

Carla-Cristina “CC” Melo Edwards

carlacristinaedwards@gmail.com

Last Updated: April of 2023

Academic Background

2027 (Projected)	University of California at Davis , Davis, California <i>PhD- Entomology, Designated Emphasis in the Biology of Vector-Borne Diseases</i> Adviser: Dr. Geoffrey Attardo
August 2023	Texas Tech University , Lubbock, TX <i>M.S.- Biology, thesis focused on medical entomology and vector biology</i> Adviser: Dr. Corey Brelsfoard Project: The effects of microplastics on the <i>Aedes aegypti</i> and <i>Aedes albopictus</i> microbiome and host immunity
May 2021	Baylor University, College of Science and Arts , Waco, TX <i>B.S. – Biology, concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology</i> Adviser: Dr. Jason Pitts Project: Olfactory effects on <i>Aedes aegypti</i> : An exploratory study

Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

2023-2025	UC Eugene-Cota Robles Fellowship	\$118,802
2023	TTU Graduate Student Research Support Award	\$1,484
2023	American Mosquito Control YP Industry Shadowing Award	\$1,000
2022-2023	TTU Whitfield Horn Graduate Scholarship	\$750
2022-2023	TTU Olive Pfluger Scholarship	\$3,000
2022-2023	TTU Helen Devitt Jones Graduate Fellowship	\$3,500
2021-2023	McGovern Foundation Graduate Fellowship	\$8,000
2020	McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute Studied the olfactory effects on oviposition in <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	\$2,500
2019-2021	Celia Berwin Foundation Scholarship Baylor University	\$6,650
2019-2021	Baylor Student Engagement Scholarship Award that demonstrates academic achievement, leadership, campus involvement, and Merit based scholarship	\$7,500
2019-2021	Baylor Student Foundation Scholarship	\$7,500

2019-2021	Baylor Transfer Scholarship Merit based award given to students who transfer to Baylor University	\$15,000
-----------	---	----------

Research Experience

Texas Tech University <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	Lubbock, Texas 2021-present
--	--------------------------------

Currently working on my thesis Graduate research assistant for the Brelsfoard's lab on a my project about mosquitoes' interactions with microplastics. Duties include doing over 20 hours a week of research obligations, which include running experiments, maintaining mosquito insectary, verifying data, and performing quality control.

Baylor University <i>McNairs Scholar Research</i>	Waco, Texas 2020-2021
---	--------------------------

As a McNair's Scholar at Baylor University, the summer of 2020 I worked and complete the research project of *Chemical Odors Effects on Oviposition in Aedes aegypti* under the supervision of Dr Jason Pitts. Project included a 15-page research paper along with a poster and presentation that has been presented at the UCLA McNair Conference, The University of Maryland McNair Conference, and the Baylor University McNair Conference, and the FIU McNair Conference.

University of Houston <i>Undergraduate research assistant</i>	2016– 2018
---	------------

Worked for Dr. Anjali Kanojia as an undergraduate research assistant and helping research the use yoga as an alternate medicine use (CAM), pertaining to the population of college students.

Houston Methodist <i>Undergraduate research assistant</i>	Houston, Tx 2017
---	---------------------

Worked at Houston Methodist Research Institute from Jan 2017 to Aug 2017 (voluntarily), in the department of Neuroregenerative medicine with Bethany Kondiles, a PhD grad student at the time (Now PhD), to find ways to cure and treat spinal injuries in mice.

Work Experience

Texas Tech University <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	Lubbock, Tx 2022-present
--	-----------------------------

Duties include doing over 20 hours a week of research obligations, which includes running experiments, maintaining mosquito insectary, verifying data, and performing quality control.

Texas Tech University <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Lubbock, Tx 2021
---	---------------------

My responsibilities include teaching undergraduate laboratory courses, creating and grading assessments, proctoring examinations, and maintaining general discipline. I taught the course MBIO 3400, Microbiology in Fall 2021.

Awards and Honors

CRC Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Texas Tech University

2022

Paul Whitfield Horn Fellowship

University Women's Club

2022-present

The Paul Whitfield Horn scholarship is awarded to women accepted for graduate study and working toward a degree at Texas Tech University. The following factors will be considered in making the award are professional achievements and potential for outstanding professional accomplishment, academic ability (both demonstrated and potential), character, and likely of completing the degree in a timely fashion.

Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship

Texas Tech University

2022-present

This fellowship provides opportunities for the Jones Fellows to develop a high-quality graduate education experiences and solid scholarship competence. The Jones Fellows are expected to bring to their graduate studies a vigorous spirit of inquiry into important issues or problems in their field, a strong commitment to improving their professor, and an active engagement in scholarship, program, and service activities relevant to their field.

Miller Foundation Graduate Scholarship

Texas Tech University

2021-present

Competitive scholarship for graduate student. Scholarship was based from essays, academic success, and letters of recommendation.

Multicultural Excellence Award

Baylor University

2021

An award from Baylor University to recognize one individual each year that upholds the mission statement of the Department of Multicultural Affairs, "To enrich the holistic development of each student by encouraging them to celebrate their personal heritage and embrace the cultures of others." The Department of Multicultural Affairs determined honorees upon recommendations and then an interview of essay questions.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

McNair Scholar

2020-present

McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded TRIO program mandated by Congress. These awards are offered through the prestigious McNair Scholars program for preparing underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation students for Ph.D. programs. All scholars receive a research stipend along with an academic scholarship and housing allowance.

Baylor Student Foundation

Student Foundation Scholarship

2019-2021

Student Foundation only granted a limited number of scholarships to incoming transfer students, and I was granted this Scholarship my first semester at Baylor as a transfer student. For the 2020-2021 scholarships were more competitive due to COVID-19 and loss of funding. Scholarship was granted due to merit and need and was evaluated blindly by the committee.

Tau Sigma

Transfer Honor Society

2019-2021

Was nominated and inducted to be a part of Baylor University's National Transfer Honor Society chapter. Nomination was based on being in the top 20% of my incoming transfer class.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar

2018-present

Founded in 1975, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) empowers Latino students with the knowledge and resources needed to successfully complete a higher education and provides scholarships and support services to exceptional Hispanic American students

Extracurriculars and Service

Texas Tech University Hispanic Heritage Month Committee

Committee Member

2022-2023

I am the graduate student representative member for the Hispanic heritage month committee here at Texas Tech for the 2022 Hispanic heritage month. Since May 2022 I have been helping organize events, reaching out to other graduate and undergrad students to see what they want represented in the events of the month. My goal for this year's Hispanic heritage month events is to have all Latin American cultures feel included and represented.

Texas Tech Hispanic Cultural Center Planning Committee

Committee Member

2022-2023

I am a graduate student representative for the Hispanics cultural center of Texas Tech University since May 2022. I have been attending meetings and voicing my opinion on how the Hispanic Heritage Center should be representative and of all Latin American cultures and have resources for students that identify as Latinx. I took this position because I want other people that have similar backgrounds like me to feel inclusive and have their history represented.

Mentor Tech

Mentor

2022-2023

Mentor Tech is a program created by Texas Tech in 2002 help enhance the educational experiences of students from diverse backgrounds through mentorship and peer connections. I have had the honor to be a graduate mentor that are undergraduate biology majors. Mentoring included meeting bi-weekly and participating in three workshops with my mentee per semester.

Texas Tech Intercultural Planning Committee

Lubbock, TX

2021-2023

Committee Member

I am a graduate student representative for the intercultural center of Texas Tech University. Since October of 2021, I have been attending meetings and voicing my opinion on how the new intercultural center should be built from resources that should be present for students. The main goal is to create safe space for students that BI-POC and international creating a space to teach others about different cultures. The center is planning to be open in Fall of 2023.

Texas Tech Association of Biologists

Outreach Chair

2021-Present

My position to be involved with various people on campus and the Lubbock. So far, I have taken indicative meet the vice president of the graduate student body as well as attend multiple leadership summits and conferences. In the meantime, as for outreach I have reached out to the undergrad research chair, the Provost's office, and Lubbock ISD. I have provided multiple outreach opportunities biology graduate students such as mentoring, helping lead local conferences, and communicating science to the public.

Multicultural Greek Council

External Vice President

2020-2021

Was responsible for external affairs of Multicultural Greek Council, as well is a representative for Kappa Delta Chi. This includes reaching out to other organization and entities on campus. I as well was responsible for coordinating community service to the seven Greek Fraternities and Sororities in the council.

Kappa Delta Chi- Alpha Epsilon Chapter

Secretary and Standards

2019-2021

Kappa Delta Chi is a service Latina founded sorority. I had the honor of being secretary and standards of the sorority for two years. This includes having records of everyone, as we are service organization everyone is committed to 20 hours of the service a semester. Along with making sure records are correct as we hold a dance for La Vega Junior high every year at Baylor University. Being standards included in risk management making sure that the organization was abiding to both Baylor and our constitution. This includes reaching out to people when standards were being met, giving out fines, and having to hold meetings about risk management.

Professional Membership

American Society for Microbiology
American Mosquito Control Association
Entomological Society of America