



## ALYSSA MYERS '20

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### **DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD IN RESEARCH**

**Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences**  
**College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences**

FACULTY ADVISOR: **DR. SARAH HAMER**

Alyssa is a postdoctoral research associate investigating vector-host interactions of Chagas disease and clinical outcomes of the disease in working dogs.

She first became interested in infectious diseases by leading research to prevent malaria transmission in Kenya and leishmaniasis transmission in India. Working firsthand with two of the world's most common communicable diseases prompted her interest in a career in epidemiology.

She began her doctoral study at Texas A&M University in the fall of 2015 as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, where she concentrated on the ecology and epidemiology of vector-borne diseases in Dr. Sarah Hamer's lab. Her research demonstrated how ecological tracking of the host-vector-parasite interactions provides insight on the sylvatic maintenance and spillover risk of the Chagas parasite which could not only improve canine health, but also public health.

