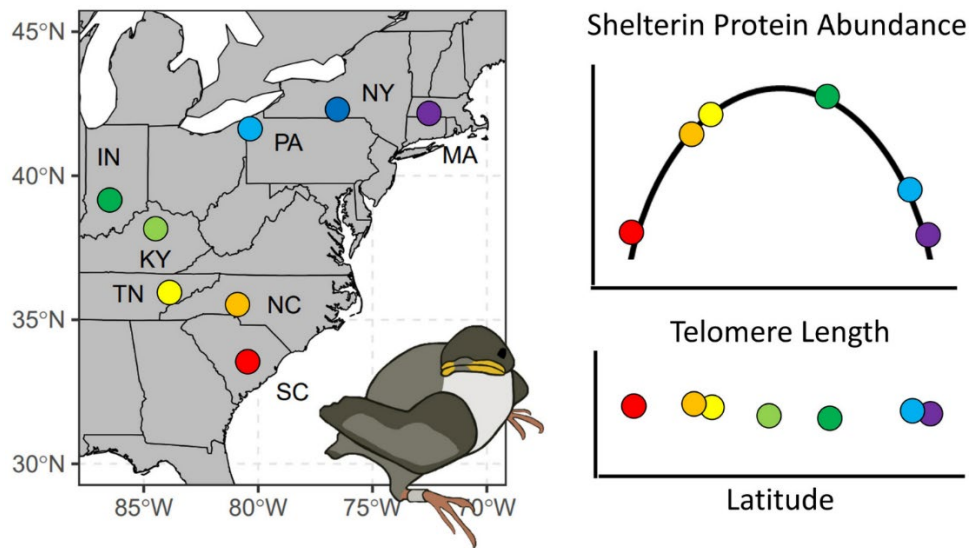


# BiNews

April 2024

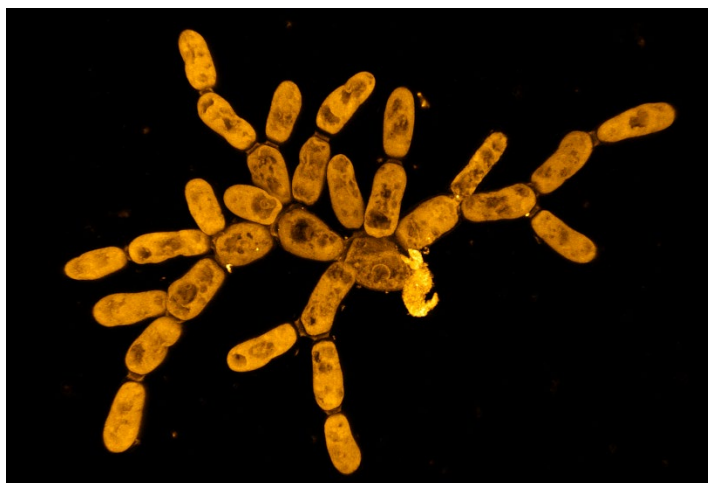
## Ethan Clotfelter is co-author on new paper

Prof. Clotfelter is a co-author on a [new paper published recently](#) in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*. Using nestling tree swallows as a study system, the authors found geographic variation in gene expression of four shelterin proteins, which are involved in regulating metabolism, immunity, and telomere shortening and repair.



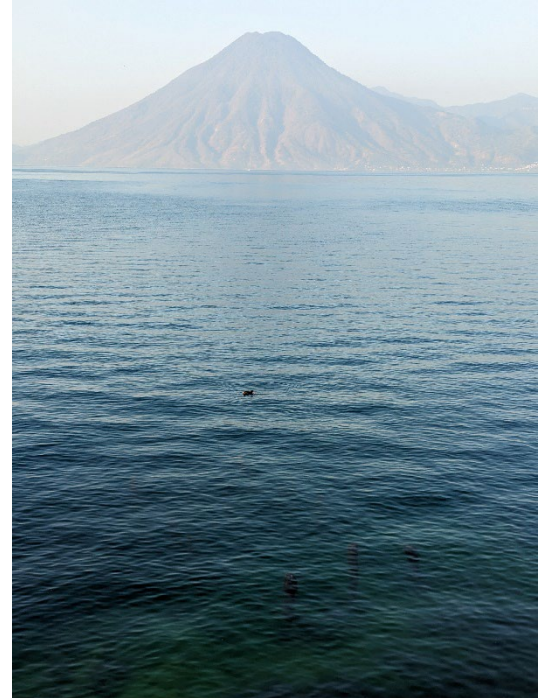
## Monthly Image from the ABIC

This month's image from ABIC is from last year's BIOL-191L lab: 3D rendering of super-resolution image stack of "snowflake" yeast cells stained with calcofluor-white (staining by **Christina Bowers**).



## Clotfelter lab conducts fish surveys

During spring break, **Prof. Clotfelter** and a colleague from the University of Alabama visited Lake Atitlan in Guatemala to investigate the status of the convict cichlid population in the lake. Convict cichlids and other native fishes in Atitlan have been declining since largemouth bass were introduced for sportfishing. The Clotfelter lab has studied convict cichlids in Costa Rica and Nicaragua since 2012.



## 2024 Honors Thesis Defense Presentations

The Biology Department invites you to come listen and support our Senior Honors Thesis students on Monday, April 29th. Presentations will begin at 2:00 PM in Kirkpatrick Lecture Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

### Biology Department Thesis Presentations

April 29, 2024 2:00 - 7:00 pm  
Kirkpatrick Lecture Hall

2:00 Carolina Andrade	4:45 Jared Gracia-Davis
2:15 Isabel Davis	5:00 Seojin Jung
2:30 Dan Gonzalez-Kosasky	5:15 Sarah Quiros
2:45 Grace Lee	5:30 Bridget Cassata
3:00 Break	5:45 Break
3:15 Callie Hundley	6:00 Annika Baldwin
3:30 Olivia Mezzetti	6:15 Mia Bawendi
3:45 Siri Palreddy	6:30 Agustina Gonzalez
4:00 Evan MacArthur-Waltz	6:45 Zoe Strothkamp
4:15 - 4:45 Dinner Break	

## Biology majors net Fulbright research fellowships

**Annika Baldwin '24** and **Dan Gonzalez-Kosasky '24** have both been awarded Fulbright research fellowships!



Annika will be working with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) in Trondheim to assess habitat and diet of sea trout. The proposed research will provide data that will inform upon the magnitude of the impact of parasites on sea trout, and this information will be critical for developing regulations that balance both salmon aquaculture and sea trout conservation.

Dan (pictured left) will be working in collaboration with [Dr. Roberto E. Reis](#) on a project focused on phylogenetic systematics and new species description & delimitation in a group of whiptail catfishes (genus *Rineloricaria*) in the Uruguay River in southern Brazil. Muitos parabéns Dan!

Faithful readers of BioNews will recall that **Bridget Cassata '24** was also awarded a Fulbright research fellowship (Iceland). Biology majors are well-represented among the Fulbright awardees this year!

Finally, congratulations to **Siri Palreddy '24** for being a finalist for the highly-competitive Rhodes Scholarship.

Congratulations Annika, Dan, Bridget, and Siri!

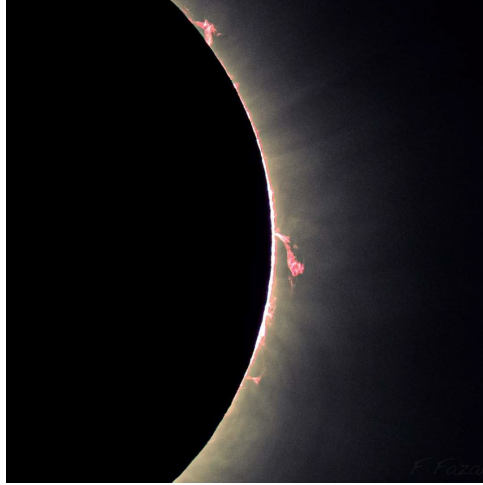
## Total Eclipse 2024



(Left) The eclipse in the path of totality, Vermont

(Below) Awaiting totality in Bicknell, Indiana

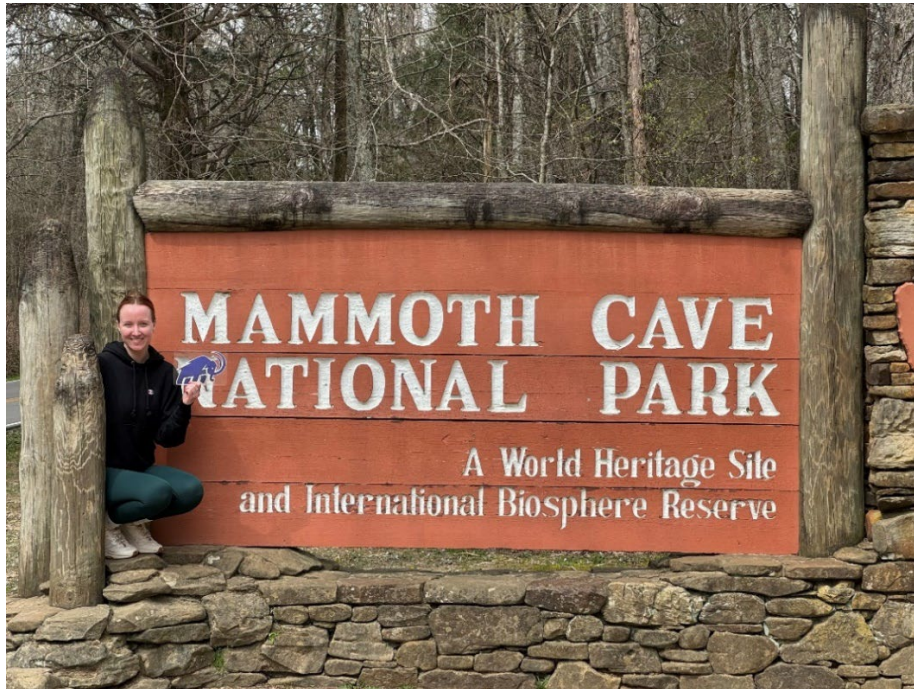




Images by  
Furqan Fazal  
(Biology '08),  
professor at the  
Baylor  
University  
College of  
Medicine.

## Mammoths in the Wild

Biology / Neuroscience Technician Caroline Towse in Kentucky having a mammoth time.



The travel-sized mammoth is looking for its next adventure. We'd love to see where you'll take it. Stop by the Biology office (E304) to borrow the mammoth, and don't forget to send in some photos for a future issue of the newsletter!

## Alumni News

The Purdy lab's **Samantha Liu '21** will be starting her PhD at UC Berkeley and **Talia Bloxham '22** will be attending Columbia for her PhD, both beginning next fall.

If you have any updates for the next issue of BioNews, please send them to [Ldavis@amherst.edu](mailto:Ldavis@amherst.edu).