Biological sciences junior Shaoni Dasgupta is a 2020 Goldwater Scholarship winner! Dasgupta, a senior majoring in biological sciences, is the first Goldwater Scholar in the College of Science at Clemson. 

Dasgupta’s interest in research began in high school where she worked with her AP Biology teacher on an experiment that led to her undergraduate research at Clemson. Now, Dasgupta is currently working on her senior thesis, which focuses on editing enzymes that are involved in the fungus C. neoformans, a common cause of fungal meningitis in individuals with compromised immune systems. Her research is being supervised by professor Michael Childress, whose research focuses on understanding the impact of habitat on amphibian populations. Dasgupta was recently a part of a research adventure in the Florida Keys where they met biological sciences associate professor Jerry H. Crafton and professor Peter van den Hurk. 

Dasgupta was one of 200 students across the United States who received the Goldwater Scholarship this year. The Goldwater Scholarship is the nation’s top undergraduate award for students in STEM and is highly competitive and prestigious. Each student will receive up to $18,000 annually for three years of undergraduate study, and the awardees will support their research and academic pursuits. 

Dasgupta was also recently selected to attend the Beckman Scholars Institute at Caltech. The Beckman Scholars Program supports emerging talents in STEM and provides them with opportunities to work with world-renowned scientists. 

Thank you to all the Biological Sciences professors who have contributed so much to Shaoni’s success. We are proud to have you as a part of our department! We wish Shaoni the very best in her future endeavors.