Three SCIENCE students win Goldwater Scholarships

Three outstanding College of Science students are Clemson University’s winners of the 2019 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a premier national undergraduate award in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.

“I am so proud of these students and extremely grateful to all of the college’s faculty members and staff who, together, have prepared these students for their academic and professional success,” said William C. Young, dean of the College of Science.

One of the three Goldwater recipients is Dr. Pete Martin, a marine biologist who is pursuing a Ph.D. in marine science and researches ecologically important and commercially important Caribbean reef fish. In particular, Martin studies the population dynamics of the commercially important brown Chromis (Chromis multilineata) in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Another Goldwater recipient is Rami Major, a graduate student in genetics. Major researches the role of the cellular stress response in the short-term adaptation of wild populations to environmental changes and in the long-term evolution of species. His research focuses on understanding the nature and implications of stress responses in populations of flies and 

The third Goldwater recipient is Rhett Rautsaw, a graduate student in ecology and evolutionary biology. Rautsaw researches the use of a low-cost, portable device to measure various environmental parameters in tropical forests and the application of these tools to conservation efforts at the University of Costa Rica. His research has the potential to improve the conservation efforts of a number of species, including the endangered Costa Rican tree frog.

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Concerns about the global climate have led to a growing number of protests and strikes. As a faculty member of the environmental science department, I wanted to do my part in helping to raise awareness about this issue. I decided to organize a series of lectures on climate change, inviting experts from various fields to speak on the topic.

I hope that by sharing my knowledge, I can inspire others to take action and make a positive impact on our planet.