
March 2026

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL



*Photo credits to Zoe Johnson

FEATURED

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MONTHLY RECAP

March marked a strong and steady close to the first stretch of the spring semester, with scholars demonstrating dedication through their coursework, collaboration, and continued growth inside and outside the classroom. As we now head into a well-deserved spring break, this is a time to pause, recharge, and reflect on the progress made so far. We look forward to returning with renewed energy and focus as we move into the final months of the semester.



FRIENDS AS FLAVORS

LANIE DEVRIES

A cup of tea or a latte? Hot drink or cold? Have you ever paused to consider that on any given coffee-date with friends, two people rarely order the exact same drink? Just as on the table there are varying drinks, the friend-group gathered around it consists of varying personalities, beliefs, and experiences. And that is a good thing...for instance, no matter how much you appreciate a hot latte, you wouldn't want it to be the sole beverage you ever drink. Similarly, it is a good thing for one to have friends who differ from one another. People bring different flavors to the table of friendship, making friendship all-together more sweet!

WARM BONES

ANNA HAMVAS

There are days that are dark
There are days that are long
When the sun is set to leave
Far too early in the day

And furthermore,
Some days
Clouds eclipse the sun
Stealing it away
Even faster

Rise early
Dawn your coat
The sun still shines mid-morn
Rise early so you can watch the fish
As the fish watch you
And feel the sunlight dance off the
cascading water
The sun will shine again
And warm you to the bone

EXCITING COLLABORATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY!

ABBY HUTCHINSON



What a time it's been! I'm so excited to share that I've been offered to be the first ever brand ambassador for the Uptown MPLS CycleBar location. This is such a wonderful organization because they promote empowering

riders, pushing yourself to get stronger, and welcome everyone in the community with open arms. Now, I get to help promote the brand, which is something I can do proudly because it aligns so closely with my own passions.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM?

SILANESKA ZARA NASAMU

Do you know where you come from?

Your continents wealth and luxury formed creation. She blossomed and boomed with the gold your mother gave you when you were born to show you your worth. She's verdure and bare. Islands surround her curves connected to 54 divisions of desert, safari and fauna. A mine of endless resources and wildlife, she flows with rivers of living waters. Her heart beats akin to our music, teasing ears and moving bodies with a familiarity, a connection so deep, it could've only been made by God himself.

You know where you come from.

Your full lips and broad nose from a lineage that continues to define every feature you possess. Your skin, in its flawless design of shades, protects you from harm. Your hair so tightly coiled, it holds weaves and patterns that once and still do, pave paths spoken and passed down from your ancestors. Your fingers comfortably stain with oil and spices from the rich food you eat with your hands, because you were fed with hands before you could even remember. Henna, piercings, beads and scars that cover you take you back home as if you never left.

The Intricately patterned cloths and silks you send to the tailor come back as timeless pieces you reminisce on in photographs. When you lose your way, you pray as silently as you did all those Sunday mornings, Friday afternoons or knelt in front of a shrine. Whether Elohim, Allah, or Olodumare, you were taught to depend on the one who made all that gives life.

Know where you come from.

Know her pains, her histories, her wars. Know what she feels, sees and teaches. Learn her sorrows, and how she uproots herself from a story shrouded in a hungering pain. Your greatness grew from her civilizations, your language spoken first from her mouth. Feel close to you when you play her children's songs as you travel through borders, when you hear your father's tongue spoken by a stranger at a lonely bus stop, when you wear the bracelets, your mom picked out for you at the market the day before you left. Diaspora is not disconnect.

Where you come from

Is a land that brings peace to you when you remember everything that comes with it. An ache for the betterment of your people stirs within you as you walk to class, thinking of how much could be different if the line of rulers were strong-willed. It is a land of deserved independence in history that cannot be cleansed away. Where you come from is loud in her beauty, her pride and her grace.

Follow in her steps

You come from an identity nobody can strip away from you. Hold her story close, remember where you come from.

LEFTY OR RIGHTY? THE HANGING HABITS OF FLYING FOXES

CLARA SCHIMNOWSKI, LILY GUERRETTE, ALANA WICK

Seeing a Spectacled Flying Fox hanging upside down all day isn't anything new to those living on the coast of Australia. However, the question isn't why these bats hang upside down, but rather do these bats have a dominant foot? Spectacled Flying Foxes are notorious for their immense contributions to the ecosystems they're in, but the focus in this article is whether they are left-footed or right-footed. Is it possible for bats to have preferences for their feet the way humans do for their hands? By observing bats for multiple hours and days, we observed different reasons why these bats may be hanging from their left foot compared to their right foot, usually being



the cause of a specific itch, getting ready to climb, or cleaning a specific foot with their mouth. However, there seemed to be instances where the only reason we can assume the bat is on one foot compared to the other is due to preference.

They could be seen hanging holding one foot close to them while the other is gripping onto the branch for multiple minutes at a time. They also were seen having both feet holding them for many minutes at a time. Could these bats be ambidextrous, or are they not strong enough to have one foot holding them up rather than two?

Flying foxes, or more generally bats, are crucial to the ecosystems in Oceania. Spectacled Flying Foxes can be found anywhere along the coast of Papua New Guinea down New South Wales nearing Sydney. They are often found roosting high on the branches of trees in their groups which are referred to as camps and are highly social animals. These habitats are usually rainforests, swamps, or mangroves, commonly found in places with high humidity, making a suitable environment for these creatures. As mentioned, they are very important to their environment and are even considered keystone species, or organisms that hold an ecosystem together. Spectacled Flying Foxes are responsible for pollinating different plant species and can even disperse the seeds of the fruit they eat into different areas since they are highly mobile and sometimes will travel up to 40km from their camp at night to feed.

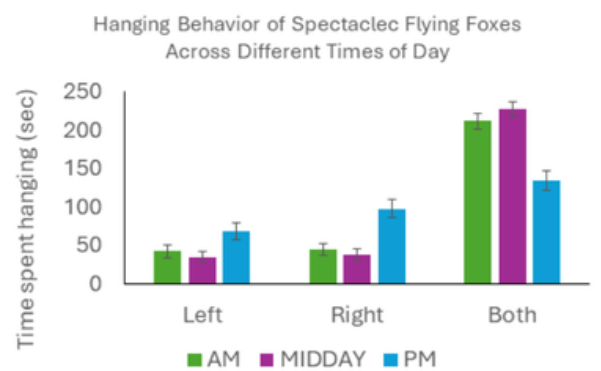
Over three days, we conducted our observations in Yungaburra at the Petersons Creek Wildlife and Botanical Walking Trail. The site is home to a large and well-established colony of Spectacled Flying Foxes, making it a great place to study if the bats have a preference of one foot or the other while hanging. Each day we collected data at different times to see if there were any changes depending on the time of day. We collected data in the morning, at midday, and in the evening. The weather conditions remained fairly consistent each day with similar temperatures, humidity, and wind levels.

We began by selecting trees that had at least ten bats hanging in them. For each tree, one bat was randomly selected and observed closely for five minutes. During that time, we recorded whether it was hanging by its left, right, or both. If the bat shifted its grip, we noted the change and for how long. We repeated this process ten times per tree before moving to another tree. In total, twelve trees were observed each day. This allowed us to see if the behavior patterns were similar across the whole camp.

When we observed the spectacled flying fox colony, the first pattern that immediately stood out was that the majority of the bats preferred hanging by both of their feet rather than just one.

Across the three observation periods, spectacled flying foxes hung by both feet most frequently. However, when the data is analyzed across different times of the day, clear temporal patterns are shown with single-foot hanging behaviors. In the morning and midday, bats spent relatively little time hanging by either the left or right foot,

averaging around 40 seconds for each. Hanging by both feet was clearly the favored behavior, with bats remaining on both feet for over 200 seconds on average. Because the behavior of the bats between morning and midday remained relatively unchanged, there is little temporal change between these two times of the day.



In contrast, observations in the evening show a shift in behavior. The bats spent a noticeably longer time hanging by a single foot, particularly the right foot.

Although hanging by both feet was still more common, the duration relative to morning and midday time decreased. This indicates a large temporal change in hanging behavior going into the evening.

Overall, the results show a small preference to right foot hanging over left, but still a major preference for both feet hanging. The data also shows a significant time of day effect on the bats hanging behavior as single foot hanging increased in the evening.

Understanding these patterns helps give us insight into the daily behaviors of spectacled flying fox colonies. This behavioral observation can be important for conservation of species. Spectacled flying foxes play a key role in rainforest ecosystems as pollinators and seed dispersers as they maintain biodiversity and assist with forest regeneration. By studying their roosting behavior, researchers can better understand how colonies function and potentially detect changes caused by environmental disturbance, habitat loss, or shifts in climate.

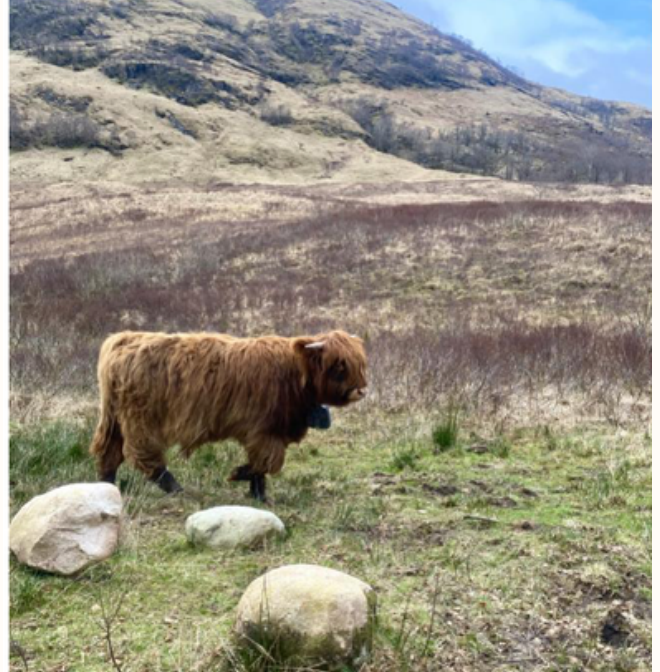
MILANO CORTINA 2026 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

ALAINA JARMUZ



GREETINGS FROM SCOTLAND!

ZOEY MYERS



This month, the London Business Semester cohort had the opportunity to travel through Scotland. We journeyed through Edinburgh, Loch Ness, and the Isle of Skye. The image shows a highland cow, which we were all overjoyed to see! Our time spent hiking in Scotland reminded me of nature's beauty and gave fresh optimism for the approaching spring.

Going to a hockey game at the 2026 Winter Olympics was a moment that felt more unreal than anything. It was something that we had been talking about for months. I've watched the Olympics on my TV for as long as I can remember but never imagined one day I would be able to experience it in real life. It felt so different when everyone around me was cheering in different languages and there was crazy energy coming from every fan in the packed arena. Studying abroad in the first month has already pushed me outside my comfort zones and getting to experience something as big as the Olympics is something I will always cherish.

GREEN

CHENIQUA MORRISON

I name my plants—it is an important detail that helps with my plant watering process. I often use anything that contains water: a cup, kettle, bottle, eyes... I address each plant by name. Then, I pour. It is a small thing, sometimes daily, other times not. Sometimes I forget—to water, praise, admire, consider.

Now I stare at the rich green of each petal, some yellow from age or poor health, I am never sure. Nonetheless, I smile. The sight is joy within the plain, four-cornered box. A smattering of green in the only windowed section of my white-walled room. In their glass prison, they are trapped yet happy—green. I am not. Trapped, that is... My happiness is never in question often; I know I am [not].

Ceramic restrains their growth, limiting their ability to be everything they envy of the outside world. *Do they envy it? Isn't it unfair that they must exist within the solemn, chilly draft of my poorly lit, air-conditioned room? They deserve to be free—outdoors with their leaves dancing in the warm, summer breeze and roots stretching towards infinity. Limitless.*

Maybe it is *me* who envies *them*. Maybe it is why I keep them potted, limited, sentenced to life on a windowsill. Maybe I, too, wish to be green.

A BURST OF COLOR IN YELLOWSTONE

WHITNEY HORTON



A small but vividly colored geyser bubbles and steams in Yellowstone National Park, where mineral-rich water and heat-loving microorganisms create the bright reds, oranges, and yellows seen around the pool. This photo was captured during a family trip this summer, where I captured with my camera beautiful moments highlighting the natural beauty found in Yellowstone's smallest geysers.



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