

Maxwell | Hanrahan FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 28, 2023

Contact: Rachel Strader
rachel@maxwell-hanrahan.org

BAY AREA FOUNDATION CELEBRATES, SUPPORTS SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION *Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation commits \$500,000 to field biologists' work*

SAN FRANCISCO—Today the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation announced its 2023 Awards in Field Biology, recognizing a fourth cohort of individual scientists and providing support they need to explore and test what they learn at a time when the world faces great challenges – and opportunities.

Each scientist will receive \$100,000 in unrestricted funds, supporting their individual work, elevating their diverse perspectives and enabling them to commit time to observation and experimentation that helps us better understand ourselves and the world around us.

- **Agnes Dellinger's** research helps us understand how flowers diversify to adapt to different pollinators.
- Oceanographer **Astrid Leitner** researches the ecology and behavior of marine animals around steep seafloor features in the deep ocean, home to the largest communities of animals on earth.
- **Norine Yeung** is a snail researcher studying taxonomy, ecology, evolution and conservation of Pacific Island land snails. She and her colleagues have re-discovered more than 200 species of Hawaiian land snails thought to be extinct.
- **Paulina González-Gómez's** work focuses on how environmental variability shapes the integration of gene expression patterns, behavior, physiology and life history of birds.
- **Sahas Barve** is an evolutionary ecologist and leads a long-term field-based study on the social behavior of threatened Florida Scrub-Jays.

Launched in 2020, the awards provide scientists with funding, attention and support at critical junctures in their careers so they can focus on mastery and creativity, elevate often underrepresented perspectives to problem-solving and promote progress in the biological sciences through individual research focused on our natural world.

Nominators confidentially identified scientists for the awards and a committee selected winners based on impact in the field, originality and the momentum an award could provide at a critical career point.

The Foundation focused on field biology because of the founders' interests and experiences. While a graduate student in Wisconsin, Pat Hanrahan's professors and colleagues introduced him to the power of exploration in field biology—and despite following a different career path, work with invertebrates and

bacteria continues to intrigue him. Delle Maxwell grew up in an environment where science and field work were intertwined. Her father was oceanographer Arthur Maxwell, who conducted research on ocean geothermal measurements. Close family friends included Delle's sibling Rick in their summer vacation research adventures searching the western U.S. for Paleozoic brachiopods. The intellectual challenge associated with outdoor exploration continues to inspire her.

The mission of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation is to support innovative people working in field-based science, art and craft, teaching, and protection of the natural world.. Learn more at www.maxwell-hanrahan.org.

###