



UConn IDEA Grant  
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# UConn IDEA GRANT RECIPIENTS SPRING 2025 - COHORT 25

Congratulations to the thirteen students who have been awarded UConn IDEA Grants to support 2025-2026 academic year projects!

**Anika Agrawal '26**, Physiology and Neurobiology & Psychological Sciences, CLAS  
*Investigating Early-life Factors Contributing to the Integration of Developmentally-specified Hippocampal Neurons*

**Qianyu "Rapunzel" Chen '26**, Biomedical Engineering, ENG  
*Purifying Potential - Optimization of Janus Base Nanoparticles in Gene Therapy*

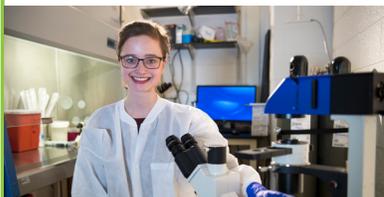
**Kemberly Denerville '26**, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, CLAS  
*The Power of Phonetic Instruction: Building Phonemic Awareness for Optimal Language Acquisition in Adults*

**Emily Finch '26**, English & IMJR: Creating and Educating for the Stage and Screen, CLAS  
*In Search of "The Search for the Lost Husband": Returning the Arne-Thompson-Uther Index's Tale Type 425 to a Space of Oral Tradition and Visual Representation*

**Aki Hussain '28**, ACES, CLAS  
*How Do UConn Dining Hall Food Options Change and Affect First-Year Students' Abilities to Lead an FDA-Recommended Diet?*

**Sydney Kolz '26**, Environmental Sciences & Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, CLAS  
*Herbivory of *Phragmites australis* Along a Salinity Gradient in Connecticut Wetlands*

**Derrick Li '28**, Art, SFA  
*Study of Disease Through Oil Painting*



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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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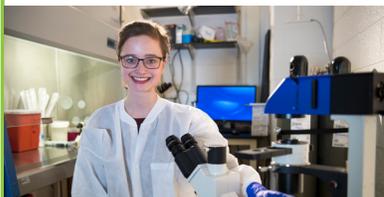
**José Luis Matute Gálvez '26**, Molecular and Cell Biology, CLAS; Allied Health Sciences & IMJR: Biochemical Systems in Health and Disease, CAHNR  
*Calcium Modulation: Photoswitchable ML-9 Derivatives*

**Noah Medina-Piñango '26**, Music, SFA  
*Gloria al Bravo Pueblo: Venezuelan Choral Music of the 20th Century*

**Bryce Turner '26**, Anthropology & Molecular and Cell Biology, CLAS  
*The Unseen Impact: Community Perceptions and Responses to Rural Maternal Healthcare Challenges in Willimantic, CT*

**Michelle Zhu '26**, Mathematics, CLAS; Mathematics Education, ED  
*PRISM: Priming Relationships in Syntax and Mathematics*

**Heaven Buckham '26**, Psychological Sciences, CLAS; Analytics and Information Management, BUS  
**Sia Gbondo-Tugbawa '26**, Statistics, CLAS  
*The Seasonal Mind: Understanding S.A.D., Cognition, and Student Success*



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