

Ling-Lie Chau Graduate Student Award for Brain Research



Britt Yazel 2018 Award Recipient

Britt Yazel is a fifth year PhD student at the University of California, Davis, in the lab of Dr. Lee Miller. He is interested in addressing the global epidemic of speech communication impairment in real, noisy environments—among healthy listeners as well as those with hearing loss. Using an interdisciplinary approach to assisted hearing, Britt is incorporating our scientific understanding of how speech is processed in the brain to design new approaches for auditory prosthetics and machine listening, blending both biological and neuroscientific inquiry with technological engineering. His goal is for users to be able to steer the direction of their listening to an attended target location and modulate the degree to which they block out distracting noise.

Impact of Philanthropy

The Ling-Lie Chau Graduate Student Award for Brain Research enabled Britt to attend the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society Conference in Oahu, Hawaii, where he presented his work on improving assisted hearing using interdisciplinary, neurotechnological approaches. Britt made important connections and expanded his professional network, while gaining new knowledge to continue advancing his training and research.