

Caitlyn T. Morgan

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Research Interests

- Genetic basis of disease resistance within strawberry crops
- Strawberry fruit-pathogen interactions and fruit quality
- Fruit genetic diversity, genomics, and bioinformatics

EDUCATION

California State University, Monterey Bay – Seaside, CA **2023**
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Plant and Soil Sciences – GPA: 3.692

University of California, Davis – Davis, CA **Present**
Master of Science in Horticulture and Agronomy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher **October 2023 - Present**

Dept. of Plant Sciences: Horticulture & Agronomy Grad. Group
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA
Mentor: Mitchell Feldmann, Ph.D.

Project Description: Researching rapid response to the novel resistance-breaking strain of pathogenic *Fusarium oxysporum* (FW2) in cultivated strawberry. Utilizing genetics and genomics to uncover and identify resistance to FW2. Utilizing the pathogen biology and diagnostics for detecting the new California FW2 strain.

Undergraduate Capstone Project **January 2023 - May 2023**

Dept. of Biology and Chemistry: Ag. Plant and Soil Sci.
California State University, Monterey Bay
Seaside, CA
Mentor: Jose Pablo Dndore-Arias, Ph.D.

Project Description: Evaluating the possible reduction of nutrient deficiencies in artichokes, grown in the Salinas Valley, through foliar spray applications. Assessing whether the application of the foliar spray will increase the amount of calcium available to artichokes enough to reduce localized calcium deficiency (tipburn).

Undergraduate Researcher **January 2022 - May 2023**

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC)
California State University, Monterey Bay
Seaside, CA
Mentor: Jose Pablo Dndore-Arias, Ph.D.

Project Description: Characterizing and quantifying *Pythium spp.* from lettuce soils across the Salinas Valley. Assessing the pathogenicity of *Pythium spp.* on lettuce and spinach cobs. Optimizing research protocols for replicating pathogen infection of plants under experimental conditions.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructional Student Assistant

January 2022 - May 2022

CSUMB Dept. of Biology and Chemistry
Seaside, CA

Supervisor: Arlene Haffa | (831) 582-4695

Job Description: Assisted in laboratory instruction and grading of student assignments for the General Chemistry I course offered at CSUMB.

LEADERSHIP & PHILANTHROPY

Plant Cultivation Club

November 2021 - May 2023

Co-President

Teaching CSUMB students more about agriculture and the local agricultural industry/community, and providing insightful, hands-on experiences in agricultural operations.

MEarth

September 2022 - December 2022

Service Learning Volunteer

Assisted in Native Plant Habitat restoration and propagation, as well as aided in activities and harvesting of crops in the Edible plant Garden.

FARMS Leadership Program

April 2022

Tour Guide/Presenter

Assisted in presenting to the Monterey and Santa Cruz County high school FARMS Leadership Program. Discussed the AGPS major, career opportunities in agriculture, research in the Dundore-Arias laboratory, greenhouse experiences, and the new Plant Cultivation Club.

Big Sur International Marathon

April 2022

Volunteer

Served as a Greeter to welcome runners to the Expo at the Monterey Conference Center. Informed runners where to pick-up race packets, assisted with taking photos in front of the banners, and gave directions to race starting points.

Agriculture and Land Based Training Assoc.

May 2021 - September 2021

Service Learning Volunteer/Intern

Created two presentations/spreadsheets on various agricultural chemicals, designed to educate farm workers on safety and PPE for handling those chemicals.

Associated Students: Environmental Affairs Comm.

January 2020 - May 2020

Committee Member

Promoted sustainability both on and off campus, advocating for the wellbeing of the environment and its inhabitants through an environmental justice lens. Advocated for sustainable transportation and energy use.

HONORS & AWARDS

LEAPS Program Fellow

2023 - Present

College of Science Dean's Medalist

2023

Honor's Graduate: Cum Laude

2023

College of Science Dean's List

2020 - 2023

Blue Diamond Grower's Foundation Scholar

2022

Sierra Pacific Industries Foundation Scholar

2019 - 2022