Congratulations to the 22 students who have been awarded UConn IDEA Grants to support 2022-23 academic year projects.

**Ananya Aggarwal ‘24**, Molecular and Cell Biology, CLAS
*Synthesizing Cisplatin Loaded Nanoparticles for the Intraperitoneal Treatment of Ovarian Cancer*
Mentor: Xiuling Lu, Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Nour Al Zouabi ‘23**, Molecular and Cell Biology & IMJR: Rights, Health, and Refugees, CLAS
*Refugees’ Post-Resettlement Barriers to Accessing Healthcare Services in the Northeastern United States During COVID-19*
Mentor: Elizabeth Holzer, Sociology, Human Rights Institute

**Joshua Estimé ‘23**, Psychological Sciences, CLAS
*Influence of Parental Critical Consciousness on Socialization and Development of Haitian American Youth*
Mentor: Annamaria Csizmadia, Human Development and Family Sciences

**Alexandra Goldhamer ‘23**, Molecular and Cell Biology & Human Rights, CLAS
*The Attenuation of Diet-Induced Obesity Through Locus Coeruleus Chemoactivation*
Mentor: Natale Sciolino, Physiology and Neurobiology

**Haley Grayson ‘23**, Physiology and Neurobiology, CLAS
*Investigating the Role of Srp in Programmed Cell Death in the Drosophila Ovary*
Mentor: Jianjun Sun, Physiology and Neurobiology

**Jerome Jacobs ‘23**, Allied Health Sciences, CAHNR
*Measuring HIV Stigmas and Investigating the Role of mHealth for Stigma-Reduced HIV Prevention Services Among Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) In Malaysia*
Mentor: Roman Shrestha, Allied Health Sciences

**Alexandra Kapell ‘24**, Human Rights & Political Sciences, CLAS
*The Impact of Framing Gender Based Violence as Torture*
Mentor: David Richards, Political Science

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Funding for **original, creative, innovative**, student-designed projects including artistic endeavors, community service initiatives, research projects, entrepreneurial ventures and prototyping.

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**Audrey Larson ’25**, Materials Science and Engineering & Civil Engineering, ENG
*Integration of Plastic Waste Into Concrete to Reduce Plastic Wastes and Improve the Properties of Concrete*
Mentors: Douglas Adamson, Chemistry; Baikun Li, Civil and Environmental Engineering; Kay Wille, Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Travis Lavigne ’24**, Music Education & Composition, SFA
*Original Musical Production and Recording*
Mentor: Kenneth Fuchs, Music

**Sofya Levitina ’24**, Physics & Mathematics/Statistics, CLAS
*Analysis of Black Hole Accretion and Feedback in the CAMELS Simulations Using Artificial Intelligence*
Mentor: Daniel Angles-Alcazar, Physics

**Meghan Myles ’23**, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology & Applied Mathematics, CLAS
*Determining the Developmental Stage of Sex Organ Abortion in Solanum polygamum and Solanum appendiculatum*
Mentor: Pamela Diggle, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Hailey Ngo ’23**, Art, SFA
*One World to Share: Exploring Cultural Appropriation in Opposition to Appreciation Through Art*
Mentor: Douglas Degges, Art and Art History

**Savannah Ngo ’23**, Physiology and Neurobiology & Psychological Sciences, CLAS
*The Effect of Verbal Suggestion and Transportation Placebo on Cold Pressor Pain Tolerance*
Mentor: Blair Johnson, Psychological Sciences

**Madeline Kizer ’24**, Marketing, BUS
*UConn Swap Shop: Establishing a Clothing and Item Exchange for the UConn Community*
Mentor: Katie Britt, Werth Institute
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Yewande Olumide ’24, Psychological Sciences, CLAS
"Kids on Bikes": Writing Sci-Fi for the 21st Century
Mentor: Darcie Dennigan, English

Daisy Ren ’23, Civil Engineering, ENG; Chinese, CLAS
Wireless Sensor Development Using Arduino for Bridge Joint Monitoring
Mentor: Shinae Jang, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Laura Thurber ’23, Biomedical Engineering, ENG
Development of an In Vitro Model to Study Cell Response to Microelectrode Biomaterials in Central Nervous System (CNS)
Mentor: Yupeng Chen, Biomedical Engineering

Ethan Wicko ’24, Mechanical Engineering, ENG
Bicycle Continuously Variable Transmission Validation
Mentor: Thomas Mealy, Mechanical Engineering

Kendalyn Zipf ’23, Art, SFA
Art About US: Sculptures of the Fat Femme Body
Mentor: Monica Bock, Art & Art History

GROUP PROJECT
Shannon Ahearn ’23, Political Science, CLAS
Hannah Peterson ’23, Allied Health Sciences, CAHNR
Nicole Pinto ’23, Physiology and Neurobiology, CLAS
Spotlighting Student Success: Understanding the Role Played by First-Year Programs at the University of Connecticut
Mentor: Amanda Wilde, School of Fine Arts

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