

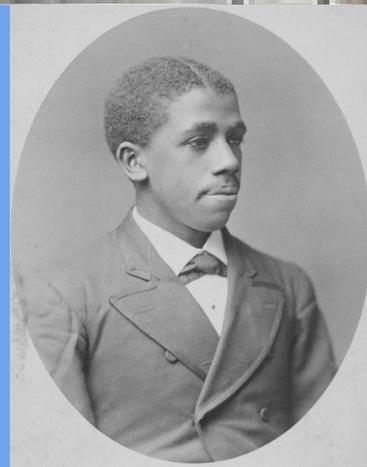
20TH ANNUAL YALE BOUCHET CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY AND GRADUATE EDUCATION 2024

"Rediscovering the Legacy of Edward A.
Bouchet: A Catalyst for Historical Reckoning"
CELEBRATING 172 YEARS 1852-2024

CONFERENCE

APRIL 5 - 6, 2024 | FRIDAY - SATURDAY |

<https://gsas.yale.edu/annual-yale-bouchet-conference-diversity-and-graduate-education>



Edward Alexander Bouchet

Physics: B.A., 1874, Ph.D. 1876



The Connecticut State Legislature passed the Gradual Emancipation Act in 1784. This act held that children of enslaved blacks were to be freed by their 25th birthday. The state banned the sale of slaves four years later and required owners to register all children born into slavery; however, it was not until 1848 that the state finally outlawed the holding of all slaves.

Born September 15, 1852 on the colored end of Bradley Street in New Haven, Edward Alexander Bouchet became a man of exceptional intellectual and emotional courage, undaunted by barriers of the day. His father, William Francis Bouchet, according to some, was born in Connecticut in 1817; others report that he arrived in New Haven in 1824 as the body servant to a Yale student from Charlestown, South Carolina. Edward's mother, Susan Cooley Bouchet, was born in Westport, Connecticut, October 1817, daughter of Asher and Jane Drake Cooley. Edward, the youngest of four surviving children born to William and Susan Bouchet, their only son, attended the Artisan Street Colored School, an ungraded elementary school with about 30 students and one teacher. He was enrolled in the New Haven High School for two years before entering Hopkins Grammar School (now Hopkins School) in 1868. Hopkins, a prestigious private school in New Haven, is devoted exclusively to college preparation. The course of study in this very academically oriented secondary school in the nineteenth century was three to five years based on the age and intellectual level of the student. To enter at an advanced level, Bouchet had to pass examinations in courses completed by his class. During his time at Hopkins, he studied the classics, Latin, Greek and Greek history, geometry and algebra, and graduated valedictorian in 1870.

Bouchet entered Yale College in the fall of 1870 but lived at home. He was not engaged in campus extracurricular activities but worked as a sexton for the Temple Street Congregational Church (Dixwell Avenue United Church of Christ). During his senior year, he was contacted by Alfred Cope. Cope was a member of the Board of Managers for the Society of Friends Institute for Colored Youth, a prestigious private high school in Philadelphia. Ebenezer D.C. Bassett of Connecticut was principal of the Society of Friends Institute for Colored Youth until he was appointed by President Grant in 1869 to be the first African American Diplomat, Minister, resident and consul-general of the United States to the Republic of Haiti. Cope offered Bouchet a faculty position at the Institute but recommended that he remain at Yale and pursue graduate studies in physics. Bouchet accepted Cope's offer and recommendation under the conditions that he provide financial support for his graduate studies at Yale and a guarantee of a \$1,500 starting salary per annum at the Institute. Cope agreed to both.

Concentrating in physics and mathematics, Bouchet completed his undergraduate studies in 1874, with orations (highest honors or summa cum laude), class rank of six and election to Phi Beta Kappa. He enrolled immediately into graduate studies at Yale. He finished his required courses, passed his language and comprehensive examinations, completed his doctoral thesis research in experimental physics, and wrote his dissertation on Measuring Refractive Indices in two years. A bit short of his 24th birthday, he had earned from Yale a Ph.D. in Physics. By 1876 when perhaps as many as half the citizens in America were able to read and write, Bouchet had become the first self-identified African American to graduate from Yale College, the first admitted to Phi Beta Kappa but not initiated (George W. Henderson who graduated from the University of Vermont in 1877 was the first African American initiated), the first to earn the Ph.D. in any discipline from an American university, and the sixth person ever to earn the Ph.D. in physics in the western hemisphere. Bouchet, the graduate scientist, joined the faculty at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, a high school, without benefit of laboratory, library, graduate students, and scientific collaborators. He taught mathematics, physics, and chemistry for twenty-six years with confidence, elegance, and enthusiasm. During his time in Philadelphia Bouchet presented public lectures in science; he was a member and warden of St. Thomas, the first African American Episcopal Church in the nation; he was among the earliest members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the Franklin Institute; and as a faithful member of the Philadelphia Yale Alumni Association, he was cordially and respectfully received at meetings and dinners. In disagreement with the Institute's administration over the value of a classical liberal arts education versus a practical one for African Americans, he was made redundant and departed from the Institute and Philadelphia. Bouchet was never called to the new graduate department of physics at Harvard; nor was he called to the fledgling graduate program at Johns Hopkins; nor was he called to Yale, the nation's first Ph.D. granting university. The record shows that he sought a faculty position at Yale, Hampton and Tuskegee among others, but to no avail. For his twenty-fifth reunion he wrote:

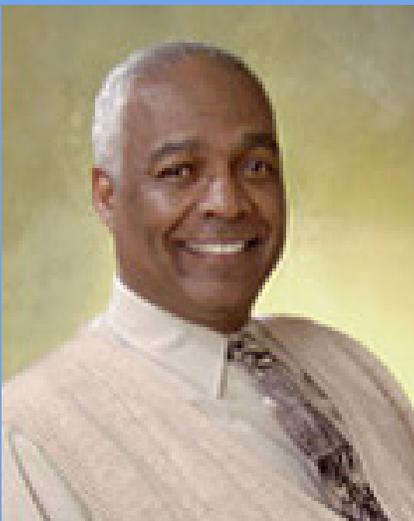
I have endeavored to discharge my duty as teacher to those coming under my care, and have aimed to be a good citizen, and to exemplify in my life the mottos of our Alma Mater... From November 1903, until May 1904, I was business manager for the Provident Hospital, a private institution located in St. Louis, MO. From May 1904 until March 1905, I was United States Inspector of Customs at the Louisiana Purchase exposition in St. Louis, stationed at Ceylon Court... In October 1906, I became director of Academics at the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, located at Lawrenceville, VA., where I remained until June 1908, and in September 1908, I accepted the position of principal of the Lincoln High School at Gallipolis, Ohio."

Bouchet remained in Gallipolis for four or five years when poor health forced his return to New Haven. After recuperation, he went to Bishop College in Marshall, Texas around 1914, but returned to New Haven again for health reasons in 1916.

Following a life devoted to teaching and good works, he died October 28, 1918. His funeral was at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and he was buried in an unmarked grave in the family plot in New Haven's Evergreen Cemetery. A black granite headstone on which Bouchet's image and achievements have been etched was unveiled with ceremony on October 18, 1998 by the Reverend Dr. Victor A. Rogers, then Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the former Dean of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Susan Hockfield, who is the former president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, former Dean of Undergraduate Education at Yale, Joseph Gordon, former Headmaster of Hopkins, Thomas Rodd, Jr., the former New Haven Superintendent of Education, Dr. Reginald Mayo, Yale Chief Research Archivist, Judith Schiff, and Professor Emeritus Curtis L. Patton.

We may never know the specifics of his suppression. Few documents give clues to his thoughts or ambitions as the first African American graduate scientist. We do know that he lived during a period that was terrible for Black people, a period of great challenge. Edward A. Bouchet entered Yale with the prestige of having been valedictorian at Hopkins, and beginning with matriculation to the end, as he went back and forth between Yale and the Colored end of Bradley Street, Philadelphia to St. Louis, Virginia, Ohio, Texas and back to Bradley Street, he ranked among outstanding men, one who demonstrated fine intellect, great energy, and the courage of his convictions. In all his associations, at Yale and in later life, he showed himself a thorough gentleman in the best sense of the term. Prestigious fellowships, prizes and awards have been named in his honor as well as an International Conference on Physics and Technology. His life remains an influence for good at his alma maters, Hopkins and Yale, the city, state, and nation where he was born, the institutions where he taught. For the good progress in education and graduate scholarship, he is memorialized by (1) the Edward A. Bouchet Undergraduate Fellowship Program at Yale, (2) the Promising Scholars Fund – Edward A. Bouchet Scholarship, established by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Beta Tau Boulé of New Haven, Connecticut (3) the Yale Bouchet Leadership Award medal, a national award given to leaders who have played critical roles in diversifying higher education, (4) the Edward Bouchet Abdus Salam Institute, (5) the American Physical Society (APS) Bouchet Award, (6) the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, and (7) the Bouchet Academy in Chicago, Illinois (previously The Bryn Mawr Elementary School) where First Lady Michelle Obama, nee Robinson attended school. The original Bouchet portrait hangs in the Yale Sterling Memorial Library transept and in facsimiles at Hopkins School (New Haven), Howard University, and in corridors and offices of schools in New Haven, Connecticut and across America. His name, chiseled in granite above the archway leading from Yale's Saybrook College courtyard to the Dean's office, was unveiled by Peter Salovey, then Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, now President, and by the former Dean of Yale College, Mary E. Miller, then Master of Saybrook College.

Curtis Patton, Professor Emeritus, Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University



In Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Orlando L. Taylor (August 9, 1936 – January 16, 2024), former Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Howard University. Dr. Taylor was a founding member of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and 2003 recipient of the Edward A. Bouchet Leadership Medal. At the time of his passing, he held the position of Senior Advisor to the President of Fielding Graduate University.

Dr. Taylor was widely regarded as a distinguished leader in graduate education and stalwart advocate for issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion in higher education. He championed these causes until the end of his life. Most recently, he was the Principal Investigator and Director for the NSF-funded grant to advance women and people of color in the STEM fields into leadership positions at the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and at Tribal Colleges.

He was the author of numerous publications in his discipline and higher education. His latest book, *Higher Education in a Changing World*, co-authored with Fielding University colleagues, was published in 2023.

Dr. Taylor's transformative career includes several national leadership positions, accommodations, and prestigious awards. Notably, he became the first African American President of the National Communication Association (NCA). During his leadership of the NCA, the organization reached unprecedented recognition from the National Research Council, the American Association of Higher Education, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

He served as a member of several national boards in higher education including Chair and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools. He served as Past President of the Consortium of Social Science Associations which represents the most social science disciplinary associations in the United States.

Dr. Taylor received a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and earned that university's Distinguished Alumni Award. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampton University and a Master's from Indiana University.

He has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Purdue University, Indiana University, the Ohio State University, Hope College, DePauw University, Denison University, and Southern Connecticut State University.

Dr. Taylor devoted his career to promoting, developing, and training the next generation of leaders in the academy. He was a beloved mentor and role model who shaped the professional lives of countless scholars. We will cherish his memory and strive to honor his visionary legacy.

Chontrese D. Hayes, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Graduate School, Virginia Tech

Day One - Friday, April 5, 2024

PROGRAM

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Pre-Conference Event

Yale University Art Gallery Tour

1111 Chapel Street

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Bouchet Graduate Honor Society

National Steering Committee Meeting

****Institutional Representatives Only****

Warner House (WH); 1 Hillhouse Avenue, Room 107

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Conference Registration

Yale Science Building (YSB)

260 Whitney Avenue; Marsh Lecture Hall Lobby

4:00 PM - 6:00PM

Opening Plenary Session

Yale Science Building (YSB)

260 Whitney Avenue; Marsh Lecture Hall

**Shining Light on Truth: New Haven, Yale, and Slavery
(See Next Page for Additional Details)**

Michael J. Morand, Director of Community Engagement,
Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Tubyez Cropper, Community Engagement Program Director,
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

David Blight, Sterling Professor of History and African
American Studies, Yale University

6:15 PM - 8:00 PM

Reception

Lawn Club

193 Whitney Avenue; Ballroom

Registered Conference Guests Only

Must be at least 21 years old



Day One - Friday, April 5, 2024

**Michael J. Morand, Director of Community Engagement
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library**



Michael is a cultural heritage professional at Yale and civic leader in New Haven. A graduate of Yale College and Yale Divinity School, he served earlier in his career as the university's deputy chief communications officer and associate vice president for New Haven and state affairs. A New Havener for four decades, he is chair of the Friends of the Grove Street Cemetery and serves on the boards of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, as well as the W. E. B. Du Bois Museum Foundation (USA/Ghana). Michael is an author of a chapter of *Yale and Slavery: A History* (2024) and has been a leader of the Yale and Slavery Research Project. He is lead curator of the exhibition, *Shining Light on Truth: New Haven, Yale, and Slavery*, at the New Haven Museum. Michael is a mayoral appointee on the Dixwell Community House Advisory Board and chair of the Q House history committee. His prior public service includes two terms as alder for the first ward in New Haven and as chair of the board of the New Haven Free Public Library.

**Tubyez Cropper, Community Engagement Program Director
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library**



Tubyez leads community partnerships, public school outreach programs, and social media for Beinecke Library as part of the community engagement team that aims to bring the library to the people and the people to the library. A lifelong New Havener, he attended New Haven Public Schools and graduated from Amistad High School. He earned his bachelor's degree at Franklin and Marshall College and began working at Beinecke Library as a New Haven Promise summer intern during his college years. He returned to New Haven and has worked with Beinecke since his graduation from Franklin and Marshall. Tubyez directed the documentary film "What Could Have Been" about the 1831 proposal for a Black college in New Haven and he was part of the team that produced the exhibition at the New Haven Museum.

Shining Light on Truth: New Haven, Yale, and Slavery

**New Haven Museum, 114 Whitney Avenue | Free and open to the public
February 16, 2024 through summer 2024**

Curated by Michael J. Morand with Charles E. Warner, Jr.

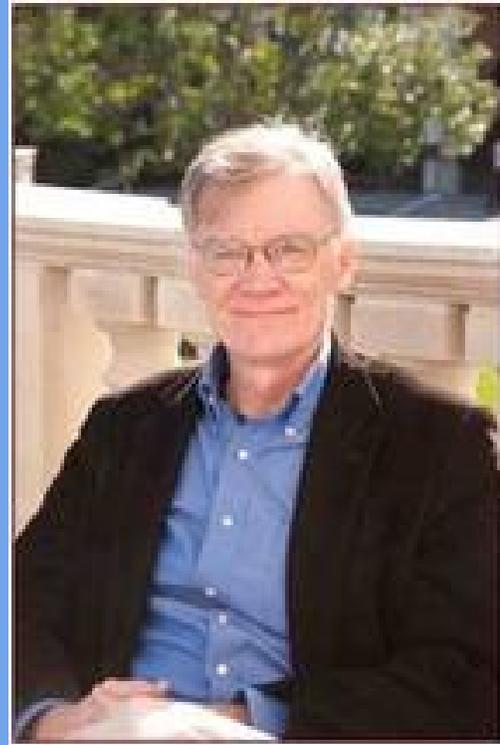
Designed by David Jon Walker

Presented by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University Library

Shining Light on Truth presents evidence of the essential role of enslaved and free Black people in New Haven and at Yale. It celebrates Black resistance and community building. And it illuminates knowledge kept alive in archives and memory for more than three centuries—even when the dominant culture chose to ignore, bury, or forget. The exhibition complements the publication of "Yale and Slavery: A History" and draws from the Yale and Slavery Research Project's key findings in areas such as the economy and trade, Black churches and schools, the 1831 Black college proposal, and memory and memorialization in the 20th century and today. The exhibition has a special focus on stories of Black New Haven, including early Black students and alumni of Yale, from the 1830s to 1940.

David Blight, Sterling Professor of History and African American Studies

David W. Blight joined the faculty at Yale in January 2003. He is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the US Civil War and its legacy. As of June, 2004, he is Director, succeeding David Brion Davis, of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale. During the 2006-07 academic year he was a fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library.



Blight is the author of *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era* (Harvard University Press, 2011) and *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation*, (Harcourt, 2007), this book combines two newly discovered slave narratives in a volume that recovers the lives of their authors, John Washington and Wallace Turnage, as well as provides an incisive history of the story of emancipation. In June, 2004, the *New York Times* ran a front page story about the discovery and significance of these two rare slave narratives. Blight is also the author of *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001), which received eight book awards, including the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize as well as four awards from the Organization of American Historians, including the Merle Curti prizes for both intellectual and social history.

Other published works include a book of essays, *Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory, and the American Civil War* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2002); and *Frederick Douglass's Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee* (LSU Press, 1989). Blight is the editor of and author of six books, including *When This Cruel War Is Over: The Civil War Letters of Charles Harvey Brewster* (Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1992); *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (Bedford Books, 1993); co-editor with Robert Gooding-Williams, W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Bedford Books, 1997); co-editor with Brooks Simpson, *Union and Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era* (Kent State Univ. Press, 1997); and *Caleb Bingham, The Columbian Orator* (orig. 1797, NYU Press, 1997), the book of oratory and antislavery writings that Frederick Douglass discovered while a youth. The edited volume, *Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*, was published by Smithsonian Press in 2004 and is the companion book for the opening of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

Day Two - Saturday, April 6, 2024

PROGRAM

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Poster Exhibit Set Up

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ)
320 York Street; Lobby Outside L02

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ)
320 York Street
Loggia (Just passed front entrance)

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Continental Breakfast & Networking

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York St.
Room 131 - Food/Seating
Room 134 - Additional Seating

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Bouchet Graduate Honor Society
Induction Ceremony**

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ)
320 York Street; Room L02

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

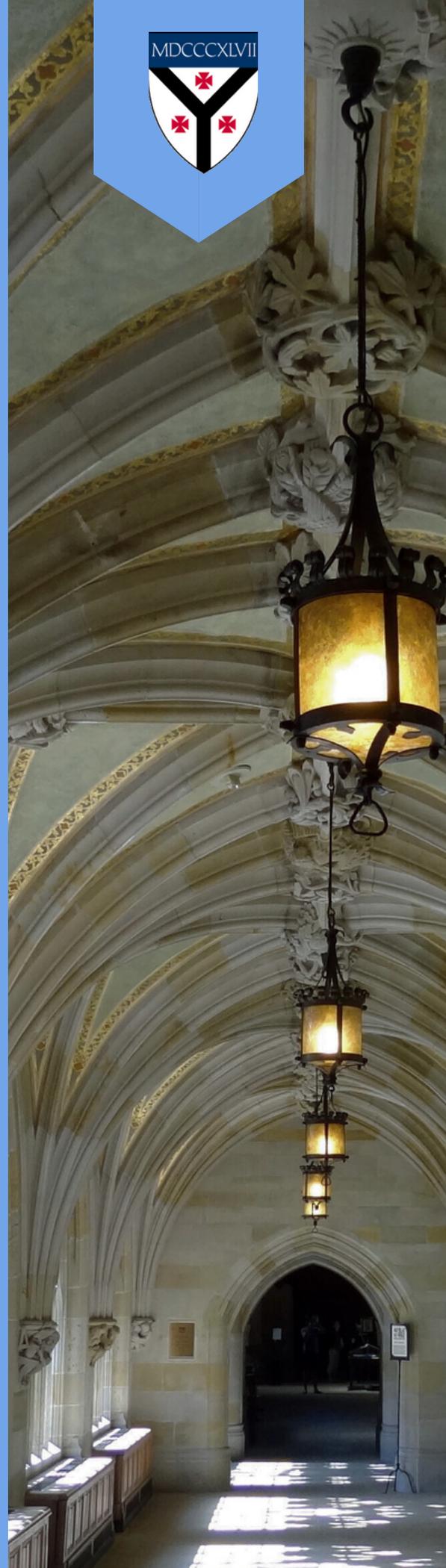
Poster Exhibition

Humanities Quadrangle
320 York Street; Lobby Outside L02

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Lunch & Networking

Humanities Quadrangle; 320 York Street
Room 131 and Room 134 for additional seating



Day Two - Saturday, April 6, 2024



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, April 6 | 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM | Location - Lobby Outside L02

Career Paths, Transitioning

P.1 Tatianna Zambrano, University of Florida

Celebrating Individuality through Creativity in Psychological Practice

Chronic Diseases, Health

P.2 Samuel Byiringiro, Johns Hopkins University

Exploring Patient-, Provider-, and Health Facility-Level Determinants of Blood Pressure Among Patients with Hypertension: A Multi-Center Study in Ghana

P.3 Rosa Congote, Rutgers University

Unseen Hazards: Addressing the Urgent Need for Research on Pollution's Impact on Children's Mental Health Development, with a Focus on Environmental Justice

P.4 Louis B. Hopkins, Emory University

CD155-TIGIT-CD226 Mediated Immune Modulation in Tuberculosis Pathogenesis

P.5 Ashley Scott Patterson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sexual Dimorphism in Aortic Valve Stenosis: Insights into Inflammation and Hypoxia Mechanisms

P.6 Lauren L. Taylor, Howard University

The Fire Next Time: Investigating Wildfire Vulnerability in Communities of Color

P.7 Mudia Uzzi, Johns Hopkins University

An Intersectional and Spatial Approach to Assessing the Relationship Between Structural Racism and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths in Chicago, Illinois

P.8 BreAnne Young, University of Miami

Tailoring HIV Care for Black Populations

Day Two - April 6, 2024



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Race Relations, Social Movements

P.9 Khulud Khalid Almutairi, University of Miami

Intersectionality and Perceived Discrimination Among Muslims in the United States: Exploring the Interplay of Race, Occupation, Political Identity, and Gender

P.10 S. Jessé Edwards, Howard University

"Owned and Operated By Colored - The Birth of the Helena B. Cobb Institute"

P.11 Chelsea Jane, University of Miami

Exploring Intersectionality and Individuals with Multiple, Minoritized Identities: The College Experiences of Black, Male, Non-Heterosexual Student-Athletes

P.12 Keyonne McKnight, University of South Carolina

Examining Experiences of African American Women Living In A Society That Prioritizes Eurocentric Traditional Femininity Roles

P.13 Kamala McWhinney, University of Miami

The Moderating Role of National Culture on the Experience of Psychological Safety in Work teams: a Community Psychology Perspective

P.14 Nicholas Richards, CUNY-Hunter College

The Debates and Discussions Concerning the Abolition of the British Slave Trade in Late 18th Century England

P.15 Phillip Warfield, Howard University

"They Killed My Mother, They Killed Our College": The Tragedy of a Black Woman and Her New England College Community

P.16 Ayanna Troutman, Kandysee' Leonard, and Taryrn Brown, University of Florida

Centering Black Girlhood: A Youth Participatory Action Research Approach to Transforming Educational Spaces

Day Two - April 6, 2024



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Science, Technology, Science Policy

P.17 Bahaar Chawla, University of Michigan

ATPase Function of SMC Proteins in Chromosome-Wide Gene Regulation

P.18 Zuania Colón-Piñeiro, University of Florida

Examining Immune-Microbiome Interactions in Frogs with Seasonal Infections

P.19 Kimberly K. Diaz Perez, University of Michigan

Determining RNA Polymerase II Pausing during Transcription Elongation

P.20 Madilyn Dungan, University of Oklahoma

Iron Deficiency Results in Changes to Brain Activity that Persist Over Learning

P.21 Claudia Juliana Garnica-Díaz, University of Florida

Reimagining Fieldwork and International Collaborations

P.22 Juliana Gonzalez-Tobon, Cornell University

Understanding How *Dickeya* Senses its Environment: The Importance of Untranslated Regions

P.23 Jarildy L. Javier, Emory University

Basolateral Amygdala Representation of Social and Non-Social Reward

P.24 Malick Kebe, Howard University

Extreme Value Theory Modeling of Temperature and Rain in Guinea

P.25 Jesus Lopez Baltazar, Cornell University

Bioassay Development for Extracellular Vesicle Detection Using Surface Plasmon Resonance Biosensors

P.26 Parker Miles, University of Michigan

Cyborg Literacies in an Afterschool Loophole of Retreat: Frameworks and Initial Findings

P.27 Ivan Oyege, Florida International University

Predicting Plant Nutrient Status with Machine Learning Algorithms for Precision Agriculture

Day Two - April 6, 2024



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Science, Technology, Science Policy (Continued)

P.28 Anaiya Reliford, Howard University

Improving Chemical Sensing in the Atmospheric Boundary Layer via Rotary-Winged Platform

P.29 Mariana Rocha, Emory University

Childhood Maltreatment is Associated with First-Trimester Heart Rate Variability in a Community Sample of Pregnant Black Persons

P.30 Vaibhav Sharma, Cornell University

Theoretical Studies of Simulation of Quantum Phenomena Using Ultracold Atoms

P.31 Emily Silvano, Johns Hopkins University

Experience Tunes Language Abilities: Evidence From People Born Blind

P.32 Collins N. Vaye, Florida International University

Working-in-Progress: Technology Integration: Exploring the Current State of Information Communication Technology (ICT)-Enhanced Teaching in Undergraduate Engineering Education in Liberia

P.33 Herbert Wakefield IV, Johns Hopkins University

Metathesis of Organosilicons for Recyclable Materials

US/International Policy, Law, Economics

P.34 Amber D'mello, CUNY-Hunter College

Does Government Expenditure on Education Affect the Quality of Education? A Comparative Case Study on Southern and East African Countries

P.35 Tiffany Wheatland-Disu, Howard University

Black Radicalism and the Making of the Black Radical Tradition: The Founding of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (A-APRP)



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions I

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street

Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)

2:00 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Science, Technology, Science Policy IA (Room 207)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Atsu Kludze, Yale University

Advancing Simultaneous Sustainable Energy and Chemical Production: Investigation into Metal Oxide Thin-Film Coatings for Photocatalytic Alcohol Dehydrogenation

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Maribel E. K. Okiye, University of Michigan

Unveiling the Dynamic Interplay: Metabolomic Insights into Oral Microbiome Modulation and Implications for Human Health

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Jairo Villalona, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Engineered Biocatalytic Synthesis of β -N-Substituted- α -Amino Acids

Chronic Diseases, Health IA (Room 132)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) G'vanni Puchi, University of Miami

Individual-Level Syndemics Among Justice-Impacted South Floridians Living with HIV

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Maria Fernanda Yepes, University of Miami

Safety and Efficacy of a Pan-Caspase Inhibitor for Noise-Induced Inner Ear Injury

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Oluwami Dosunmu-Ogunbi, University of Michigan

Navigating the sim2real Gap for a Terrain-Aware Stair Climbing Algorithm for Underactuated Bipedal Robots

Chronic Diseases, Health IB (Room 133)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Mayra Betancourt Ponce, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Effects of Oxidative Phosphorylation Inhibition in Solid Tumors

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Karen Awura-Adjoa Ronke Coker, University of Florida

Assessing Multiscale Socio-Environmental Injustices on Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Transatlantic Exploration and Amplification of Black Experiences

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Mauro A. Garcia, Johns Hopkins University

Autologous IgG Antibodies Influence HIV Rebound Dynamics Following Treatment Interruption



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions I (Continued)

**Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street
Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)
2:00 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.**

Literature, Arts, Culture (Room 227)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Cecilia Solis-Barroso, University of Michigan
A Generational Analysis of Variation and Change in the Noun Phrase Morphosyntax
of Huasteca Nahuatl

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Jimisha Relerford, Howard University
"Word-Work": Toward a Rhetoric of Toni Morrison's Nonfiction

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Kalena Holeman, University of Houston
Notes on the Journey and Its Dantean Resonances in Twentieth-Century Black
Women's Writing: A Look into Gayl Jones's Corregidora and Early Black Feminist
Criticism

Race Relations, Social Movements (Room 229)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Anastasios G. Goulos, University of St. Francis
Restorative Justice through the Lens of Resilient Leadership

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Raúl Gámez, University of Michigan
CDOs Resisting Anti-DEI Legislation

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Carl D. Greer, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Youth Activism & Possibilities in the Heartland: An Analysis of Black Youth Leadership
in Milwaukee

Optional

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. New Haven Museum; 114 Whitney Avenue

Shining Light on Truth: New Haven, Yale, and Slavery

Signed up guests only; Meet group at 3:30 p.m. in front of HQ (320 York Street)



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions II

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street

Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)

3:05 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Chronic Diseases, Health IIA (Room 207)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Brittany Ribeiro Brown, University of Michigan
Unlocking (in)accessibility: A Qualitative Exploration of Non-HIV STI Care Access Among Transgender and Gender Diverse Adults

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Emma Jagasia, Johns Hopkins University
Examining the Effects of Violence Exposure on Neurobehavioral Development during Early Adolescence

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Jonece Layne, Howard University
"I'm Black and I'm Proud": Proposed Relationships between Parental Racial Socialization, Racial Identity, and Disordered Eating among Black Women

Chronic Diseases, Health IIB (Room 132)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Jaleah Rutledge, Yale University
Setting the Stage: Understanding Black Women's Sexual Socialization

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Roberto L. Roman Laporte, VitalBridge Health
Inclusivity Matters: Insights from a Qualitative Research Study About LGBT+ Inclusive Healthcare

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIA (Room 133)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Nia Harmon, Yale University
Influence of Carbon Nanotube Support on Electrochemical Nitrate Reduction Catalyzed by Cobalt Phthalocyanine Molecules

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Mary Omotoso, Johns Hopkins University
Artificial Antigen Presenting Cells for Memory T cell Expansion to Improve Adoptive T Cell Therapy

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Mekdelawit Messay Deribe, Florida International University
Equitable and Sustainable Use of the Nile River Basin: Designs of Adaptive Water Use Pathways for an Uncertain Future.



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions II (Continued)

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street

Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)

3:05 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIB (Room 227)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Drea Darby, Cornell University

High Sugar Diets Can Increase Susceptibility to Bacterial Infection in the Fruit Fly
Drosophila Melanogaster

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Kirsten Lovelace-Sims, Howard University

Cryogenic Analysis Measuring Thermal Expansion Coefficient of Silicon Nitride and
Sapphire via the Strain Gauge Method and Computational System Coupling

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Hanh Truong, Emory University

Uncovering the Role of Nuclear Transporter Importin9 in Hedgehog Signaling

Race Relations, Social Movements (Room 229)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Jonathan Doriscar, Northwestern University

The Psychology of White Fragility

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Derrick Boakye Boadu, Florida International University

How to Activate & Sustain Distributed (Shared) Leadership: Insights from Anti-
Displacement Community Collaborations in Miami



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions III

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street

Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)

4:10 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIIA (Room 207)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Ariana Bueno, University of Michigan
Plume Surface Interaction (PSI) Effects on the Lunar Surface

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Maalvika Bhat, Northwestern University
Interactive Experiences to Enhance AI Understanding & Algorithmic Decision-Making for Adult Novices

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Aria Eshraghi, University of Florida
You CAN Teach an Old Drug New Tricks: Repurposing Drugs as Antimicrobials that Block Bacterial Virulence

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIIB (Room 132)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Chayse Lavallais, Northwestern University
Life Cycle Assessment and Techno-Economic Analysis of Circular Nitrogen Systems

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Jimena González, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Searching for Strong Gravitational Lenses in the Dark Energy Survey

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Jason Ludwig, Cornell University
Blackness: Histories of Algorithmic Discriminations

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIIC (Room 133)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Yessica A. Nelson, University of California, Los Angeles
Unlocking the Mysteries of Boron: A Journey into the Element's Intriguing Properties and Versatile Applications

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Taylor Hailstock, Emory University
The CPEB3 Ortholog Orb2 Prevents Brain Malformation

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Jasmin Jeffery, Johns Hopkins University
Leydig Cell Regeneration in the Adult Mouse Testis



ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Concurrent Sessions III (Continued)

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York Street

Rooms (207, 132, 133, 227, 229)

4:10 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

Literature, Arts, Culture (Room 227)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Austin Anderson, Howard University
Blood and Blackness in FromSoftware's Bloodborne

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Kelly Richmond, Cornell University
Radio-Active Ghosts: The Spectral Dramaturgy of Marie Clements' Burning Vision

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Olabanke Oyinkansola Goriola, Northwestern University
Disrupting the Color Spectrum: African Women and the Performance of Colorism

Race Relations, Social Movements (Room 229)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Johnathan Hill and Darren Dubose, Michigan State University
Getting Schooled in the Deep South: Making the Case for an Integrated Curriculum

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Katherine Ally Zaslavsky, Cornell University
Exploiting Existence: How Representation Shapes Inequality

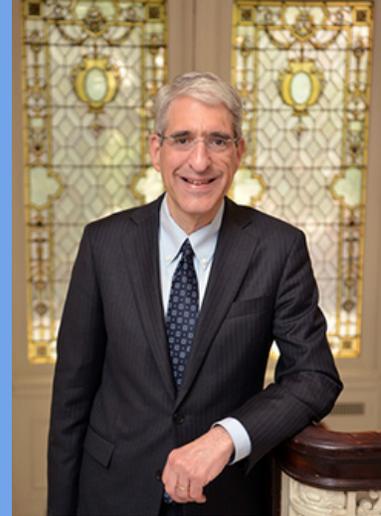
Day Two - April 6, 2024

BOUCHET LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD KEYNOTE LECTURE AND DINNER

**Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, 155 Temple Street
Grand Ballroom**

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Registered Conference Guests Only/Assigned Seating



2024 Bouchet Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Peter Salovey is the twenty-third president of Yale University and the Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology. He holds secondary faculty appointments in the School of Management, the School of Public Health, the Institution for Social and Policy Studies, and the Sociology Department. He became president of the university in July 2013.

President Salovey has led the development of new programs and facilities across the schools and departments of Yale, including restructuring and expanding the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, launching the Jackson School of Global Affairs, transitioning Yale School of Public Health into a self-supporting independent school, and opening two new residential colleges, increasing Yale College enrollment by 15 percent. He is advancing innovative teaching on campus; amplifying Yale's partnerships in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world; and enhancing multidisciplinary collaboration and entrepreneurial opportunity for faculty and students. President Salovey is committed to improving access to a Yale education for students worldwide regardless of their financial background.

Prior to becoming president, President Salovey served as the provost of Yale University from 2008 to 2013. As provost, he facilitated strategic planning and initiatives such as enhancing career development and mentoring opportunities for all Yale faculty members; promoting faculty diversity; creating the Office of Academic Integrity; establishing the University-wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct; developing the West Campus; and overseeing the university's budget during the global financial crisis. Other leadership roles at Yale have included serving as chair of the Department of Psychology, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and dean of Yale College.

After receiving an A.B. (psychology) and A.M. (sociology) from Stanford University in 1980 with departmental honors and university distinction, President Salovey earned three degrees at Yale in psychology: M.S. (1983), M.Phil. (1984), and Ph.D. (1986). Since joining the Yale faculty in 1986, he has studied the connections among emotion, health communication, and health behavior, with a special focus on emotional intelligence. He played key roles in multiple Yale programs including the Health, Emotion, and Behavior Laboratory, which President Salovey founded; the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS; and the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program.

President Salovey has authored or edited over a dozen books translated into eleven languages and published hundreds of journal articles and essays. With John D. Mayer, he developed a broad framework called "emotional intelligence," the theory that just as people have a wide range of intellectual abilities, they also have a wide range of measurable emotional skills that profoundly affect their thinking and action. In 2013, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2024

Katherine Ally Zaslavsky

Sociology

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Katherine Ally Zaslavsky Sociology Katherine Ally Zaslavsky is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Cornell University. They use critical computational methods, mixed methods content analysis, and experiments to study the value of representation and diversity: why, how, and to whom representation matters. As an undergraduate at the State University of New York at Geneseo, Katherine began by studying far right movements across Europe and media coverage of the Palestine-Israel conflict. Now, they continue to study spheres of representation, from academic hiring patterns to television consumption to voting. Their work has been funded by grants including Cornell's American Studies Research Grant and the Abraham and Henrietta Brettschneider Oxford Exchange Grant. They have served as a Visiting Scholar at Oxford University (Nuffield College), a Provost Diversity Fellow, and a Data Science Disseminator Fellow with Cornell's Center for Social Sciences. Katherine has been invited to present their work internationally, from Yale University to Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia. Their background drives a commitment to mentorship and teaching, for which they received the Deanne Gitner and Family Annual Prize for Teaching Assistants. They are active in community advocacy, as a researcher and producer at the Asian American and Pacific Islander nonprofit Hate is a Virus and a member of the vary CSS collective, which works toward diversity in computational social science. Dedicated to the roles of teacher, researcher, and community advocate, they plan to pursue a career as a professor of sociology.

Evelyn Ambríz

Graduate School

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Dr. Evelyn M. Ambríz, PhD, MPA is founder and owner of Concept to Completion Academic Writing Services and a postdoctoral researcher for mentoring and faculty engagement at the Cornell University Graduate School. Across her work, her goal is to contribute to positive systemic change towards equity and inclusion in the academy. Her research centers the development and implementation of diversity and inclusion policies, informal practices, routines in hyperprivileged sites (those historically exclusive to White, wealthy, men), and distributions of social, cultural, and economic capital (or resources). In her and research-informed ongoing practical work, she prepares and supports faculty as they implement inclusive mentoring strategies to expand access, opportunity, and belonging for graduate students, especially those whose ancestors were excluded from higher education. More broadly, she helps prepare faculty to be a part of change-making interorganizational networks with a common interest: inclusive mentoring. She has received numerous mentoring awards at Cornell University as well as academic excellence awards at the University of Texas at Austin and Cornell University. Dr. Ambríz's research has appeared in several academic journals, including the American Educational Research Journal, Journal of Higher Education, and Review of Higher Education. She regularly presents her work at academic conferences, including the annual meetings for the American Educational Research Association, American Education Research Association, and International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. She received a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin and was awarded a bachelor's degree in development sociology and a master's degree in public administration and Latine/x/a/o studies.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2024

Drea Darby

Entomology

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Andrea (Drea) Darby is a PhD Candidate in entomology at Cornell University. Originally from Las Vegas, NV, she graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with her degree in Ecology and Evolutionary biology, where she was selected as a Ronald E. McNair. She studies the metabolic consequences of infection and the effects of high sugar diets on infection outcome in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. She is greatly passionate in advocating for the wellbeing and inclusion of historically marginalized students in academia. She served as a co-leader for the Cornell Diversity Preview Weekend, which has transformed into the institutionalized program Consider Cornell, where students from groups historically underrepresented in academia learn the ins and outs of the graduate application process. Drea also served as the President of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, where she founded the Black Excellence Research Symposium. She is also passionate about creating open and honest discussions about how science has been used to justify inequity in our society. Drea co-developed the Science of Bias Seminar in Fall 2020 where students learned about the historical context of bias and exploitation in science and how it persists in the present day. Drea was recognized as a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow, Graduate School Dean's Scholar, Next Gen Professor Fellow, and recipient of the 2021 Early Career Exemplary Service Award from the Graduate School. Drea's aspiration in life is to help create a more inclusive and equitable STEM environment for future scientists and for society at large.

Juliana Gonzalez-Tobon

Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

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Juliana Gonzalez-Tobon is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology at Cornell University. Her research focuses on the cellular and molecular interactions between bacteria that are pathogens of plants and their hosts. Most specifically, bacteria that affect potatoes and ornamental plants. Juliana is a Colombian scientist. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Microbiology from Universidad de los Andes (Bogota, Colombia) and a Master's in Biological Sciences from the same University. Her research has been published in prestigious journals in her field and recognized with awards at conferences and within universities. Juliana believes that it is the duty of a scientist to share their research with the general public. She also believes that showing what scientists do is key to encouraging younger generations of scientists from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue an academic path. With this goal in mind, she created an online community called epiplantpath and participates regularly in other outreach programs. Juliana has also received multiple awards recognizing the way she communicates her research in an engaging and approachable way, like the Three Minute Thesis and The Next Big Idea competitions. Ultimately, Juliana aspires to continue growing as a researcher in Academia and eventually become a professor. She would create her own research and mentoring program to prioritize the inclusion of brilliant minds who perhaps never thought they could become wonderful scientists, just as happened to her.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2024

Jesus Lopez Baltazar

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

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Jesus M. Lopez Baltazar is a doctoral candidate in Chemical Engineering. His work focuses on the development of optical biosensors for the detection of extracellular vesicle (EV) biomarkers that can be used for medical diagnostics. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. EVs play a complex role in cancer evasion, progression, and metastasis. Since EVs are produced by all cells, including cancer cells, they offer superb opportunities for their use as preeminent biomarkers. Specifically, EVs possess transmembrane proteins that are uniquely expressed, depending on the cancer disease type. Jesus aims to develop surface plasmon resonance – based bioassays that can detect and quantify clinically relevant EVs for early-stage cancer screening. During his Ph.D., Jesus has successfully led projects on assay development with remarkable results, establishing the surface chemistry that allows for the detection, quantification, and determination of binding kinetics of mice derived EVs. The government of Mexico has commended his accomplishments with the 2023 Jalisco (Mexico) State Youth Award for Scientific Achievement. Jesus has also been a formidable student advocate as the President of the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association. He is the recipient of the NSF GRFP and GEM fellowships in addition to the Exemplary Service Award for Early Career Student and the Graduate Student Excellence in Leadership Award, which highlights his commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service within the academy. His ongoing commitment to making improvements through service stems from a deep belief that all students should have a fair and equitable experience."

Jason Ludwig

Science & Technology Studies

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Jason Ludwig is a PhD candidate in Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University. A historian of technology, his dissertation examines how government officials, computer experts, and activists sought to advance racial equality through computing in the postwar United States, and why their efforts failed. He was an inaugural Zhu Family Graduate Fellow in the Humanities at Cornell, and his work has been recognized and supported by the National Science Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. Jason believes in the importance of humanistic research to help us better understand ourselves and our world and has advocated for a more diverse historical profession as a member of the Society for the History of Technology's Committee on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. He intends to continue these efforts as he pursues a career in academia, working at the intersection.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2024

Kelly Richmond

Performing and Media Arts

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Kelly Richmond (she/her) is an artist-scholar, teacher, amateur circus performer, avid flower photographer, part-time cat rescuer, and full-time ghost hunter. She holds an undergraduate degree in Drama & Theatre and Psychology & Behavioral Science from McGill University, a masters in Theatre Arts from Cornell University, and will be defending her dissertation “Spectral Ecologies: Performing Queer Hauntings at the Edge of Climate Crisis” in Spring 2024. She has published on queer circus, new materialist performance, and android theatre. Her research examines the intersections of queer performance, environmental activism, and gothica esthetics. As an artist-scholar, Kelly creates work which explores queer adaptation while combining practice-as-research, community collaboration and activism. Kelly’s pedagogy has been recognized with the Knight Teaching Portfolio Award, the James F. Slevin Assignment Sequence Prize, and the FGSS First-Year Writing Seminar Award – and led to invited teaching positions in Cornell University’s Precollegiate Summer Scholar’s Program and Write Together at Home Program. Kelly works as a tutor for the Graduate Writing Service at the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Discipline, where she coaches graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty in their writing process; her clients have won nationally competitive grants after working with her. Kelly aspires to work within academia, continuing to advocate for the intersection of environmental and social justice within and beyond the performing arts.

Reum Scott

Materials Science & Engineering

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Reum N. Scott is a postdoctoral researcher in Materials Science & Engineering and Chemistry & Chemical Biology at Cornell University. His research focus has been the assembly of Metal–Organic Frameworks and the coarse-grained molecular dynamics simulation of their crystal growth. Reum has been recognized as an NSF MPS Ascend, NSF GRFP, and Sloan Fellow. Previously, he received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Science in Chemistry from Howard University, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Cornell University. The quest for knowledge has defined his life and he plans to guide future scientists on a similar journey. His volunteer work with the Cornell Center for Materials Research and the Ithaca Sciencenter aims to get children interested in STEM and then keep them interested until college. Farther along the academic pipeline, he desires to guide academic policies for under-represented minority (URM) undergraduate and graduate retention as a dean or as an academic coach.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2024

Vaibhav Sharma

Physics

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Vaibhav Sharma is a PhD candidate in physics with a concentration in theoretical quantum matter research at Cornell University. His research focuses on mathematical modeling of ultracold quantum systems to explain the exotic phenomena occurring at the microscopic scale and enable their use for quantum computation. Vaibhav has been awarded the Douglas Fitchen Memorial award by Cornell's physics department and won the second prize while presenting his research in Cornell's annual 3-minute thesis competition. He received his Master of Science in physics from IIT Bombay in India where he was awarded the institute silver medal and Prof. R.P. Singh memorial prize for exceptional academic performance. Vaibhav is enthusiastic about teaching and mentoring and improving diversity and inclusion in STEM. He has helped organize science outreach conferences like EYH (Expanding Your Horizons) that is centered on hands-on workshops and lab tours to promote STEM careers among 7th-9th grade female students and REACT (Research Education and Activities for Community Teachers) where graduate students share their research with local K-12 community teachers and help them in preparing STEM-based classroom activities. He has also taught a mathematics course to incarcerated individuals at the Auburn correctional facility as part of the Cornell Prison Education Program. Ultimately, Vaibhav aspires to work in academia with a passion to perform cutting edge research in quantum science and contribute towards making academia accessible to underrepresented communities.

Meagan Sundstrom

Physics

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Meagan Sundstrom is a fifth year Ph.D. candidate in Physics at Cornell University. Her research uses social network analysis methods to examine undergraduate physics students' interactions with their peers and recognition of their strong peers, with a particular focus on the role of student gender in such networks. Meagan has been recognized as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. She has also started working part-time as a postdoctoral researcher at Drexel University, where her research uses both social network analysis and classroom observations to better characterize active learning pedagogies used to teach undergraduate physics. Previously, Meagan received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics-Physics from the University of Connecticut, where she earned the awards of University Scholar, Honors Scholar, and Babbidge Scholar. Meagan is passionate about increasing the participation of women and other under-represented groups in science and has served in leadership roles for several programs with this goal, including the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics. In the future, Meagan aims to work within academia using both her research agenda and her commitment to service and outreach to address issues of under-representation in science.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2024

Taylor Simone Hailstock

Biochemistry, Cell & Development Biology

Taylor Hailstock is a candidate for the Ph.D. in biochemistry, cell, and developmental biology (BCDB) at Emory University. Her research focuses on characterization of a conserved translational regulator in *Drosophila* to uncover the neurodevelopmental underpinnings of microcephaly, a rare congenital birth defect. Taylor has been recognized as a Centennial Scholar Fellow, Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) Student Ambassador, and was nominated for the Kharen Fulton Diversity Graduate Award. As well, she received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Bowie State University (BSU; cum laude), where she was a recipient of the 4.0 Award and named Student of the Year. She received a Master of Science in Biotechnology with a concentration in stem cell and regenerative technologies from Johns Hopkins University, as a Dean's list honoree. Taylor has since procured concurrent awards to all fund research, conference, and training endeavors; notably including study abroad under field pioneers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. She has been an avid champion for increased diverse representation in biological sciences as featured in televised documentary, "Women of Color in STEM – Past, Present and Future" Part 1" and BSU state-wide billboard and digital campaigns, "BE BOLD." She remains a devoted advocate as policy chairperson of the BCDB DE&I Committee; where she conceived organizational constitutions and bylaws, initiated DE&I-focused recruitment activities, and petitioned program-standard DE&I lab/website signage implementation. Taylor aspires to redistribute her passions to policy work- at the intersection(s) of science, technology, law, and communication, to reform existing barriers in STEM for historically marginalized groups.

Jakari Harris

Biomedical Engineering

Jakari Harris is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. Her research focuses on 3D printing pathological heart models for surgical planning. Jakari has received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship and been accepted into the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP). On campus, she currently serves as the GT Black Graduate Student Association President, an Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) Ambassador, and a Project ENGAGES Mentor. She received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Hampton University, where she was a Freddye T. Davy Honors College Scholar. Jakari is very passionate about teaching and mentoring. She enjoys giving back to her community in STEM outreach exposure as well as teaching golf classes to youth in underserved communities. Ultimately, Jakari aspires to bring real-world applications of BME to academia as a faculty member and create more research opportunities for HBCU students.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2024

Louis Brown Hopkins

Immunology & Molecular Pathogenesis

Louis B. Hopkins is a PhD candidate in the Immunology & Molecular Pathogenesis program at Emory University. His research focuses on understanding immunosuppressive mechanisms of tuberculosis and improving vaccines and host-directed therapies against the disease. Louis has been recognized as a Centennial Scholar and has been selected as the Herz Global Health Impact Scholar by the ARCS Foundation. He received his Bachelor of Science in microbiology from Cornell University, where he was part of the Biology Scholars Program. Louis serves as a leader in the Emory community as the Vice President of the Division Student Advisory Council (DSAC), an organization that serves as a liaison between the student body and university leadership. After obtaining his PhD, Louis will pursue an American Society for Microbiology (ASM) fellowship in clinical and public health microbiology with the goal of becoming a board-certified director of clinical and public health laboratories. Addressing health disparities is his greatest motivator to be a scientist. With his advanced training, Louis desires to improve public health initiatives and oversee research and diagnostic efforts.

Jada Hoyle-Gardner

Environmental Sciences

Jada R. Hoyle-Gardner is a FIRST (Fellowships in Research and Science Teaching) IRACDA Fellow in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Her current work combines her background in Chemistry from Spelman College and her Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from Florida A&M University. Combining her love for chemistry and health equity, her research investigates utilizing computational and molecular tools to understand the health effects of pollutants on the microbiome of mothers and their infants from low to middle income communities. In addition to her extensive laboratory skills background, Dr. Hoyle-Gardner has built excellent communication and management skills by training other laboratory colleagues/students. Her love for STEM education and science communication has led her to a place in the classroom teaching introductory biology courses at Emory University and the AUC (Atlanta University Center). She also gives her time as an educational STEM leader to elementary students and high schoolers through tutoring sessions and aiding in fun "laboratory" activities to provide mentorship through their love of learning. Dr. Hoyle-Gardner plans to be a pillar in STEM education, providing the resources to break down barriers and provide an inclusive teaching environment through community engagement.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2024

Jarildy Larimar Javier

Neuroscience

Jarildy L. Javier is a neuroscience PhD candidate at Emory University. Her research is centered around the role of various brain regions, such as the basolateral amygdala, in the processing of social and nonsocial reward. Jarildy received her B.A. in Biology with a concentration in Ecology and Evolution from Colby College. After an international STEM Education fellowship, Jarildy then went on to be a neuroscience postbaccalaureate scholar through Northwestern's NIH PREP program. Upon admission, Emory awarded Jarildy the Centennial Scholars Fellowship based on her demonstrated academic achievement and contribution to Emory's diverse student body. While at Emory, she has gained numerous recognitions including being named HHMI Gilliam Fellow and Neuroscience Scholar through the Society for Neuroscience. In conjunction with her academic accolades, Jarildy has never stopped supporting her people – dedicating time and energy to uplifting students from historically excluded backgrounds. She has been involved in several organizations like Black in Neuro and Cientifico Latino. She has and continues to be an official mentor through the Association for Women in Science and Emory's neuroscience program. She is an elected Executive Committee representative for the neuroscience program at Emory, advocating for needs to students to faculty and leadership. Additionally, she is an active supporter of science outreach efforts targeting young future scientists, many from Black and Latinx backgrounds like Letters to a Pre-Scientist and the ATL Science Festival. Jarildy hopes to continue to excel in science while advancing access to science and equity within science for everyone.

Kristen Patterson

Chemistry

Kristen N. Patterson is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Chemistry at Emory University. Her research centers around developing biopolymer delivery platforms for drug and prodrug candidates. Kristen has been recognized as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP) awardee, and Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) ambassador, where she has served in several leadership roles, including organizing the 2023 Laney EDGE Research Symposium and Summer Opportunities for Academic Research (SOAR) program. She currently serves as an EDGE Fellow, where she corresponds with a team of ambassadors to promote diversity and recruit prospective students from historically underrepresented backgrounds for Laney Graduate School. She has been awarded a Quayle Ambassador Fellowship by her department to participate in similar recruitment activities. Within her department, she serves as the Graduate Student Representative for her department's DEI committee. She serves in this position as a member of the department's Student Advisory for Full Engagement (SAFE) committee, a group of undergraduate and graduate student representatives who work with pre-existing department committees to identify and execute new ways to realize unmet needs within our community. Kristen graduated from New College of Florida in 2020 with a B.A. in Chemistry and Sociology, where she increased the photocatalytic degradation efficiency of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) nanoparticles sensitized with natural pigments towards pharmaceuticals and examined this system with stormwater runoff in a citizen science initiative. She aspires to work in the realm of environmental chemistry, generating biopolymer-based tools to address public health concerns. Ultimately, she wishes to prioritize the people who could be affected by her research at every step of the process, which she believes results in more grounded science with more practical applications outside of a lab environment.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2024

Mariana Rocha

Neuroscience

Mariana Rocha is a Ph.D. candidate at Emory University in the Neuroscience doctoral program. Her research focuses on identifying the physiological mechanisms that drive the relationship between traumatic experiences and the development of gestational metabolic disease, specifically in pregnant Black persons. At Emory, Mariana was awarded the Woodruff Scholars Fellowship and the Centennial Scholars Fellowship, in recognition of her academic achievement and promise as a leader. In 2020, Mariana received a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Yale University, where she completed various neuroscience-based research positions as an Amgen Scholar at the NIH and a Yale STARS Fellow. Following graduation, she worked as a post-baccalaureate researcher in Developmental Biology at The University of California Santa Cruz through the NIH-funded baccalaureate research program (PREP). Throughout her undergraduate and graduate career, Mariana has had an unwavering dedication to advancing educational equity for students from historically excluded backgrounds. She has worked with Cientifico Latino's Graduate School Mentorship Initiative (GSMI) to help graduate applicants from historically excluded backgrounds apply and attend graduate programs in STEM. As part of the DEI committee and recruitment team at Emory's Neuroscience Graduate Program, she has worked on efforts to identify and reduce admissions biases, organized workshops to create financial literacy among graduate students, and led an initiative to incorporate inclusive language into the Neuroscience curriculum. Mariana's ultimate goal is to work at the intersection between science and health policy in order to reduce racial-ethnic health disparities.

Hanh Truong

Human Genetics

Hanh Truong received her Ph.D. in Cellular Molecular Biology at the University of Michigan and currently is a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University. Her research focuses on studying the role of karyopherins, typically known for nuclear transport, in ciliary transport to impact Hedgehog signaling. As a Vietnamese-American scientist, Hanh was recognized as a Rackham Merit Fellow at the University of Michigan, which aims to sustain the academic excellence and inclusiveness of the graduate community. She also received competitive travel grants and poster awards as a PhD student on her dissertation project in uncovering novel mechanisms of retinal degeneration. As a postdoctoral fellow at Emory, she is actively engaged in the science community through service teaching and mentoring. She worked with the Next Gen High School Internship program, which is a paid-six-week summer internship program to expose URM high school students to scientific research. She directly worked with two students and discussed her experience working in academia and attaining her Ph.D. She also taught them laboratory practices and the scientific basis for how some of our experiments work in the lab. She also serves mentor in Emory's Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program, which supports URM students in the biological sciences. She facilitated two IMSD classes on (1) selecting a lab, and (2) developing and maintaining independence while working on research. Ultimately, Hanh aspires to become a principle investigator and create a safe environment where students can verbalize their insecurities and gain confidence in their abilities to excel as scientists.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Florida International University 2024

Mekdelawit M. Deribe

Earth System Science

Mekdelawit Messay Deribe is a PhD candidate in Earth System Sciences at Florida International University. Her research focuses on the equitable and sustainable utilization of shared river basins with a focus on the Nile River basin. Mekdelawit has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and three master's degrees in Hydraulic Engineering, Environmental Sciences and Environmental studies from institutions in Ethiopia, the Netherlands, and the United States. She has completed all her degrees with honors and hopes to integrate her broad transdisciplinary education in her PhD project. Aside from her academic endeavors, Mekdelawit is an active participant in the Nile water use discourse. She uses her technical background to advocate for equitable and sustainable water use through her numerous opinion pieces and media engagements. She works to translate science into understandable and relatable format to educate and engage the wider public. Mekdelawit secured numerous prestigious fellowships, served on the FIU Graduate Advisory Board and as Graduate Writing Fellow helping students develop better writing habits and skills, and organizing and participating in numerous FIU related activities. Mekdelawit eventually hopes to pursue her passion for teaching, transdisciplinary curriculum development and work in the science diplomacy sector in transboundary water management.

Ivan Oyege

Earth Systems Science

Ivan Oyege is a Ph.D. candidate in Earth Systems Science, specializing in Natural Resources Management through the Agroecology Program at Florida International University. His research embodies a multidisciplinary approach, leveraging organic farming practices, nanopesticides, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence to devise sustainable strategies against fall armyworms in corn cropping systems. Throughout his Ph.D. journey, Ivan has published two papers and co-authored over five manuscripts currently under review by Springer, Elsevier, and FIU undergraduate journals. He also mentored undergraduate students in their research pursuits, earning recognition from the Agroecology program at FIU for his ethical research practices and dedication. Ivan holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics from Busitema University under the sponsorship of the Government of Uganda. He also has a Master of Science in Chemistry from Makerere University, sponsored by the Embassy of Sweden in Kampala, Uganda. Beyond academic pursuits, Ivan is the founding President of the African Students' Association at FIU, advocating for the unique challenges African graduate students face. His leadership extends to advising three undergraduate student associations while still in Uganda, championing the implementation and advocacy for seven Sustainable Development Goals. Ivan actively participates in community outreaches with the Gideons International organization, where he distributes Bibles to educational institutions. Ivan also serves on the outreach team at Vous Church, where he participated in community initiatives such as back-to-school, Thanksgiving, Christmas programs, and school painting projects, demonstrating a commitment to serving and uplifting the less privileged.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Florida International University 2024

Derrick Boakye Boadu

Public Affairs

Derrick Boakye Boadu is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Public Affairs with a concentration in leadership concepts, public and non-profit management, collaborative governance, diversity management, and climate change issues at Florida International University (FIU). His research focuses on discovering the relational and cognitive mechanisms for activating and sustaining distributed (shared) leadership in anti-displacement community collaborations as diversity persists in collaborative governance settings. Derrick has been recognized as a Writing Fellow at the FIU Graduate School and Writing Across Curriculum (WAC), Dissertation Evidence Acquisition (DEA) Fellow, Global Learning Course Design and Instruction Scholar, and received prestigious awards, including the Distinguished Scholar Dr. Kenneth Meier Inclusion Award at PMRC 2023 and Sapienza University of Rome Graduate Research Award. He graduated with a triple master's degree in MSc. Development and International Cooperation Sciences from the Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; MSc. Economics & Finance from Charles University in the Czech Republic; and MA. International Cooperation from People's Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia Federation, where he received the esteemed European Union (EU) Erasmus Scholarships. His recent co-authored publication, "Mask or No Mask for COVID-19? Do the Individual Characteristics of Governors Affect the Adoption of Statewide Public Mask Mandates?", appeared under PPMR Journal. He has been a keen leader and advocate for housing equity and fighting climate gentrification issues in marginalized and disadvantaged neighborhoods in the city of Miami. Ultimately, Derrick prioritizes using academic leadership to promote inclusivity, create a positive impact, and ensure economic development in marginalized communities.

Collins N. Vaye

Engineering and Computing Education

Collins N. Vaye is a PhD candidate in engineering and computing education with a concentration in international education policy and development at Florida International University (FIU). His research focuses on the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in engineering education within sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). He has co/authored five publications, including his work on Liberian students' experiences with online learning. He is an invited contributor to the forthcoming Handbook of Comparative Education by Elgar Publishing, contributing a chapter on the diffusion of ICT policies in SSA. Collins has been recognized as a Donald H. Wulff Diversity Fellow (2022) and a recipient of a Career Development Award (2023) from the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network. He received a Master of Science degree in computer engineering from FIU, where he has been recognized for his continued impact on the student community. As a first-generation college student, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Liberia, where he was awarded the Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development Scholarship. He is dedicated to advancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in developing nations, with a focus on leveraging ICT effectively in schools. Collins is passionate about community engagement and serves as a liaison for the Black Professionals in International Affairs in Florida. Ultimately, Collins aspires to work at the intersection of government, industry, and academia to support innovations in education in developing countries and beyond.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2024

Austin Anderson

English

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Austin Anderson is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Howard University whose work focuses on race, class, technology, and power. Austin's dissertation is entitled "Racial Recursivity: Play, Blackness, and History in Contemporary Video Games" and explores the use of Blackness as a narrative device in contemporary video games. He received his M.A. in English from New York University, where his thesis explored the consumption of global minoritized literature by hegemonic power groups through the case studies of Langston Hughes and Namdeo Dhasal. He received his B.A. in English from Texas Wesleyan University. Austin is also the current co-chair for the MLA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Humanities where he advocates for the needs of graduate students, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds. His work has been published in academic journals including *Popular Culture Review*, *The Comparatist*, and *ASAP/J* as well as academic edited collections like *Bodies of Water in African American Literature, Music, and Film* and the forthcoming Routledge's *Victorians and Video Games*. After completing his Ph.D., Austin aspires to become an assistant professor at a university while continuing to publish on racial ideology in popular culture and turn his dissertation into his first book. Simultaneously, he aims to continue his work in service advocating for the needs of historically marginalized populations in academia, especially scholars of color and scholars from low-income backgrounds.

Tia M. Dickerson

Sociology

Tia M. Dickerson, M.S., is a candidate for the Ph.D. in sociology with a concentration in social inequality and sociology of the family at Howard University. Her research bridges social inequality, family sociology, sociology of race, mass incarceration, and mental health. Tia's research focuses on the role of structural racism on the health and efficacy of Black families. Her current projects examine how marital status impacts mental health of Black couples, and the relationship between exposure to racism and mental health. She has also presented work on the association between race, incarceration and termination of mother's parental rights, the effect of COVID-19 on families, and the association between mental health outcomes of race-related stress and COVID-19 on Black married individuals. She has published work examining federally funded Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education programs to assess whether they support mental health and economic stability of Black couples. She is also a contributing author the forthcoming volume: *50 Key Scholars of Black Social Thought* highlighting the theoretical contributions of Black scholars to the discipline of sociology. In 2023, Tia was awarded a Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship by the Sociologists for Women in Society for her scholarship and commitment to mentorship of minority students. In 2022, she was elected as a Division Chair for the Family Section of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and was recently appointed to serve on the Mentoring and Inclusion Committee of the Family Division for the American Sociological Association.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2024

Malick Kebe

Mathematics

Malick Kebe received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Howard University in 2023. He is a mathematician/statistician interested in Extreme Value Statistics, Distribution theory, and dynamical systems. He is also interested in machine learning, particularly large language models, time series analysis, and computer vision. He received the 2022-2023 Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Washington Statistical Society. He is passionate about democratizing access to top-tier education and cutting-edge research, particularly for students from underprivileged backgrounds. While at Howard, he laid the groundwork for an AI/Machine Learning workshop—a platform designed to demystify complex mathematics-related topics and empower students with practical knowledge and job ready skills. His aim is to bridge skill gaps within underrepresented communities, ultimately cultivating a diverse and inclusive workforce prepared for the future. Ultimately, Kebe dreams of seeing every classroom bloom with budding scientists, nurtured by a passion for research and education. He hopes to illuminate the path for students interested in STEM.

Jonece Layne

Counseling Psychology

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Jonece Layne is a candidate for the Ph.D. in counseling psychology at Howard University and a clinician providing assessment and intervention services at Children's National Hospital, where she recently received their Advocating and Supporting Psychology in Research and Education (ASPIRE) Extern Award. Jonece earned her M.S. in child and adolescent developmental psychology from Northcentral University and her A.B. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton University, where she was a Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholar. She previously received clinical training at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Howard University Counseling Service. Additional honors she has earned for her achievements and endeavors include the Frederick Douglass Doctoral Scholars Fellowship and Howard University SES Diversity Initiative Fellowship. Her dissertation research focuses on the relationships between positive and negative domains of parenting and the presence of disordered eating symptoms among Black girls and women, with body image and racial identity as potential moderators of those relationships. A secondary focus of that study is Western beauty ideal internalization as a mediator of the relationship between racial identity and disordered eating symptoms. Her prior research has explored additional factors impacting psychological well-being for Black women, including sexual health and intimate relationships. Jonece's passion for learning began in early childhood, and she has since dedicated herself to providing high-quality education and care to students at all stages of their academic journey. She looks forward to a career of continued service and advocacy in the field of psychology.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2024

Jimisha Relerford

English

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Jimisha Relerford is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Howard University. Her research interests include 20th- and 21st-century African diaspora literature, women's and gender studies, and African American rhetorics. Her dissertation research analyzes humor and satire in Black women's narrative writing across cultures. Jimisha has published articles in peer-reviewed publications, including *CLA Journal*, the *Langston Hughes Review*, and *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men*. She is also an experienced instructor, having taught first-year writing and English composition courses for nearly a decade, most recently as a Lecturer and Master Instructor in Howard's Department of English. For her academic and pedagogical work, Jimisha has been recognized with the Conference on College Composition and Communication's Scholars for the Dream Award, the Digital Media and Composition Institute's Cindy and Dicky Selfe Fellowship, and the LINKS, Inc. Female Single Head-of-Household Scholarship. Professionally, Jimisha has served as Writing Center Director and as Special Assistant to the Graduate Dean at Howard. She now works as Program Manager for the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M II) and coordinates the Graduate School's Expository Writing Program. Jimisha is a proud alumna of Howard (B.A., English and Classics) and Georgia State University (M.A., Rhetoric & Composition). She aspires to establish a career at the intersections of academic humanities and project/grants management, and to also develop a non-profit organization that provides academic coaching, professional development, and scholarships to college students who are single parents.

Anaiya Reliford

Atmospheric Sciences

Anaiya L. Reliford, a candidate for the Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences at Howard University, stands at the forefront of groundbreaking research. Graduating with distinction in Chemical Engineering (BSc 2018, MSc 2021) from Howard University, Anaiya seamlessly integrates her expertise across disciplines. Her research is a fusion of atmospheric chemistry and cutting-edge remote sensing technology, with a focus on routine in-situ sampling within the Earth's boundary layer. As a member of the Applied Fluids-Thermal Research Laboratory (@FTERLab), founded by her mentor, Dr. Sonya T. Smith, Anaiya excels as a graduate research assistant. Additionally, she is a NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology-M (NCASM) Fellow. Anaiya guides and mentors undergraduate students, steering them through interdisciplinary experimental and computational research across diverse engineering domains. An advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM, Anaiya aspires to be a beacon for underrepresented women. Her mission is to serve as a mentor and resource, fostering a supportive community for aspiring women in science and engineering. In essence, Anaiya hopes to seamlessly bridge academia, mentorship, and a commitment to advancing the frontiers of atmospheric sciences.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2024

Kirsten Sims

Atmospheric Sciences

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Kirsten Sims is a candidate for the Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences at Howard University. Her research involves computational fluid dynamics and thermal management of microelectronics for air and space vehicles. She holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc., '13) and Master of Engineering (M.Eng., '19) in mechanical engineering from Howard University. Kirsten is a graduate research assistant in the Applied Fluids-Thermal Research Laboratory (@FTERLab), established by her advisor and mentor, Dr. Sonya T. Smith. She mentors several undergraduate students whose work focuses on interdisciplinary theoretical and computational research for a variety of engineering applications. She is a member of several professional societies including the American Meteorology Society (AMS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the American Society of Thermal and Fluids Engineers (ASTFE), Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Kirsten's personal goal is to be a mentor and resource for all students and young professionals, but especially to those traditionally underrepresented in STEM.

Lauren L. Taylor

Sociology

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Lauren L. Taylor is a candidate for the Ph.D. in sociology with a concentration in atmospheric science and public policy at Howard University. Her research utilizes an intersectional lens to understand the community resilience and coping strategies of minorities following wildfire disasters. Lauren has been recognized as a NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology Research (NCAS-M II) Fellow, National Community Reinvestment Coalition Scholar, and recently completed a fellowship with the House of Representatives, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Environment subcommittee. Lauren is an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University with a B.A. in sociology and a minor in African American history (2018) and an M.P.A. with a concentration in public policy (2020). Lauren firmly believes in student leadership and has served in various positions throughout her higher education matriculation, currently serving as the Chair of the Graduate Student Assembly and Graduate Student representative on the Board of Trustees. In addition, she enjoys working with underserved youth, having served as an assistant director for the WEB Scholars Institute at Princeton University and Program Manager for the STEM Summer Academy with the United Negro College Fund. Ultimately, Lauren aspires to work at the intersection of community activism and academia, with a passion for helping to empower everyday folks by highlighting their lived experiences.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2024

Phillip Warfield

History

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Phillip Warfield is a Ph.D. candidate in United States history with a minor in public history at Howard University. His research focuses on racial desegregation in education, specifically within the context of Seventh-day Adventist religious fundamentalism and its impact on its higher education institutions. These institutions comprise the second-largest education system in the world and Phillip is examining their understudied journey towards desegregation. Phillip currently holds the position of curatorial intern at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Additionally, he serves as the Project Assistant for the Council of Independent Colleges' Legacies of American Slavery Initiative. He is also a Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Student Fellow, in conjunction with the National Park Service. In the past, Phillip has worked as an education intern at the DC History Center and as a digital media intern with the French Quarter Museum Association. He is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker, having produced a film for the Pulitzer Center in 2022. Phillip completed his Bachelor of Arts in history at Southern Adventist University in 2019. During his time there, he served as the Student Association President and played a pivotal role in helping the institution and its administration confront their complex and racist history for the first time. Phillip 's ultimate goal is to work in the field of public history and education, utilizing digital storytelling to preserve the legacies of African American and Latino changemakers and their communities.

Tiffany Wheatland-Disu

History

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Tiffany Camille Wheatland-Disu is a candidate for the Ph.D. in history with a concentration in African history at Howard University. She is a specialist of 20th century African and African Diaspora history whose research interests converge black radicalism, black internationalism, and transnational solidarities towards liberation. Her dissertation examines the transnational dimensions of political thought and praxis inspired by the 1958 All-African People's Conference in Accra, exploring commonalities and connections between 20th century black freedom struggles in West Africa and the broader Atlantic world. It engages a particular focus on the collaboration between President Kwame Nkrumah, President Sekou Touré and political and civil rights activist Kwame Ture in founding the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (A-APRP). Tiffany is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society and recipient of the Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Assistantship and Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship which she currently holds. Since 2013, she has served as a lecturer within the Department of Africana Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City where her love of teaching inspired her to pursue doctoral studies in African history. Tiffany is an alumnus of The University of Iowa (Bachelor of Arts degrees in international studies and political science) and The New School (Master of Arts in international affairs). Upon completion of her Ph.D., she plans to continue researching, teaching, and bridging the intellectual fragmentation which persists in the histories of Africa and its diaspora.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2024

Samuel Byiringiro

Nursing

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Dr. Samuel Byiringiro, a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, directs his research towards cardiovascular health outcomes, health systems strengthening, global health equity, and community-engaged research. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Science in Global Health Delivery from the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Rwanda, where he was honored with the valedictorian award. Dr. Byiringiro is dedicated to advancing his research career in both the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa. His pre-doctoral dissertation delved into the multifaceted health system factors affecting hypertension care and outcomes in Ghana. In his current post-doctoral fellowship funded by the American Heart Association, he leverages his expertise in engaging primary care systems in West Africa to enhance community health center involvement and participation in cardiovascular clinical trials in and around Baltimore City. This effort aims to broaden the diversity of participants in cardiovascular research.

Mauro Garcia

Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences

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Mauro A. Garcia is a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He investigates humoral immune responses in people with HIV undergoing analytical treatment interruption trials. His research shows that following cessation of antiretroviral therapy, autologous neutralizing antibodies profoundly influence HIV rebound dynamics. This greatly informs HIV cure strategies aiming for virologic control in the absence of antiretroviral therapy. The clinical implications of his work have been recognized and invited for presentation at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Conference for Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. In addition to his research efforts, Mauro participates in outreach programs that support first-generation immigrants, people of color, women and LGBTQ+ scholars. He shadows infectious disease physicians at Johns Hopkins Hospital, serves as an Emerging Voices Fellow for AIDSmap, and creates social media content to demystify the PhD journey for first-generation college students. Mauro aspires to become a professor at an R1 institution to study HIV persistence and humoral immune responses in neonatal and pediatric populations. He plans to continue his outreach efforts to bridge educational gaps and amend mistrust between scientific institutions and marginalized communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2024

Brandi Glover

Cellular and Molecular Medicine

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Brandi K. Glover is a Ph.D. candidate in Cellular and Molecular Medicine. Her research is focused on using patient-derived organoid systems to study the impact of Krüppel-like factor 4 (KLF4) hotspot mutations on early pancreatic tumorigenesis in Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms (IPMNs). Brandi was selected as a Janssen Scholar of Oncology Diversity Engagement Program (SODEP) scholar, a Vivian Thomas Scholars Initiative (VTSI) fellow and recently served as the Academic Career Design Fellow and Faculty Engagement Lead in the PHutures Career office at Johns Hopkins University. She is also founder and president of Student Mothers of Hopkins (SMOH) trainee support group. As well, she received her Bachelor of Science in biology from Xavier University of Louisiana, where she was recognized as a Ronald E. McNair scholar, UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research fellow, EpiCenter's University Innovation fellow, and Xavier's presidential scholarship recipient. Brandi is dedicated and devoted to mentorship and advocacy for students and mothers who are underrepresented in academia and commits her time to helping others. Following graduate school Brandi aspires to attend medical school and ultimately, plans to work as a physician-scientist for an academic institution, leading a laboratory of diverse minds.

Emma Jagasia

Nursing

Emma Jagasia MSN, MPH, RN is a pediatric nurse and a dual degree DNP, PhD candidate at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing supported in her first two years by the institutional interdisciplinary pre and postdoctoral training program in violence and trauma (NICHD T32HD094687). Emma's research focuses on the associations between violence exposure and neurobehavioral development during early adolescence and the moderating role of resilience through use of neuroimaging and mixed methods. She is a pediatric critical care nurse by training, and actively practices as a neurobehavioral nurse working with children with developmental delays and survivors of domestic violence, which directly informs all scientific inquiry. Emma is passionate about the vast and timely integration of current cognitive development, childhood adversity and resilience research into child and adolescent practice to enhance transitional outcomes for youth. She serves as a mentor with HeartSmiles, a youth led nonprofit dedicated to providing opportunities and access to underserved communities in Baltimore. Emma finds constant inspiration in the courage and ingenuity of youth she works with and aspires for a career devoted to challenging biases and oppressive structures preventing youth and families from achieving health and success on their own terms.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2024

Jasmin Jeffery

Cell Biology

Jasmin L. Jeffery is a candidate for the Ph.D. in cell biology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her dissertation research is focused on understanding the mechanisms controlling regenerative capacity in adult stem cell niches, specifically Leydig cell regeneration in the testis. Jasmin earned the Isaac Morris and Lucille Elizabeth Hay Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Cell Biology and the National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Award (F31) to support her work. Jasmin holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from Hampton University, where she was a Presidential Scholar. Jasmin often thinks of the illustrious Toni Morrison's words: "the function of freedom is to free someone else." She has sought to live those words by leading teams to inspire future trailblazers in the Johns Hopkins community. While at Johns Hopkins University, she served as a Vice-President of the Graduate Student Association, President-elect and President of the Biomedical Scholars Association, and as an inaugural Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative Fellow. During her tenure as Biomedical Scholars Association President, the organization was awarded a 2021 Diversity Recognition Award. Outside of research, Jasmin is passionate about sustainable food systems, renewable energy, and science and health philanthropy. Ultimately, Jasmin aspires to apply her cell biology training to large-scale social and environmental issues.

Antoine Johnson

History of Medicine

Antoine S. Johnson is a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of the History of Medicine and an incoming Assistant Professor of African American & African Studies at the University of California, Davis. Antoine earned his Ph.D. in the history of medicine from UC San Francisco. His research interests include Black health activism, anti-Black racism in medicine, and the Black intellectual tradition. He is currently working on a book about Black AIDS activism in the Bay Area, particularly his hometown of Oakland, California. In 2023, Antoine was awarded the Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Award, given annually for outstanding work in twentieth-century history of medicine or medical biomedical sciences, and a proposal to turn the dissertation into a publishable monograph.

Mary Omotoso

Biomedical Engineering

Mary Omotoso is a doctoral candidate in the Biomedical Engineering program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her thesis research investigates how biomaterials and cellular proteins can be utilized to alter T cell metabolism for enhanced cancer immunotherapies. Prior to starting her program, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. After graduation, she desires to pursue opportunities outside of academia with the hopes of translating research and advancing medical technology. Outside of her studies she enjoys baking, listening to music, and traveling.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2024

Emily Silvano

Psychological and Brain Sciences

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Emily Silvano grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and she is a First Generation to earn a Ph.D. in her family in Linguistics at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). In 2019, Emily received the Excellence Award from the Brazilian Society of Linguistics. As a signal of her academic development, she received the CAPES/PrInt (Internationalization Program from Coordination for Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) scholarship to be a visiting scholar at the Neuroplasticity and Development Lab at Johns Hopkins for six months in 2020. As a scholar, she actively discusses underrepresentation in educational and scientific environments. In her commitment to service, she has initiated mentorship initiatives since her Graduate School and volunteer work as a Brazilian Sign Language interpreter for deaf individuals. She was a co-advisor of undergraduate scientific students. Currently, Emily is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Neuroplasticity and Development Lab. Her research focuses on how people with sensory loss, such as blindness or deafness, can process complex sentences. She aims to highlight the exceptional cognitive abilities of these groups through her research. She also continues to provide guidance and support to students from underrepresented backgrounds, such as black students and students with disabilities, in this process of starting and continuing their scientific research.

Mudia Uzzi

Mental Health

Mudia Uzzi, PhD, MSc, is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and an alum of the Health Policy Research Scholars program with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. His current research investigates the underlying structural drivers of firearm violence and opioid-involved overdose in urban communities. Some of the topic areas Uzzi explores include racial capitalism, historical redlining, racial & economic segregation, subprime mortgage lending, and the built and social environment of neighborhoods. He aspires to develop research, policies, and programs that promote safer and healthier communities. While a PhD student at Johns Hopkins, Uzzi led the award-winning community COVID-19 response project, Mask On: Greenmount West. Moreover, Dr. Uzzi has supported and advised underrepresented students of color as a member of the Black Graduate Student Association and the Leadership and Education in Academic Research and Networking for Enhancing Diversity (LEARNED) program at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2024

Herbert Wakefield

Chemistry

Herbert S. Wakefield IV is a candidate for the Ph.D. in chemistry at Johns Hopkins University. His research focuses on understanding the inherent reactivity of organometallic molecules to understand strand properties and produce sustainable materials. For his work, he was awarded the Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship by the Gordon Research Conference. He is a dedicated leader in his lab and the University. He serves as the Klausen Lab Safety Captain and Fellow for the Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Kenyon College. While at Kenyon, He served as the President of Men of Color, a student affinity group, and played an integral role in multiple initiatives and programming to increase awareness about the college's DEI efforts. Beyond his academic service, he volunteers at his local community as an assistant high school football coach. Through this role, he has mentored students to pursue their dream of attending college while being a student-athlete. In the future, he wants to continue the pursuit of sustainability initiatives and materials through government advocacy and public-sector polymer science research for chemical recycling.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Michigan State University 2024

Darren “dee” Dubose

Education Policy

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Darren “dee” Dubose is a second year Education Policy student at Michigan State University. His research focuses on the intersection of school consolidation in rural communities and the experiences of Black families across the African diaspora, delving into how these families navigate and react to local education policy decisions. Informed by Critical Race Theory epistemology, dee plans to use his research as a platform for uplifting Black families as necessary stakeholders in the policy discourse. Most recently, dee was accepted to the Black Europe Summer School in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He intends to use the insights gained from this two-week internship program to inform his research agenda on the ways that public education comes with consequences. In addition to his equity-based research, dee was inducted as a 2023-2025 Barbara Jackson Scholar at University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). dee plans to use the research mentorship gained from the Jackson Scholar program to reflect on how his work positions Black families as policy stakeholders. As an involved doctoral student at Michigan State University, dee is an active member of the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), the Alliance for Graduate Education Professorate (AGEP), and works as a Diversity Assistant for The Big Ten Alliance Program Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). Before enrolling at Michigan State, dee was a high school physical education teacher in rural Alabama and middle school reading teacher and community organizer in urban Texas. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education Alabama State University and a Master of Public Service and Administration from The Bush School at Texas A&M University.

Antonia Gordon

Political Science

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Antonia “Toni” Gordon is a native of Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Prior to starting her journey as a doctoral student, Antonia held positions with the Government Accountability Office, the City of Philadelphia’s mayor office, and the U.S. Army. She joined Michigan State University’s Political Science Department in 2021 as a Michigan State Interdisciplinary Training in Education and Social Science (MITTENSS) Fellow. Her research explores the social, economic, and behavioral consequences of state intervention in Urban/Minority serving communities. Her unique take on education policy demonstrates how school accountability goes beyond education institutions to impact the public that schools service. Antonia’s long-term goal/practical implication for her research includes understanding the design of accountability policies, and whether approaches to design could better support students and communities. In addition to her scholarly work, Antonia serves as the graduate assistant at MSU’s Women of Color Initiatives (WOCI) where she created the community health program. In this role, Antonia facilitated wellness programming with community-based partners that offer WOC targeted services. The impact of these partnerships helped to build a robust network of support for graduate student health while extending WOCI’s educational programming to women outside of the university. Antonia is also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the League of Women Voters – Detroit, and the National Council for Negro Women (NCNW) where she serves on the national youth and collegiate affairs and social Justice committees. Through these organizations, Antonia teaches urban youth about civic engagement, service, and voting rights.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Michigan State University 2024

Johnathan Hill

Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education (CITE)

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Johnathan Hill is a doctoral candidate in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education program in the Michigan State University College of Education. His research centers on amplifying the voices of rural Black people, schools, and communities to help bring new insights on the identity and lived experiences of Black people which have created uneven understandings of Black schooling and Black placefulness. His dissertation project seeks to trace and untangle the cross-generational role of Black rurality in the pedagogical practices, politics, and schools of the Rock of Waters community by engaging the voices and stories of rural Black placefulness in the existential, social, and material homeplace of community members. Furthermore, Johnathan extends his scholarly commitments beyond research into his advocacy and service through his recruitment of more teachers of Color for the State of Mississippi through the Mississippi Teacher Corps Program; his mentorship and training of MSU undergrads and MTC interns in working with learners from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds; and his supporting of underserved schools and communities in the Mississippi Delta through providing scholarships and school supplies by way of the Mississippi Delta Equitable Education Project. Prior to beginning his studies at MSU, Johnathan served as a middle and high school mathematics teacher in Mississippi, his home state. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Thee [JH1] Jackson State University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Mississippi through the Mississippi Teacher Corps (MTC) Program.

Kaelyn Sanders

Criminal Justice

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Kaelyn Sanders is a Ph.D. Candidate in Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice. Her research interests include community supervision, reintegration, digital exclusion, and intersectionality, and she is passionate about advocating for a more equitable criminal legal system. Her dissertation research will qualitatively examine digital exclusion among Black returning citizens in Genesee and Wayne County, MI. Kaelyn's research has been featured in the Journal of Criminal Justice, Feminist Criminology, and the Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy. During her time in graduate school, Kaelyn has actively worked to increase DEI in her program by serving as the graduate assistant for her program's Prospective Doctoral Student Recruitment and Retention Program Grant. In this role, she works to increase DEI in her graduate program by meeting with students at MSIs and HBCUs and assessing areas where current graduate students can be better supported. Kaelyn is also a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and a 2024 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow. Prior to her time at MSU, Kaelyn received her B.A. in Sociology and Criminology from The Ohio State University.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2024

Alex Keith

History

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As a History doctoral candidate, Alex Keith studies 20th century Black cultural politics in the United States, and England. Her dissertation research juxtaposes the cultural politics of two Black theatre groups: the Kuumba Theatre Workshop in Chicago, Illinois, and the Negro Theatre Workshop in London, England. Her scholarship explores the intersections of race, gender, empire, and colonialism through art practices. In addition to her scholarship, Alex served as the Professional Development Coordinator for the History Graduate Student Association (HGSO) where she organized a panel of History PhD alums to share their professional journeys with current students. She previously worked as an interdisciplinary Graduate Assistant for the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) and Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC). As a graduate assistant, Alex liaised between community organizations, university partners, and consortium staff to co-build a new program that pairs Northwestern graduate students with community organizations holding Black historical collections. She built relationships with organizations and co-created positions based on how a graduate student could support the work that these organizations were already doing. She interned with the archives department of the South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC), a historic Black arts organization, cataloguing exhibitions from the 1970s, and processing archival collections. Currently, Alex serves as the Graduate Student Advisor for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship where she mentors undergraduate students of color interested in diversifying the academy. She is also an archival intern at Shorefront Legacy Center, an archive preserving the histories of African Americans in Chicago's north suburbs.

Chayse Lavallais

Chemical and Biological Engineering

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Chayse Lavallais research is focused on evaluating emerging technologies that transform waste nitrogen into high-value products to determine the economic, environmental, and social impacts. These insights can be used to holistically compare various nitrogen recovery technologies, aid policymakers and industry leaders with decision-making, and determine the impacts of a nitrogen circular economy on a global scale. So far, Chayse has published three manuscripts: One first author about the development of nitrogen circularity indicators and two coauthored about developing market mechanisms for nitrous oxide and methane abatement, and the environmental impact of transforming nitrogen in wastewater into urea through electrocatalysis. In addition to scientific training, Chayse is involved in multiple opportunities for leadership, service, and advocacy. As a Northwestern Diversity Peer Mentor and chemical and biological engineering Ph.D. recruitment DEI lead, he works with prospective and first-year PhD students to ensure that their needs are met within the Northwestern community. He is part of the executive board of the Black Graduate Student Association, a group whose goal is to represent and act upon the academic, cultural, and social interests of the black graduate students on campus. Finally, he is part of Black Men Lead, a collaborative initiative between Evanston Township High School, Northwestern, and Evanston to offer a platform to share narratives and promote success amongst black male students. Through these efforts, Chayse is advancing his goals of building an equitable and inclusive scientific community.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2024

Jonathan Doriscar

Social Psychology

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Jonathan Doriscar's research examines the barriers, facilitators, and outcomes of prejudice reduction within interpersonal and intrapersonal contexts, such as defensiveness, negative affect, and increased bias awareness. His work examines these factors from the perspectives of prejudice and those impacted by prejudice. Jonathan's past research has been accepted in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, one of the most prestigious journals in our field (Vallabha, Doriscar, & Brandt, 2023). This work encompassing four studies ($n = 2,116$), utilized a conjoint experiment design to investigate what factors contribute to the support for restitution for descendants of past oppressions (i.e., descendants of slaves) and blame attributions against descendants of those responsible (e.g., descendants of slave-owners). To share his research findings, he has presented at conferences hosted by esteemed organizations such as the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the Midwestern Psychological Association, the Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, ILLOWA, etc. Furthermore, his work has been submitted for publication to prestigious journals such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Nature Energy*, and the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. As a Graduate Resident Assistant, Jonathan provides guidance and support to fellow students in Graduate Student University Housing to create a welcoming and inclusive residential community. In his roles as a Colloquium Committee Representative, New Student Recruiting Czar, and Sneak Peek Organizing Committee Member in the Northwestern University Psychology Department, he actively contributes to initiatives that promote professional growth, diversity, and inclusion among graduate students.

Olabanke Goriola

Performance Studies

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Olabanke Goriola is an artist-scholar and a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Performance Studies researching Colorism, dance, identity politics, and Black women's labor. Her research investigates the effect of colorism and skin-tone discrimination on dark-skinned female dancers, the implicit and explicit sacrifices they make to attain belonging, and the relationship between skin-bleaching and media perpetuation of Eurocentric beauty standards. Also, she is a Council for Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) Graduate Fellow at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Besides her scholarly and artistic practices, Olabanke occupies administrative positions, such as being the Assistant Chair of the Public Affairs Residential College (PARC), where she assists with the college's programming, and community-building aspects. With a grounded interest in service, mentorship, and advocacy, she currently serves as the Graduate student representative in the Department of Performance Studies, acting as a liaison between the students and faculty; the convener of the African Seminar (AfriSem) in the Program of African Studies, where Africanist graduate students engage in an interdisciplinary discourse of the African continent and a second-time TGS diversity Peer Mentor. As a leader, Olabanke is on the organizing committee of the Northwestern University Performance Studies Graduate Student Conference, which will be held in May 2024, and the co-organizer of the Spring 2024 NU Travelling Treasures Speaker and Workshop Series that aims to provoke conversations and experiences that engage the legacies of shared African heritage and material culture, the future of museums, and the potentials enabled through emerging digitization technologies.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2024

Sanjana Subramaniam

Mechanical Engineering

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Sanjana Subramaniam is a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering. Her research focuses on the physics of a polymer manufacturing process named near-field electrospinning (NFES), to make it more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable. This work advances the physical understanding of this complex, multiphysics process by using experimental and computational methods, which will lead to better process control and further the rapid development of applications, such as directly written micro-circuits or water-harvesting structures, using this technology. Sanjana authored a publication in which she created a numerical model to simulate the NFES process; this method will significantly decrease the trial-and-error development period in determining the optimal process parameters for electrospinning a polymer. She's currently working on a paper aimed at developing improved characterization techniques to identify compatible polymers for this process. Sanjana is an active member in Northwestern campus organizations. She served as the president of the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Society and professional development chair for the Graduate Society of Women Engineers. In these positions, she organized seminars to bring together the graduate STEM community during the pandemic. Moreover, Sanjana is a leader in the Northwestern Prison Education Program; she pioneered its expansion to Logan Correctional Center, a women's prison in southern Illinois. She runs an academic support and wellness program by leading fifty undergraduate and graduate student tutors to support the academic needs of incarcerated women at Logan. Through her academic and outreach work, Sanjana hopes to make academic spaces more accessible to those who have been historically disadvantaged in this capacity.

Spencer Nabors

Philosophy

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Spencer Nabors is a fourth year PhD Candidate in the Department of Philosophy at Northwestern University. Her research interests include social epistemology, critical phenomenology, philosophy of race, and philosophy of religion. Spencer's dissertation project lies at the intersection of critical phenomenology and philosophy of race as she examines embodied expressive harms that occur as a result of oppressive ideologies. She is particularly interested in exploring how bodies perpetuate racial subordination through their motility, comportment, and spatiality. Spencer has presented papers on this research at several academic conferences including The Roundtable for Black Feminist and Womanist Theory and the American Academy of Religion. She is also a Mellon Cluster Fellow in Critical Theory at Northwestern and has served as a commentator for the work of visiting scholars at several Northwestern University Critical Theory Cluster Workshops. Spencer is also committed to service both on campus and throughout the greater community. In 2021, she participated in a panel on Critical Race Theory with the Evanston/NorthShore chapter of the NAACP. Spencer was named a 2023 UNCF Chicago Mastermind, a class of 12 individuals who are committed to the community and demonstrate the values of the United Negro College Fund. Spencer also serves as an intern with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Northwestern. Through this role, she has gone on several recruitment trips for the graduate school to HBCUs, participates in the planning and execution of retention events, and served as a graduate mentor for undergraduates in the Summer Research Opportunities Program.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2024

Iris M. Rivera

International Psychology

Dr. Iris M. Rivera was born and raised in Harlem, NYC to Puerto Rican parents. She is a multifaceted, dynamic, and altruistic pioneer that leads by example. Dr. Rivera became a Certified Nurse's Assistant at the age of 15 and began college the following year. After September 11, 2001, she put her dreams on hold to join the Army, serving 8.5 years in active-duty and being the first female in her family to join the Armed Forces. During her military service, Dr. Rivera obtained her master's degree and was inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. Dr. Rivera was also selected from the top 1% of the Armed Forces to serve at the White House Communications Agency where she served two U.S. Presidents, including President Barack H. Obama. In 2023, Dr. Rivera completed her Ph.D. with a 4.0 GPA, being the first in her family to obtain a Ph.D. and the first in the history of the International Psychology program to complete both the Trauma Services and the Organizations and Systems concentrations. Dr. Rivera is passionate about altruism, mental health, training, DEIA, and serving the underserved and underrepresented populations. She also has the natural ability of making people of all backgrounds feel welcomed and included. Dr. Rivera consistently creates opportunities to be of service to others through advocacy, mentorship, research, training, and more. Dr. Rivera aims to foster inclusive environments that promote philanthropy, knowledge sharing, cultural awareness, informed decision making, creative problem solving, and continuous growth.

Jasmine Hall

Organizational Leadership

Jasmine Nicole Hall is an accomplished educational outreach counselor devoted to serving hundreds of underrepresented students on their path to higher education through her active social and academic mentorship. Jasmine seeks to use her life as her message as a leader and scholar to advocate for the lives of first-generation, low-income students, an identity she knows all too well. Through years of working with TRIO – Upward Bound, Jasmine has taken an interest in researching how higher education has become more accessible for first-generation, low-income students, yet the success rate of this student demographic continues to display disheartening statistics. Jasmine seeks to find effective results in closing the learning gaps for at-risk students: conceptualizing transformational leadership can impact the sense of belonging in higher education, which may lead to first-generation student retention and success. She finds a strong need to explore the ideas of the successful experiences of those who overcame their generational adversities and continue to challenge the status quo by using their position in higher education to empower those similar to their previous sociodemographic identity.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2024

Amima Diagne

Business Psychology

Amima Diagne is a scholar-practitioner passionate about fostering diversity, inclusion, equity and belongingness within institutions of higher education – through both research and practice. With approximately 10 years of experience in higher education (and 15 years of professional experiences across a range of industries), Amima currently works as the Associate Director of International Student Services, in the Office of International Affairs at The University of Chicago. In her role, Amima advises, supports, and advocates for the success, inclusion and wellbeing of international students – through one-on-one advising, policy development, process improvement, supportive programming, and collaboration with campus partners on a range of committees, working groups and strategic initiatives. Amima is a lifelong learner and has always been dedicated to education. She has a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Chicago, a M.A. in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from The Chicago School, and is currently a PhD candidate (ABD, expected 2024) in Business Psychology (Industrial/Organizational Track) at The Chicago School, where her dissertation research is focused on the dynamics of diversity work within organizations. Amidst her educational and professional pursuits, Amima also volunteers with professional associations such as NAFSA and with community service organizations in Chicago, Illinois and Cincinnati, Ohio (her hometown).

Guillermo Ybarra

International Psychology

Guillermo Ybarra is a PhD student in International Psychology (Trauma Services concentration) at The Chicago School. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (Forensic Psychology concentration) from Purdue Global University and Dual Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling (Vocational Evaluation concentration) and Professional Counseling from New Mexico Highlands University. He is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). His dissertation research project is studying psychological trauma in Qatar. He has extensive experience in therapy and counseling, including owning his own therapy practice and working at the DC Rape Crisis Center in Washington, D.C. and providing therapy for U.S. Navy military service members and their families in Japan and Bahrain.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2024

Kelly Torres

Educational Psychology & Technology Department

Dr. Kelly Torres earned her doctorate degree in Educational Psychology from Florida State University. She possesses Florida K-12 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teaching certificates. She has taught numerous university-level courses in both online and face-to-face settings in content areas such as educational psychology, foundations of education, assessment, curriculum development, linguistics, and culture. Dr. Torres's research interests are focused on the implementation of technology into educational settings in order to enhance student academic outcomes and on various aspects of the motivational influences that may impact second language learning and culture. Her research has resulted in numerous manuscript publications and state, regional, national, and international conference presentations. She has also worked as a consultant for state and national curriculum accreditation committees and has helped to develop a national K-12 ESOL language proficiency high-stakes assessment. Her international work has resulted in partnerships with NGOs and universities located in South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2024

Michael Guy

History

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Michael Guy is a candidate for the Ph.D. in history at The George Washington University. His research focuses on race in early America and on how museums and historical sites function as arbiters of historical memory. Michael received his Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Baltimore and his Master of Arts in museum studies and historical preservation from Morgan State University. Through his research and work, Michael hopes to act as a bridge between public and academic history. To this end, his dissertation uses the stories told by docents at Hampton National Historical Site in Baltimore County—a plantation built at the end of the eighteenth century and believed to be the largest private residence in the United States at the time of its construction—as windows of analysis into larger topics of race and slavery in Maryland. Michael also serves as a research fellow with Johns Hopkins University's Black Beyond Data project, where he works on the Black Press Research Collective project. One goal of this project is to make academic work and discourse accessible to those outside the academy. Additionally, Michael is focused on building community with other scholars in the field and is the co-founder of the Writing Revolutionaries, a writing group where GW graduate students in history share their current work.

Justus Jobe

Biological Sciences

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Justus Jobe is a candidate for the Ph.D. in biological sciences at The George Washington University. His research focuses on the impact that large-bodied herbivores have on plant communities present in coastal landscapes experiencing climate change and has resulted in two first-author publications in the journals *Ecology and Diversity*. Justus received his Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from the University of Maryland, where he received highest honors in the biology honors program. He is a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and of grants from the Washington Biologists' Field Club and the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Justus is passionate about supporting aspiring scientists, having mentored five undergraduates and two DC high school students whose independent field research resulted in a co-authored publication. In addition to his academic achievements, Justus has actively participated in outreach to local stakeholders, helping them address questions pertaining to the critical issues of herbivores and crop damage in agricultural landscapes affected by climate change. During his doctoral program, Justus participated in a six-month internship with the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge funded by the NSF INTERN program, where he was able to contribute to the intersection of academia and practical conservation efforts by providing hands-on experiences that helped local elementary school students understand the importance of science and wildlife management. Justus is committed to continuing his scientific outreach, helping rural underrepresented communities understand and address the challenges of climate change.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2024

Claudia Melo

Microbiology and Immunology

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Claudia Melo is a candidate for the Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology at The George Washington University. Her research focuses on Natural Killer (NK) cells' cytotoxic capacity against HIV-infected cells. Claudia has been recognized as a GW T32 HIV Persistence, Comorbidities, and Treatment Training Program (T32AI158105) trainee. Claudia received a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry from Brooklyn College (CUNY), where she earned the Maximizing Access to Research Careers Award, the Guttman Transfer Scholarship, and the BNY Mellon Scholarship. Claudia is as passionate about research as she is about mentoring and promoting diversity and inclusion in science. Currently, she is involved in the GW Student Organization of Biomedical Scientists, where she serves as treasurer and as a member of the Committee of Action and Advocacy. She is part of the Seminar Committee and the Anti-Racism Coalition (ARC) Committee of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine in GW's School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Outside the university, Claudia volunteers as a mentor with Científico Latino, helping undergraduate STEM students prepare their Ph.D. applications and current Ph.D. students adjust to their first year of graduate school. Upon completion of her doctoral studies, Claudia plans to apply for post-doctoral positions in the field of HIV.

Travis Reginal

Public Policy and Administration

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Travis Reginal is a candidate for the Ph.D. in public policy and administration at The George Washington University. His interdisciplinary research, centered on racial healing and the racial equity strategies of local governments to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, originated from a transformative experience at a Christian retreat at Yale University, where he found hope that progress in these challenging areas was possible. Travis received his Bachelor of Arts in sociology and African-American studies from Yale and his Master of Public Administration from GW. He helps curate the Consortium for Race and Gender Scholars, which brings together researchers and practitioners in public administration, and wrote the foreword for the book *Engagement for Equitable Outcomes: A Practitioner's Playbook*. Travis is also the co-author of a peer-reviewed journal article proposing a new set of standards for research clearinghouses, which allows for a focus not only on quantitative studies but also on qualitative and mixed methods studies, assessing their contextual and equitable considerations. Travis's commitment to the pillars of the Bouchet Society stems from navigating the vastly different worlds of his hometown in Jackson, Mississippi, and Yale during his undergraduate years. His advocacy for first-generation college students and those from low-income backgrounds has ranged from expanding the Yale Black Men's Union mentoring program to Conte West Hills Magnet School and supporting high school students through Jackson State University's Upward Bound program, to serving on the board of an organization expanding access to AP courses for rural students in Mississippi.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2024

Heather Walsh

Nursing

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Heather Walsh is a candidate for the Ph.D. in nursing at The George Washington University. Her research explores workplace racial microaggressions among nurses and how experiencing these microaggressions impacts nurses' ability to deliver safe, quality patient care to children, as well as the nurses' job satisfaction and wellness. Heather received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Bloomsburg University, her Master of Science in nursing from George Mason University, and completed the Master Teacher Leadership Development Program at GW. She serves as secretary of the Phi Epsilon chapter of Sigma Theta Tau (the international honor society of nurses) and as an advisory board member of Ready.Sim.Go, a company focused on patient-family-caregiver education powered by simulation. Heather has authored several publications evaluating interprofessional learning using simulation and is currently writing a book chapter on debriefing in an inclusive manner. She is a simulation program manager at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC, and was the nursing lead in the development and implementation of a novel, simulation-based curriculum known as the Interprofessional Debrief on Racism, Equity, and Microaggressions (I-DREAM). Heather is currently developing an interprofessional simulation-based curriculum, to be called Simulation Addressing Verbal Escalation (SAVE) Training, which will use an equity lens to assist nurses in de-escalating situations that arise with patients and their families. Post-dissertation, Heather expects to conduct an intervention study, possibly focused on microaggressions training for nurse and hospital leaders and new graduate nurses.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2024

Jessica C. Lee

English

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Jessica C. Lee is a PhD candidate in English with concentrations in 20th & 21st Century American Literature, African American Literature, and Poetics at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on embodiments of watery black diasporas, Atlantic Ocean Literature, Middle Passage imaginaries and African roots tourism as portals to futurism. Jessica has been recognized as a UC President's Pre-Fellowship (PPPF), a Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow, and a Rising to the Challenge Summer Research Fellow of Black Life. Additionally, she is a transfer student of Santa Monica College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies and English from the University of California, Irvine where she was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Jessica learns and grows with every challenge and believes in contributing to the academy through exposing students to culture as a fluid text. She works with the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), is an avid mentor for the Center for Community College Partnerships Program (CCCP) and instructor for the Academic Advancement Program (AAP), all prioritizing transfer students across the country by encouraging matriculation and graduation. Ultimately, Jessica aspires to work at the intersections of literature and new media, with a passion for improving lives through new approaches to cultural collaboration in articulating and curating diasporic futures.

Christopher R. Luthers

Molecular Biology

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Christopher is a 4th year PhD candidate studying molecular biology at UCLA in the lab of Dr. Donald Kohn at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on genome editing of stem cells for the treatment of immune deficiencies which can be cured using gene therapy. Christopher has been recognized as a National Academy of Sciences Ford Predoctoral Fellow, MIMG Mitsuo Takasugi Awardee, Dr. Ursula Mandel Fellowship award recipient, UCLA Graduate Dean's Scholar, UCLA Life Sciences Fellowship award recipient, and Cota Robles fellow at UCLA. Christopher received his Bachelor of Science in Microbiology with a minor in Global Poverty from the University of Maryland, College Park where he received the University President's and Dean's scholarship. Outside of research, Christopher is involved in mentorship of students ranging from elementary to graduate school through various volunteer organizations. Specifically, he spends his time volunteering for the Social Justice Learning Institute: a Los Angeles based non-profit organization focused on providing increased access to STEM resources and education to underrepresented minorities in the South Central communities of Los Angeles. Ultimately, Christopher aspires to take the knowledge gained from his PhD thesis in molecular biology and interface at the intersection of scientific research and public health, working to take cutting edge biomedical technologies and apply them to the fields of global public health and science communication.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2024

Yessica A. Nelson

Chemistry

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Yessica A. Nelson is a candidate for a Ph.D. in chemistry with a concentration in inorganic chemistry under the mentorship of Professor Alexander Spokoyny at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the design, synthesis, and evaluation of boron-based systems and has authored several publications on the topic. Yessica has been recognized as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow (NSF GRFP), GEM Fellow, UCLA Cota Robles Fellow, UCLA Chemistry and Biochemistry John Stauffer Excellence in Second Year Academics and Research Awardee and received the College of Letters and Science Stone Fellowship. She also received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from California State University, Los Angeles, where she received the NIH MARC U* STAR Fellowship. Yessica is passionate about outreach to underserved and predominantly immigrant communities of Los Angeles and is a new member of her department's Graduate Diversity Leadership Committee, intending to establish robust support systems for first-generation graduate students. She has been an avid volunteer with the California NanoSystems Institute, a science outreach effort centered on providing hands-on experiences to Los Angeles-area students from elementary to high school. She is also involved in campus-led retention efforts such as Grad2Grad and PEERS programs. Ultimately, Yessica aspires to work at the intersection of sustainability-focused research and development and is passionate about improving lives through chemistry and new technology.

Carla Salazar Gonzalez

Sociology

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Carla Salazar Gonzalez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Her latest work examines how Central American asylum-seeking mothers, along with their attorneys and advocates, negotiate and are affected by the laws and immigration policies surrounding borders and asylum. Carla's dissertation asks: how and why are mothers sent to Mexico at the U.S.-Mexico border, despite seeking asylum in the U.S.? What are the implications and consequences of restrictive immigration policies and laws, such as and asylum law? Her research leverages insights from 14 months of participant observations at an immigrant-serving organization, Al Otro Lado (AOL), and 125 interviews with Honduran, Guatemalan and Salvadoran mothers in Tijuana seeking asylum in the U.S. Her research has been supported by the Fulbright Fellowship, UCLA Cota-Robles, the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program, Russell Sage Foundation, and various fellowships from research centers at UCLA. Throughout her undergraduate and graduate education, Carla has served as the keynote speaker, mentor, and panelist at educational functions designed to provide college preparedness for high school and college students. In sharing openly with students about her background as a daughter of immigrants, first generation college student, a person with hearing loss, a woman doing research abroad, and a mother of color in academia, she hopes to inspire students from diverse backgrounds to explore the myriad academic resources that will empower them to contribute to their local and academic communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2024

Kayla Y. Lim

Neurobiology

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Kayla is a 4th year PhD candidate in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology program in the lab of Dr. Weizhe Hong at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the neural mechanisms of positive, affiliative social interactions. Kayla is a NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein F31 Predoctoral Fellow (NIH NRSA) and UCLA Graduate Dean's Scholar. She also received her Bachelor's of Science and Arts in Neural Science and Psychology from New York University, where she was a University Honors Scholar and received the Sherrington Award for Neural Science Undergraduate Research. In addition to her work in the lab, Kayla serves as President of the Science Policy Group at UCLA, leading initiatives to address and advocate for critical issues related to health, technology, and the environment, and has been awarded the Science for Public Good Fund and Research America Civic Engagement Microgrants to support this work. She also co-directs the Neuroscience Communication Seminars at the UCLA Brain Research Institute, organizes science communication opportunities for fellow students, and is involved in public outreach as a volunteer with numerous community organizations. Kayla is committed to fostering a collaborative and diverse student community dedicated to advocating for positive change and aspires to create experiences that empower people to engage at the intersection of science, equity, and society.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, San Diego 2024

Alec Calac

Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

Alec Calac (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians) is an MD/PhD candidate at UC San Diego School of Medicine and Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science. He works collaboratively with the Global Health Policy and Data Institute on projects that integrate tribal public health, digital technology, social media, and health policy. His scholarship has been published in the Harm Reduction Journal, JAMA Internal Medicine, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Public Health Reports, Cell, JMIR Infodemiology, American Journal of Health Promotion, JAMA, Journal of Internal Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, and Nature Communications Biology. In 2022, he was named a 40 Under 40 Leader in Minority Health by the National Minority Quality Forum and participated in the Biden-Harris Leaders in Health Equity Roundtable Series. In addition to his research work, Alec has served as the National President of the Association of Native American Medical Students and Chair of the American Medical Association Standing Committee on American Indian Affairs. He currently serves on the UC Global Health Institute HEAL Fellowship Advisory Board, Indian Health Council Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program Community Advisory Board, and National Minority Quality Forum Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative Scientific Advisory Board.

Alicia Escobedo

Language and Communicative Disorders

Alicia Escobedo is a 6th year student in the Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders at San Diego State University and University of California, San Diego. Her research interests include bilingualism, typical and atypical language development, language sampling, and caregiver perspectives. She is also a clinical fellow at the San Diego State University Speech-Language Clinic.

Danielle M. Campbell

Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

Danielle M. Campbell is a fourth-year doctoral student and experienced clinical research manager who integrates principles of health equity and implementation science into biobehavioral research into HIV treatment, prevention and cure research. Danielle has expertise in infectious disease related work, COVID-19, MPOX, and HIV. She is a member of the iSTRIVE research lab, where under the guidance of Dr. Jamila K. Stockman, her work examines the influence of structural systems and paradigms of power on the production of health inequities among racial and ethnic and sex and gender minority populations living with and affected by HIV and other marginalized populations with an emphasis on women and girls. She is a member of the research faculty at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in the School of Medicine, Division of Preventive and Social Medicine. Danielle is also a member of the DHHS Adult and Adolescent ART Guidelines Panel, DHHS Treatment of Pregnant Women with HIV infection and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission Panel, and DHHS COVID-19 Guidelines Panel. She has served as PI for several research projects related to sexual health including HIV prevention and cure. Currently, Danielle serves as PI of a study examining perceptions of HIV related cure research among diverse populations disproportionately affected by HIV. Danielle is a community organizer for HIV/ AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice awareness policies and campaigns. She dedicates her energy in service to community.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, San Diego 2024

Desmond Michael Hassing

Drama and Theatre

An enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a San Diego native, Desmond Hassing is an artist, scholar, and archivist who focuses on educating Western subjects on the intentionally disremembered subject of the Indigenous Peoples of North America. As the founder of the Indigenous Peoples Reading Room, Hassing has contributed to public scholarship by compiling an annotated bibliography of Native American, First Nations, and Pacific Islander representations in DC/National comic books. Entitled The National Indian Project, the bibliography was formed from a survey of roughly 35,000 DC/National comic books from 1938-1975 and is a public access document located at Comicbookindians.com. Hassing's research interests focus on how the iconography of the Hollywood Indiantrope in comic books, advertising, and minor league baseball mascots during the 20th Century served to aid the construction of Western American Identity and how the companies and institution that have deployed this iconography throughout their history adapt as the narrative they create is challenged by those seeking to generate a new sense of National Identity in the 21st Century. Hassing is also a film director and conceptual performance artist. Hassing's most recent film, *#stillhere*, has been selected for the First Nations Film and Video Festival, California's American Indian and Indigenous Film Festival, the One Heart Native Arts and Film Festival, the Wairoa Maori Film Festival, and was a finalist at the 2016 Equality International Film Festival.

Ugbad Farah

Biology

Ugbad Farah's interests center around sustainability, environmental justice, and community. As a PhD Candidate in Biological Sciences, her research specializes in understanding the ecology and evolution of commercially important algae for biofuel and is dedicated to developing strategies to mitigate climate change impacts. She is also deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment in the fields of ecology and evolutionary biology and does so through outreach and mentorship. Farah has been recognized for her outstanding performance as a graduate student as well as her exceptional mentoring efforts through UC San Diego's School of Biological Sciences. Farah's research is part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary project supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) that includes collaborators at multiple universities, commercial companies, and the Los Alamos National Lab. As an undergraduate student at Sacramento State, she was awarded scholarships from the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) and received the National Science Foundation's (NSF) LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship to complete her M.S. in Environmental Science from California State University, Los Angeles. Farah also serves as co-director of the UCSD Jail Outreach Program (SCIENCE Class), aimed to provide educational services to the incarcerated community within San Diego. She is also part of the UCSD-National City Restorative Education About Plants (REAP) project that rehabilitates gardens at underserved schools in San Diego in collaboration with teachers and students. Farah is deeply committed to democratizing science by advancing scientific engagement and fostering inclusive environments for underserved communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2024

Tiffany R. Pennamon

English

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Tiffany R. Pennamon is a candidate for the Ph.D. in English with a specialization in African American Literature, Cultural Studies, and Womanist Thought. Her research focuses on the spiritual essence of Black art and how it operates in contradistinction to western news media. Tiffany also serves as a Graduate Intern and archivist-in-training for the George A. Smathers Libraries' Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, where she works with the Zora Neale Hurston papers and other African American collections. She has been recognized as a UF Board of Education Fellow, an SEC Emerging Scholar (2023-'24), a selected participant for the Black Europe Summer School, a two-time grant recipient of the SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, and she received the UF Preparing Future Faculty certificate of completion. In the classroom, Tiffany strives to create a discussion-oriented space for students to learn, or unlearn, in ways that enhance their understanding of and responsibility to the world around them. She complements her academic responsibilities with her role as an artist and freelance writer, covering topics including Black literature and media, education, community archiving, environmental issues, and mental health. Her work has appeared in *Black Perspectives*, *World Wildlife Magazine*, *The Conversation*, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, *Women In Higher Education*, *SOURCE: The Magazine of the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries*, and *CEA Mid-Atlantic Review*, among other publications. Tiffany received a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a master's degree from Columbia Journalism School, where she was an Anne O'Hare McCormick Scholar.

Karen Awura-Adjoa Ronke Coker

Public Health

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Karen Awura-Adjoa Ronke Coker is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Public Health with a concentration in One Health at University of Florida in the Department of Environmental and Global Health. Her research focuses the intersecting social justice issues and the concepts of mental health and wellbeing in the context of reproductive health in Alachua County Florida, USA, and climate change in Senegal, West Africa. Karen has been recognized with the 2023 Graduate Student Mentor Award at the University of Florida, as a Fulbright Hays DDRA Fellow, from the U.S Department of Education, a TL1 NIH-NCAT Pre-Doctoral Fellow, from the National Center for Clinical and Translational Science(NCATS), and 3x awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow, from the U.S Department of Education. She was the 2021-2022 TL1 Pre-Doctoral National Representative for NCATS. Additionally, she received a Masters of International Affairs from The Pennsylvania State University ,where she was the recipient of The W. Lamar Kopp International Achievement Award and Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and French from The University of Michigan. Ultimately, Karen aspires to capture how discourse of kinship, traditions, culture, and collectivity may be protective factors that buffer adverse psychological outcomes rooted in social and climate injustice. Karen work is about building community centered and led research projects to achieve health equity, wellbeing and sustainable environments that thrive.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2024

Zuania Colón-Piñeiro

Biology

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Zuania Colón-Piñeiro is a Ph.D. candidate at the Biology Department of the University of Florida. She is an ecologist interested in understanding how the interaction between abiotic and biotic factors affects the fitness of amphibians via changes in morphology, physiology, and behavior. She integrates field and lab work with empirical and theoretical frameworks to quantify host-pathogen-microbiome interactions in amphibians. Her doctoral thesis examines the effects of the pathogenic chytrid fungus in direct-developing frogs at early life stages, which are more vulnerable to infection and mortality. The relevance of this work is global, as this pathogen persists in hundreds of amphibians worldwide. Her doctoral thesis was motivated by a disease-mediated mortality event in her breeding colony of frogs during her master's studies at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. Zuania has been involved in multiple student associations since she was an undergrad at the University of Puerto Rico-Bayamón, obtaining several leadership roles. She has coordinated service, social, and professional development activities to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Because of her academic merits and compromise with the community, she has obtained multiple awards to fund her research and was chosen as a Scholar of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Zuania enjoys teaching ecology and statistics and serves as a role model for students from underrepresented groups, allowing her to mentor 14 undergraduate students, the majority from underrepresented groups. In the future, she sees herself working in academia, combining research, teaching, and outreach programs to share her love for science.

Claudia Garnica-Díaz

Biology

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Claudia Garnica-Díaz is pursuing a Ph.D. in Biology with a focus on Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) at the University of Florida. Her research aims to deepen scientific insights into plant and ecosystem functions while addressing challenges in natural resource conservation. Employing eco-physiological tools, Claudia contributes to enhancing the restoration and management of woodland ecosystems across the US and South America, crucial in the face of climate change impacts like droughts, heatwaves, and land-use alterations. She has excelled in international projects by independently recruiting collaborators at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia where she co-developed a project that includes graduate and undergraduate thesis. She has secured independent funding for much of her research and presented her work at international conferences worldwide. As a result of her master's work, Claudia's research was featured in Forbes Magazine. Recognized for her outstanding character, she demonstrates remarkable leadership qualities. She actively enhances the experiences of international students within her department and serves as the current president of UF SACNAS (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science), emphasizing her commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in STEM. Her dedication extends to service and advocacy, notably through her involvement in SACNAS and the department's Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program (URAP) for the past three years. As a first-generation college graduate and international student from Bogota, Colombia, Claudia's journey to her Ph.D. reflects her resilience and determination, driving her to support the Latin community's interests at the University of Florida.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2024

Corey Perkins

Pharmaceutical Sciences- Pharmaceutics

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Corey Perkins is a PhD candidate in pharmaceutical sciences with a concentration in pharmaceutics at the University of Florida, working under the supervision of Dr. Thomas D. Schmittgen. Her research focuses on studying the initiating event of pancreatic cancer development, known as acinar to ductal metaplasia (ADM). Corey utilizes a 3D organoid assay utilizing primary, human tissue to 1) study ADM in the context of pancreatic cancer racial health disparities and 2) therapeutically target the event of ADM and potentially intercept cancer development. Corey has been recognized for her work, being a recipient of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Women in Cancer Research Scholar Award and two-time recipient of the Minority in Cancer Research Scholar Award, in addition to receiving invitations to speak at two national AACR meetings. She is also a member of the Cancer Research Education and Engagement Health Equity (CaRE2) Center, which is a collaboration amongst Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and University of Southern California to advance cancer disparities research and she is greatly involved in the community outreach. She also served as the president for the University of Florida's College of Pharmacy Graduate Student Council, working to foster inter-departmental relations amongst graduate students, as well as serving as a liaison between the students and graduate dean/coordinators. Corey is conferring her doctoral degree in May 2024 and will continue her postdoctoral training at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute-Harvard Medical School affiliate, where she will continue to perform pancreas cancer research in an immunology lab.

Tatianna L. Zambrano

School Psychology

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Tatianna L. Zambrano is a candidate for the Ph.D. in school psychology with a concentration in neurodevelopmental disorders at The University of Florida. Her research focuses on evaluation of assessment practices for identifying children with Autism Spectrum disorder and evaluating universal mental health practices in school districts. Tatianna has been recognized as a leader in the College of Education, having served as the Co-President for the School Psychology Graduate Student Association and other roles within the College. Tatianna is dedicated to service of a diverse range of patients, providing services in hospitals, private practices, and traveling to rural communities. Additionally, she received a Bachelor of Science in psychology from The University of Alabama, where she was a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship and was awarded as a Graduate of Distinction. Tatianna is a dedicated life-long learner, advocate, and ally to populations she works with. She is also involved in policy work with The Education Trust in Washington, D.C. Ultimately, Tatianna aspires to work to become a resource for families and children, passionate about improving lives through the intersection of science and practice.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2024

Ivana Parker

Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Ivana Parker is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida. She is passionate about pursuing research that will have a global impact. She is committed to alleviating health disparities for those most vulnerable populations using her research influence. Mentoring and Outreach are key components of her research program, and she participates in numerous global education and outreach initiatives. She is a Fulbright Scholar who recently completed a year-long study at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Her project assessed the risk of a commonly used tuberculosis vaccine, BCG, on HIV susceptibility in infants using proteomics and systems biology approaches. She completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship as an American Society for Microbiology postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control within the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. Ivana received her PhD in Bioengineering from Georgia Tech in 2015. During her time at Georgia Tech, she received the NSF graduate research fellowship and was selected to be a trainee on an NIH Cell and Tissue Engineering Training Grant. She also received a Whitaker Grant to develop artificial aortic valves in Cape Town, South Africa and facilitated set-up of a lab in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during her PhD training. Ivana earned her BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida in 2009.

Aria Eshraghi

Infectious Diseases & Immunology

www.EshraghiLab.org

Dr. Aria Eshraghi is a tenure track assistant professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology at University of Florida. Dr. Eshraghi performed his undergraduate and doctoral training at UC Berkeley and UCLA, respectively, where he studied how bacterial toxins bind to the surface of and traffic within mammalian cells. During his postdoctoral fellowship at University of Washington, he was the first to identify the toxins produced by a highly pathogenic bacterium called Francisella and describe their biochemical activities. Dr. Eshraghi's burgeoning research program at UF is focused on understanding the details of how bacterial pathogens interact with their hosts. His research group is a trainee-centered paragon of diversity, with individuals from all walks of life working together toward understanding the mechanisms of infectious diseases and development of toxin-inhibiting drugs. This has led to the discovery of multiple drugs that block the growth and virulence of deadly bacteria. Dr. Eshraghi is recognized internationally as an influential microbiology researcher and his positions include board membership on academic journals and societies. He was recently recognized as a Champion of the Center for Undergraduate Research at UF and received the Peggy Cotter Award from the American Society for Microbiology in 2023. Dr. Eshraghi is committed to the advancement of students and science. He is a regular participant of the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists, and his trainees have been highly successful in moving on to positions in industry, academia, and professional schools throughout the world.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2024

Maite De Maria

Veterinary Medicine

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Dr. Maite De Maria received her Ph.D. from the College of Veterinary Medicine with a concentration in Toxicology. Currently, she is a post-doc in support of the U.S. Geological Survey. Her research has focused on the effects of contaminants and other stressors on manatees' health. Now she is also expanding her interest in using molecular techniques to detect wildlife diseases. Maite has 13 peer-reviewed publications and numerous grants that she has applied to sustain her novel research ideas. She has been awarded the Madelyn Lockhart Fellowship Award for Academic Women and Excellence Doctoral Dissertation Award. Maite has a strong commitment to environmental sustainability in her personal and professional life, her work at USGS will aid management decisions regarding manatee conservation. She showed her leadership skills as the president of the Veterinary Graduate Student Association and has led numerous research projects. She has a strong sense of service; she has worked with fisherman communities in Uruguay since her master's and even coordinated food donations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now in Florida, she helps LGBTQIA+ groups to improve their sense of belonging to the community and work towards social equality. She has advocated for marine mammal conservation and the use of herbicides in the environment by explaining her research at high-powered meetings with state and local organizations that use these compounds to control invasive plants.

Murielle Gammons

Higher Education Administration

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Murielle Gammons, a Ph.D. graduate in Higher Education Administration specializing in Leadership Development, exemplifies integrity, compassion, and a strong sense of justice. Her decade-long commitment to serving and advocating for marginalized individuals is evident in her global mission work in Haiti and Dominica, where she focuses on developing leadership skills to effect positive change for community members in those regions. Murielle's advocacy extends to her work with programs supporting the reintegration of at-risk youth into society. She mentors these students, provides educational resources, and advocates for policy changes benefiting them, addressing challenges such as poverty, abuse, and involvement in the juvenile justice system. Her research focuses on educational equity issues of historically marginalized student populations, graduate school attendance, and degree completion for marginalized groups. As a higher education administrator, she became a founding member of the IDEA Collective and IMAGE (Inclusive Mentoring Academy for Graduate Education), advocating and promoting systemic changes in mentoring and inclusivity within academia. These initiatives aim to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive academic environment by providing support, resources, and mentorship to underrepresented groups in graduate education. Murielle collaborates with systems to enhance the student experience and effect meaningful changes. Her holistic approach to education and advocacy distinguishes her as a dedicated scholar and leader committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2024

Ronald L. Jackson II

Communication, Culture & Media Studies

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Dr. Ronald L. Jackson II is a Professor of Communication, Culture & Media Studies at University of Miami. He earned his B.A. in communication and M.A. in organizational communication at the University of Cincinnati. Subsequently, he graduated from Howard University with a Ph.D. in rhetoric and intercultural communication. He began his academic career at Xavier University of Louisiana and Shippensburg University, then spent twelve years as a professor at Penn State University and University of Illinois. He was appointed Head of Africana Studies followed by an appointment as Associate Dean of Faculty Development & Research in the College of Media at University of Illinois before going to University of Cincinnati as Dean of the McMicken College of Arts & Sciences. While at University of Cincinnati he was elected to and served a 5-year term as leader within the National Communication Association, culminating in his role as President in 2018. Most recently his research has focused on racial trauma. Most of his research articles, chapters, and reviews (75+) have appeared in communication and interdisciplinary research journals. He has also authored or edited 15 books and five thematic issues in academic journals. His areas of inquiry have been consistently related to cultural identity, social justice, and/or media, using a variety of methodological approaches. He has chaired or been a committee member of 66 graduate committees at the Master and Doctoral levels.

Yolanda M. Martínez San Miguel

Literature

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Dr. Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel is the Marta Weeks Chair in Latin American Studies at the University of Miami. She has a B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She has also taught at the University of Puerto Rico, Princeton, Rutgers, and the University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in colonial and postcolonial Latin American and Caribbean literatures. She is the author of *Saberes americanos: subalternidad y epistemología en los escritos de Sor Juana* (Iberoamericana, 1999); *Caribe Two-Ways?: cultura de la migración en el Caribe insular hispánico* (Ediciones Callejón, 2003); *From Lack to Excess: 'Minor' Readings of Latin American Colonial Discourse* (Bucknell, 2008); and *Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Intra-Colonial Migrations in a Pan-Caribbean Context* (Palgrave, 2014). She has co-edited *Critical Terms in Caribbean and Latin American Thought* (with Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui and Marisa Belausteguigoitia, Palgrave, 2016); *Trans Studies: The Challenge to Hetero/Homo Normativities* (with Sarah Tobias, Rutgers University Press, 2016); *The Routledge Hispanic Studies Companion to Colonial Latin America and the Caribbean (1492-1898)* (with Santa Arias, Routledge, 2021) and *Contemporary Archipelagic Thinking: Towards New Comparative Methodologies and Disciplinary Formations* (with Michelle Stephens, Rowman and Littlefield International, 2020). She has been funded by Ford Foundation, Fulbright, Andrew Mellon Foundation, and the Wilbur Marvin Visiting Scholar Program at Harvard University. For more than thirty years she has been an advocate for diverse and first-generation students and faculty thru her mentoring, program building, teaching, and research.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2024

Nikki Traylor-Knowles

Marine Biology

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Dr. Traylor-Knowles is an Associate Professor at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Sciences. She leads the Cnidarian Immunity Laboratory which investigates the mechanisms of coral immune function. She received her B.S./M.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Johns Hopkins University and her PhD. in Biology from Boston University. She was an NSF Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow and Burroughs Wellcome Fund Postdoctoral Scholar at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University where she studied coral immune response to heat stress. She's an award-winning mentor/scholar whose work has been featured on Miami Local 10 News, Fox Weather, WLRN SunDial, and Scientific American. She is a committee member of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine "Increasing Diversity in the U.S. Ocean Studies" committee. She is also a Fulbright Scholar and an elected council member to the International Coral Reef Society. Dr. Traylor-Knowles is the Director of the Voss Marine Invertebrate Collection at the Rosenstiel whose mission is to further scientific knowledge and education of marine invertebrates through the sharing and development of invertebrate taxonomic information. Additionally, she is the Founder and Director of Black Women in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Science, a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded to help combat the isolation and abuse in STEM against Black women. She's an advocate for Black women in science and is determined to disrupt the system by creating a new narrative and structure.

Khulud Almutairi

Nursing

Khulud Almutairi, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Miami, has extensive experience as a nurse at King Faisal Hospital and King Khalid University Hospital. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from King Saud University and a Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Miami. Her doctoral research focuses on workplace discrimination against Muslim nurses in the United States. Her commitment to education is evident through her roles as a clinical instructor at King Saud University and her involvement in various nursing education projects. Khulud established the Digital Nursing Team; this voluntary team specializes in creating educational videos for nursing practical curricula in the Arabic language. This initiative was awarded the best volunteer initiative at King Saud University's Scientific Forum. Khulud works as a research assistant on various projects, such as the Herbal Heart Study, examining the effects of extreme heat on pregnancy outcomes, and the impact of the Parental Rights in Education Act on LGBTQ teachers, parents, and students. Her publications and presentations at esteemed conferences like the American Public Health Association emphasize her dedication to advancing knowledge across diverse areas, including Prophetic Medicine, Islamophobia, and medicinal Cannabis among Arab populations. Khulud's goal is to become a nurse educator and researcher. She aspires to develop a holistic approach to healthcare, specially tailored to enhance the well-being of the Muslim community. Khulud has received awards and scholarships for her academic excellence, volunteer initiatives, and scholarly achievements.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2024

Shruti Choudhary

Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering

Shruti Choudhary is a PhD Candidate in the department of Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering at the University of Miami. Her research is focused on the development of next generation particulate matter sensors for health and safety in indoor, outdoor and space environments. She also advocates for safety of health care professionals, firefighters, astronauts to name a few through her scientific research. Her work has been recognized at several conferences and has won 13 awards. She is an active student member of Center for Aerosol Science and Technology and Firefighter Cancer Initiative. She received Florida section- Air and Waste Management Scholarship Award in 2022. She obtained her master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and was the recipient of James M. McKelvey Chemical Engineering Graduate Scholarship. She is the current president of energetic University of Miami American Association for Aerosol Research Student Chapter and has co-founded "Talk to an Aerosol Scientist" podcast series with chapter E-board members. She engaged with a substantial audience of 200 students in India at local schools on understanding air pollution and health effects followed by hands on Instrument demo. She has chaired Social and Civic Engagement Committee in UM Graduate Student Association. She also represents her department in the UM College of Engineering PhD student Advisory Council. Choudhary aspires to be an entrepreneur. She believes in making the best use of powers we have.

Kapiamba Kashala Fabrice

Chemical Environmental and Materials Engineering

Kapiamba Fabrice is a Ph.D. student in Chemical Environmental and Materials Engineering at the University of Miami, is a distinguished scholar known for his groundbreaking research and commitment to community and academic excellence. Kapiamba's extensive contributions to the field are evidenced through his numerous peer-reviewed publications, focusing on areas like heterogeneous catalysis, aerosols, and soft matter colloids. His work addresses critical environmental issues, reflecting his dedication to scholarship and advocacy. Kapiamba has shared his expertise at prestigious conferences, including multiple presentations at the AAAR Annual Conference, demonstrating his leadership in the scientific community. His roles as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Toledo, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and University of Miami, and his involvement in mentoring activities, highlight his commitment to service and character, fostering a nurturing and inclusive academic environment. His recognition as a NOBCChe Graduate Rising Star and the recipient of various awards and scholarships attests to his excellence in scholarship and research. Fabrice's professional experience, including impactful roles at Phoenix Tailings and the Flow Process & Rheology Centre, further underscores his leadership and service in the field of Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering. His dedication to the principles of the Honor Society—scholarship, character, leadership, service, and advocacy—is evident in every aspect of his academic and professional journey, making him an exemplary candidate for this prestigious recognition.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2024

Rachelle A. Reid

Clinical Psychology

Rachelle Reid is a candidate for the Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a concentration in health at the University of Miami. Her research portfolio has centered on elevating the voices of marginalized and underserved communities [e.g., Black women living with HIV (BWLWH)] by contributing to culturally informed and holistic prevention and intervention development research. Reid has successfully procured intramural and extramural funding for her dissertation project and has seven publications on mental health outcomes and religious coping among BWLWH and burnout among professionals in the field of HIV. She has also collected original data for her thesis and dissertation projects and has supervised staff members, undergraduate, and junior graduate students in her research lab. Reid's professional and personal mission is to use clinical psychology in service of her purpose – to hold space for and help the larger society understand communities that have long faced discrimination and stigma due to intersectional systems of oppression. Reid has also been engaged in advocacy via community-engaged research through partnerships with community stakeholders and businesses to provide sexual health education and resources to Black communities with high rates of HIV. Her long-term career goal is to continue serving as a clinician scientist - through clinical practice and contributing research that advances the development of culturally informed interventions.

Guerdiana Thelomar

Community Well-Being

Guerdiana Thelomar is a vibrant and passionate Haitian-American higher education professional and aspiring scholar from Miami, Florida pursuing a Ph.D. in Community Well-Being (Community Psychology) at the University of Miami. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education and Visual Journalism and a minor in Africana Studies also from the University of Miami. Afterwards, she earned her Master's in Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. From serving as a grant coordinator for a racial justice grant to leading the Black Graduate Students Association at her current institution, Thelomar has exemplified a deep commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives throughout her academic and professional career. Currently, as a candidate, her research interests focus on the experiences and well-being of Black women as they navigate predominantly Thelomar has developed a deep commitment to social justice work and creating spaces that equip people with the tools they need to become catalysts of transformational change. She hopes that her research will contribute to creating more healthy and equitable environments for Black students as they navigate their higher education journeys.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2024

Elliott R. Weinstein

Clinical-Health Psychology

Elliott R. Weinstein is a candidate for the Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a concentration in behavioral medicine and quantitative psychology at the University of Miami (UM). Elliott completed his undergraduate studies Summa Cum Laude in psychology and art history at the Kilachand Honors College at Boston University and his master's in public health at Boston University where he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Omega societies respectively. He is a health equity scholar whose research broadly centers on three areas: (1) HIV prevention and treatment among marginalized communities, (2) the intersection of aging and HIV, and (3) innovating community-engaged research practices. Weinstein has been widely recognized for his scholarship, clinical skills, and DEI- focused advocacy both nationally and at UM via several awards (e.g., 2021 American Psychological Association's Early Graduate Student Research Award, the 2023 Division 12 -Society of Clinical Psychology and Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology Distinguished Student Scientist-Practitioner Award in Clinical Psychology, and the 2022 UM Graduate School Diversity Advocate Award). He received an R36 dissertation fellowship from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to explore how a novel set of aging- related syndemic conditions may exacerbate HIV risk and poor quality of life among older sexual minority men in Florida. Post-graduation, Weinstein aspires to continue developing his own novel independent program of research focused on decreasing health disparities among older adults with multiple marginalized identities living with and without HIV as he moves into a tenure track academic clinical research position.

Padideh Lovan

Cancer Disparity and Equity

Dr. Padideh (Padi) Lovan is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and School of Nursing and Health Studies, University of Miami (UM). She received her Bachelors' degree in Nutrition Sciences from Iran, and her Masters' and PhD from the Florida International University in Dietetics and Nutrition, where she also completed her dietetics internship and became a registered dietitian. Lovan completed a 2-year NCI-funded T32 postdoc training in cancer disparity and equity at UM and currently, she is in her 3rd year of postdoctoral training. Lovan's research focuses on multilevel influences on cancer risk behaviors including poor nutrition, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and alcohol consumption in Hispanic youth. She aims to create a study model that examines the impact of several factors spanning from individual-level psychosocial factors and family environment to social determinants of health and the built environment in this population. As her future step, she aims to broaden her research model to encompass other minority or disadvantaged population groups within the community. Lovan is extremely passionate about helping underrepresented communities and has always been their voice, which is evident from her research and volunteering activities. She also teaches a large nutrition class at UM and is committed to ensuring her students receive the guidance and resources they need in a safe, inclusive, and non-judgmental environment. She is working on multiple interdisciplinary projects and soon will be leading the nutrition education for children division as the division chair at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2024

Brittany Ribeiro Brown

Social Work & Psychology

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Brittany Ribeiro Brown is a candidate for the joint Ph.D. program in Social Work and Personality and Social Context Psychology at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the impact of racism and intersectional oppression on Black youth's mental health. Her work underscores the resilience strategies Black youth employ and the significance of culturally specific interventions for well-being. Brittany has been recognized as a Rackham Merit Fellow, Center for the Education of Women+ Fellow, a Vivian A. James L. Curtis Endowed Scholar, and received the Rackham Professional Development Diversity and Equity and Inclusion Certificate. She serves as the project manager for the Young Black Men, Masculinities, and Mental Health (YBMen) Project, a role that allows her to contribute meaningfully to understanding and addressing mental health challenges faced by Black men, and as a researcher for ADVANCE, a center focused on campus-wide DEI efforts. Brittany earned a Master's in Social Work at Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Pepperdine University. She is committed to service and community development. She serves in leadership positions in the Black Student Psychological Association and the Latinx Student Psychological Association and mentored underrepresented undergraduate students at the Michigan Association of Psychological Scholars (MAPS). Brittany approaches her scholarly work with the underlying goal of equity and liberation for all.

Ariana Bueno

Applied Physics & Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering

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Ariana Bueno is a Ph.D. candidate in the Applied Physics program at the University of Michigan. She conducts her research in the Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering (CLaSP) department on instrumentation to study Plume Surface Interactions (PSI) on the Moon. Ariana was awarded the NASA MUREP Fellowship from 2020-2023 and is currently a NASA GRC Graduate Fellow. During her time at UofM, she completed her Master of Engineering in Space Engineering with a concentration in instrumentation and sensory payloads and is pursuing a graduate certificate in Latina/o Studies focusing on Latinx representation in STEM fields. Ariana is very involved on campus with amazing student organizations that work to build equitable and safe spaces for minority students across campus. She is currently the President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Graduate chapter that was awarded the Perseverance Award in 2023. She is also Co-President of Puentes, the Latinx Graduate student organization on campus that founded Latinx Research Week. Ariana is extremely passionate about educational outreach and teaching. She completed the Science Communications Fellowship, Spanish Language Internship Program, and attended NASA funded workshops including the Culturally Inclusive Planetary Engagement workshop and Making Space workshop. Ariana continuously participates in mentorship programs and outreach events including, MentorSHPE, DAPCEP, Discover Engineering, Feria de Ciencias, etc. She was recently recognized at the North Campus Deans' MLK Spirit Awards for her contributions to community building and impact. Ariana aspires to work in the space industry after she graduates and become an astronaut.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2024

Bahaar Chawla

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

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Bahaar Chawla is a candidate for the Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on Structural Maintenance of Chromosome proteins and their role in regulating gene expression. Bahaar has been awarded the Sister Mary Ambrosia Fitzgerald Mentoring Award by the Women in Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan, as well as awards for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Service from her department. She also has received certificates from the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching for Graduate Student Teaching and the Rackham Professional Development Certificate Program in DEI. Bahaar also received the Rackham Pre-Candidate Fellowship Grant and Bioscience Research Fellowship to support her research. Bahaar is an avid educator, championing student-centered teaching and mentoring in her classroom and research lab. She led her department's DEI committee for three years, where she created foundational structures and advocated for initiatives, including the HORIZONS undergraduate research program which is a funded summer research program. Outside of the university, Bahaar has been a part of the Skype-A-Scientist and Letters to a Pre-Scientist programs where she engages with middle school and high school students, encouraging them to see themselves as potential scientists and explore scientific careers in the future. Ultimately, Bahaar aspires to become faculty at a teaching and research institution, passing on her passion for science to the next generation.

Kimberly K. Diaz Perez

Genetics and Molecular Biology

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Kimberly K. Diaz Perez is a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Vivian Cheung at the University of Michigan. Her current research focuses on investigating how the RNA sequence and structure affect gene expression and function and its implications in human diseases. Kimberly received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Georgia State University, where she graduated summa cum laude. She recently received her Ph.D. from Emory University in Genetics and Molecular Biology. During her graduate training, Kimberly was recognized as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam fellow and was awarded the Emory University Genetics and Molecular Biology Program Scholar of the Year in 2022. As a disabled scientist, Kimberly is an avid advocate for individuals from underrepresented communities in STEM, especially those with disabilities. At Emory University, she was the co-founder of the "Alliance for Disability and Accessibility Promotion and Training" (ADAPT), a student organization that aims to promote accessibility and disability pride. She has also served as a mentor and educator, where she mentored students from diverse backgrounds and taught bioinformatics and genetics courses to graduate students. Ultimately, Kimberly strives to work at the intersection of DNA and RNA biology, with the hopes of becoming a research scientist dedicated to developing therapeutics for human diseases.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2024

Oluwami Dosunmu-Ogunbi

Robotics

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Oluwami (Wami) Dosunmu-Ogunbi has recently completed her doctoral degree requirements in Robotics at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on bipedal locomotion. Specifically, she is developing robust stair climbing algorithms for underactuated bipedal robots. Wami is recognized as a GEM Fellow, a Rackham Merit Fellow, and a Robotics Outreach Ambassador. She has earned awards such as the MLK Spirit Award and Willie Hobbs Moore Achievement Award. She has earned two master's degrees in mechanical engineering and Robotics, respectively, at the University of Michigan. As well, she has received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a Hoeft Technology and Management minor from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she was recognized as a Chancellor Scholar and Knight of Saint Patrick; she also earned numerous awards and scholarships including the Paul E. Parker Award, Janet Eakman Award for Excellence, and H.L. Wakeland Undergraduate Leadership Award, among others. Wami has an interest in effectively disseminating complex engineering and robotics concepts to a wide audience, and thus has organized and hosted numerous outreach activities over the years. She has also mentored seven undergraduate students and one masters student. Ultimately, Wami aspires to become a professor to help support future generations of responsible, equity-conscious roboticists and engineers.

Raúl Gámez

Higher Education - Organizational Behavior and Management

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Raúl Gámez is a Ph.D. candidate in higher education with a concentration in organizational behavior and management at the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan. He holds a Master of Arts in higher education administration from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in theater arts and translation and interpretation studies from California State University, Long Beach. His research focuses on understanding organizational behavior and organizational change in higher education, mainly related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Raúl has co-authored work on the experiences of undocumented students in higher education, racially minoritized students in STEM Bridge programs, and undergraduate research programs for Latina/o/x students from farmworker families. His work has been published in *The Journal of Higher Education*, *The Journal of Hispanics in Higher Education*, *The Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, and *the Journal of College Student Development*. Raúl is part of Dr. Rosemary Perez's research group and works with the National Center for Institutional Diversity on a research project exploring diversity officers' experiences navigating sociopolitical contexts in states with anti-DEI policies. He remains involved with Student Action with Farmworkers, a nonprofit organization in North Carolina, mentoring and supporting students in exploring their research interests and aspirations. Raúl hopes his research is used beyond the academy to support more affirming, equitable, and inclusive learning and working institutions, especially for those historically excluded from accessing higher education.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2024

Kassidy M. Jungles

Pharmacology

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Kassidy M. Jungles is a candidate for the Ph.D. in pharmacology with a concentration in radiation oncology at the University of Michigan. Her research is centered on developing novel therapeutic approaches for the treatment of aggressive breast cancers. Kassidy has been recognized as a Center for the Education of Women + (CEW+) Scholar, a UROP Outstanding Research Mentor, a Rackham Merit Fellow, and a trainee on the T32 Pharmacological Sciences Training Program (PSTP). Kassidy earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in gender and women's studies from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame. At Saint Mary's, Kassidy was a Presidential Scholar and a Ronald McDonald House Charities scholarship recipient. As a first-generation college student herself, Kassidy is passionate about increasing the inclusion of underserved groups in STEM. She helps lead the Wolverine Pathways to Pharmacology summer program—a program that introduces local, underserved high school students to pharmacology and offers advice for navigating graduate school. She also serves as the Director of Communications for cataLIST (Ladies in Science and Technology), an organization that empowers and promotes the inclusion of individuals who identify as female at the University of Michigan. Kassidy aspires to one day run her own research laboratory where she can apply her passions and interests in STEM to help mentor the next generation of scientists.

Cecilia Solís-Barroso

Linguistics

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Cecilia Solís-Barroso is a Ph.D. candidate in linguistics at the University of Michigan (U-M). Her research focuses on the study of bilingualism and language contact phenomena in Mexico and the U.S., primarily working with Spanish-English and Nahuatl-Spanish bilingual communities. Within her research, Cecilia delves into issues of language representation, the preservation of endangered languages, and the impact of language on cultural identity. Her overarching goal is to challenge harmful language ideologies by highlighting the linguistic complexity and value inherent in all languages. Before joining U-M, Cecilia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching of Spanish and a Master of Arts in Spanish Linguistics from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Throughout her academic career, Cecilia has secured various grants, including the Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity (RISE) Grant, enabling her to carry out numerous research projects. Her work has been published in prestigious journals such as *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, and *Language*. Beyond her research pursuits, Cecilia serves as a program coordinator for MSI Connect, an initiative aimed at supporting U-M graduate students from minority-serving institutions. She is also a member of the steering committee for Language Matters, an organization at U-M addressing issues of linguistic diversity in educational settings and beyond. With aspirations of remaining in academia, Cecilia envisions a future in a tenure-track professorship. In this role, she aims to advance her field while actively creating opportunities that foster diversity and inclusion within higher education.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2024

Maribel E. K. Okiye

Chemistry & Bioinformatics

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/maribelokiyee

Maribel E. K. Okiye is a dual-degree PhD and MS student in the departments of Chemistry and Computational Medicine & Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan (UM). Originally from the US Virgin Islands, Maribel earned her BS in Biochemistry from the Catholic University of America. Driven by a passion for science, Maribel embarked on a Ph.D. journey at the University of Michigan, focusing on the human microbiome and its influences on human health. In her doctoral studies, Maribel made significant contributions to understanding how the oral microbiome influences cancer development, including the discovery of an oral metabolite with the ability to increase oral carcinoma cell proliferation. Due to her work, Maribel has had the privilege of receiving several awards, including the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, the NIH Chemistry-Biology Training Grant, and the National Gem Consortium's Science Fellowship. Beyond her academic pursuits, Maribel actively engages in her community service. She has served as a mentor for high school students in the Ypsilanti Public School System and worked in Rackham's NSF AGEP Research University Alliance office to aid underrepresented graduate students in developing faculty connections across the country. Most recently, she and her colleague launched the Chemical & Biological Science Recruitment Initiative, which develops undergraduate-focused programming at minority-serving and predominantly undergraduate institutions. Maribel has also served in various executive board roles for graduate student organizations, including the Graduate Society for Black Engineers and Scientists and Rackham Student Government. She is also a founding member and past president of 'commUNITY', actively participating in the development and enhancement of programs that support graduate students across the campus. Ultimately, Maribel aspires to become a tenure-track faculty member, serving as a leader in integrated omics-based human microbiome research and continuing to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM.

Parker Miles

Digital and Educational Studies

Parker is a Virginian languishing in Michigan until his Ph.D. is conferred in May. He studies Black youth technology cultures and the mutual constitution of Black folks' online and offline selves. In his dissertation study, a critical ethnography of a student-designed after-school makerspace, he uses theory from science and technology studies (STS) and Black Studies to make sense of Black youth's "cyborg literacy" practices. He leaves the university of Michigan with three sole-author publications in a speculative oeuvre that pursues Black liberation: "Coming Together, "Free, Whole, Decolonized": Reading Black Feminisms in Tochi Onyebuchi's Riot Baby, in the [Routledge Handbook of Co-Futurisms](#); "Methods for Two-Strand Twist", or Theorizing the Afro Cyborg, in [The St. John's Humanities Review](#); and Making Black Making Spaces: Co-Designing a 'Loophole of Retreat', in a forthcoming Routledge edition, "Repertoires of Resistance." In his many lives, Parker has been a high-school teacher, a curriculum designer at NASA, a FIRST Robotics coach and mentor, and a user experience researcher. As he prepares to graduate, he's excited about using qualitative methods to more deeply understand young people's relationships to technology so they might intervene in the algorithmic thinking that wants so badly to predict and cash in on their lives.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2024

Carl “CJ” Greer

Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

Carl “CJ” Greer is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis with a doctoral minor in Qualitative Research Methodology in Education at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Leveraging critical qualitative approaches, Greer’s research explores three areas: (1) the relationship between community-based educational spaces and PreK-12 schooling institutions, (2) how youth display leadership and activism in and outside the classroom, and (3) Critical Race Theory in education. Greer is a UCEA Barbara L. Jackson Scholar, Institute for Research on Poverty Fellow, and Morgridge Center for Public Service Fellow. Through a year-long critical ethnographic case study approach that takes up his and Welton’s (forthcoming) extension of Critical Race Theory, coined Youth-Centric Critical Race Theory, his dissertation offers insights into the limited exploration of the greater Milwaukee area PreK-12 education landscape and Midwestern youth education activism. Recent publications include “Conjuring the Devil: Historicizing Attacks on Critical Race Theory and white saviorism,” which explores white supremacy’s perpetual attacks on Critical Race Theory and other equity-centered discourses, and “We in this thang together?: Black first-year doctoral students transitioning COVID and recreating community virtually”, which captures how Greer and two colleagues transitioned into graduate studies virtually during COVID-19 and publicized anti-Black racism. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, Greer earned his BA in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a dual master of Educational Leadership and Policy and Social Work at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor. Greer’s youth worker background inspired him to pursue becoming a community-focused tenure track professor.

Ashley Scott

School of Medicine & Public Health and Cellular and Molecular Biology

Ashley Scott is a MD-PhD trainee and a PhD candidate in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ashley strives to understand key processes of cardiovascular disease to improve the health of patients who suffer from cardiovascular related morbidities. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Maryland Baltimore County, graduating cum laude in 2016. As an undergraduate researcher Ashley worked at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health on estrogen receptor mediated sex differences in myocarditis. This work resulted in two co-author publications. In her current dissertation work, Ashley works under the direction of Kristyn Masters to use tissue engineering techniques to model aortic valve disease. Ashley uses these systems that closely recapitulate aortic valve disease conditions to investigate key underpinnings of aortic valve disease progression, including the sexual dimorphic nature of this disease, wherein males have more calcification and females have more fibrosis. Her dissertation work has resulted in two publications thus far. Ashley is also passionate about facilitating inclusive scientific training environments and reducing bias mediated health disparities through curricula changes. In recognition of these efforts Ashley has received UW-Madison’s Outstanding Women of Color Award (2022), the Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program’s inaugural Diversity and Equity Impact Award (2022), UW-Madison’s Bucky Award for Graduate Student Commitment to Engagement and Activism (2022), and UW-MSTP’s Diversity and Equity Champion Award (2022, 2023).



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2024

Jimena González

Physics

Jimena González is a physics Ph.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin–Madison specializing in observational cosmology. Her research centers on searching and characterizing strong gravitational lenses in the Dark Energy Survey. These rare astronomical systems can appear as long curved arcs of light surrounding a galaxy. Strong gravitational lenses offer a unique probe for studying dark energy, the driving force behind the universe's accelerating expansion and, consequently, a pivotal factor in determining its ultimate fate. During her graduate program, Jimena has received the Albert R. Erwin, Jr. & Casey Durand Award and the Firminhac Fellowship from the Physics Department. Additionally, she was honored with the 2023 OSG David Swanson Award for her outstanding implementation of High-Throughput Computing to advance her research. Jimena has contributed as a co-author to multiple publications within the field of strong gravitational lensing and has presented her work at various conferences. In addition to her academic achievements, Jimena has actively engaged in outreach programs. Notably, she was selected as a finalist at the 2021 UW-Madison Three Minute Thesis Competition and secured a winner entry in the 2023 Cool Science Image Contest. Her commitment to science communication extends to a contribution in a Cosmology chapter in the book “AI for Physics”. Jimena has also led a citizen science project that invites individuals from all around the world to inspect astronomical images to identify strong gravitational lenses. Jimena obtained her bachelor's degree in physics at the Universidad de los Andes, where she was awarded the “Quiero Estudiar” scholarship.

Mayra Betancourt Ponce

School of Medicine & Public Health and Cellular and Molecular Pathology

Mayra Betancourt Ponce is a sixth-year MD/PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who aims to become an academic physician-scientist bridging the fields of Dermatology and cancer immunology. She received her bachelor's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. As an undergraduate student, she participated in the NIH-funded Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) training program, through which she developed an interest in deciphering how biological pathways are disturbed during pathological processes. She explored this interest by successfully completing two summer research programs in laboratories studying cancer biology and presenting her work at various conferences, which motivated her to pursue cancer research. For her thesis project, she studies the effects of oxidative phosphorylation inhibition in solid tumor immunogenicity in Drs. Lisa Barroilhet and Manish Patankar's laboratory. She obtained an R01 Diversity Supplement to support this research. She has presented her work at local, national, and international conferences, including the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting and the Stress Proteins in Growth, Development, and Disease Gordon Research Conference, and has two first-author manuscripts in preparation. She aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge regarding combination strategies to improve the efficacy of cancer immunotherapies to provide better options for her patients as a dermatologist. She is committed to making academia more welcoming and inclusive to under-represented populations, which she has begun doing as the president of the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center Trainee Network.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2024

Jairo Villalona

Chemistry

Jairo Villalona is a PhD candidate in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His research focuses on engineering enzymes through an iterative process called directed evolution for synthesizing non-canonical amino acids (ncAAs). The synthesis of ncAAs is a common challenge for producing new medicines, materials, and probes for bioactivity. Jairo received his bachelor of science in chemistry from Westfield State University. As an undergraduate student, he participated in the investigation of Lyme disease in western Massachusetts by monitoring the prevalence of *B. burgdorferi*, the causative bacteria found in deer tick populations. Jairo is a recipient of the American Chemical Society – Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship. This fellowship prepares students from underrepresented groups for a doctoral program through advanced coursework, mentoring, and research. A published case study involving the fellowship can be found in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, where Jairo is a co-author. His thesis research has resulted in the publication of his first-author work pertaining to the biocatalytic synthesis of α,β -diamino acids, an underexplored class of amino acids that can serve as unique building blocks for chemical biology and medicinal chemistry. In addition to his research, Jairo is committed to scientific outreach with the long-term goal of addressing societal problems as a scientific advisor in the public sector, such as the federal Government.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2024

Dongmei Alvi (She/Her)

Civil & Environmental Engineering

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Dongmei Alvi is a Ph.D. candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech, focusing on environmental and water resources engineering. Her research primarily involves monitoring and assessing water quality in various environments, notably indirect potable reuse systems, urban recreational waterways, and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). Dongmei spearheaded a team to obtain environmental laboratory certification under the provision of the Virginia Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (VELAP), distinguishing her lab as the only university environmental laboratory in Virginia with commercial lab status. Her leadership also earned her lab the Outstanding Performance in Laboratories award from the Office of the Vice President for Research. Passionate about advocating for policies that ensure safe and clean water, Dongmei specializes in utilizing water quality monitoring techniques to safeguard both human and ecological health, particularly in recreational water and indirect potable water reuse contexts. She excels in establishing and nurturing strategic partnerships between regional and local government water management bodies and fostering collaborations among diverse communities and academic institutions through research projects, educational programs, and outreach initiatives. Dongmei is a devoted proponent of continuous improvement and innovation in emerging technologies to address evolving challenges. She effectively communicates scientific findings and academic excellence to stakeholders, thereby integrating them into efficient water management practices. Furthermore, Dongmei has been actively supporting graduate students by providing training in analytical instrument operation, data interpretation, advocacy, and community networking.

Nayara de Oliveira Faria (She/Her)

Industrial & Systems Engineering (Cognitive Engineering)

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Nayara de Oliveira Faria is a Ph.D. candidate in Industrial & Systems Engineering with a concentration in Cognitive Engineering at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on safety-centric evaluation framework for head-up displays in surface transportation. Her academic journey also includes a Master of Science in Human Factors & Ergonomics from Virginia Tech, where her thesis shed light on the impact of augmented reality interfaces on drivers' spatial knowledge acquisition. Her academic voyage began with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, where she discovered her passion for the synergy between psychology and technology. Beyond her scholarly achievements, Nayara is a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the engineering domain. Her dedication transcends advocacy, as she actively leads initiatives through Virginia Tech's Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED). This work is aimed at empowering underrepresented students in engineering, fostering a more inclusive and diverse academic community. Nayara's efforts have been instrumental in shaping more equitable academic and professional landscapes, reflecting her conviction that diversity fuels innovation. Her work not only contributes to the advancement of cognitive engineering but also champions the cause of diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, making her a distinguished figure in both her academic and advocacy endeavors.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2024

Kellie V. Johnson (She/Her)

Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education

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Kellie V. Johnson is a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education at Virginia Tech. Her research investigates the impact of institutional support programs in supporting underrepresented and underserved graduate students in STEM disciplines by further assessing the extent to which participation in these programs influences students' academic and career success. Kellie has been recognized as a Graduate Education Diversity Internship Fellow (GEDI) with the American Evaluation Association (AEA), received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Teaching Award (NACTA), and the National Grain and Feed Association Scholars Program Award (NGFA). In addition, she also received a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. As well as a Master of Business Administration in Agribusiness from South Carolina State University, where she started her aeroponic tower garden operation, working with local high schools to teach 9th-12th grade students new and innovative agricultural practices through hands-on experiences. Outside of academics, Kellie enjoys working in youth development capacities and has had the opportunity to volunteer with the Virginia Future Farmers of America (FFA) Youth Leadership training, facilitating workshops with youth across the state who find great interest in the field of agriculture. Kellie believes teaching and learning occur in various stages and places in our everyday lives. Having had these opportunities to lead and learn both inside and outside of the classroom, she strives to continue learning and developing not only as a teacher but also as a student through, building, learning, and developing valuable connections with colleagues, students, and peers.

Jatia Mills (She/Her)

Neuroscience

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Jatia Mills is a Ph.D. candidate in the Biomedical and Veterinary Science program at Virginia Tech (VT) with a concentration in neuroinflammation and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Her research focuses on the mechanisms regulating peripheral-derived innate immune cell recruitment to the brain and their role in microglial fate and function following TBI. Jatia has been recognized on the VT campus for her work as President of the Black Graduate Student Organization, student mentor for the VT-PREP post-baccalaureate program, Diversity & Inclusion representative for her department, and much more. Additionally, she has been awarded a Diversity Supplement grant by the NIH/NINDS, a travel award from the VT Graduate School, and was the winner of the 2023 Nutshell Games. Jatia's background in leadership and community service from her undergraduate matriculation at Morgan State University has been a great addition to the VT campus through her assistance in planning and organizing several initiatives on and off campus to enrich the lives of the minority undergraduate and graduate students. Her civic engagement in the scientific community for people of diverse backgrounds runs very deep and will shine even brighter as she progresses in her career as a researcher. In summary, Jatia is an undoubtedly excellent student and scholar with amazing potential and has played a pivotal role in both the graduate and undergraduate minority communities here at Virginia Tech.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2024

Clint Whitten (he/him)

Education

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Clint Whitten is a Ph.D. candidate in Foundations of Education with a focus on Rural Education. Specifically, his research explores the intersections of rural education and Queerness in K-12 public schools. He is a former middle school English, creative writing, and theatre teacher where he also served as the co-equity lead and developed faculty book clubs centered on social justice advocacy in the classroom. During his graduate school career, he assisted in programming a youth summer enrichment camp for gifted, rural, and underserved youth. His publications explore equity-centered topics such as rural Queer visibility, policy analysis of anti-Queer initiatives, humanizing hierarchies in co-teaching relationships, and anti-racist pedagogies. In his local community, he co-founded Community Pride in Blacksburg and For the Love of Wine, programs designed to celebrate and support Queer communities while educating businesses and the region on Queer livelihood. In the future, Clint plans to continue advocating for rural Queer youth and educators; create more enrichment opportunities to serve vulnerable, rural youth populations; and engage the local community in cultivating spaces of care, joy, and learning.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2024

Jennifer Beatty

Psychological and Brain Sciences

Jennifer Beatty is currently a social psychology Ph.D. candidate at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) studying bias and emotion regulation, intergroup relations, and intergroup anxiety. She tests novel interventions around this line of research. She holds three master's degrees- two from The University of Pennsylvania in Applied Positive Psychology and Education and the third from Washington University in St. Louis in Psychological and Brain Sciences. During her PhD, Jenn has served as the Psychological Graduate Student Association chair and a member of the Psychological Graduate Student Association Diversity Committee. She is a former AmeriCorps and Teach for America corps member and 8th-grade English teacher, where she was awarded Rookie Teacher of the Year and Teacher Mentor of the Year. At the undergraduate level, she recently received an award for Outstanding Assistant Instructor in Psychological and Brain Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis in the Spring of 2023. Before beginning her Ph.D. program, she worked as a research coordinator at Wharton People Analytics, where she supported the research of Dr. Adam Grant, Dr. Angela Duckworth, Dr. Cade Massey, and Dr. Matthew Bidwell in culture, careers, and character in various work contexts. She has presented bias trainings to hundreds of individuals in a range of contexts, from education to the United Nations Global Compact.

Tyler Cargill

Energy, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering

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Tyler Cargill is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Energy, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering (EECE) at Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on implementing data correction algorithms to improve the reliability of air quality measurements from low to mid-cost particulate matter sensors. Tyler's passion for this work stems from using these sensors in St. Louis to inform residents of potential air quality disparities throughout the region. His undergraduate experience at the University of Kansas (KU) solidified his commitment to people-centric research. At KU, Tyler was inspired to pursue graduate studies through his participation in the McNair Scholars Program. After learning the foundations of research from this program, Tyler studied abroad in Tanzania to learn Swahili and explore the interactions between Tanzanians and their built and natural environments. As he approaches the end of his Ph.D. program, Tyler is planning in his next endeavor to remain committed to promoting healthful environments for people.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2024

Akilah Collins-Anderson

Public Health Sciences

Akilah Collins-Anderson is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Health Sciences and a National Institute of Mental Health T32 Predoctoral Fellow. Her research interests include mental and behavioral health disparities, social determinants of health, social stratification, and health inequities. Prior to moving to Missouri, Akilah contributed to a range of research studies at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, the New York City Department of Education, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. While pursuing her doctoral degree, Akilah collaborated on several studies, including two projects centered in St. Louis – a community health worker-led intervention and an inter-district school study. Currently, Akilah is conducting research that examines the role of social and structural factors shaping psychosocial stressors and mental health outcomes among underserved populations. Through her work, Akilah aims to investigate mechanisms that contribute to health inequities and improve overall well-being through research and evidence-informed interventions. Additionally, Akilah's dedication to uplift the next generation of interdisciplinary scholars has led to student-focused positions on professional committees and various teaching and mentorship experiences.

Bria F. Dunlap

Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis

Bria F. Dunlap is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology and Microbial Pathogenesis within the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences. Her research focuses on examining the impact of interferon signaling on non-immune, stromal cells during Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) infection. Through her ongoing efforts, she will gain insight into how different stromal cell populations shape the early immune response to CHIKV infection. Since stromal cells are among the first cell types exposed in the skin in vector-transmitted diseases, as well as present at sites of vaccination, her work has the potential to greatly impact human health. In her pursuit of academic scholarship, Bria was awarded a fellowship through the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program in 2022. As an editor for WashU's trainee led scientific communication network, InPrint, Bria is committed to making scientific research comprehensible to multiple audiences. Additionally, she is passionate about enhancing diversity in science and works as a science facilitator for Girl's Inc. St. Louis to further expose young girls to different topics within the STEM field. Alongside her scientific outreach, Bria focuses on broader community outreach to help those in need throughout the St. Louis City area as she believes that every person deserves the basic necessities to survive. Ultimately, Bria aspires to continue promoting diversity in science, make science more accessible, inspire young scientists, and support the basic needs of her community at any institution she enters.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2024

Shelby Leverett

Neuroscience

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Shelby Leverett is a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience at Washington University in St Louis (WashU). Her research focuses on better understanding how prenatal experiences influence the neurodevelopment of the developing baby, and how variability in those prenatal environments correlate with variability in offspring outcomes. She is particularly interested in better understanding biological mechanisms (e.g., inflammation, placental responses) through which prenatal environments exert their effect on the developing brain. Prior to her work at WashU, Shelby earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Duke University, and a Master of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience from the University of Texas at Dallas. Both within WashU and through her work with PROJECT Short, she serves as a mentor for those in various stages of the graduate school journey- from curiosity to matriculation. She is an avid volunteer for community outreach activities in the broader St Louis area. She advocates for increasing representation of underrepresented minorities in science through her leadership roles such as orchestrating programming for the annual division-wide Neuroscience Retreat. At the heart of all of it, Shelby is passionate about addressing barriers to the entry, retention, and success of black trainees in science and in the academy.

Sierra L. Napoleon

Chemistry

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Sierra L. Napoleon is a Ph.D. candidate in the Chemistry program at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). Her research focuses on elucidating the specific mechanisms that enable glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) tumors to maintain growth. Since 2020, Sierra has been recognized as a GEM Fellow. Sierra received her M.A. in Chemistry from WashU in 2022. She also received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Louisiana Tech University, where she was a recipient of the Louisiana Tech Outstanding Student Scholarship, TOPS Performance Award, and the Ruston Hospital Endowment Scholarship. Sierra engaged in several service activities during her undergraduate studies, and her passion for service has continued in graduate school. She participates in several safety committees and activities, including ExxonMobil's Partners in Academic Laboratory Safety Workshop, ensuring adequate safety measures for her peers. Sierra currently serves as Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Catalyst for Change, a graduate student run STEM outreach program aimed to increase young women's interests and exposure to STEM fields. Ultimately, Sierra aspires to pursue a career in academia to ensure all communities are provided the resources and support needed for success.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2024

Jhan Carlos Salazar

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Jhan Carlos Salazar Salazar, an Afro-Colombian ecologist and evolutionary biologist, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Dr. Jonathan Losos' Lab. He is originally from Puerto Tejada, Colombia and received a B.S. in Biology in Universidad Icesi (Cali, Colombia) in 2018. Jhan's research focuses on the impact of temperature on the ecology and evolution of tropical lizards, particularly within mountainous regions like the Colombian Andes. Jhan investigates the adaptation and diversification of anole species across varying elevations, seeking to unravel evolutionary intricacies. Jhan published four papers in different journals and served as a reviewer for six others. One of these papers is focused on emphasizing accessibility in science, showcasing that sophisticated equipment isn't always necessary to conduct research. Additionally, Jhan contributed to a large-scale collaboration addressing barriers in ornithology, highlighting the systematic exclusion of professionals from the Global South. Beyond research, Jhan has engaged in fostering diversity and inclusion. Jhan has been active in associations both within and outside WashU, such as the Society for Systematic Biologists, where he served as a Student Representative. At WashU, Jhan has contributed to DEI efforts within the Department of Biology, served as secretary for ABBGS (Association of Black Biomedical Graduate Students), and program coordinator for SACNAS/GALNACS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science/ Graduate Association of Latinx, Native American and Caribbean Students), creating safe spaces and organizing community service and outreach initiatives. In 2018, Jhan received the Afro-Colombian of the Year award in the Youth, a recognition given by El Espectador and Color de Colombia Foundation.

Savannah Scruggs

Chemistry

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Savannah Scruggs is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Chemistry with a concentration in bioanalytical chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Le-Moyne Owen College in just three years, where she was the recipient of the Presidential Scholarship. Her research focuses on developing and utilizing methods in Mass Spectrometry to prove G-quadruplex existence utilizing photoproduct probes. She has worked in other research collaborations as well, completing an article in the American Chemical Society Biochemistry Journal, titled "Post- and Pre-Radiolabeling Assays for anti Thymidine Cyclobutane Dimers as Intrinsic Photoprobes of Various Types of G-Quadruplexes, Reverse Hoogsteen Hairpins, and Other Non-B DNA Structures." Outside of research, her leadership roles within the Chemistry Department, such as serving as a safety officer and a diversity, equity, and inclusion ambassador, showcases her commitment to fostering an inclusive academic environment. Savannah also loves to reach her community through mentoring young scientists. As a mentor for various on-campus organizations, such as the Chemistry Graduate peer mentor program, DBBS young scientist program, and the Black Graduate Student Association, she advocates for the concerns of diverse number of students. Savannah's passion for mentoring extends beyond the academic realm, encompassing a fervent desire to one day contribute to a mentorship organization focused on guiding underprivileged students to become successful scientists.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2024

Aishwarya (Ash) Rajesh

Psychology

Aishwarya (Ash) Rajesh is a postdoctoral research associate at the Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine, working under the guidance of Dr. Evan Gordon. Her research has closely focused on understanding the neurobiology of acquired brain injuries (especially traumatic brain injury, TBI), how those injuries cause disrupted brain activity, and how they result in clinical symptoms such as cognitive impairment and emotional dysregulation. Dr. Rajesh has garnered prestigious accolades throughout her academic journey, including the Grand Rounds Speakership Research Award from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, an esteemed NIH-sponsored Fellowship for training in neuroimaging techniques at the University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon, as well as scholarships for academic excellence at the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to her research, Dr. Rajesh actively chairs various diversity-focused committees, showcasing her commitment to creating an inclusive scientific environment. Her dedication to making science a safe and nurturing space permeates her personal and professional life, fostering continuous improvement, reflection on biases, and a deepened appreciation for diverse contexts. This commitment positions her as a researcher, clinician, leader, and individual who continually strives for openness, impartiality, and a well-rounded perspective.

Khalil I. Thompson

Psychology and Neuroscience

Khalil I. Thompson is a postdoctoral research associate working in the Laboratory of Child Brain Development housed in the Department of Psychiatry of Washington University in St. Louis' Medical Campus. His research focuses on illuminating the underlying brain mechanisms that contribute to prosocial behavior and social dysfunction in young children and adolescents, and exploring how these factors may interact to precipitate future psychopathology. Khalil earned his position in the lab through an application for a NIH-NIMH minority supplement grant, where his primary project revolves around the impact of divorce as an environmental stressor on the behavioral and neural synchrony of parents and their children. During his time in the lab, he has also published a manuscript in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* exploring irritability as a temperamental factor in brain network response to social frustration and he has submitted a second manuscript to the *Journal of Personality* investigating how family structure and personality interacts with neural synchrony during parent-child interaction. Khalil also holds both leadership and service positions on campus as the current president of the WUSTL Black Postdoctoral Association and a collaborator with the Center for Rural Parents non-profit organization. He received his Bachelor of Science in psychology with a minor in chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA), a renowned Historically Black College/University (HBCU) and would go on to obtain his Ph.D. in cognitive and affective neuroscience from Georgia State University, where he was the recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the Second Century Initiative Fellowship.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2024

Caitlin Davis

Chemistry

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Caitlin Davis joined Yale in January 2020 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Before coming to Yale, Davis was a Center for the Physics of Living Cells Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Emory University and a B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics from University of Michigan. Davis' field of research is Biophysical Chemistry, with a focus on quantifying biomolecular interactions inside living cells. Her experimental approach makes connections between molecular mechanism and cellular function through time-resolved spectral imaging at multiple scales, from in vitro to single cell to whole organism. Her independent research has been published in journals such as Protein Science, Chem Comm, and J Phys Chem B, among others. Davis is widely involved in diversity and mentoring within the Yale community. She is co-PI on a grant to establish an ACS Bridge Partner Site at Yale, Chapter Advisor for the Yale National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers Chapter, and serves on the Yale Science, Technology and Research Scholars (STARS) Advisor Board. She has mentored five undergraduate researchers through Yale's STARS program. At a national level, Davis is a member of the Chemistry Women Mentorship Network and has served on numerous panels to broadly distribute career advice to individuals underrepresented in science.

Clíona Kelly

Neuroscience and Computer Science

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Clíona Kelly gained her PhD in Neuroscience and Computer Science in 2023 from Aston University in the UK. During this time, she investigated social cognition and specifically, social interaction using EEG and virtual reality. She is now the recipient of the Kavli Postdoctoral Award for Academic Diversity which she will use to implement a similar set up to investigate mother-infant interactions in a virtual environment. Clíona continues to utilize and encourage other researchers to adopt this innovative pairing of neuroimaging and virtual reality to investigate cognition from a cross-disciplinary perspective with hopes to build a lab that focuses on integrating neuroimaging with xReality technologies. Alongside her research, she is the co-founder and incoming director of programming of a non-profit organization, Black In Neuro. The non-profit aims to highlight and uplift Black scholars in neuro-related fields, with a global reach of 1000+ members in over 29 countries. Currently, she is leading the professional development activities for the non-profit and continues to provide much-needed resources and workshops to the community. In addition to this, she has been involved in a range of outreach programs ranging from summer schools for underrepresented students to active mentoring where she has previously been awarded Mentor of the Year.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2024

João Duarte Tavares da Silva Pereira

Department of Neuroscience

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João Duarte Tavares da Silva Pereira is the Scientific Director of the iPSC NeuroCore of the Department of Neuroscience, Yale Medical School. As the Scientific Director, João's role encompasses the generation of iPSC-derived neuronal assays, focusing on models of neurodegenerative diseases that range in complexity from directed cultures to organoid models. João has a unique background in developmental Neuroscience and Neurodegeneration. After obtaining a PhD in Neural Development from the University of Cambridge, João became a post-doctoral researcher and later an Instructor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. During this time, João focused on developing neuronal-specific assays for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Alzheimer's Disease, and X-linked Dystonia and Parkinsonism. João later transitioned to an industry setting, working in a startup biotech company focusing on phase separation models of neurodegenerative diseases. He supervised all work on iPSC-derived cells and successfully developed and optimized functional assays, performing dose responses for small molecule drug screening approaches in high-quality iPSC-derived neurons. Throughout this industry experience, João supervised other scientists and regularly communicated data with a chemistry design team, closely working with molecule design and optimization. The opportunity to lead a high-quality iPSC NeuroCore at Yale University's Department of Neuroscience brought João back to academia. At the iPSC NeuroCore, João established rigorous, industry-grade functional assays for iPSC-derived neuronal cells and relevant cell types. Additionally, João took the opportunity to lead a diverse team of researchers, focusing on the re-integration of traditionally under-represented groups that had, for multiple reasons, been forced to leave academia.

Erick I. Salvador Rocha

Microbiology

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Erick I. Salvador Rocha is currently pursuing a PhD in Microbiology at Yale University, focusing his research on understanding how the innate immune system detects complex inflammatory stimuli and regulates early immune responses. Throughout his PhD project, Erick has mentored a total of six undergraduate and high school students in research methodologies, overseeing three distinct research projects. In addition to his research endeavors, Erick has been actively engaged in teaching general biology to undergraduates from non-science majors, allowing him to share his passion for life sciences with a broader audience. Beyond academia, Erick has served as a Diversity Fellow, contributing to recruitment and retention efforts for the Graduate School. In this role, he has provided mentorship to first-year graduate students while assisting in the planning and execution of events and workshops. Furthermore, Erick is involved with the Graduate & Professional Student Senate, collaborating with fellow senators and university administration to address student needs, advocate for policy changes, and enhance the overall student experience.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2024

Shannon Whittaker

Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Shannon Whittaker is a doctoral candidate in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Yale School of Public Health. Her research agenda takes a past, present, future approach by examining the effects of both historical and contemporary place-based processes on health, while also focusing on the potential of future policies to reduce health inequities. During her tenure at Yale, Shannon has been selected as a National Institute of Mental Health T32 predoctoral fellow, National Institute of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein predoctoral fellow, and a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Scholar. Taken together, these fellowships have allowed Shannon to make significant contributions to her field of study. Most notably, her dissertation research examines the relationship between gentrification and health for Black residents in New Haven, Connecticut and Baltimore, Maryland, as well as the potential impact of structural-level interventions such as reparations on Black health. Her academic achievements are reflected in her publication record. To date, her research has yielded 11 peer-reviewed publications (including 3 first-authored publications), either published or under review. Shannon has also served as a Diversity Fellow through the Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity where she developed and facilitated workshops on topics such as imposter syndrome, work/life balance, social justice and diversity in the academy, and environmental injustice, with the goal of creating spaces where underrepresented scholars feel supported and empowered. In this capacity, she also mentors underrepresented scholars across the graduate school to foster community and provide academic and professional support.



Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Chapter Institutions

University Representatives

Cornell University

Sara Xayarath Hernández
Associate Dean for Inclusion and Student & Faculty
Engagement

Christine Holmes
Director of Postdoctoral Affairs

Emory University

Amanda Marie James
Associate Dean, Diversity, Inclusion and Community
Engagement

Megan Pendleton
Assistant Director, Diversity, Inclusion and Community
Engagement

Florida International University

Alla Mirzoyan
Assistant Dean, University Graduate School

Howard University

Miriam Okine Davies
Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Student Affairs

Johns Hopkins University

Sabine Stanley, Vice Provost for Graduate and
Professional Education

Michigan State University

Terah Venzant Chambers, Associate Dean, Graduate
School

Northwestern University

Sheehan D. Fisher, PhD
Associate Dean, The Graduate School Office of Diversity
& Inclusion

Rutgers University

Rex Nobles
Director, McNair Scholars Program

The Chicago School

Victoria Liu
Associate Professor, Counselor Education Department

The George Washington University

Chad Heap
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the Columbian
College of Arts & Sciences

University of California, Los Angeles

Georgina Aguilar
Diversity & Inclusion Retention Officer

University of California, San Diego

Angeline Yang
Director of Outreach, Access, Recruitment, and
Retention

University of Florida

Murielle Gammons
Director, Office of Graduate Student Support &
Engagement

University of Miami

Hudson Santos
Associate Dean, Graduate School

University of Michigan

Ethriam Brammer
Assistant Dean & DEI Implementation Lead

Chloe Secor
Academic Program Specialist

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Douachong Lee, Multicultural Initiatives Manager,
Graduate School Office of Diversity, Inclusion, &
Funding

Virginia Tech

Aimée Surprenant
Dean of the Graduate School

Catherine Cotrupi
Interim Assistant Dean and Director for Diversity,
Inclusion and Strategic Partnerships

Washington University in Saint Louis

Jessica Klingler Cissell
Director of Graduate Programming and The Graduate
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Michelle Nearon
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