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Ashland undergraduate student receives funding for research

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NEWS RELEASE

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ASHLAND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RECEIVES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

MISSOULA, Mont. –

An **Ashland** undergraduate student in the Division of Biological Sciences at The University of Montana has received funding for her summer research project.

Senior Levia Jones earned funding through the Integrated Biological Science Courses Organized Around Research project (Project IBS-CORE), which is intended to involve more undergraduate students in biological research.

Jones is one of 10 students who will receive a monthly stipend of $750 for three months, plus a budget of up to $1,000 for research materials and travel. A committee of biology faculty members reviewed and ranked all student research proposals when deciding which students would be named 1999 IBS-CORE Undergraduate Research Fellows.

Jones' project is titled "The Role of *Mysis relicta* in Determining Zooplankton Distribution and Abundance." She will study opossum shrimp, specifically how they remain deep underwater during the day and migrate to shallower water at night to feed. These shrimp are voracious predators of zooplankton, and *Mysis relicta* have drastically reduced populations of zooplankton in many fisheries. The shrimps' vertical migration seems to be an important survival

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trait, since they are easily detected by fish under well-lit conditions. Jones also will study how cleanliness of water affects vertical distribution of the shrimp and what this means for zooplankton predation.

Project IBS-CORE is funded by a prestigious $1.4 million grant that was awarded to UM last year by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a nonprofit medical research organization.

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