As a genetics student, my research is focused on determining the variation in microbial communities associated with several genotypes of Zea mays. I am assessing the complex microbiome that is inherent to those seeds as well as the microbes that are recruited from arid agricultural soils. Before joining the Arnold lab I received my B.S. in Genetics from Arizona State University where I spent several years looking at long term health and nutrient cycling trends in a desert riparian system.