all their tremendous support. Over the past two years they've shared with me their endless patience and wisdom, and I'd like to express my gratitude for their help in my transition from a student into a real engineer.*



*Paul is really great at motivating, if you go into a meeting discouraged about your research you end up leaving so excited about the future research.*



*Many thanks to Dr. Marco Schoen at Idaho State University. You lift up all your students and we are all so very lucky to have you to guide us.*



*This research was created and overseen by Dr. Erin Rasmussen and her doctoral student Luis Rodriguez. They watched over me for over a year and I appreciate all their wisdom.*



*Dr. Joshua Pak is a highly involved and engaged research mentor. He provides consistent guidance for his students on the subjects that they find intriguing.*



*My mentor was critical in teaching me about partial differential equations and has a true passion for mathematics. He was very helpful whenever I needed it, and almost always available.*



Dr. Xiong gave me the opportunity and freedom to learn more about battery technology in the past ten weeks than my entire time in college. I'm grateful for this learning experience as batteries technology has been a passion of mine since starting college.

