

# Melia Doyas Matthews

Graduate of the class of 2020  
Bachelor of Arts, major in Biology with Honors  
and a minor in Classics,  
Summa Cum Laude  
May 24, 2020



WHITMAN  
COLLEGE



Celebrating four years of college and adventures and wishing her continued success in her future endeavors!



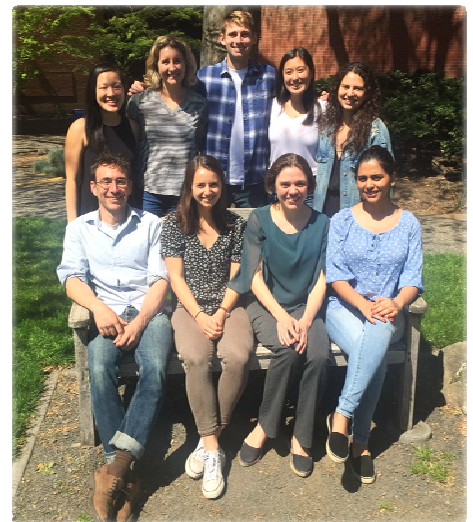
Melia was a walk-on member of the Whitman College Swim Team after swimming just seasonally for Weaverville and her high school. She won Rookie of the Year her first year and was a co-captain of the team her senior year. She loved being a part of this amazing and supportive team! The women's team won the Northwest Conference Championships for the first time ever during her first year and went on to win all four years. Melia was part of the winning 200 free relay for two years, giving her First Team All Conference member status. She achieved her goal of making it into the finals in the 50 yard freestyle at Championships her senior year with a best time of 24.68.



Melia worked in Professor Arielle Cooley's lab exploring how complexity can arise from inter-genomic interactions, by genetically mapping the flower color patterning in hybrid monkeyflowers. As part of this collaborative experience Melia traveled to the College of William and Mary to work in their lab.



She has also been working in Professor Coronado's lab conducting exercise physiology studies. She has been quantifying the sex differences in mitochondrial function and dynamics after exercise in mice.



Melia participated in several study abroad opportunities:



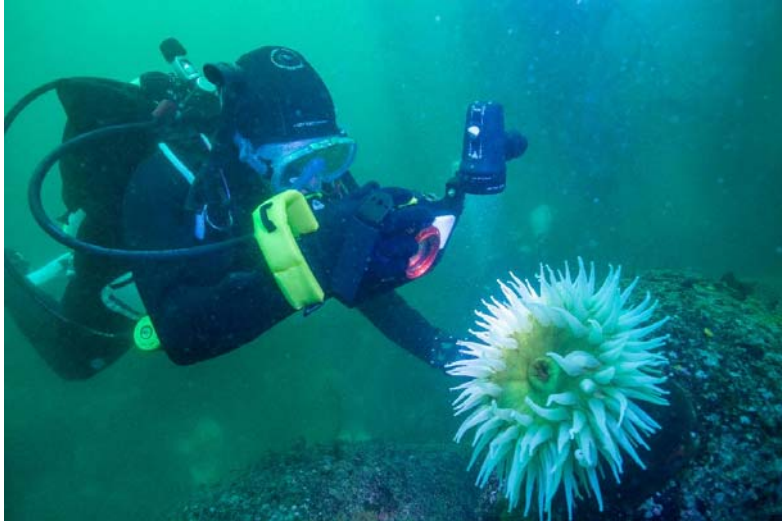
Pollination Biology in Sweden  
Summer 2017



Sea Semester, Oceans and Climate  
South Pacific, Spring 2018



Landscape and Cityscape of Ancient Rome,  
Summer 2018



Melia had an internship with NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in Monterey during the summer of 2019. She obtained her NOAA scuba certification and got to explore underwater photography skills. Her favorite find: nudibranchs!



Hilton's aeolid

Along with working in two research labs on campus, Melia worked as a Teaching Assistant, Tutor, and Consultant for the Biology Department, as well as a Lifeguard.

**Awards:**

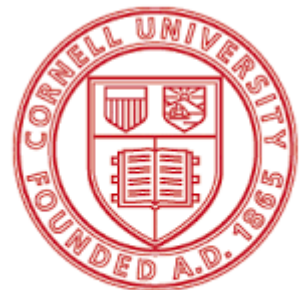
Abshire Student Research Scholar Award  
NOAA Hollings Scholar  
Cynthia Ann Lechner Memorial Award for Biology

**Honor Societies:**

Sigma Xi, Scientific Research  
Eta Sigma Phi, Classics  
Phi Beta Kappa

**And from here....**

Melia will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York for a PhD in Biomedical Sciences after taking a gap year doing more research and hopefully traveling to participate in a fellowship in the Philippines with the Institute for Marine Research to conduct coral reef research.



Cornell University

**Melia would love to hear from you!** (Especially since we are unable to host a graduation party due to Covid-19)  
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