



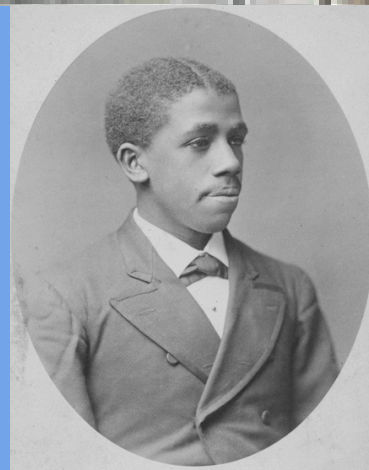
21ST ANNUAL YALE BOUCHET CONFERENCE ON GRADUATE EDUCATION 2025

"Environmental Justice: The Intersection of
Climate Change and Social Equity"
CELEBRATING 173 YEARS 1852-2025

CONFERENCE

APRIL 4 - 5, 2025 | FRIDAY - SATURDAY |

<https://gsas.yale.edu/annual-yale-bouchet-conference-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:

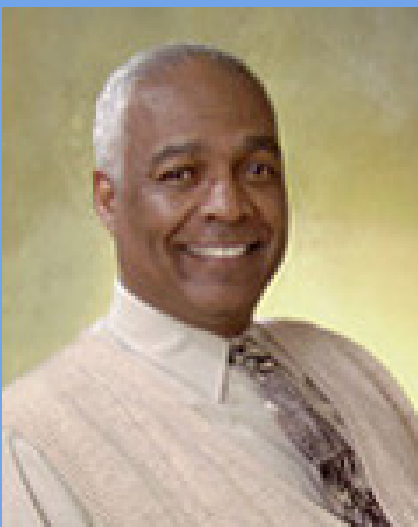
I have endeavored to discharge my duty as teacher to those coming under my care, and have aimed to be a good citizen, and to exemplify in my life the mottos of our Alma Mater... From November 1903, until May 1904, I was business manager for the Provident Hospital, a private institution located in St. 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



Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo, a Founding Member of the National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, was the CEO and Founder of The LCLO Group. She was an internationally renowned and respected academic, educator, psychologist, workforce development specialist, and evaluator. From 2013 until 2017, she served as the Vice President for Academic Development, Diversity & Inclusion and as a faculty member in the Education Department at Brown University. From 2007 to 2012, Dr. Cariaga-Lo was an Assistant Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity at Harvard University. Before this, she was an Assistant Dean at the Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the Director of the Office for Diversity & Equal Opportunity as well as a faculty member at the Yale School of Medicine. She was also an Assistant Professor of Medical Education at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She received her doctoral training in developmental psychology from Harvard University.

She consulted widely on diversity, inclusion and equity issues, as well as on broader capacity building and strategic planning in higher education. Dr. Cariaga-Lo was a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NAGMS) Council and served as Chair of the NIH–NIGMS Minority Programs Review Committee.

Her areas of research and teaching included diversity & inclusion metrics and program evaluation, developmental aspects of cultivating talent among historically underserved groups, ethnic minority health and education disparities, and public and institutional policies and practices to address inequality. She recently completed a book about the identity development of Asian Americans. She received the Chang-Lin Tien Leadership in Education Award from the Asian Pacific Fund in 2014.

Day One - Friday, April 4, 2025

PROGRAM

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Yale University Art Gallery Tour

Meet group at 1111 Chapel Street at 11:05 AM

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

National BGHS Steering Committee Meeting

****Institutional Representatives Only****

McDougal Graduate Student Center;

135 Prospect Street, Programming Room

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Yale Campus Tour

Meet group at 165 Whitney Avenue at 1:50 PM

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

**Why Centering Justice Improves Our Response to
Climate Disruption**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gerald Torres

Dolores Huerta and Wilma Mankiller Professor of
Environmental Justice, Yale University

6:15 PM - 8:00 PM

Reception for Registered Conference Guests Only

Kline Biology Tower (K14)

219 Prospect Street; 14th Floor

Must be at least 21 years old



Day Two - Saturday, April 5, 2025

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 - 8:45 AM

Continental Breakfast & Networking

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ); 320 York St.
Rm 131 - Food/Seating; Rm 134 - Add'l Seats

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

The History of Yale's Physics Department

HQ, 320 York St., Room L02

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Bouchet Graduate Honor Society
Induction Ceremony**

HQ; 320 York St.; Room L02

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Poster Exhibition

HQ; 320 York St.; Loggia & Lobby Outside L02

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Lunch & Networking

HQ; 320 York St.; Rooms 131 & 134 (Add'l Seats)



Day Two - Saturday, April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, April 5 | 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM | Location - Loggia & Lobby Outside L02

Chronic Diseases, Health

P.1 Kafilat Agbaje, Howard University

Formulation and Optimization of a Niosomal Drug Delivery System for the Treatment of Colorectal cancer

P.2 Janae N. Best, University of Michigan

Intersectionality Matters: An Examination of the Role of Sexual Orientation in the Association Between Superwoman Schema and Depressive Symptoms Among Young Black Women Attending an Historically Black College or University

P.3 Tericka Smith Cesar, University of Miami

Valid and Valued: A Validation Study of the Family Health Scale in a Subpopulation of African Americans (AA)

P.4 Darnell Dwayne Davis, Howard University

Rapid Detection of Active Coronavirus Infection by Lateral Flow Test Strips: A New Approach to Distinguish Replicating Viruses from Non-Replicating Viruses

P.5 Romi Genosar, Yale University

Defining β -Cell Subpopulations Predisposed to Immune-Mediated Dysfunction in Type 1 Diabetes

P.6 Judy Jiang, Hunter College

Antibody Profiling of Cytomegalovirus Proteins

P.7 Ashley M. Mello, University of Michigan

Hypoxia Promotes Inflammatory Fibroblast Formation in Pancreatic Cancer

P.8 De'Jana Parker, University of Michigan

Elucidating the Immunomodulatory Role of Rothia spp. in Host-Microbe Interactions

Day Two - April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Chronic Diseases, Health (Continued)

P.9 Jon A. Parker, University of Florida

Exploring Willingness to Participate in Nature-Based Interventions Among Black Identifying Adults

P.10 Andrea N. Robinson, Cornell University

Prevalence and Correlates of Vitamin D in Young Children Living in Urban Slums of Mumbai: A Cross-Sectional Study

P.11 Lauren L. Taylor, Howard University

The Hidden Health Costs of Wildfire Disparities

P.12 Geneice Thompson, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Evaluating cytotoxic T cells and Regulatory T Cells in Mammary Tumor Tissue in the Context of Smoothed Inhibition

P.13 Mang Hnem Tial, University of Alabama, Birmingham

High Fat Diet Alters Gut Microbiota Composition in Transgenic F344-AD Female Rats: Insights from Microbiome Analysis

P.14 Andrea Valenzuela, University of Michigan

AI-Driven Prioritization of Strain-Specific Tuberculosis Treatments

P.15 Isteaq Zim, Hunter College

Extracellular Matrix Accumulation in the Medial Habenula: A Potential Therapeutic Target for Diabetes-Associated Mood Disorders

Literature, Arts, Culture

P.16 Phill M. Campbell, Hunter College

School of the Blues: Langston Hughes's Lessons for Revolution

P.17 Marissa Perez, Yale University

'Porpoise'-Tooth Headdresses from French Polynesia and the Implications of Colonial Taxonomy

Day Two - April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Literature, Arts, Culture (Continued)

P.18 Audrey Rodriguez, University of Miami
Consumptive "Clean" Bodies and Spaces

Race Relations, Social Movements

P.19 Ebony Christie, University of South Carolina
Birthing Black: The Impact Perceived Discrimination on the Birthing Experience of Black Women

P.20 Deanna Hayden, Howard University
I Ain't Lying: Exploring the Intersections of Media, Community, and Philanthropy in Rural Mississippi

P.21 Marquis B. Holley, University of South Florida
High-Jacking History: Understanding the Historical Conundrums of the Journey to Academia for First Generation Black Doctoral Students ("F-GBDS")

P.22 Elijah Isiah Lane, University of South Carolina
Parents Perspectives on How Autism Affects Their Child's Social Lives

P.23 Monique Mahabir, University of Miami
Expanding Network Mapping Insights for Miami-Dade County's Extreme Heat Efforts: A Pilot Study

P.24 Rene K. Odanga, Emory University
Dispossession as Rule: Colonial Transformation and the Establishment of Control in British East Africa, 1895-1920

P.25 Jessica Powell, University of Alabama, Birmingham
The Role of Racial Stress on College Student Academic Outcomes

Day Two - April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Race Relations, Social Movements (Continued)

P.26 Tess Starman, Howard University

White Jesus: Ex-Christians Experiences with Racial Formation, White Saviorism, and Racism in Religion

P.27 Irving Suarez, University of Michigan

ICE in the Heartland: Utilizing an Art-Based Curriculum to Disseminate Information into Middle and High School Classrooms

Science, Technology, Science Policy

P.28 Lauryn Cureton, Emory University

The role of rRNA modifications in regulation of translation initiation

P.29 Phoebe Demers, Yale University

Ancient DNA Preservation in Archaeological Sediment from Tropical Africa

P.30 Tochukwu Dominic Eze, Northwestern University

AI-based Visual Privacy and Student Engagement in Sensitive Discussions on Social Justice Issues

P.31 Yesenia Garcia-Sifuentes, Emory University

Developmental isolation imperils social value-based decision-making later in life

P.32 Nia Harmon, Yale University

Influence of Carbon Nanotube Support on Electrochemical Nitrate Reduction Catalyzed by a Cobalt Complex

P.33 Libby Indermaur, Cornell University

Will Disease Impact the Expansion of Rhubarb Production in the Northeast?

P.34 Moses Kiwanuka, Florida International University

Modeling Chlorophyll-a Concentration in Lake Victoria Using Satellite Remote Sensing

Day Two - April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Science, Technology, Science Policy (Continued)

P.35 Kibryn Lovejoy, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Higher Stigma Consciousness Predicted Fewer Internalizing Problems in Adolescents with Neurodevelopmental Disorders

P.36 Analidis Ochoa, University of Michigan

Emerging Economic Coping Strategies Amidst a Growing Market for Blood Plasma

P.37 Oluwafemi Oladosu, Howard University

Framework for Culturally Literate Socially Assistive Robotics

P.38 Nolgie Oquendo-Colon, University of Michigan

Navigating Engineering with ADHD: Exploring Student Experiences, Instructional Practices, and Faculty Perceptions

P.39 Christina Ramelow, Emory University

Simultaneous Profiling of Native-State Proteomes and Transcriptomes of Neural Cell Types Using Proximity Labeling

P.40 Qyana M. Stewart, Howard University

Exploring the Transition of Black Women Ph.D. Graduates to Technology Entrepreneurship

P.41 Vignesh Subramaniam, University of Florida

Embedding Cell-Like Material Properties into 3D Printed Scaffolding for Active and Adaptable Materials Applications

P.42 Nishtha Tikalal, University of Central Florida

Plasmonic-Induced Fano Resonance in Subwavelength Nano-Cavities for Structural Coloration

P.43 Tahmid Ullah, Hunter College

Synthesis and Derivatization of a Cyclohexane 1,3-Dione Analog for the Treatment of ALS

Day Two - April 5, 2025



POSTER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Science, Technology, Science Policy (Continued)

P.44 Hamza Woodson, Williams College

Destroyed Landscapes and Augmented Realities: Digital Technologies, Identity Formation Processes, and Mixed Reality Phenomenology in Climate-Induced Post-Disaster Heritage Landscapes

US/International Policy, Law, Economics

P.45 Selma M. Newbill, Duke University

The Intersection of Law and Trauma: The Impact of *Torney v. United States* on Forensic Nursing and Sexual Assault Survivor Privacy

P.46 Tatiana Ruiz, The George Washington University

The Role of Representative Bureaucracy in Addressing Campus Sexual Violence: A Mixed Methods Analysis



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.

Chronic Diseases, Health IA (Room 207)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Sarah N. Steiner, University of Michigan
Keratin 9 Regulates Mechanosensitive Signaling in Palmoplantar Skin

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Ambria N. McDonald, Yale University
Distributive Disturbances: Examining Community Exposure to Potable Water Contaminants amidst Jackson, Mississippi Water Crisis

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Rayyan Gorashi, University of California, San Diego
Decoupling sex chromosome and sex hormone regulation of cardiac myofibroblast activation

Chronic Diseases, Health IB (Room 132)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Donald Long Jr, Cornell University
Centrality of Amino Acids in Fibrolamellar Carcinoma

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Travis Brady, Johns Hopkins University
Evolution of Cell-ECM Crosstalk and Biomechanics During Arterial Aging

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Riya Chakraborty, University of Florida & Biswadeep Dhar, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Conceptual Model Addressing Cancer Health Disparities among Underrepresented Populations using Arts Based Educational Research

Science, Technology, Science Policy (Room 133)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Belen Sotomayor, Cornell University
Discovery of a Single-Subunit Oligosaccharyltransferase That Enables Glycosylation of Full-Length IgG Antibodies in Escherichia Coli

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Kayla Seymone Ingram, Johns Hopkins University
The Epigenetic Consequences of Neighborhood Deprivation in Breast Cancer Therapy Resistance

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Abigail Oyekola, Howard University
Impact of Phase Noise on Gaussianity and Low Probability of Intercept Detection (LPID) in Autoencoder-Based Terahertz Communications



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.) Salma Rebhi, Cornell University
Fragmented Histories and Literary Resonances in Tahar Djaout's *The Bone Seekers*

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Paola Yuli, Howard University
"What Lies at the Bottom of the Sea": Mapping Post-Apocalyptic Bodies of Water in Rita Indiana's *Tentacle*

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Leyla Özyol, Kadir Has University and Ali Olgun, Yıldız Technical University
Power dynamics and spatial femininity: An analysis of witches and their roles in *Suspiria* (1977) and *Suspiria* (2018)

Race Relations, Social Movements (Room 229)

(2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) Aspen Omapang, Cornell University
Whose Public? An Analysis of Public Comments in Hawai'i Environmental Regulation

(2:20 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.) Ama Boatemaa Appiah-Kubi, Howard University
Empowered Voices: African Feminist Leadership and Politics in Digital Media

(2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.) Victoria Vezaldenos, University of Michigan
Developing a Measure of Critical Multiracial Ethnic-Racial Identity



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.) Marguerite Pacheco, Cornell University

Recombinant Protein Therapeutic Improves Extracellular Matrix and Cell Orientation in a Dose Dependent Manner

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Jennifer Nguyen, University of Michigan

Metabolomics Outcomes as a Function of Biological Complexity From Colorectal Cancer-Related Microbiome Samples

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Kaylin M. White, Emory University

Lifetime Discrimination as a Contributor to Black-White Disparities in Actigraphy-Assessed Sleep Duration in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)

Chronic Diseases, Health IIB (Room 132)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Rana Gbyli, Yale University

Unlocking the Role of H2A.J in Metastatic Breast Cancer: A Key to Stopping Tumor Spread

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Shantol Graham-Hyatt, Howard University

APOE Genotype-Dependent Effects of Exercise on the Short Chain Fatty Acid and Brain Function in Mice.

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Ariana Mora, Emory University

Medicare's Largest Policy Randomized Control Trial (RCT) Randomization Failure: Sources of Non-Exchangeability and Potential Solutions for Future Policy Trials

Science, Technology, Science Policy (Room 133)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Devon L. Brown, Howard University

Advancing Transparent and Ethical AI Frameworks for National Security Decision Support

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Shavanie Prashad, Yale University

Peptidergic Neurons Mediate a Positive Feedback Loop That Promotes the Active Internal State of the *C. elegans* Egg-Laying Circuit

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Michael Odelola, Florida International University

Ultra High-Performance Concrete (UHPC): Innovation for Sustainable and Accelerated Construction



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.

Race Relations, Social Movements IIA (Room 227)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Aya M. Waller-Bey, University of Michigan

Is it worth it? Trauma Narratives in Black Undergraduate Students' College Admissions Essays

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Dorothy Lsoto, University of Wisconsin

The Legacy of Colonial-Era Urban Planning on Present Day Air Quality Disparities in Kampala, Uganda

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Sarah Plummer, Virginia Tech

Documenting Privilege: Using Civil War Research to Interrogate Whiteness and Power

Race Relations, Social Movements IIB (Room 229)

(3:05 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.) Jamila Walida Simon, Cornell University

A New Black Farmer Ecosystem Rebirth for Our Youth

(3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.) Troy A Kearsse Jr., Howard University

Intersectional Stereotypes and Bias: Examining the Social Consequences of Health Stereotypes for Black Gay Men

(3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Carolina Marques de Mesquita, Yale University

Meeting the Challenge of Social Mobilization with Participant Turnover: Youth Climate Activism



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.) Faith Taylor, Yale University

Assessing Natural Disaster Risks for Incarcerated Individuals in the Gulf Coast of the United States

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Ekram Towsif, Emory University

Multifaceted Effects of Cyclase-Associated Protein on Actin Filament Dynamics

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Lisa Je, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Molecular dynamics of energy materials for a sustainable future in computation

Science, Technology, Science Policy IIIB (Room 132)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Oziomachukwu Chinaka, Virginia Tech

Preliminary Examination of Recruitment and Retention Efforts within the Healthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Alison Carranza, Yale University

Plants of the Past: Tracking Historic Anthropogenic Environmental Change

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Ricardo Frausto, University of California, Los Angeles

Cyclic Nucleotide Signaling Regulates Carbon Dioxide Valence in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

Race Relations, Social Movements (Room 133)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Derrick Boakye Boadu, Florida International University

Sustaining Collaborative Leadership: The Case of Climate Change Gentrification in Miami

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Anastasios G. Goulos, University of St. Francis

A Reformative Interpretation of Intercultural Relations: Advancing an Inclusive Mindset

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Pratyosh Kashyap, Virginia Tech

Scaling Equity: Exploring Wholesale Market Access and Technical Assistance Needs of Black, Hispanic, and Tribal Producers



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.

U.S./International Policy, Law, Economics (Room 227)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Zhuang Han, Cornell University

Estimating Demographic Dividends Across LMICs. A Practical Decomposition and Meta-Analysis

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Inga Haugen, Virginia Tech

Finding Materiality within Leadership-as-Practice, Using Cultural-Historical Activity Theory

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Michaela Philip, Emory University

Zoning and Highway Placement

Literature, Arts, Culture (Room 229)

(4:10 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.) Lidya Cerritos, Florida International University

A Window on Pain: Representation of Violence in Central American Culture and Literature from 1980 to the Present

(4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) Eda Bozkurt, University of Michigan

Housing Displacement and Environmental Justice: The Socio-Spatial Impact of Gecekondü Renewal Projects in Turkey

(4:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.) Viyon Dansu, Florida International University

Exploring Culturally Sustaining Classroom Practices Rooted in Ubuntu: A Case Study of Two Nigerian STEM Teachers

Day Two - April 5, 2025

BOUCHET LEADERSHIP 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

2025 Bouchet Leadership Award Medal Recipient



Dr. Dorceta Taylor is the Wangari Maathai Professor of Environmental Justice at the Yale School for the Environment. Prior to that she was a professor of environmental sociology at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) for 27 years. She was the James E. Crowfoot Collegiate Chair and the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at SEAS. She also held a joint appointment with the Program in the Environment. Dr. Taylor is the former Field of Studies Coordinator for SEAS' Environmental Justice Program and a past Chair of the American Sociological Association's Environment and Technology Section. Professor Taylor received PhD and master's degrees from the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (now the Yale School of the Environment) and the Department of Sociology at Yale University in 1991, 1988, and 1985.

In 2014 Dr. Taylor authored a landmark national report, *The State of Diversity in Environmental Institutions: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations, and Government Agencies*. She authored a second diversity report in 2014 entitled, *Environmental Organizations in the Great Lakes Region: An Assessment of Institutional Diversity*.

Dr. Taylor's most recent book, *The Rise of the American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection*, was published in 2016 during the 100th-year anniversary of the founding of the national park service. The book examines how conservation ideas and politics are tied to social dynamics such as racism, classism, and gender discrimination. Revelations made in the book about the ideologies of John Muir, the slave-owning past of John James Audubon and the eugenicist history of the Save the Redwoods League and the National Park Service have led to the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, and the Save the Redwoods League acknowledging the problematic discourses and actions of their founders. A congressional hearing on the lack of diversity in the Department of the Interior also acknowledged the significance of this work as well as other institutional diversity research.

Taylor's 2014 book, *Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility* (New York University Press), examines the racial and socio-economic dimensions of exposure to environmental hazards in the U.S. She is also the author of *The Environment and the People in American Cities: 1600s-1900s, Disorder, Inequality, and Social Change* (Duke University Press). The book examines the history of environmental inequality and urban environmental activism. It received the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award given by the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association in 2010.

Dr. Taylor was honored by the Smithsonian Institution in 2019. She is the recipient of several awards including the National Audubon Society Women in Conservation Award, the National Science Foundation Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, the Burton V. Barnes Award for Academic Excellence from the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Charles Horton Cooley Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the Michigan Sociological Association, and the Frederick B. Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award from the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2025

Andrea N. Robinson

Nutritional Sciences

ar2353@cornell.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/andeanrobinson/>

Andrea N. Robinson is a PhD candidate in the Nutritional Sciences with concentrations in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology and Epidemiology at Cornell University. Her research investigations how improved maternal and child nutrition can improve child health outcomes, especially for children living in low resource settings. Prior to Cornell, she was a National Cancer Institute Post-baccalaureate at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she studied multi-drug resistance in cancer cells. Andrea is a first-generation college student who graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of North Texas. As a graduate student, Andrea has received the Cornell Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Robert Mozia Graduate Distinguished Service Award and the Graduate School's Early Career Exemplary Service Award. She is a Graduate School Dean's Scholar and while at Cornell, has held many leadership positions, including treasurer of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, McNair Graduate Program Coordinator, and co-PI on a grant for improving the mental health of minority graduate students. Andrea is passionate about training and mentoring young scientists of color, eliminating health disparities and other injustices. Ultimately, Andrea aspires to be a university professor conducting community-based participatory research focused on improving diet-related health outcomes in populations that are disproportionately at risk for poor health.

Aspen K.B. Omapang

Information Science

aspen@infosci.cornell.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aspenomapang/>; <https://aspenkbomapang.com/>

Aspen K.B. Omapang is a Filipino-descendent of kama'aina of Hawai'i Island. She holds kuleana (obligation) from her kupuna (elders) and the 'aina (land) which informs her work. Currently, she is a PhD Candidate at Cornell University in the Information Science department. Broadly, she studies the socio-technical facets of Native Peoples legibility to the U.S. government, political technologies, and Indigenous identity. Aspen serves as the President of the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA) and is a Multicultural Academic Council (MAC) Mentor and Graduate School Dean's Scholar. Aspen serves on the ADVANCE Resource Coordination (ARC) Network External Advisory Committee and most recently was a sociotechnical systems intern for Intel Labs. Aspen's research is supported by the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship and Cornell Sloan Foundation Fellowship.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2025

Belén Sotomayor

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

mbs332@cornell.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/belen-sotomayor-burneo-/>

Belén Sotomayor is a Ph.D. candidate in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering with a Certificate in Entrepreneurship at Cornell University. Her research aims to democratize access to medicine in rural areas worldwide by developing methods that utilize bacteria to produce cost-effective therapeutics. These include glycosylated monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), which are highly effective in treating cancers and autoimmune disorders, as well as conjugate vaccines. As an undergraduate in Ecuador at UTPL, Belén developed eco-friendly processes for cyanide biodegradation and gold recovery. Belén's journey is distinguished by remarkable scientific contributions, leadership, and service, which have earned her numerous prestigious national and international awards. These include being honored as a Fleming Scholar, being selected among the 100 global "Leaders of Tomorrow," earning first place at the Global Entrepreneurial Biotechnology Competition "Voices of Tomorrow," and receiving the prestigious "Dr. Matilde Hidalgo Medal". Moreover, Belén is passionate about encouraging women in higher education and STEM and advocating for accessible opportunities for all. As a leader at Cornell and beyond, she has played a pivotal role in multiple organizations, organizing numerous events to promote equity, access, diversity and inclusion. Under her presidency, the CBE Women's Group was honored with the CEAA Student Organization Leadership Award for its impact. Belén aspires to continue working at the intersection of Chemical engineering, synthetic biology, and entrepreneurship to democratize access to medicine. Her goal is to excel not only in her scientific work but also as a mentor, by actively listening to students' needs, sharing her knowledge and experiences, valuing and nurturing diverse perspectives, and continuing to advocate for those who need support.

Donald (Don) Long Jr.

Genetics, Genomics, and Development

d1964@cornell.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/donald-long-jr-813989ab

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/sethupathylab/current-lab-members/>; @DonLongJ

Donald (Don) Long Jr. has had quite the personal journey to science from former military to homelessness to prominent researcher at Cornell University. Currently, Don is a doctoral candidate in the field of genetics, genomics, and development (GGD) at Cornell University. He is in the lab of Praveen Sethupathy where he studies the metabolism of a rare liver cancer called fibrolamellar carcinoma (FLC) that affects mainly adolescents/young adults and currently has no standard of care. Don, along with the support of superb collaborators, pioneered the area of FLC metabolism with his first lead-author publication in Cell Reports Medicine that boasts the most comprehensive integrative analysis of proteomics and metabolomics data building a robust metabolic model for FLC conjoined with a series of functional experiments that validate critical aspects of the model. His work was a primary motivator in a clinical trial initiated by one of his collaborators, exemplifying bench-to-bedside research. Don's potential as an impactful researcher has been recognized via several prestigious awards and honors. In 2020, Don became a fellow of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. In 2023, he was awarded the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship. In 2024, Don was put forward by an internal selection committee at Cornell as an international nominee for the 2025 Fred Hutch Weintraub Graduate Student Award. Don is an aspiring principal investigator in the field of metabolism placing a strong emphasis on recruitment of minorities, including military veterans of color like himself.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2025

Jamila Walida Simon

Global Development

jws62@cornell.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamila-walida-simon/>

<https://www.human.cornell.edu/people/jws62>

Jamila Walida is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Global Development at Cornell University. Her research focuses on the benefits of building research relationships with Black farmers, its implications on academia and community as well as helping to heal trauma in youth of color. This rich work has implications for national, agricultural organizations and serves as a pathway to explore the pursuit of purpose and race with invisible audiences. Jamila Walida earned her Master's of Science degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University and her Bachelor's of Science degree from Wells College. Jamila Walida's organizing work spans working with local high school youth to move from disconnected to graduated, coordinating summer youth employment. As an Extension Associate Jamila Walida works with 4-H members from Kindergarten to college to explore their sparks and help them to find their own path to thriving. Jamila Walida aspires to work in academia and to bring her community focus.

Libby Indermaur

Plant Pathology

ejl7@cornell.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-indermaur-1922b116a

Libby Indermaur is a candidate for the Ph.D. in plant pathology with concentrations in horticulture and fungal and oomycete biology at Cornell University. Her research applies integrated tools to improve the management of vegetable diseases. Libby has been recognized as a Predoctoral Fellow by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) and has won awards for her excellence in public speaking from the American Phytopathological Society, and in teaching from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from North Carolina State University where she was awarded a scholarship from the Caldwell Fellows, a merit-based leadership development program. Libby's first love was learning, and she is passionate about inviting others to ask questions about biology. She is an advocate for bringing plant pathology outside the traditional classroom—a commitment she developed while teaching through the Cornell Prison Education Program, a university-affiliated effort to offer associate's degrees to men who are incarcerated in Upstate New York. As an aspiring faculty member, Libby's career-long goal is to answer vegetable growers' disease questions while extending the privileges of education to those for whom access is most limited.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2025

Marguerite Pacheco

Biomedical Engineering

marguerite.au.pacheco@gmail.com; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/margueritepacheco/>

Marguerite Pacheco is a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering, in the subfield of biomechanics. She studies tendon regeneration with the goal of using tissue engineering principles and regenerative mouse models to develop protein-based tendon therapeutics. At her undergraduate institution, Smith College, she was an AEMES (Achieving Excellence in Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences) Scholar and later served as a mentor in that program. Upon entering Cornell, she became an IMSD Scholar under the Graduate School Dean's Scholars umbrella, and then an NSF-GRFP awardee. Marguerite has been an active participant and leader in both community and professional organizations at Cornell and beyond. She has served on the executive board of the graduate chapter of Cornell Biomedical Engineering Society and the Building Allyship Series, as well as the president of the Latino Graduate Student Coalition. Additionally, she has led STEM outreach workshops through Cornell's CURIE academy and Girl Scout Engineering Day, and the Orthopaedic Research Society's Open Door program. In 2021, she received the Early Career Exemplary Service Award, as well as a Perkin's Prize Honorable Mention as part of the Building Allyship Series. She is an elected leader in CGSU-UE, the graduate worker union, to enshrine and protect the rights of all grads. She has presented at numerous conferences, and been selected for special sessions at two of those for her work developing tendon therapeutics. Her dream is to be a research professor and teach the next generation of civic-minded scientists, while advocating for accessible higher education and federal investment in science.

Salma Rebhi

Romance Studie

sr2298@cornell.edu

Salma Rebhi is a Ph.D. candidate in Romance Studies at Cornell University, with minors in the History of Architecture and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her dissertation, "Memory in Motion: The Corporeal Remains of Conflict in Post-Colonial Contested Landscapes," explores how landscapes and bodies—scarred by colonial violence and genocide—become interconnected archives of memory and resistance. Through case studies of Laghouat in Algeria, Camp des Milles in France, and Tantoura in Palestine, Salma analyzes how trauma is inscribed into space and transmitted across generations. Her research conceptualizes these sites as narraterrains, spaces where geography and the human body converge in the contested process of memorialization. Salma holds three master's degrees: in Middle Eastern and North African Studies and in French and Francophone Studies from the University of Arizona, and in French Literature from Cornell University. She is currently preparing two articles for publication: "Embodied Terrains of Identity: The Intertwining of Nature and Nationhood in the Imazighen Inscriptive Tradition" (Yale French Studies, 2025) and "Bodies in Bondage: The Quiet Economy of Care and Control in A Maid for Each." (Melbourne University Press, 2027). As an educator, Salma has taught Arabic, French, and Italian at institutions in Tunisia, France, and the United States. Her pedagogy emphasizes inclusivity, decolonial critique, and gender-conscious approaches, encouraging students to engage with global cultural narratives. Her academic service includes organizing cross-disciplinary panels on labor, migration, and postcolonial identity at international conferences. Salma is a Graduate School Dean's Scholar and has been recognized with several honors, including the Carolina Corson Prize for excellence in French, the Excellence in Poetry Award, and the Rufenacht Book Award. She is committed to advancing transnational literary and cultural studies through research and teaching.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Cornell University 2025

Zhuang Han

Global Development

hanzhaungjohn@foxmail.com; www.linkedin.com/in/zhuanghan

Zhuang Han is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Global Development at Cornell University. His research and teaching focus on bridging the understanding of social inequality, social change, public policy, and emerging digital economies. His dissertation examines the experiences of the “Sanhe Gods”—young migrant workers in China who choose daily-paid jobs over traditional factory work—exposing systemic barriers and policy gaps that affect marginalized youth. His work has appeared in book chapters and in prestigious outlets such as *Population and Development Review* and *The Journal of Pediatrics*. Zhuang has been recognized as an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant by Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and has been named an Amit Bhatia ’01 Global Ph.D. Research Scholar by the Cornell Einaudi Center for International Studies. His research is supported by the Hu Shih Fellowship and the OYCF-Chow Fellowship. Zhuang received his B.S. in Sociology and Computer Science from the University of Michigan, where he was awarded the Katherine Ling Scholarship and earned high honors for his thesis. In addition to his academic pursuits, Zhuang has actively contributed to several United Nations initiatives, including the 7th edition of the *Global Environment Outlook* led by the UNEP, the UNECA, and the UNFPA. Through these collaborations, he applies his expertise in social policy to develop strategies for sustainable development. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, Zhuang aims to inform evidence-based interventions that foster inclusive growth and equitable access to opportunities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2025

Lauryn Cureton

Genetics and Molecular Biology

Lauryn is a Ph.D. candidate in the Genetics and Molecular Biology program at Emory University. Her research focuses on understanding the role of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) modifications in the regulation of translation initiation. Within her first two years at Emory, Lauryn has contributed to two manuscripts as a co-author and has been awarded the Centennial Scholar Award from Laney Graduate School, NIH T32 pre-doctoral award, and the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein-NRSA Individual Predoctoral Fellowship. In 2021, Lauryn earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Missouri, where she was also recognized for her leadership, service, and academic excellence through the Mizzou '39 Award. Following graduation, she worked as a post-baccalaureate research fellow in Biology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis through the NIH-Post-Baccalaureate Research Program (IPREP). In addition to her research, Lauryn is passionate about serving in leadership roles that contribute to diversity and inclusion by serving as the President of the Black Graduate Student Association and by being an active member of the GA RNA Salon organizing committee. Ultimately, Lauryn aspires to become a scientific leader, applying her expertise in biochemistry and genetics to make science more accessible to others.

Yesenia Garcia-Sifuentes

Neuroscience

Yesenia Garcia-Sifuentes is a Neuroscience Ph.D. candidate at Emory University. Their research focuses on understanding the developmental determinants of social value-based decision-making in brain regions such as the basolateral amygdala. They have also researched how sex differences are reported and misreported across the biological sciences. Yesenia received their B.A. in Neuroscience and a minor in Race and Ethnicity from Vassar College. Upon admission to Emory, Yesenia was awarded the Centennial Scholars Fellowship based on their outstanding academic achievement and their promise as a leader. Yesenia has received numerous accolades while at Emory including the HHMI Gilliam Fellowship, the Emory Neuroscience Program Scientific Outreach Award, and was named a Neuroscience Scholar on behalf of the Society for Neuroscience. Yesenia is an enthusiastic advocate for underrepresented groups and has dedicated many efforts towards increasing inclusivity in STEM. Early in their graduate career, Yesenia recognized the need for broader representation in the sciences and created a blog called "NonbinaryNeuro" to foster community by sharing the unique experience of navigating graduate school while holding intersecting identities, such as being transgender, queer, and Latinx. Due to the success of their blog, Yesenia has been invited to speak and share their journey as a DEI expert and keynote speaker at various scientific conferences and universities across North America. Additionally, they have volunteered with Cientifico Latino's Graduate School Mentorship Initiative to increase access to graduate programs. Through their visibility and mentorship, Yesenia hopes to empower and support fellow students in STEM who have been historically excluded, marginalized, or oppressed.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2025

Leah A. Kaplan

Philosophy

Leah A. Kaplan is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at Emory University. Leah holds an M.A. in African American Studies from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Philosophy and Art from Stony Brook University. Her research traces the continuity between slavery and contemporary tourism in the Anglophone Caribbean and specifically looks at the ways in which tourism reproduces the position of servitude for the black subject and the position of mastery for the white subject. Her claim is that Caribbean tourism is undergirded by a logic of unconditional hospitality that expands the freedoms of the tourist by making them feel “at home” wherever they are, making clear that tourism is yet another example of the afterlives of slavery, characterized by white self-discovery and sovereignty through the subjugation of blackness. Kaplan is the winner of the Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, the Robert W. Woodruff Fellowship, and the Centennial Scholarship. She is a former co-liaison for the Emory chapter of Minorities and Philosophy where she seeks to foster underrepresented voices and marginalized identities within the academy.

Ariana Mora

Epidemiology

Ariana Mora is a medical student and Ph.D. Candidate in Epidemiology at Emory University. Her research and clinical work are focused on understanding and addressing the sequelae of healthcare deprivation and improving healthcare access. Ariana is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Health Policy Research Scholar (HPRS) and received the HPRS Dissertation Award for her dissertation entitled, “Leveraging Disease Misclassification to Estimate the Impact of Pre-Pregnancy Healthcare Access on Maternal Morbidity”. In addition to her dissertation work, Ariana has been collaborating with CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Reproductive Health to develop the Policy Recommendation Toolkit for Maternal Mortality Prevention. She has been a Visiting Research Internship Program (VRIP) Scholar at Harvard Medical School and received the Hubert W. Lamb Prize, Jerome A. Schiff Fellowship, and Global Engagement Fellowship during her undergraduate degree at Wellesley College. She strongly believes in the power of community and recognizes her success has been possible through the support and care she has received from those around her. Ariana plans to pursue an academic career as a physician scientist, continuing her multifaceted approach for change through her research and public health interventions to promote health equity, helping the communities around her through political advocacy and medical care, and fostering a new generation of learners by paying forward the culture of support and care that has been extended to her.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2025

Rene K. Odanga

History

Rene K. Odanga is a candidate for the Ph.D. in History at Emory University with a focus in African history. His research focuses on the expansion of the British empire and the consolidation of colonial control in East Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth century through contexts of slavery and abolition, colonial violence and dispossession and inequality. Rene's research and scholarship outside the United States has been supported by the Department of History, and he was a recipient of the Halle Institute Graduate Global Research Fellowship. He earned a Master of Arts in African Studies and Research from Howard University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the United States International University-Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. Rene strongly believes in the transformative power of higher education and actively works in graduate school recruitment at the Laney Graduate School where he is an Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) fellow. He hopes to work enter the academic profession teaching and researching in African history and the humanities and helping others unlock new ways of understanding the world through a liberal arts education.

Michaela Philip

Economics

Michaela Philip is a PhD student in the Economics department at Emory University. Her research focuses on the modern and historical urban policies that create and perpetuate health and economic inequality in the United States. She received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she was the recipient of the University Honors Program's Student Service Award. Michaela works as an Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) Ambassador, where she assists with events geared at recruiting and supporting diverse scholars. She has also worked as a Summer Opportunity for Academic Research (SOAR) instructor where she taught fundamentals of the research process to students from various fields and universities. Michaela is passionate about growing the field of economics and hopes to continue teaching and researching through a career in academia.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2025

Christina C. Ramelow

Neuroscience

Christina C. Ramelow is a candidate for the Ph.D. in neuroscience at Emory University. Her research is focused on developing new methods to quantify RNA and protein levels from neural cell types and investigating astrocytic contributions to Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis. Christina has presented her findings at numerous scientific meetings, many of which she received travel scholarships and poster awards, co-authored 3 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and was awarded an NRSA F31 fellowship. At Emory, she has been an active member of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development community as an alumna of the program and as a current graduate teaching assistant. Prior to Emory, she received a Bachelor and Master of Science in Biology from Eastern Washington University, where she participated in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars and NSF S-STEM Scholars Programs and found her passion for biomedical research, teaching, and mentoring. She has served in many teaching, leadership and service roles focused on community engagement, STEM education, mentorship and supporting underrepresented students. Christina aspires to be a university professor where she can conduct research in glial biology and neuroimmunology, teach in the biomedical sciences, and mentor students inside and outside of the lab.

Kevin D. Russell

Political Science

Kevin D. Russell is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Political Science with a concentration in U.S. politics at Emory University. His research focuses on the behavior of individuals in campaign finance with respect to racial identity. Kevin has been recognized as a Centennial Scholar, a Fellow in the American Political Science Association's Diversity Fellowship Program, and a Junior Fellow with Emory Diversifying Graduate Education. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and minor in African American Studies from Northwestern University, where he received the Political Science Department's Certificate of Achievement in Quantitative Skills, the Northwestern Scholarship, the Posner Summer Fellowship, and the Northwestern Summer Internship Grant. Kevin possesses a hunger for knowledge and believes in empowering others through teaching and community engagement. He serves as a volunteer mentor with Evanston Scholars, an organization geared toward preparing promising high school students from under-represented backgrounds to attend and graduate from college. Ultimately, Kevin aspires to research and teach politics at the university level and to disseminate knowledge to subsequent generations.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Emory University 2025

Ekram M. Towsif

Physics

Ekram M. Towsif is a Ph.D. candidate in the Physics program with a concentration in Biophysics at Emory University. As the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree in physics and molecular biology/biochemistry from Wesleyan University, Ekram's journey has been driven by a commitment to both academic excellence and service. At Wesleyan, he was a member of the university honor and community standards boards. He was honored as a QuestBridge Scholar, Ronald E. McNair Fellow, presentation award at the SACNAS conference, and received the Scott Biomedical Prize for his contributions to research. At Emory, Ekram continues his passion for research, using his background in physics and biochemistry to explore novel mechanisms in actin cytoskeleton dynamics. His work has been published in the *European Journal of Cell Biology*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, and has been featured in *The Scientist* magazine. His research has also earned him an honorable mention for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Beyond his academic pursuits, Ekram is deeply committed to fostering diversity in science. He actively mentors underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students through his volunteer work with QuestBridge, SACNAS, McNair, and the Discovery Museum. He also contributes to the Emory community through his involvement with Emory Libraries at ECDS and LSD. Ekram aspires to combine his love for science and education as a director at the Discovery Museum and Planetarium, where he hopes to inspire future generations of young scientists and advocate for accessible STEM education.

Kaylin Marie White

Epidemiology

Kaylin M. White is a Ph.D. candidate in epidemiology at Emory University. She earned a B.S. from Spelman College and an M.S. from the University of Michigan. Her research examines racial disparities in sleep and how social adversity, including chronic stress and discrimination, contributes to these differences. She also investigates how inadequate sleep may accelerate biological aging, exacerbating health disparities. As a National Institutes of Health (NIH) T32 M.E.T.R.I.C. predoctoral fellow, Kaylin has authored a book chapter in the upcoming *Cambridge Handbook of Sleep Theories and Models*, assessed measurement bias in sleep duration among adolescents, published on sleep disturbances and adverse perinatal outcomes among Black pregnant women, and conducted systematic and narrative literature reviews on the social determinants of sleep disparities. Kaylin is committed to service and advocacy. As a fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), she led the development of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) Academic Toolkit, expanding access to geospatial health equity research tools for students, particularly at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). She also mentors emerging STEM scholars by volunteering at Spelman College Research Day. Her contributions have been recognized by the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation Scholarship and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Honor Award for Excellence in Program Delivery for Health Equity at CDC. Through scholarship, service, and advocacy, she aims to translate research into public health interventions that promote resilience and advance health equity.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Florida International University 2025

Patience Ngozi Paul

Biomedical Science

Patience Ngozi Paul is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Cellular Biology and Pharmacology at the Center for Translational Science at Florida International University. She holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from FIU. Her research focuses on nitrated proteins with disease-driving functions in neurological disorders, including nervous system cancers. Patience received the 2024 Young Investigator's Award from the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine at the 2024 Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in microbiology from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, where she was awarded the Unilorin Merit Scholarship given to the top 1% of students. Patience learns and grows with every endeavor and believes in sharing her passion for science and biomedical research. As part of her community engagement, she trains high school students in basic biomedical research techniques through the annual FIU-CTS High School Summer Internship Program. Ultimately, Patience aspires to become an independent investigator and leader at the intersection of nervous system tumors and redox biology. While pursuing her research to improve treatment options and enhance patient quality of life, she remains committed to mentorship and community outreach.

Lidya Cerritos

Spanish

Lidya Cerritos is a Postdoctoral Associate specializing in Latin American literature and film at Florida International University (FIU). She holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from FIU. Lidya's research focuses on the aesthetic representation of violence, narrative continuity, and cultural shifts in Central America. Her scholarly contributions include articles published in esteemed academic journals. In *Revista Iberoamericana*, she analyzed biopolitical regimes in Guatemala through her article "Poder y violencia en la ficción centroamericana: Necropolítica y capitalismo gore en *Que me maten si... de Rodrigo Rey Rosa*." In *Hispanic Journal*, her article "Cuando las tarántulas atacan: el sujeto subalterno en la literatura testimonial hondureña" examines subaltern subjects in Honduran Cold War literature. Her scholarship seeks to document alternative narratives, challenge official discourses, and contribute to a more comprehensive historical memory of Central America. Beyond research, Lidya is committed to fostering community and promoting advocacy. She organizes academic events, such as *Narrativas del trauma y la violencia en Latinoamérica* and *Innovative Approaches to Teaching Spanish Literature in High Schools in Honduras*. She has also mentored students and worked as an educator at FIU, the University of Central Florida, and Central Florida high schools, including teaching children with special needs. Through her work, Lidya exemplifies scholarship, leadership, service, and advocacy, bridging academic inquiry with a dedication to equity and cultural understanding.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Florida International University 2025

Moses Kiwanuka

Earth Systems Science

Moses Kiwanuka is a Ph.D. candidate in Earth Systems Science at Florida International University (FIU), specializing in inland water quality modeling through remote sensing and machine learning. He was awarded the 2023 VoLo VISTA Award for climate correction in recognition of his contributions to environmental research. Moses holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from Ndejje University in Uganda, where he was a Compassion International Scholar, and a Master of Science in Railway Engineering (Civil Infrastructure) from Addis Ababa University, funded by a World Bank Group Scholarship. His academic journey—from a low-income family of seven siblings to earning prestigious scholarships and excelling in his field—reflects his resilience and dedication to education. His commitment to teaching and leadership is evident in his roles as Assistant Lecturer, Acting Head of the Civil Engineering Department at Ndejje University, and Elections Chair of the African Graduate Students Association (AGSA) at FIU. Beyond academia, Moses actively engages in community outreach and environmental advocacy, leading conservation campaigns, advocating for clean water access, and providing financial support to underprivileged students. Upon completing his Ph.D., he aspires to become a professor, integrating cutting-edge research with mentorship and community engagement to drive meaningful, sustainable impact.

Viyon Dansu

Engineering and Computing Education

Viyon Dansu is a Ph.D. candidate in Engineering and Computing at Florida International University, Miami. His research focuses on culturally sustaining classroom practices of STEM educators, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Viyon earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Systems Engineering from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He is a recipient of a dissertation fellowship and currently serves as a 2024 Wulff Diversity Mentor within the POD Network. He is also the Executive Director of the African Engineering Education Fellows in Diaspora Community. Viyon's groundbreaking research contextualizes culturally sustaining pedagogy for STEM teachers in Sub-Saharan Africa, pioneering a shift from a deficit-based to an asset-based framing of STEM education in the region. His work has earned recognition, including an award-winning research paper at the 2024 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) International Conference. He has published several research papers on engineering education, focusing on both K-12 and higher education. Ultimately, Viyon aspires to contribute to the advancement of STEM education and mentorship, ensuring that culturally responsive teaching practices are embedded in engineering education.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Florida International University 2025

Michael Odelola

Civil Engineering

Michael Odelola is a Ph.D. candidate in Civil Engineering at Florida International University (FIU), specializing in high-performance concrete, advanced construction materials, and large-scale structural testing. His research focuses on splicing details for precast prestressed ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC) piles. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in structural and material science from the University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria, as well as a Master of Science degree in structural engineering from FIU. In recognition of the industry relevance of his master's research at UI, he was awarded the prestigious Petroleum Trust Development Fund (PTDF) scholarship. More recently, he received the Dissertation Evidence Acquisition (DEA) Fellowship at FIU to support his doctoral research. Before pursuing his PhD program, Michael started a mentorship program in Nigeria to equip young engineers with essential academic and professional skills. He remains actively engaged in student leadership at FIU, serving on the executive boards of multiple student and graduate organizations, including his role as president of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) FIU Chapter. Michael aspires to make a global impact at the intersection of policymaking, industry, and academia, driving the practical application of scientific and engineering innovations to address critical societal challenges.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2025

Kafilat Agbaje

Pharmaceutical Sciences

kafilat.agbaje@bison.howard.edu

Kafilat Agbaje is a candidate for the Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences at Howard University, specializing in pharmaceuticals and drug delivery. Her research focuses on designing, synthesizing, and formulating drug delivery systems for colorectal cancer treatment. She is a Howard University Graduate School Ambassador and actively supports student engagement and mentorship. She also volunteers as a Neighborhood Health Ambassador with the George Washington Cancer Center, where she participates in community education and outreach programs. Kafilat has been accepted into the Howard, Hampton and Morgan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Fellowship and is completing the Preparing Future Faculty certificate. She holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Science in pharmacognosy from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, where she graduated at the top of her class and received nine academic awards, including Best Dissertation in Pharmacognosy. She is currently a teaching assistant in the Department of Chemistry at Howard University, where she assists students in laboratory coordination and coursework. A passionate researcher and aspiring educator, Kafilat is committed to mentoring future pharmaceutical scientists and advancing drug discovery through innovative research.

Ama Boatemaa Appiah-Kubi

Communication, Culture and Media Studies

ama.appiah-kubi@bison.howard.edu

Ama Boatemaa Appiah-Kubi is a candidate for the Ph.D. in communication, culture and media studies at Howard University. Her research lies at the intersection of feminist research, gender studies, and media and cultural studies. She advances a scholarly understanding of Black women and Black queer people's discursive engagement with different forms of media. Specifically, she explores their representations, representational activism, resistance, and worldmaking online and through popular culture. She also studies the discursive praxis of feminist/womanist and social movements online. Ama was a recipient of the 2024 Summer HBCU Fellowship at V-Tech Solutions Inc. She holds a Master of Arts in African studies and a Graduate Certificate in women, gender, and sexuality studies from Ohio University, as well as a Master of Philosophy in communication and media studies from the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and adult education from the University of Ghana. Her work has appeared in The Oxford Handbook of Media and Social Justice. Her current research focuses on Ghanaian feminist organizations and performance activism as a decolonial and intersectional feminist praxis. Ama hopes to use her work to challenge heteropatriarchal and heteronormative standards with the goal of social transformation and justice.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2025

Devon L. Brown

Computer Science

devon.brown@bison.howard.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/dlbrown2010

Devon L. Brown is a candidate for the Ph.D. in computer science at Howard University, specializing in human-centered AI/ML for national security decision support. His research focuses on integrating affective computing and probabilistic modeling to enhance transparency and trust in AI-driven decisionmaking frameworks. His contributions to the field include peer-reviewed publications in *Æther: A Journal of Strategic Airpower & Spacepower*, as well as ongoing IRB-approved research on dynamic sentiment analysis for AI/ML applications using novel methodologies. As a GEM Fellow at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Devon developed an approach to improve RFID localization aboard the International Space Station, leading to a technology transfer to NASA. His leadership extends beyond research, serving on the advisory board of his alma mater and mentoring emerging professionals in STEM and foreign affairs. His commitment to service is demonstrated through his work as a Peace Corps Volunteer and other community-based initiatives that promote educational equity and technological accessibility. In his diplomatic career, Devon served in multiple overseas assignments as a Diplomatic Technology Officer in the U.S. Foreign Service. He currently serves as a Duty Officer in the White House Situation Room, where he provides critical support in crisis management, global situational awareness, and intelligence analysis for senior national security officials. A recipient of the State Department's Superior Honor Award and multiple Meritorious Honor Awards, Devon embodies the pillars of scholarship, leadership, service, and advocacy. As an aspiring Bouchet Scholar, he remains dedicated to advancing trustworthy AI systems for the ethical application of emerging technologies in global security.

Darnell Davis

Biology

darnell.davis@bison.howard.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/darnell-davis-2492b7104/

Darnell Davis is a candidate for the Ph.D. in biology at Howard University, specializing in molecular virology. His dissertation research focuses on developing innovative detection methods for RNA viruses, particularly coronaviruses, by targeting the negative RNA strand to distinguish between active and inactive infections. This work aims to enhance public health responses by improving the accuracy of viral detection methods. Darnell has co-authored a publication titled "A New Approach for Active Coronavirus Infection Identification by Targeting the Negative RNA Strand—A Replacement for the Current Positive RNA-based qPCR Detection Method," available on bioRxiv. Throughout his academic career, Darnell has received several awards and recognition for his scholarship. In 2023, the Kennedy Krieger Institute honored him with the Edith Hambie and W. Ruth Pruitt Excellence in Public Health Award. Additionally, he has been acknowledged as a Robert E. McNair Scholar and has earned certifications in various areas, including infectious disease transmission models and epidemiology in public health practice. Beyond his research, Darnell has been a graduate teaching assistant at Howard University since 2022, where he fosters collaborative learning environments for students from diverse backgrounds. He is also actively involved in professional organizations such as the American Society for Cell Biology. He has contributed to public health initiatives through fellowships with the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Dr. James A. Ferguson RISE Fellowship Program. Darnell's dedication to advancing molecular virology and public health and his commitment to mentorship and service underscores his potential to make significant contributions to the scientific community.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2025

Shantol Graham Hyatt

Microbiology

Shantol Graham Hyatt is a candidate for the Ph.D. in microbiology at Howard University. Her research focuses on the APOE influence on the gut microbiota, biomarkers of the brain, and adaptation induced by exercise. Shantol earned a BSc from Lincoln University, Missouri in 2019 and started her Ph.D. in microbiology at Howard University that same year. At Howard, Shantol proudly wears several hats which include her service as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate School Ambassador, and student mentor. She was recently awarded the Howard University Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Graduate Fellowship. Shantol's research combines molecular biology techniques with physiological analytical tools, such as Novel Object Recognition. She has also presented her research findings at several conferences, including the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) conference. After completing her Ph.D., Shantol intends to work for the Center for Disease Control and later complete her clinical microbiology training.

Deanna Hayden

Communication, Culture and Media Studies

Deanna Hayden is a candidate for the Ph.D. in communication, culture and media studies at Howard University. Her dissertation, entitled "I Ain't Lying: Exploring the Intersections of Media, Community, and Philanthropy in the Rural Mississippi," examines how marginalized communities utilize media as philanthropy to challenge mainstream narratives and address concerns stemming from racial, economic, and social injustices. Deanna's dissertation advocates for inclusive representations of philanthropy in media and academia. Her broader work focuses on articulating diverse community experiences and proposing solutions to inequities in organizational cultures. In 2025, Deanna's research entitled "We Are Supreme: Twitter Reactions to the US 2022 SCOTUS Judiciary Committee Hearing" was featured in SAGE's Video Media, Communication, and Cultural Studies Collection. She is a co-author in a forthcoming volume of Women's Leadership in Popular Culture, with a chapter entitled "The Servant Mammy: Reading Lovecraft Country's Hippolyta Freeman Circumvents Through Servant Leadership Approach" (2025). Along with her publication, Deanna has presented research on race, gender, and media at the 2023 National Communication Association and Eastern Communication Association Conferences. As a graduate assistant to Nikole Hannah-Jones, she served as a student delegate at reparations and racial healing convenings in Bellagio, Italy (2022), Accra, Ghana (2022), and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2023), engaging with scholars on restorative justice and allyship. Deanna currently serves as a research consultant for the Payne Center for Social Justice Research, focusing on redressing historical inequities between HBCUs and PWIs through philanthropy, strategic investment, and academic research.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2025

Troy A. Kearse Jr.

Social Psychology

Troy A. Kearse Jr. is a candidate for the Ph.D. in social psychology at Howard University, minoring in quantitative methods. He is a research affiliate at the Yale LGBTQ Mental Health Initiative. Taking an intersectional approach, he is interested in understanding how others' multiple identities shape people's impressions, stereotypes, and interactions with them. In his dissertation, he takes a multi-methods approach to examine how and when health stereotypes are uniquely associated with Black, gay men, both spontaneously and in language formation. His work has been funded by the American Psychological Foundation. Troy is the current recipient of the Springfield Research Fund Dissertation Fellowship Grant and a past recipient of the Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship (2020-2023) and Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Graduate Fellowship (2023-2024). Troy is passionate about service to the academic community and fellow graduate students at Howard University. He served as secretary of the Graduate Student Council within the Graduate School at Howard. At the national level, he served as the Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the student committee of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), and the Chair of the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity within the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS). Troy aspires to continue his research in the professoriate, studying intersectional stereotyping, stigma, and health toward and among minoritized communities. In Fall 2025, he will be Assistant Professor of Diversity Science within the Department of Psychology at Towson University.

Abigail Oyekola

Electrical Engineering

abigail.oyekola@bison.howard.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/abigail-oyekola/>

Abigail Oyekola is a candidate for the Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Howard University, specializing in Terahertz (THz) band communication systems for next-generation communication networks. Her dissertation research investigates the feasibility and performance of THz-band communication systems, an area poised to revolutionize future wireless communication technologies. Abigail has earned several recognitions, including the New Zealand Development Scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Study from the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies at Auckland University of Technology (AUT). She also received the AUT EDGE Award for her exceptional achievements in service and leadership, as well as the Certificate of Leadership from the IEEE AUT Student Branch. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering in electrical and electronics engineering from Bells University of Technology, Nigeria, where she was honored with the Certificate of Recognition for her role as the Welfare Secretary of the Engineering College. Additionally, Abigail earned a Master of Engineering in electrical engineering from Auckland University of Technology. Abigail's dedication to fostering innovation in underrepresented communities is demonstrated in her research scholarship, mentorship, teaching and volunteerism. Ultimately, Abigail aspires to bridge the gap between science and business, creating transformative solutions through cutting-edge technology, community engagement, and advocacy.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Howard University 2025

Tess Starman

Sociology

www.tessstarman.com

Tess Starman (she/they) is a candidate for the Ph.D. in sociology at Howard University. Her research focuses on intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and power at the nexus of religion and politics. She studies progressive Christian attitudes, religious exiting, and religion's impact on political attitudes and engagement. Her dissertation, entitled, "A Corrupted Faith: The Role of Power in the Process of Christian Disaffiliation and Rise of the Religious Nones," examines the religious exiting process and non-religious identity formation of ex-Christians. Tess serves as the Research Assistant for Howard University's Initiative on Public Opinion. She is the co-chair of the American Sociological Association's Student Advisory Board, serves on the Pedagogy Committee of Sociological Forum, and is a gender and sexuality editor for Religious Studies Review.

Qyana Stewart

Higher Education Leadership and Policy

qyana.stewart@bison.howard.edu; <https://globalforcetechconsulting.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/Qyanams/>

Qyana M. Stewart is a Ph.D. candidate in the higher education leadership and policy studies program at Howard University. Her research highlights the history of prominent Black women academics who were also entrepreneurs, uncovering how their legacies have shaped the pathways for contemporary Black women academics transitioning into technology entrepreneurship. She is the first scholar to investigate these phenomena. Qyana has been recognized as a Center for Black Entrepreneurship Fellow and a Senior Teaching Fellow for the Leadership Academy, a STEM program in partnership with the Women in Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Institute of Diversity Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is also the recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which recognizes her passion and commitment to advancing women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A dedicated mentor, she is passionate about sharing her lived and learned experiences. She currently serves as a business executive coach for the Ward Infinity Accelerator and as an educational research consultant in the School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. As an advocate, she authored a research report titled Persistence and Resistance: Black Women Navigating Barriers in Higher Education, highlighting Black women's commitment to economic and social advancement through education. Qyana holds a Master of Science in information technology and a Graduate Certificate in project management from the University of Maryland University College, and a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Howard University.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2025

Sumayya Beekun

International Health

sumayya.beekun@gmail.com // <https://cih.jhu.edu/our-team/sumayya-beekun/> //

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sumayya-beekun/>

Sumayya Beekun is a Ph.D. candidate in the Global Disease Epidemiology and Control program in the International Health Department and Center for Indigenous Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is Afro-Indigenous, being Hunkpapa Lakota from both the Standing Rock and Pine Ridge Reservations in the Dakotas and Mauritian from the island of Mauritius. Her research focuses on bacterial infections, community-based and engaged participatory research using Indigenous perspectives and models, mixed and multi-methods, and collaborating and co-creating knowledge with Indigenous and other historically underrepresented communities. She completed her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Public Health. Before her PhD, Sumayya worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Field Services Branch. Prior to COVID-19, she was a Youth Violence Prevention Specialist partnering with 45 organizations actively working to prevent and reduce youth violence in Richmond, Virginia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sumayya was deployed to a quarantine station, multiple Emergency Operations Center taskforces, and local health departments. For her dedication to public health, Sumayya received the CDC Incident Management System's 2019 NCOV Response Health Department Section Letter of Accommodation for Unwavering Dedication and Service. She remains dedicated to the health of Mitakuye Oyasin or All the Relations.

Travis Brady

Biomedical Engineering

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/travis-brady/>

Travis Brady is a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, conducting research under the mentorship of Dr. Lakshmi Santhanam and Dr. Sharon Gerecht. His work focuses on the vascular aging process, integrating in vivo, ex vivo, and in vitro models to map the timeline of age-related vascular stiffening. Travis is particularly interested in extracellular matrix mechanics and its role in cardiovascular health and disease. Prior to graduate school, Travis earned dual B.S. and B.A. degrees in Biomedical Engineering and French as a QuestBridge Scholar at Yale University. It was here that his interest in vascular mechanics was piqued, following undergraduate research using microfluidic systems to recapitulate blood vessel dynamics, as well as digital modeling of skeletal motion in brittle stars. Beyond research, Travis is passionate about mentorship and education. Before pursuing his Ph.D., he taught high school engineering courses at Success Academies, inspiring students from underrepresented backgrounds to explore STEM careers. He has continued this commitment at Johns Hopkins through leadership roles in the Black Graduate Student Association and the BME PhD Application Assistance Program. In addition to receiving multiple fellowships - including the APS Porter Physiology Development Fellowship and the NASEM Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship - Travis' work has been recognized with best poster awards at local and international conferences. In the future, Travis hopes to lead a lab that investigates cardiovascular biomechanics, with a particular emphasis on training the next generation of scientists.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2025

Brenice Duroseau

Nursing

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/breniced>

Brenice Duroseau, a Haitian-American clinician with specializations in infectious diseases and addiction medicine, is an emerging nurse scientist in implementation science, focusing on multi-level interventions to eradicate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) disparities. Brenice is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and an Implementation Science and Social Determinants of Health Fellow at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She holds a B.S in Biology/Psychology, MSN, & certificate in Health Disparities and Health Inequality. Her research explores how social, structural, and political determinants shape SRH experiences, engagement, and access for marginalized women across the lifespan is supported by NIH/NIMH, JHU CFAR, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop HIV/AIDS Grant, & the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health Scholars in Women's Sexual Health. As a community-driven researcher and policy advocate, Brenice is committed to dismantling systemic barriers in healthcare and reimagining SRH services to be equitable, affirming, and holistic. Brenice has received several prestigious awards and scholarships, including the 40 Under 40 Public Health Catalyst Award from the Boston Congress of Public Health, the Cecelia Lou Vriheas Scholarship from the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education, & the M. Elizabeth Carnegie Doctoral Degree Scholarship from the Nurses Educational Funds. Brenice is dedicated to providing culturally responsive care and advocating for transformative change by challenging traditional siloed risk-based models and advocating to center wellness, pleasure, justice & equity in SRH care and policy. Additionally, Brenice helps support the next generation of scholars and clinicians through mentorship.

Thomas Hinneh

Nursing

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-h-54485360> // <https://www.hifoundationgh.org>

Thomas Hinneh is a Ph.D. candidate and an American Heart Association predoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. His research focuses on cardiovascular health equity, team-based care, and community-based cardiovascular health initiatives. His research in Africa focuses on implementing a team-based approach to cardiovascular disease risk management in primary healthcare settings, while his American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship examines how social determinants of health influence cardiovascular disease outcomes among underserved populations in the U.S. Thomas holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Dundee, Scotland, and a Master of Science in International Health from Heidelberg University, Germany graduating with distinction and best Dissertation Award. His contributions to cardiovascular disease management include establishing a nurse-led cardiovascular disease clinic in primary healthcare facilities in Ghana. He is an Executive Director and Co-founder of HI-Foundation Ghana, an NGO dedicated to community-based cardiovascular disease screening in Ghana. Thomas has been recognized with several prestigious awards and scholarships, including the Commonwealth Scholarship, DAAD Scholarship, an Underrepresented Minorities Award by the American Heart Association and the Terry Thomas Clinical Practice Award from the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association. In 2020, Thomas received a Euro Project Grant from Pharmacists Without Borders, Germany, to build the capacity of healthcare professionals in four district hospitals in Ghana. His long-term vision is to bridge critical gaps in cardiovascular care through evidence-based and scalable interventions that improve cardiovascular health outcomes in resource-limited settings globally.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2025

Kayla Seymone Ingram

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

kayla.ingram@jhmi.edu | [linkedin.com/in/kaylasingram](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaylasingram)

Kayla Seymone Ingram, Ph.D. is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her current research focuses on examining how social determinants of health influence molecular pathways that exacerbate disparities in breast cancer outcomes. Kayla completed her Ph.D. in the Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology Program at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine supported by the NIH MIRA Diversity Supplement. She received her B.S. degree in Biology at Hampton University. At Hampton, Kayla was selected as an NIH MARC Scholar, and was a recipient of the Biology Department's Achievement Award as one of the top four graduates of the 2018 class. As a doctoral candidate, Kayla served as Chair of Academic Events and Chair of Public Affairs for the Biomedical Scholars Association, an interschool graduate student group committed to serving underrepresented students across campus. Kayla is currently supported in BMB through Kirschstein NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow Award. During her postdoctoral studies, as a member of the BMB Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Kayla helps facilitate STEM educational initiatives for local high school students in Baltimore, Maryland. She earned her teaching certification through the Collaborative Teaching Fellowship Program, as an adjunct professor at Coppin State University, a local HBCU. Kayla ultimately hopes to pursue a career as a teaching scientist dedicated to developing alternative education initiatives for underrepresented students in higher education.

Laura Mata López

Nursing

Lmatalo1@jh.edu // <https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-mata-lópez-1062b2b5>

Laura Mata López is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (JHSON). She is a psychiatric nurse practitioner who has dedicated her practice to providing accessible, culturally concordant mental health and substance use services to Latino(a) immigrants in under-resourced communities and settings. Her original research leverages mixed methods and community-based participatory approaches to generate a nuanced understanding of the lived experiences of Latina immigrants with migration-related trauma and suicide survivorship and to identify key social, cultural, and structural determinants of mental health and suicide in this community. Her research has been supported by the Ruth Kirschstein F31 Fellowship from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Minority Fellowship Program from SAMHSA, the Johns Hopkins Center for Qualitative Studies in Health and Medicine, and the JHSON Discovery and Innovation Fund. As a first-generation immigrant from Costa Rica, Laura is passionate about empowering other individuals from historically underrepresented backgrounds to participate in research, academic, and policy spaces. She is deeply committed to centering the voices of Latine immigrants through her body of work—recognizing that amplifying community voices is essential to dismantling systemic inequities and driving sustainable change. Her contributions to leadership, advocacy, and service have been recognized through numerous honors—including the 2023 Excellence in Health Equity Research Award from JHSON, the 2023 Johnson & Johnson/Nurses' Education Fund Health Equity Scholarship, and the 2023 Abbott/National Hispanic Nurses Association Scholarship. She is also a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2025

Faith Elise Metlock

Nursing

Fmetloc1@jhu.edu | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/faith-e-metlock/>

Faith Elise Metlock is a Ph.D. candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, with a certificate in Health Disparities and Health Inequality from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research examines the intersection of social determinants of health, psychological health, and cardiovascular disease prevention and self-management in underserved communities. Through community-engaged approaches, she develops culturally informed interventions to address cardiovascular health disparities. Faith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing with research distinction and a minor in Pharmaceutical Sciences from The Ohio State University, graduating summa cum laude. She is a recipient of an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship, and a trainee on a T32 fellowship from National Institute of Nursing Research. Her work has been recognized through several oral presentations and awards including The Johnson and Johnson and Edwidge Thomas Health Equity Scholarship. At the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, she has served as President of the Black Student Nurses Association and an executive member of the PhD Student Organization. She is an active member of the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, American Heart Association (Epidemiology & Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing councils) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Beyond academia, Faith is the Founder & CEO of Black Health Explained, a health marketing agency dedicated to engaging underrepresented communities in health initiatives. She also leads the Black Health Explained Foundation as its Founder and President, focusing on health literacy and diversifying the healthcare workforce through mentorship and education.

Eleana Parajón

Cellular and Molecular Medicine

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/eleana-parajon>

Eleana Parajón is a Ph.D. candidate in Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where her dissertation research explores the role of cytoskeletal proteins — specifically alpha-actinin 4 and non-muscle myosin IIC— that accumulate in response to mechanical stress in pancreatic cancer. Her work aims to unravel how these proteins influence cell growth, morphology, motility, and invasiveness. Eleana is the recipient of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Gilliam Fellowship. She has served on the Executive Board for the Graduate Student Association (GSA) for two years, as Director of Media and Public Relations. As a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, Eleana holds a B.A/ M.S. degree in Biology and Molecular and Cellular Biology from Johns Hopkins University. A passionate advocate for mentorship, Eleana dedicates her time to guiding PhD rotation students, undergraduates, and Baltimore high school students. For example, she has served as a mentor for the Careers in Science and Medicine Summer Internship Program (CSM-SIP). Her commitment to service extends to hospice volunteering, where she provides comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families. After completing her Ph.D., Eleana aspires to attend medical school and pursue a career as a physician-scientist, where she aims to leverage her cancer cell biology training to develop innovative treatments that directly benefit patients.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Johns Hopkins University 2025

Ladaisha T. Thompson

Biomedical Engineering
lthomp66@jhu.edu

Ladaisha T. Thompson is a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, where her research focuses on immune aging and leveraging cell motility to predict age and frailty. She received her Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Howard University in 2021. While at Hopkins, Ladaisha has been recognized as a Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative (VTSI) Fellow and an Institute for Basic Biomedical Science Directors Fellow. In 2024, she received the Diversity Ambassador Award for organizing the Hidden Curriculum symposium, an initiative that provides first-year minority graduate students with essential tools and resources to navigate academia. Passionate about service, mentorship, and community-building, Ladaisha has dedicated herself to supporting underrepresented students in STEM. She served as co-president of the Biomedical Scholars Association, the largest student-led organization supporting underrepresented students across the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health. She has also been actively involved in community outreach efforts throughout Baltimore City, including the Baltimore Roller Coaster Contest, Baltimore Community Food Initiatives, and Science in Action, a program that brings hands-on science experiments to Baltimore City elementary students. Beyond her Ph.D., Ladaisha is committed to increasing access to science education, particularly for students from communities like her own. She aspires to take on a mentorship role as a dean at a research institution, where she can continue fostering inclusivity and supporting the next generation of scientists as they navigate their academic journeys.

Maria Alejandra Trujillo

Pathobiology
mtrujil5@jh.edu // www.linkedin.com/in/maleja-trujillo

Maria Alejandra Trujillo is a Ph.D. candidate in Pathobiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, specializing in cancer biology, genetics, and pathology. Her research redefines early detection strategies by identifying KRAS mutations in normal pancreatic tissue before precancerous lesions develop, providing critical insights into the earliest stages of pancreatic cancer. By challenging traditional models of tumorigenesis, her work enhances risk assessment and diagnostic precision, paving the way for earlier and more targeted interventions. Beyond her research, Alejandra is a Passport to Future Technology Leadership fellow and a dedicated advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the biomedical sciences. She founded the PATH Scholars Initiative to expand opportunities for underrepresented students and has led initiatives to strengthen mentorship, recruitment, and professional development. Through her leadership, she fosters an inclusive academic environment that empowers the next generation of scientists. Alejandra is passionate about bridging scientific innovation with real-world impact, ensuring that advancements in cancer detection and treatment benefit diverse communities. Her dedication to volunteer roles, such as providing academic mentorship to high school students and engaging with diverse communities, demonstrates her commitment to equity, perseverance, and the betterment of others. Additionally, in her service trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Alejandra translated and coordinated care for over 150 patients, helping to bridge language barriers and improve healthcare access. As a 2025 inductee into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, she remains committed to fostering inclusive research environments, mentorship, and groundbreaking discoveries that improve patient outcomes.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Michigan State University 2025

Jessica (Jess) Reed

Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education (CITE)

reedjes3@msu.edu; [linkedin.com/in/jessica-reed-53a48276/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-reed-53a48276/)

Jessica (Jess) Reed (she/her/hers) is a PhD student in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education program at Michigan State University. Her research primarily celebrates the legacies and possibilities of out-of-school education and African diasporic, 'glocal' consciousness among Black girls and communities. Jess is committed to being in community, with community, and for community as an Ubuntu onto-epistemology. Presently, she is the Program Coordinator for the MSU Urban Community Engagement Fellows Program, which centers substantive collaboration with the Southwest Lansing community. Jess also creates monthly e-newsletters for Grit, Glam, and Guts, an organization dedicated to teen girls. In April 2024, Jess showcased her first short play, *Black Girls Shine*, as an MSU Transforming Theater Playwright Fellow. Moreover, Jess is a dedicated member and interlocutor of the Black Graduate Student Association, Decoloniality Dialogues, the Black Midwest Initiative, and her academic department's student leadership team. During her doctoral journey, she has lived in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil as a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow and in Ghana as a Fulbright-Hays Fellow. Jess earned her bachelor's degree in African and African American Studies with a minor in Creative Writing at Stanford University. Additionally, she is the published author of *Roots and Hope: Ruminations of Loneliness and Deep Connectedness*.

Dasmen Richards

K-12 Educational Administration

rich1157@msu.edu; [linkedin.com/in/dasmenr/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dasmenr/)

Dasmen Richards is a PhD candidate in the K-12 Educational Administration Program at Michigan State University. She received a bachelor's degree in Foreign Affairs and African-American & African Studies from the University of Virginia. After completing her undergraduate degree, she served as a college advisor in Virginia, where she assisted seniors with their post-secondary plans. This job sparked her pursuit to obtain her Ph.D. when she saw the myriad of ways Black students are disproportionately disadvantaged in K-12 educational spaces. She is a proud native from Fayetteville, GA, which has a strong influence on her work as she thinks about the ways race (Black), gender (woman), and place (suburbs) shape other Black girls' lived experiences within educational spaces. Specifically, her research interests are centered around how Black girls engage in storytelling to reclaim and disrupt narratives that impacted their educational experiences.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Michigan State University 2025

Kenneth D. Russell

Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE)

russe548@msu.edu; [linkedin.com/in/kennethdrussell/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kennethdrussell/)

Kenneth D. Russell is a Ph.D. candidate in the Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) doctoral program at Michigan State University (MSU). His research interests broadly explore the role of negotiation in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). His dissertation investigates the negotiation styles of Chief Diversity Officers (CDOs) in U.S. higher education. He is a member of two research teams studying (a) diversity courage in the workplace and (b) how identity and status perceptions shape negotiation expectancies. While at MSU, Kenn has served on the President's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee and collaborated with HALE faculty to develop the Educational Doctorate degree in Leadership for Equity-Minded Change in Postsecondary Education. Prior to attending MSU, Kenn spent several years working as a DEIJ professional in higher education. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in religious studies from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. He is a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory and was previously a fellow of the National Inclusive Excellence Leadership Academy. Kenn is passionate about addressing injustices and is determined to utilize his knowledge and abilities to provoke positive change and transformation in individuals, groups, organizations, and communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2025

Eden Melles

Political Science

Eden Melles is a 4th year PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University. She is deeply engaged in exploring the dynamics of race, ethnicity, and identity, with a specific focus on Black immigrants and African diaspora, social movements, and political behavior. Eden has been honored as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and an American Political Science Association Diversity Fellow. Using mixed methods, her research aims to illuminate the complexities of cultural and political integration processes, shedding light on the nuanced ways in which Black diasporic communities influence and are influenced by political landscapes. Guided by her principle of paying the privileges forward, Eden takes community-based approaches to center the experiences of underrepresented communities in her work and mentorship. In her free time, Eden enjoys discovering art, music, and history in the Horn of Africa, with hopes to one day create an interactive, community sourced archive of the Eritrean diaspora in the US.

Tochukwu Dominic Eze

Computer Science

Tochukwu Dominic Eze is a PhD candidate in Computer Science at Northwestern University, specializing in AI-driven learning analytics. His research focuses on developing predictive models to analyze student cognition, behavior, and interaction, utilizing computer vision and Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. Tochukwu holds a master's degree in computer science from Northwestern University and both a master's and bachelor's degree in computer science from Nnamdi Azikiwe University. He was a faculty member, Lecturer II, at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Beyond scholarly achievements, Tochukwu is deeply engaged in leadership and community service. He is currently undergoing a fellowship program at the Center for Leadership at Northwestern University. On completion, he will be recognized as a Center for Leadership Fellow. He is currently the Assistant Chair for Chapin Residential College where he collaborates with the faculty chair to design programs that promote community, support, equity, justice, and inclusion. He also serves as co-president of the African Graduate Student Association, where he fosters a supportive environment for African graduate students, emphasizing cultural exchange and academic excellence. Additionally, he mentors international students through his role as graduate leader and Peer Mentor in the English Language Proficiency Program, guiding students through their transition to U.S. academic life. Previously, Tochukwu served as co-professional development chair for the McCormick Graduate Leadership Council, demonstrating his commitment to student leadership. He also teaches advanced courses in Data Structures and Algorithms, Human-Computer Interaction, and Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, further contributing to educational excellence at Northwestern University.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2025

Jojo Galvan-Mora

History

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jojo-galvan/>

Jojo Galvan is a PhD Candidate in History, with a concentration in American History, at Northwestern University. He specializes in Urban and Public History and Material Culture. Jojo's dissertation follows the complex relationships between race and real estate of Latino/a immigrants in the western suburbs of Chicago. He holds a Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies from the University of Illinois Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Religious Studies from North Central College. Outside of academia, he has been recognized with awards from the Illinois State Historical Society and the American Alliance of Museums for his work in archives and museums. He previously held positions at the Chicago History Museum and the Midwest Nursing History Research Center. Through his research and work in public history, Jojo wants to transform institutions of memory into places equipped to welcome diverse audiences that tell complex and diverse stories.

Tiffany M. Mays

Driskill Graduate Program in Life Sciences (DGP)

tiffany.mays@northwestern.edu, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tiffanymays/>

Tiffany M. Mays is a PhD candidate in the Driskill Graduate Program in Life Sciences (DGP). Her research focuses on understanding how environmental stressors promote mutant p53 driven leukemogenesis. Tiffany has a RO1 Diversity Supplement and is a Lurie Diversity Scholar on the T32 Carcinogenesis Training Grant. She received her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and Master of Science in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine from the University of Southern California (USC). During her time at USC, Tiffany was the recipient of a Amyris, Inc. Scholarship and USC Staff Club Scholarship. She believes mentorship is critical for motivating the next generation of scientists. Since her time at Northwestern, she has mentored two underrepresented minority students in lab. She has also served as a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion/ Belonging (DEIB) Specialist for Cancer Biology Graduate Students. Through this role, she organizes professional development panels and seminars to help historically underrepresented students in cancer research. Recently, she has expanded the community outreach efforts of the DEIB role by partnering with a Chicago-based nonprofit organization to inspire students to pursue careers in science. In addition, Tiffany also holds leadership positions in both the Alliance of Chicago Minority Students and the Black Graduate Student Association as well. Tiffany aspires to lead her own lab one day creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all trainees.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Northwestern University 2025

Anthea Weng

Driskill Graduate Program in Life Sciences (DGP)

Hailing from Terre Haute, Indiana, Anthea Weng completed her bachelor's degree in neuroscience at Northwestern in 2019. Before starting her PhD in 2022 (DGP), she worked as a research technician in Dr. Cara Gottardi's lab from 2020-2022 where she started her research on the role of alveolar type 2 (AT2) cells and their capacity to regenerate alveoli following lung injury. Her work has culminated in two first-author publications (AJRCMB 2022; BioOpen 2022) and talks at Gordon Research Symposium (2023) and Chicago-Munich Science Seminar (2024). Her thesis project is uncovering the role of a novel subpopulation of polyploid AT2 cells during repair (identified Weng AJRCMB 2022). Preliminary data suggests these polyploid cells may be serving as "leader" cells, directing follower cells to areas of injury; these findings would serve as the first study to identify a role for polyploid cells in the lung, providing insight for future studies and therapeutics. Anthea is involved in numerous leadership and diversity initiatives including mentoring first-generation low-income students (2023-24), SROP group leader (2024), Office of Diversity and Inclusion intern and co-chair for IGEN 2024 (2024-25), and lead SROP intern (2025). Her most significant campus work is starting and leading BiomedConnect, a life sciences peer mentoring program between NU graduate and undergraduate students. Anthea noticed a gap within Northwestern's research community during her undergraduate experience - there were few pre-PhD resources available. BiomedConnect directly addresses this issue by aiding undergraduates with PhD applications and creating a community of peers within life sciences.

Tre Wells

Human Development and Social Policy

Tre Wells is a Ph.D. student in the Human Development and Social Policy program. His dissertation research examines how Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their local communities respond financially to various federal policies, as well as how HBCU students develop their ethnic-racial identities during college. Beyond his dissertation research, Tre is deeply committed to civic engagement and public service. He currently collaborates with the City of Evanston on the evaluation of its Guaranteed Income Pilot Program. Additionally, he has volunteered for three years with the SESP initiative Black Men L.E.A.D. and is partnering with the Office of Community Education Partnerships (OCEP) on developing data collection tools for the program. Tre holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Morehouse College and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Virginia. He aspires to a career in policy research, using his research training to inform policy and effectively support communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2025

Narda Coreas

International Psychology

Narda Coreas is a Ph.D. candidate in International Psychology at The Chicago School, currently in All But Dissertation (ABD) status with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her research focuses on collective complex trauma, particularly in El Salvador, where she investigates traumatic stress within adult populations affected by collectively experienced trauma. Her hands-on work informs her scholarly pursuits as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, where she serves child survivors of sexual abuse, victims of domestic violence, and human trafficking, drawing connections between her research and real-world applications. She has participated in academic engagements like the TCS Global Distinction program, where she is set to graduate with Global Distinction. Through her fieldwork in South Africa, Narda has collaborated with international scholars to deepen her understanding of trauma in post-conflict societies. Narda has expanded her knowledge of global mental health and psychological treatment through her fieldwork in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Narda Coreas has contributed to her field as a research assistant for a publication on COVID-19 related distress in the United States. Narda additionally aided in the translations of the Global Psychotrauma Screen for children and teenagers into Spanish. Narda aims to continue to work and advocate for trauma and culturally informed mental health care globally.

Priscila Garcia

Business Psychology

Priscila Garcia is a PhD Candidate at The Chicago School (Dallas Campus), where she's held a 4.0 GPA and has been completing the requirements of a Business Psychology doctoral degree since Fall 2020. Ms. Garcia completed her Master of Science degree in Industrial-Organizational psychology with a GPA of 3.93 at Albizu University (Miami Campus), where she researched the relationship between integrity, benevolence, and the desire for status within organizational citizenship behavior. The results from the study were presented at several academic conferences before the COVID-19 pandemic. During her first year at TCS, Ms. Garcia was part of a mentorship program that allowed her to help high school students with their Capstone projects. During her second year at TCS, Ms. Garcia became secretary of the business consulting club, a role that led to her becoming the Lead on a project with Puerto Rico's biggest insurance wholesaler. Fast forward to 2024, Ms. Garcia defended her dissertation proposal on March 28th and was scheduled to defend her completed dissertation October 30th, 2024. Her research is focused on the leadership behaviors of remote-working individuals, with a special emphasis on married individuals with children. With her work, Ms. Garcia hopes to provide organizations with additional insight to the benefits of remote work for both itself and its employees.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2025

Shanel Johnson

Counselor Education

Dr. Shanel Johnson is an Assistant Professor at The Chicago School of Psychology, where she teaches and engages in research. She earned her Ph.D. from Auburn University in Auburn, AL., in 2020. Dr. Johnson researches the career decision-making of women of color in counselor education and ways to recruit and retain women of color in counselor education. She is a collaborator at heart and has engaged in numerous projects surrounding multicultural competency, gifted Black males, affirming LGBTQ+ youth, supervising millennials, and more. She has accepted and published articles in the Journal of Professional School Counseling, Journal of Counselor Education and Preparation, and The SAGE Encyclopedia of Marriage, Family, & Couples Counseling. During her tenure at The Chicago School, she has served on the Faculty Development and Promotion Committee, reviewing grants and applications for promotion. She is also a current Student Development Plan Committee member within her department, focusing on remediation and gatekeeping within the program. Dr. Johnson has dedicated her time to mentoring students within and outside her SDP committee role. Dr. Johnson also serves as the representative of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies for the CMHC division. In addition to her current event leadership efforts, Dr. Johnson has served in numerous roles at the state and national levels, pledging her time to advocacy efforts in the counseling profession. In addition to her scholarship, she owns and maintains active clinical engagement through Mind Your Mind Counseling & Consulting, a private practice serving individuals, couples, and supervising clinicians seeking licensure in Atlanta, GA. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Her clinical practice spans counseling in community, psychiatric in-patient and out-patient facilities, college, residential and private practice settings.

Olusheyi Lawoyin

International Psychology

Olusheyi Lawoyin currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer at Watts Healthcare Corporation. Olusheyi's practice and research focus on strengthening social and health systems and delivering value-based care to understand populations globally. She adopts an interdisciplinary approach rooted in psychological science and public health, utilizing qualitative, mixed methods, and community participatory research to explore how context influences health, the social construction of health behaviors, and the role of the socio-ecological environment in strengthening health systems. With multiple peer-reviewed publications, abstracts, and speaking engagements, her work sheds light on how contextual factors shape health and social conditions in underserved communities, and how health systems can design ethical and socially responsible interventions to address these challenges. In 2023, she was honored as a finalist for the Los Angeles Business Journal's Health System Executive of the Year Award. Olusheyi holds an MPH from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services and an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta School of Business. She is currently a PhD candidate at The Chicago School, specializing in International Psychology with a focus on organizations and systems. Olusheyi is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and served as a community health volunteer in Namibia.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2025

Jose 'Pepe' Lopez

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Dr. Pepe started his professional counseling career in 2012, with experiences ranging from working with youth, immigrants, Spanish-speaking individuals, among others as an elementary school counselor, as a secondary school counselor, as a counselor educator, and as a private practice clinician. Dr. Pepe earned his PhD from Texas A&M Commerce, master's from Texas A&M Commerce & Texas Woman's University, and a bachelor's from Southwestern University. Dr. Pepe began his career in higher education in 2019 and is happy to be a full-time faculty member at The Chicago School of Psychology Dallas Campus. Dr. Pepe has presented at several national, state, and local conferences over the span of his professional career. Dr. Pepe research interests, publications, and presentations have included the following areas: working with Spanish-speaking clients, the use of clinical notes to incriminate undocumented youth, working with male clients, best practices in parents, and best practices for bilingual supervisors.

Lindsey Brown McCormick

Counselor Education

Lindsey Brown McCormick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counselor Education - Online at The Chicago School. Her clinical specialties include perinatal trauma, reproductive trauma, mental health concerns related to body feeding/lactation, and women's mental health including ADHD, traumatic experiences, premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), matrescence, sexuality, chronic pain/autoimmune disorders, LGBTQIA+ families, and polyamory/ethical non-monogamy. They are a Certified Therapist and EMDR Consultant with the Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing International Association (EMDRIA). Dr. McCormick was born and raised in eastern Kentucky; she has spent her adult life and professional career living in and providing clinical services to folks throughout different parts of the KY/WV/OH/PA Appalachian region. Her experience provides a unique perspective for social justice and advocacy when it comes to perinatal mental healthcare, substance use, generational trauma & lifespan development, and the LGBTQIA+ community.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2025

Daniel Ogunyemi

Business Psychology

Daniel Ogunyemi serves as the inaugural Director of Inclusive Excellence & Belonging at the William & Mary's Batten School of Coastal and Marine Sciences/Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), a world-renowned institute with the tripart mission of research, advisory services, and education. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating a postdoctoral fellowship as well as setting the strategy and vision for inclusive excellence at VIMS and serving on the William and Mary D&I Council. Prior to this role, Daniel was the inaugural College Director of Global Engagement & Opportunity (formerly Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) where he institutionalized approaches to inclusion and international education. Additionally, Daniel has taught psychology and educational diversity courses at OTC, Missouri State University, and Southwest Baptist University. His service includes several nonprofit boards and a regional bank board. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Southwest Baptist University and M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Evangel University. His research interests lie at the intersection of inclusive leadership, power and privilege, organizational change, and diversity and inclusion management/practices.

Brenne Shepperson

Business Psychology

Brenne Shepperson is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Business Psychology Program at The Chicago School, where her research focuses on organizational behavior within the cooperative business model. As an Elinor Ostrom Fellow, she has deepened her understanding of collective action and governance, informing her analysis of self-determination within cooperative environments. Her work uses the self-determination theory to examine how fulfilling autonomy, competence, and relatedness drives performance and well-being. Brenne is an active member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology- The Chicago School chapter, and the Society for Collegiate Leadership and Achievement. For the past 12 years, she has applied her academic insights, volunteering as a business mentor with SCORE, supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses in achieving growth. Through the EnrichDelaware Program, she applies her academic knowledge in collaboration with CEOs to create strategic growth plans to enhance DEI in local economic development. This trajectory reflects her perseverance, dedication, and commitment to driving meaningful change in academic and business communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The Chicago School 2025

Kiya Slater

International Psychology

Kiya Slater is a doctoral candidate studying International Psychology with a concentration in organization and systems; for her dissertation, Kiya conducted a netnography to study the online opinions of locals toward the Year of Return, a heritage tourism campaign in Ghana. Throughout her dissertation journey, she has helped her peers prepare for comprehensive exams and encouraged her classmates to persevere. Throughout her graduate studies, she taught in community college settings to provide students with a firm academic foundation. Ms. Slater also founded the Diversity Council at Pepperdine University's Malibu campus to create relevant lectures that supported students and staff in meeting their clients' mental health needs; these lectures also helped faculty design inclusive curricula. Before graduate school, Kiya worked with multiple non-profit agencies in Houston to address community-level challenges: she worked at Boat People SOS- Houston, helping legal permanent residents navigate the naturalization process. She also registered hundreds of people to vote during the 2018 elections and educated communities about the importance of the 2020 Census. Ms. Slater also spent nearly a decade volunteering at the Salvation Army- Houston International Corps, coordinating food pantries, tutoring and mentoring youth during the summers and after school, and organizing gift donations during the holiday season.

Alison Stienessen

International Psychology

Alison Steinessen is an accomplished marketing and communication professional and doctoral student. She has curated her 25-year career and list of academic achievements by establishing a strong reputation as a reliable, self-starting, motivated and driven perpetual learner. She has traveled the world professionally, managed high-performing teams – and has led many high-profile, integrative, cross-functional projects from ideation to execution at the forefront of innovation for global corporations and as a core group member throughout her studies at The Chicago School. More recently, her passion for understanding the core tenets of organizational change—human behavior, communication, culture and the diffusion of innovation- inspired her to obtain her master's and PhD in psychology where she focused her reserach on developing people, systems, and community through an immersive study in the U.S. healthcare system and care delivery. At present, she is completing her doctoral degree in International Psychology, with a concentration in organization and systems—addressing issues of equity and the digitization of communications as sustaining technology to mitigate community disparities. Her dissertation is on the coaction of organizations and systems and social networks designed to support the wellness needs of Vietnam veteran offspring. She expects to graduate in the Spring of 2025, and will be professionally recognized as an International Psychologist, specialized in Organizations and Systems.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2025

Ashley Bastin

Biological Sciences

ashleybastin@gwu.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-bastin/>

Ashley Bastin is a candidate for the Ph.D. in biological sciences, with a concentration in cellular and molecular biology, in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at the George Washington University. Her research focuses on uncovering the underlying mechanisms of pathogenesis of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND); specifically, her work investigates the role of extracellular vesicles in the induction of immunological memory. Ashley earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from American University with Latin and departmental honors, and she has received numerous awards to support her doctoral research and studies, including the NASA Space Grant Consortium Fellowship and the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) Graduate Fellowship. She has been recognized by her department for excellence in student teaching, has published in multiple scientific journals, and is the president of the GW Biology Graduate Student Council. Ashley enjoys utilizing the skills gained from research to inform her community-outreach efforts, volunteering with organizations such as the Medical Reserve Corps, which provides emergency preparedness education, public health services, and first aid training around the country. Ultimately, Ashley aims to pursue a career in government biodefense research, investigating viral pathogens used in bioterrorism.

Jasmine Charter-Harris

Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition

jcharterharris@gwu.edu; [https://publichealth.gwu.edu/jasmine-charter-harris](https://publichealth.gwu.edu/jasmine-charter-harris;);

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jasmine-charter-harris>

Jasmine Charter-Harris is a Ph.D. candidate in exercise physiology and applied nutrition in the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University. Her research focuses on nutrition interventions for chronic disease prevention, with a particular emphasis on underserved populations. Jasmine earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, with a concentration in Community and Global Health, from Kalamazoo College, and a Master of Public Health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, specializing in behavioral sciences and health education. Before starting her doctoral program, Jasmine served as a research fellow with the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT), where she conducted research and resource gap analyses to improve access to evidence-based lifestyle change programs for adults with prediabetes and those at high risk for type 2 diabetes. Beyond her research, Jasmine is deeply committed to mentorship and advocacy for underrepresented students in academia. She actively dedicates her time to mentoring and supporting students on their academic and professional journeys. Driven by a passion for community engagement, Jasmine aims to continue using community-based participatory research methods to improve chronic disease outcomes among vulnerable populations after completing her doctoral studies.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2025

Jonathan M. Huie

Biological Sciences

jonathanmhuie@gmail.com; <http://www.jonathanhuie.com/>

Jonathan Huie is a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at the George Washington University. His research concentrates on how vertebrate morphology and evolution are influenced by interactions among ecology, behavior, and the physical constraints of the environment, and spans a range of species from salamanders that climb trees to fishes with suction cups and many things in between. Jonathan earned a Bachelor of Science in aquatic and fisheries sciences and marine biology from the University of Washington, where he received the Levinson Emerging Scholars Award, which is designed to support promising undergraduates working on creative and sophisticated research projects in the biosciences and related fields. He is a recipient of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and a former president of the GW Biology Graduate Student Council. As a hard-of-hearing Chinese American, Jonathan hopes that he can be part of the representation in STEM that inspires future generations of scientists. He has already provided training and mentorship to less experienced researchers and fostered domestic and international research collaborations. Ultimately, Jonathan is passionate about investigating the natural world and aims to support others who share his aspirations.

Kailyn Price

Neuroscience

Kailyn Price is a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience in the Integrated Biomedical Sciences program in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medical and Health Sciences at the George Washington University. Her research focuses on sex-specific changes in dopaminergic activity during stress, coping, and avoidance behavior. Kailyn received her Bachelor of Science in biology from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, where she was involved in science education research as a MARC U-STAR Scholar. While pursuing her doctoral studies, Kailyn was named a Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Scholars Program Fellow and is currently a Sadler Scholar at the Hastings Center, which addresses social and ethical issues in health care, science, and technology. On campus, she is passionate about advancing equity in the graduate student experience. Her work within and outside the lab informs her interest in addressing ethical challenges in basic neuroscience research, including the interpretation of research about stress, maternal care, race, and sex differences and their contributions to brain and psychiatric conditions. Kailyn is enthusiastic about integrating STEM, ethics, and debate education and enjoys coaching and judging debate with students from middle school to college.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

The George Washington University 2025

Tatiana Ruiz

Public Policy and Public Administration

truiz@gwu.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tatiana-ruiz->

Tatiana Ruiz is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy and Public Administration, specializing in gender and social policy, in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at the George Washington University. Her research explores how the gender and racial/ethnic composition of university administrators—specifically those in Title IX offices, student affairs, and campus security—affects the reporting and handling of sexual violence cases on U.S. campuses. Tatiana earned a Bachelor of Arts in feminist studies from the University of California-Santa Cruz and a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the George Washington University, graduating as the 2021 Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Master's Degree Scholar. During her time at GW, she has served as the doctoral representative on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences; co-chaired the Trachtenberg Women's Leadership Program; received the Nicole Paul Endowed Prize in Women's Studies and the Women's Studies Endowment Prize; and was named to Pi Alpha Alpha, the global honor society for public affairs and administration. Tatiana's professional experience includes a stint at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a recipient of a Federal Sector Social Science Research Fellowship, and an internship with the League of Latin American Citizens. A passionate researcher and advocate, Tatiana is committed to creating opportunities for others; driving meaningful change; and building a more inclusive, compassionate, and equitable future for all.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2025

Aileen A. Nava

Human Genetics

Email: aileennava@ucla.edu , LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aileen-nava/>

Aileen A. Nava is a Human Genetics PhD candidate studying the role of epigenetic genes in human development and disease at UCLA. Her dissertation aims to define the role(s) of KAT6A in human neurodevelopment utilizing multi-omics technologies and novel patient-derived stem cells. During her PhD studies, Aileen has been awarded over a dozen merit-based accolades – including: the Graduate Dean’s Scholar Award, the UC President’s Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Fellowship in Physiology & Medicine, and the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine & Stem Cell Research Training Fellowship. Before joining UCLA, she received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, with a concentrated study in Cellular, Molecular, Developmental, and Stem Cell Biology. During her undergraduate studies, she was awarded a California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Bridges to Stem Cell Research Scholarship to conduct research at Stanford where her love of human genetics and stem cell biology blossomed. Aileen believes in uplifting and inspiring the next generation of scientists, so she has also dedicated her time to mentoring, teaching, and training over 160+ students. She is committed to fostering and advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in science by serving as a mentor for 8 research training programs and an active board member of DEI organizations like the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). Overall, Aileen’s goal is to become a Professor that leads a lab focused on deciphering & ameliorating pathogenic mechanisms underlying human disease.

Alanna E. Hirz

Public Health

alannah@ucla.edu

Alanna E. Hirz is a candidate for the PhD in Public Health with a concentration in behavioral health and Gender Studies at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Her research focuses on understanding how systems of power perpetuate reproductive health disparities and constrain reproductive autonomy among women and birthing people living with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Alanna has been recognized by the Lupus Foundation of America as a Gina M. Finzi Memorial Fellow and by the UCLA Bixby Center for Reproductive Health as Fred H. Bixby Population and Reproductive Health Research Fellow. She is completing her third degree at UCLA, having received a Master of Science in Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Gender Studies at UCLA. She has authored publications that: provide recommendations for ameliorating the impact structural ableism has on reproductive self-determination for women and birthing people with chronic illness and disabilities; address abortion stigma in legislatively restrictive low-income settings; and identify psychosocial factors that led to poor mental health outcomes in patients living with autoimmune diseases. Alanna is passionate about using innovative qualitative methodologies to elevate community voices and priorities in her research and shares her passion by teaching qualitative methods to students and faculty across the country. She volunteers as the Research Coordinator for the Autoimmune Community Institute where she mentors underrepresented high school and undergraduate students developing research projects focused on autoimmune diseases. Alanna plans to continue her work at the intersection of reproductive justice, reproductive epidemiology, and rheumatology as a faculty member at a research institution.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2025

Ricardo F. Frausto

Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology

ricfrausto@ucla.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ricardo-frausto-a6865318/>

Ricardo F. Frausto is a candidate for the Ph.D. in molecular, cellular and integrative physiology with a concentration in molecular neuroscience at UCLA. His research focuses on elucidating the molecular and neural basis for how physiology and prior experience influence behavior towards a cue/stimulus. His work is foundational for unraveling the mechanisms that underlie context-dependent decision-making. In recognition of Ricardo's significant potential as a science educator and researcher, he was awarded the prestigious Ford Predoctoral Fellowship, which aims to diversify the professoriate. To meet his potential, Ricardo focused on developing skills critical to both science education and research. He obtained extensive mentoring and teaching training and has applied these skills to teaching life science courses for the Department of Life Science Core Education at UCLA in coordination with the Academic Advancement Program, which supports undergraduate students from underserved communities. One of Ricardo's greatest academic joys is to mentor students, and he has served in this capacity for numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Ricardo supported student well-being as a member of the Committee on Learning Environment Oversight. He also served as a member of the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Implementation Committee to support UCLA becoming designated an HSI. Ricardo's support of students is motivated by his values: empathy, belonging and student-centered. Ultimately, Ricardo aspires to be a professor of molecular neuroscience at a primarily undergraduate institution with a mission to serve all students, with a focus on those from communities historically underrepresented in the life sciences.

Jason Q.L. Williams

Chemistry

jasonqlwilliams@ucla.edu, www.linkedin.com/in/jasonqlwilliams

Jason Q.L. Williams is a Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at UCLA, where his interdisciplinary work bridges ancestral knowledge with nanotechnology through eco-conscious material science. Under the guidance of Dr. Paul S. Weiss, he develops green synthesis methodologies using plant extracts to create metal and metal-oxide nanocomposites. Williams' research specifically investigates green solvents for sustainable material synthesis while analyzing bioactive compounds from Southern African plants used in traditional medicine. A nontraditional scholar, Williams enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school, serving as a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense Specialist with two deployments to Iraq. His undergraduate academic journey—marked by perseverance through eight community colleges—culminated in a B.S. in Chemistry from Cal State Dominguez Hills in 2020. At UCLA, he has been awarded the Center for Diversity in Science Early Career Fellowship for his scholarly and community contributions. Williams is also the lead facilitator of UCLA's Veterans in STEM program, and currently mentors five students. He also founded Elements of Equity, a nonprofit organization that provides underrepresented students with paid research internships. EoE targets talented individuals who lack high GPAs but possess strong potential and passion for science. By partnering with businesses, Elements of Equity offers practical lab training, bridging the gap between talent and opportunity and helping students become competitive for graduate school applications. Williams currently funds a paid internship for a nontraditional post-bac student and is actively mentoring him toward a path to a Ph.D. program. Williams aspires to continue to offer inclusive research opportunities while amplifying community-driven science and advocating for diversity in academia.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2025

Devon M. Williams

Astronomy and Astrophysics

devon@astro.ucla.edu

<https://www.astro.ucla.edu/~devon/index.html>

Devon M. Williams is a Ph.D. candidate in astrophysics at UCLA, specializing in gravitational lensing and cosmology. His research focuses on a rare cosmic phenomenon called a quadruply imaged quasar. This occurs when the immense gravity of a massive galaxy bends the light from a distant quasar—a super-bright region around a feeding black hole—causing it to appear in four different places in the sky. By studying these 'cosmic mirages,' he helps refine our understanding of the universe's expansion rate. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2021 with bachelor's degrees in physics and applied mathematics and a master's degree in statistics, alongside a master's in astrophysics from UCLA in 2023. As a Black scientist from a low-income household, Devon recognizes the disconnect between the diversity of aspiring astrophysicists and the field itself. To bridge this gap, he serves as head of outreach for the department, training and coordinating volunteers who bring demos to Title I schools (serving >40% low-income students) in LA, hoping to inspire the next generation of astrophysicists. He serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in the department while making astrophysics accessible to the general public by hosting planetarium shows and helping run Explore Your Universe at UCLA. Growing up without role models in the field, Devon hopes to fill that void by directly mentoring high school, undergraduate, and graduate students through the Grad2Grad, Critical MASS, Marginalized Identities in Physics and Astronomy, and Physics and Astronomy for Everyone programs. He participates in career days at local high schools and volunteers with Journey Through the Universe in Hawaii, which seeks to repair relationships with Native Hawaiians whose land was taken through a complex history of colonialism, illegal annexation, and development without consultation—land that continues to benefit astronomers today. Devon aims to conduct research while making the field more accessible, not just for the next generation of astrophysicists, but for the public as a whole.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, Los Angeles 2025

Siyue Lena Wang

Social Science & Comparative Education

yuepaopao@gmail.com

Siyue Lena Wang is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Science & Comparative Education at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), specializing in race, ethnicity, and immigration. Her research examines how racialization and legal status shape students' college navigation, belonging, and resistance. Supported by the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Minority Dissertation Fellowship and the Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant, her dissertation investigates the educational trajectories of undocumented Asian college students and the structural barriers they encounter. Siyue has held graduate research and fellow positions with the USC Equity Research Institute, UCLA Prison Education Program, and UCLA Asia Pacific Center, contributing to research and policy initiatives that support immigrant, non-traditional, and vulnerable student populations. She collaborates with organizations such as Immigrants Rising and APIA Scholars to produce public scholarships and advocate for undocumented students' college access and AANHPI student success in higher education. She has presented at national conferences, including the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) and the WESTOP Annual Conference, where she trains educators and institutions to strengthen their capacity to support undocumented students. She served as co-chair of UCLA's Graduate Students Association of Education and is actively involved in community organizations such as UPLIFT and API Rise. Siyue has developed and led workshops, including the Immigrant Youth Empowerment Conference and UCLA's Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program, demystifying graduate education for first-generation and immigrant students and empowering marginalized students to pursue higher education. She aims to continue advancing scholarship on race, immigration, and education through community-engaged research while transforming academia and higher education institutions toward equity and inclusion.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, San Diego 2025

Abner Francisco Sótenos

History

asotenos@ucsd.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abner-s%C3%B3tenos-phd-candidate-69238b251/>

Abner Francisco Sótenos is a scholar of modern Latin American history, specializing in race, ethnicity and Colonial Latin America. Currently a Ph.D candidate in Latin American History at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), his research focuses on Black audiovisual aesthetics and the role of Afro-Brazilian activism in shaping modernity in Brazil. Sótenos holds a master's degree in social history and a bachelor's degree in history from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). His master's dissertation received an Honorable Mention in the Ana Lugo Rios Award for Best Master's Dissertation (2013). He has also served as a visiting researcher at Brown University's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), where he broadened his expertise in Afro-diasporic studies. With over two decades of teaching experience, Sótenos is committed to fostering inclusive, rights-based education. He is an advocate for equity, human rights, and social justice, combining academic research with practical initiatives. As a consultant, he has successfully secured funding for political organizations that champion these causes. A co-author of *História Escrita, História Viva* (Lamparina Editora, 2019), Sótenos has contributed to understanding Brazil's military dictatorship and the role of social movements in preserving memory. His dedication to scholarship and advocacy reflects his commitment to expanding knowledge and creating a more inclusive and equitable future.

Ivan Valdovinos Gutierrez

Education Studies

ivaldovi@ucsd.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivan-valdovinos-537255242/>

Ivan Valdovinos Gutierrez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego. He is a first-generation college student and the son of Mexican immigrants from Michoacán, Mexico. Ivan attended Washington State University where he obtained dual Bachelor degrees in English and Foreign Languages and Cultures as well as a Washington State Teacher Certification with an endorsement in English Language Arts. Upon completion of his undergraduate career, Ivan entered graduate school at Harvard University where he completed a Master of Education in Education Policy and Management. His research, teaching, and mentorship lie at the nexus of college access, equity, and opportunity for historically marginalized students in the higher education pipeline, specifically focusing on addressing Latinx student equity. His scholarship has been published in *Education Sciences*, *About Campus*, and *Educational Researcher*. Ivan's research has been funded by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS), UC Davis Wheelhouse Summer Scholars Fellowship, UC Berkeley Gardner P. Seminar in Higher Education Fellowship, UC San Diego Jacobs Social Impact Fellowship, UC San Diego Yankelovich Center Research Grant, and the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. His work builds on his six years of experience managing multi-million dollar federal grants, including leading Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) efforts in the community college sector. His passion for advancing the success of historically marginalized and underrepresented students in the academy led him to create a digital community of over 33,000 students, where he designs and facilitates workshops and digital educational campaigns.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, San Diego 2025

Marwa Abdalla

Communication

mabdalla@ucsd.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marwa-abdalla-28a17062/>

Marwa Abdalla is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Communication at UC San Diego and recipient of the Jacobs Fellowship from the Division of Social Sciences. Her dissertation explores the representation of Islam and Muslims across news media, popular media, and social media sites. In particular, she analyzes how terms such as “moderate Muslim” function in The New York Times and Washington Post to reinforce the demonization of Muslims writ large, how seemingly positive portrayals of Muslims on contemporary streaming platforms rely on logics of exception rooted in Islamophobic stereotypes, and how social media sites such as TikTok obscure Islamophobia through the affordance of their platforms. Marwa’s research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, the 2024 edited volume, Communication and Organizational Changemaking for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: A Case Studies. Approach (Routledge), and recognized with several top paper awards including the Young Scholar Award for Outstanding Research on American Muslims and the National Communication Association’s John T. Warren Award. Marwa also teaches undergraduate courses focused on foundational concepts in communication, media, and cultural studies and the histories and spread of mis- and disinformation. Outside of her work in higher education, Marwa has almost two decades of experience as a community educator, panelist, and presenter working to challenge racial and religious discrimination. She worked as a certified educator with The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), a Washington-D.C.-based research and education organization with whom she co-authored the Covering American Muslims Objectively and Creatively guide for media professionals.

Rayyan Gorashi

Bioengineering

rgorashi@ucsd.edu

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rmg123/>

Rayyan Gorashi’s interests center around sex-specific and patient-specific models of heart disease using biomaterials. As a PhD candidate in Bioengineering, her research specializes in creating physiologically relevant disease models to study sex-specific differences in heart valve disease progression to create more equitable treatment options for both male and female patients. She was awarded multiple fellowships from the National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (F31 and R00 Supplement Fellowships) as well as the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) fellowship. She is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in graduate education. She served as co-President of the Bioengineering Graduate Society (BEGS) and works as a Graduate Advocate for the PATH(ways) to STEM Scholar Program. In BEGS, she managed STEM outreach events, connections with local biotech industry networks, and professional development workshops for careers outside of academia. She is passionate about STEM outreach and professional development for underrepresented students and continuously works to support them on their undergraduate journey through mentorship.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of California, San Diego 2025

Sumeyye Seker

Nanoengineering/Chemical Engineering

sseker@ucsd.edu

Sumeyye Seker specializes in wearable electrochemical sensors for applications in human and plant health. Under the mentorship of Professor Joseph Wang in the NanoBioElectronics Lab, her research harnesses advanced nanotechnology to develop non-invasive platforms for real-time metabolite monitoring, driving innovations in personalized healthcare and sustainable agriculture. Seker's academic journey has been marked by international experiences, including studies in Slovakia, Malaysia, and the UK, supported by competitive scholarships and fellowships. Her academic excellence and contributions during her PhD have been recognized through numerous accolades, such as the Jacobs School Racial Equity Fellowship, the Arthur and Janice Boni Entrepreneurial Fellows Award, the Friends of the International Center Endowment Award, the ACS Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Recognition Award for the Promotion of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect, the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Younger Chemists Conference Travel Grant, the Frieda Daum Urey Academic Fellowship, and the Merkin Graduate Fellowship. In addition to her research, Sumeyye is dedicated to advancing equity in engineering and empowering underrepresented groups. As a Teaching Assistant and a leader in organizations supporting women in STEM, she mentors students and organizes initiatives to inspire more women to pursue careers in science and engineering. She has also demonstrated leadership as a youth educator, organizing educational camps in Türkiye and contributing to European Union projects that promote quality education and gender equality aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Sumeyye's commitment to research, mentorship, and outreach exemplifies her mission to bridge scientific innovation with societal needs, ensuring that transformative advancements are accessible to diverse communities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2025

George Adedokun

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

George is a Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida, conducting pioneering research in microfluidics and BioMEMS technology under the guidance of Dr. Z. Hugh Fan. His work focuses on innovative, cutting-edge point-of-care diagnostic devices for pathogen detection. A notable achievement in his work is creating a miniaturized HIV detection device made with cellulose paper, a project supported by NIH funding. His research has been published in leading journals such as *Lab on a Chip* and *Nature Microsystems and Nanoengineering*. George's dedication to scholarship and leadership shines through his active involvement in various roles, including Vice President of the Engineering Graduate Student Council and leadership positions in the MAE Graduate Student Council and the Interdisciplinary Microsystem Group Leadership Committee. He also mentors undergraduate researchers, helping them develop innovative methods for pathogen detection. An advocate for excellence, George has been recognized with honors such as the Interdisciplinary Microsystem Group Excellence in Research Award and has shared his findings at numerous prestigious conferences. As an educator, he has participated in outreach initiatives like the IncuGator Minicamp, inspiring younger students to engage with STEM. Beyond his research, George is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting diversity in STEM fields. He aspires to develop impactful solutions at the intersection of engineering and healthcare.

Mosunmola O. Adejo

English

[LinkedIn profile URL](#)

Mosunmola O. Adejo is a candidate for a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in Global Anglophone Literature and African Cultural Studies at the University of Florida. Her research explores historically silenced or marginalized narratives of African and African diasporic peoples' agency in literature and cultural productions. A former Fulbright fellow at Yale University, she has been recognized as a Kirkland Fellow, Rothman Fellow, and NVSA Fellow, receiving multiple research travel grants from the Center for African Studies, the English department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As a community-driven researcher, Mosunmola co-founded the African Student Experience (AsX), initially the African Graduate Students community, providing resources for African students pursuing U.S. graduate education. Her commitment to fostering inclusive academic environments earned her the Certificate of Outstanding Merit from the International Center and recognition from the Center for African Studies in 2021. She has also served as a Push4It mentor for first-generation undergraduates and mentored Gainesville high school students while holding leadership positions including English Graduate Organization Secretary and Vice President and, Secretary of the Graduate Student Caucus of the African Literature Association. Currently, she is writing a biography on Reverend Canon Josiah Jesse Ransome-Kuti (1855-1930), examining his life, creative output, and digital legacy. This work positions Rev. Ransome-Kuti alongside pioneering pan-Africanists while contributing to broader scholarly conversations about Africans' roles in shaping Christianity both on the continent and in the diaspora.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2025

Jacobi I. Bedenfield

Agricultural and Life Sciences

Jacobi I. Bedenfield is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences studying Agricultural Leadership. His dissertation research is titled “Sustaining Student Well-Being: An Organizational Leadership Analysis of the Need, Implementation, and Effectiveness of Food Security Programs at Land-Grant Universities.” Professionally, Jacobi is the Director of the David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership & Service at the University of Florida, which is the University’s hub for community engagement, volunteerism, service-learning, and leadership development. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Humanities, Communications, and Languages at Santa Fe College. Jacobi was awarded the UF Ed and Susie Osborne Endowment for Graduate Student Research and Professional Development, where used the funding to create higher education food security toolkits based on his research. Jacobi also serves his community as a member of the Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee, where he advises the county commission, and on Bread of the Mighty Food Bank’s Food Systems Coalition. He also serves as the campus liaison to Projects for Peace, which provides students with opportunities for global peacebuilding projects. Jacobi was awarded UF’s Dr. James E. Scott Bridging the Gap Memorial Award.

Riya Chakraborty

Curriculum and Instruction

riya.chakraborty@ufl.edu

Riya Chakraborty is a Doctoral Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Language and Literacies in Education at the University of Florida. She also serves as Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Humanities, Communications, and Languages at Santa Fe College, Florida. Her professional aspirations focus on advancing equity and justice-oriented teacher education for marginalized populations, bilingual and multilingual education, rural education, arts-based qualitative research, educational partnerships, health education, and higher education administration through her teaching, research, and service. With extensive international teaching experience in India, the United States, and Colombia, Riya is a seasoned educator with expertise in curriculum development, educational management, academic advising, and professional development. She is deeply passionate about mentoring, fostering leadership skills, and supporting professional growth alongside her research and teaching endeavors. Riya actively engages in leadership and service as a student senator at the University of Florida, serving on the Faculty Senate Curriculum and Libraries Committees and participating on the executive boards of various student organizations. Her role as an AACTE Holmes Scholar underscores her dedication to diversifying and advocating for equity in higher education and K-12 settings. Riya’s contributions and leadership have been recognized through numerous honors, including the "Outstanding Graduate Leadership Award," "Certificate of Outstanding Merit," "Alec Courtelis Award," "Wanda & Janice Foundation Scholarship," and "Presidential Service Award." These accolades reflect her commitment to advocacy, academic excellence, and fostering inclusive educational practices.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2025

Elizabeth Evans

Rehabilitation Sciences

Evans.e@ufl.edu

Elizabeth Evans is a clinically trained speech-language pathologist and a PhD candidate in rehabilitation sciences with a concentration in neuromuscular plasticity at the University of Florida. Her research focuses on health disparities in stroke particularly the role of cumulative life stress on post-stroke outcomes including aphasia and cognition. Her work has been published in many peer-reviewed journals including the Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, Aphasiology and the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. She is also the recipient of the American Speech and Hearing Foundation New Century Scholar Award. Elizabeth hopes to reduce disparities in neurogenic disorders through not only her research but by teaching future clinicians to feel confident working with diverse populations.

Jane Hsi

Biomedical Sciences

janehsi@ufl.edu

Jane Hsi is a candidate for a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Florida (UF). Her research focuses on the structural, antigenic, and biophysical characterization of parvoviruses, which have applications in gene therapy as well as antiviral drug and vaccine design. Jane has been recognized as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (NSF GRFP) and received the Council of Academic Chairs Scholarship Award from the UF College of Medicine Medical Guild and the Graduate Student Mentoring Award from the UF Graduate School. For her undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma, she received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (summa cum laude) as well as two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art and Letters. There she was a recipient of the Regent's scholarship, F. Donald Clark Award for Excellence in Fine Arts, Elmer Capshaw Award, and the Oscar B. Jacobson Award. Jane is fascinated by the advancements in cryo-electron microscopy to visualize and to further our understanding of biomolecules. She has been an avid volunteer with the UF Center for Pre-Collegiate Education and Training, where she is involved with mentoring high school students as part of their summer lab immersion program. Ultimately, she aspires to be at the intersection of structural biology and medical applications toward her ultimate goal of starting a lab as an independent principal investigator at a research institution.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2025

Tre' R. Jeter

Computer Science

Tre' R. Jeter is a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at the University of Florida (UF), being advised by Dr. My T. Thai. His research lies at the intersection of security, privacy, optimization, and application of Federated Learning. Before reaching candidacy, Tre' received his Master of Science in Computer Science in the Spring of 2024 from UF. Before matriculating at UF, Tre' attended Claflin University as a member of the Alice Carson-Tisdale Honors College, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering in the Spring of 2021. Beyond academics, he has held 7 consecutive internships from 2018-2024, with 6 out of 7 being with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Tre' received the GEM Fellowship, McKnight Fellowship, Gates Millenium Scholarship, and a Doctoral Research Fellowship to attend UF. He was honorably mentioned in 2023 for the Ford Foundation Fellowship. Tre' leaves the UF as a two-term President of the Black Graduate Student Organization.

Geoffrey Kellogg

Reading and Literacy Education

Geoffrey Kellogg is a doctoral candidate studying Reading and Literacy Education in the College of Education at the University of Florida. His research focuses on the teaching of literature through the lens of disciplinary literacy, and his dissertation study examines teacher beliefs and decision-making with respect to the teaching of literature. His work is motivated by his experiences studying English and Theatre as an undergraduate at Wake Forest University, and his belief that the place of literature in the K-12 curriculum depends on a thorough explanation of how studying literature contributes to personal growth. Geoff has also presented his work at multiple conferences and published research focused on applying systemic functional linguistics to poetry analysis and the relationship of the science of reading approach to the interpretation of literature. Geoff is a Alpha Epsilon Lambda Graduate Honor Society member and a founder of the Language and Literacy Education Students Group at UF. Before beginning his studies at UF, Geoff taught high school English and History for seven years in New York City, where he grew up. In the future, Geoff plans to pursue both teaching and research.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Florida 2025

Jon A. Parker

Youth Development and Family Science

jon.parker@ufl.edu | <https://www.balekawellness.com>

Jon A. Parker is a Ph.D. candidate in Youth Development and Family Science at the University of Florida. He is driven by a commitment to addressing mental health disparities in underserved communities, particularly among African Americans. His current research focuses on utilizing nature-based interventions to improve mental health outcomes for Black identifying adults as well as for rural Veterans. As a Graduate Research Assistant, Jon has developed educational materials related to mental health for Extension Agents who work with rural Veterans. He has also developed and facilitated programs that utilize nature-based mental health interventions for local youth. This work reflects his dedication to bridging academic research with practical applications that benefit individuals and communities in need. In his role as Co-President of the Strong Roots Movement at UF, Jon promoted sustainable practices and addressed food insecurity in Gainesville, FL. Additionally, founding the BALEKA Wellness and BALKEA Run Club initiatives in South Africa, showcases his ability to identify community needs and create meaningful solutions. Service remains a cornerstone of Jon's professional ethos. His work as a Youth Minister, Trustee, and Mental Health Counselor at Greater Bethel AME church and coordination of the LAND Mentoring Program highlight his commitment to youth empowerment and community well-being. Looking forward, Jon aims to establish a nature-based mental health practice, advocating for culturally sensitive approaches to mental health care. As a member of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Jon is committed to furthering the society's mission through scholarship, leadership, service, and advocacy, contributing to the diversification and advancement of the academy.

Vignesh Subramaniam

Mechanical Engineering

v.subramaniam@ufl.edu; vignesh.subramaniam@u.nus.edu

Vignesh Subramaniam is a Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Florida, advised by Dr. Thomas Angelini. His research bridges biofabrication and tissue engineering to address critical challenges in biomedical engineering, regenerative medicine and drug discovery. Vignesh developed a novel collagen-microgel composite with tunable strain-stiffening and shape programmability, enabling dynamic, form-fitting scaffolds. He is pioneering its applications in 3D bioprinting, including fabricating vascular structures, and enhancing its properties through biomineralization. He also led the creation of a 3D-printed human liver model that replicates liver function, offering a transformative platform for pharmacological testing. Beyond research, Vignesh demonstrates leadership and service as laboratory safety manager, trainer in advanced microscopy and bioprinting, and president of the SKY wellness organization at UF. His involvement with SKY began during his time in Singapore and has continued at UF, where he has promoted mental health and well-being through workshops and community programs. These efforts earned him the Presidential Service Award and Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award in 2023. A strong advocate for inclusivity in STEM, Vignesh mentors students from diverse backgrounds, emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving. With 18 peer-reviewed publications, a Guinness World Record, and 3 international patents, his academic journey - from earning a full scholarship at the National University of Singapore to a Ph.D. with at least 25 scholarly works - reflects his resilience and dedication to scholarship. As a Bouchet Graduate Honor Society inductee, Vignesh aspires to advance its mission by fostering inclusivity, innovation, and scholarly excellence in academia and beyond.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2025

Soyeon Ahn

Measurement and Quantitative Methods

s.ahn@miami.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/soyeonahn

Soyeon Ahn, Ph.D., is an accomplished scholar whose research advances inclusive excellence through innovative methodologies in statistics, measurement, and computational modeling for educational and social-behavioral research. She has led interdisciplinary projects aimed at addressing disparity in education and mental health equity, including Data Inclusion, Anti-Bias Training, and AI development for Broadening Mental Health Access. Her recent editorial work on *Bias and Beyond: Rethinking Data Practices* underscores her commitment to scholarship that informs policy and practice. As Associate Dean for Research in the School of Education and Human Development and Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Miami, Dr. Ahn has worked to strengthen research infrastructure, supporting faculty and graduate students. Her leadership fosters mentorship, professional development, and interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring that scholars from diverse backgrounds thrive in academia. She has spearheaded initiatives that cultivate inclusive academic environments, aligning with the Bouchet Society's pillars of character and leadership. Dr. Ahn is deeply committed to service and advocacy, mentoring graduate students and faculty through structured programs that empower underrepresented scholars. She has developed grant-writing workshops, writing groups, and professional development opportunities, creating equitable pathways for academic success. As a Bouchet Inductee, Dr. Ahn envisions expanding interdisciplinary research networks, strengthening mentorship programs, and advocating for equitable academic resources. Her dedication to scholarship, character, leadership, service, and advocacy underscores her commitment to fostering inclusive excellence in higher education.

Alexis R. Piquero

Sociology & Criminology

apiquero@miami.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexis-piquero-1925a54a>

Alexis R. Piquero is Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology and Arts & Sciences Distinguished Scholar at the University of Miami and previously served as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), one of the nation's thirteen federal statistical agencies (appointed by President Biden, June 2022). His research focuses on criminal careers, crime and justice policy, and quantitative research methods. Piquero has received numerous research, teaching, and mentoring awards including recipient of the following: Fellow of the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Bruce Smith, Sr. Award for lifetime contributions to criminal justice; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division of Developmental & Life-Course Criminology of the American Society of Criminology; the University of Miami Provost Award for Research Excellence; the University of Florida's College of Arts & Sciences Teacher of the Year Award; the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, and induction into The University of Texas System's Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Piquero has been a member of several National Academies of Sciences Panels and is a Board Member of the Academies' Committee on Law and Justice. He has given congressional testimony as well as policy advice to local, state, national, and international government agencies on crime and justice topics and his research and commentary has appeared in many newspaper and media outlets. Piquero's research has been cited over 68,000 times (h-index: 139).



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2025

Victor Deupi

Architecture

vdeupi@miami.edu; <https://people.miami.edu/profile/4b11f3078bcc7be0ed33ba67bbf669d4>; @vdeupi

Victor Deupi is a Professor of Practice at the University of Miami School of Architecture where he teaches history and theory, design, and representation. He received a BS in architecture from the University of Virginia, an MA from Yale University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught previously at Fairfield University, the New York Institute of Technology, and the University of Notre Dame. His research focuses on the Early Modern Spanish and Ibero-American world, mid-20th-century Cuba, and contemporary architecture. His books include *Architectural Temperance: Spain and Rome, 1700-1759*, *Transformations in Classical Architecture: New Directions in Research and Practice*, *Emilio Sanchez in New York and Latin America*, *Cuban Modernism: Mid-Century Architecture 1940-1970*, with Jean-Francois Lejeune, *Emilio Sanchez Revisited: A Centenary Celebration of the Artist's Life and Work*, with LnS Gallery, *Stables: High Design for Horse and Home*, *Wineries of the World: Architecture and Viticulture*, *Pavilion Living: Architecture, Patronage, and Well-Being*, *The Urban Housing Handbook*, with Eric Firley, and in preparation *Rada Photography: Mid-Century Architecture and Culture in South Florida and the Caribbean*. A recipient of grants from the University of Miami's Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas, the Driehaus Foundation, and the Graham Foundation, Dr. Deupi was also the President of the CINTAS Foundation which gives annual fellowships in Architecture and Design, the Visual Arts, Creative Writing, and Music Composition to Cubans and people of Cuban descent from 2016-2018 and is currently the President of the DOCOMOMO US Florida Chapter.

Tericka S. Cesar "teri"

Nursing Science

Tericka S. Cesar "teri" is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Nursing Science at the University of Miami. She is a native Miamian and Advance Practice Registered Nurse Practitioner. She has a background in nutritional sciences, emergency nursing, legal nurse consulting, and as a primary care provider. She is an alumnus of Miami Northwestern Sr. High, medical magnet where her desire was to be a health scientist. After undergraduate studies at Barry University (B.S. Biology), and she studied Nutritional Science at the prestigious Tuskegee University where she obtained her Master's in Nutrition, sharing a role in research within the Tuskegee populace. Yet she was urged by a desire to bridge research in nutritional health with nursing science, she began her training in nursing at Vanderbilt University where she began her nursing journey, ultimately completing her master's in nursing science and training as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. She has served as a nurse, providing compassionate and excellent care as an emergency nurse and primary care nurse practitioner in a variety of settings. Currently, she is a McKnight Fellow, and third year University of Miami Nursing Science Doctoral Student. She believes sharing is caring and these beliefs have exuded in her service and care as a nurse, clinician, educator and in life. Her research interests are on social factors including the built environment on generational obesity and the role of the family in diverse populations. Ultimately, Teri aspired to work in research areas which intersect health, advocacy, nursing science, and public health.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2025

Giltrecia K. Head

History

Giltrecia K. Head is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Miami. She holds an M.A. in American Dance Studies from Florida State University and a B.S. in Architectural Science from Florida A&M University. Her research focuses on bridging African, African Diaspora, and transnational histories, emphasizing the narratives of historically marginalized communities. Through the scope of British West African students, Head explores the experiences of students studying abroad in the United States and Great Britain during the interwar and post-war periods to determine their contributions through Pan-African efforts for independence. As a McKnight Dissertation Fellow, she has received several research grants, including the University of Miami Global Black Studies Dissertation Research Grant and the Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas Field Research Grant. She has presented at national conferences, including the 2021 National Popular Culture Association Conference, where she explored the role of the Blues aesthetic in preserving African American and Caribbean dance traditions. Additionally, she has delivered papers on Ghanaian marketwomen and their roles in the Struggle for Independence, as well as secular dance traditions of the African Diaspora, and the surviving Africanisms in these cultural identities. Head maintains active engagement with the Black Graduate Student Association at the University of Miami, where she served as Vice President from 2023 to 2024. She is also an active member of several professional organizations, including the Association of Black Women Historians and the African Studies Association.

Nkosi Muse

Environmental Science and Policy

Nkosi Muse is a McKnight Doctoral Fellow and Environmental Science and Policy Ph.D. candidate at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School for Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. His research involves the identification of climate hazards to inform equitable adaptation, with a focus on intensifying extreme heat. Trained as a meteorologist at UNC Charlotte (B.S.) and a geoscientist at Georgia State University (M.S.), Nkosi utilizes this expertise to quantitatively analyze climate data and better understand South Florida's unique humid heat threat. He has published two first-author papers on this work (Muse et al., 2024; 2022), with several other related, collaborative manuscripts currently under peer review. These scientific endeavors also inform Nkosi's leadership and service, as he serves as the appointed Vice Chair and marginalized communities advocate on the City of Miami's Climate Resilience Committee, advising elected officials on matters of climate resilience. Complementary to this role, Nkosi also serves as a resident meteorologist for several local non-profit organizations (The Smile Trust, Miami Climate Alliance, Catalyst Miami), educating community members on topics of climate and weather through workshops, seminars, and media. Throughout his graduate training, he has embraced the opportunity to teach and mentor, taking on undergraduate lectures, graduate-undergraduate mentoring, and a lab coordinator position. As a passionate science communicator and a fierce environmental justice advocate, Nkosi seeks to work in a high-level advisory or decision-making role, ensuring equity across urban resilience to the deleterious effects of climate change.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Miami 2025

Alexa M. Parra

Nursing Science

Alexa M. Parra is a PhD candidate in Nursing Science at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, specializing in maternal and child health disparities. Alexa is a DAISY for Extraordinary Nurses awardee with a clinical background in oncology and labor, delivery, recovery, and postpartum (LDRP) care. She brings a patient-centered approach to her research. Her work focuses on the impact of social determinants of health on perinatal outcomes among Afro-Latina mothers and their infants. Supported by the prestigious NIH/NINR F31 award, her dissertation investigates adverse birth outcomes and maternal morbidities in marginalized communities. Ms. Parra's scholarship has been recognized nationally, with numerous presentations at leading conferences and seven peer-reviewed publications, including the Maternal and Child Health Journal, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, and PLOS ONE. She exemplifies leadership and service through her work with the Breastfeed Miami Coalition, advocating for equitable lactation support, and as an active member of the American Public Health Association and Sigma Theta Tau International. A dedicated mentor and advocate, Ms. Parra fosters inclusive research mentorship for underrepresented PhD nursing and undergraduate health science students. Her commitment to character and scholarship is evident in her interdisciplinary approach to improving perinatal health. She aims to bridge research and practice to reduce disparities, ensuring better birth outcomes for vulnerable populations. Through advocacy, service, and research, Ms. Parra aspires to transform maternal and child health policies and care for historically underserved communities.

Sadegh Tale

Civil Engineering

Sadegh Tale, a doctoral student at the University of Miami, is pursuing a Ph.D. in Material Science and Civil Engineering. His research focuses on sustainable, bio-inspired materials for cementitious infrastructure, with an emphasis on reducing the environmental impact of cement production. Sadegh's work combines advanced experimental techniques and machine learning to develop innovative admixtures, which he has presented at prominent conferences and high-impact journals. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Sadegh has been a dedicated leader and advocate for his peers. He has been an executive board member of several graduate organizations including the Graduate Student Association, Graduate Engineering Student Council, and Graduate Student Book Club. In roles such as the Director of Finance, Director of Technology, and Senator, he has worked tirelessly to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for graduate students. Sadegh's commitment to service extends beyond administrative roles. He has organized numerous events, including research symposia, professional development workshops, and cultural celebrations, all aimed at creating a sense of community and belonging. As a mentor to undergraduate students, Sadegh exemplifies a dedication to empowering the next generation of scholars. Through his research, leadership, and advocacy, Sadegh embodies the five pillars of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and strives to honor Dr. Bouchet's legacy of excellence and equity in higher education.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2025

Janae N. Best

Public Health

jnbest@umich.edu, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/janae-best/>

Dr. Janae N. Best (she/her) recently defended her dissertation, *Returning the Cape: Deepening Our Understanding of the Relationship Between Superwoman Schema and Mental Health Among Young Black Women Attending a Historically Black College*. In May, she will graduate with a PhD in Health Behavior and Health Equity from the University of Michigan. During her doctoral journey, Janae has been recognized with the prestigious Rackham Merit Fellowship and the Partnerships for Access, Community, and Excellence Fellowship. During her time at Michigan, Janae has been deeply involved in advancing health equity through her work with several organizations. She contributed to The Steve Fund, a mental health nonprofit serving young people of color, and served on the mental health advisory board for the United Negro College Fund. Additionally, she supported the Minority Serving Institutions Connect Program, where she implemented initiatives to strengthen the success of students from minority-serving institutions pursuing graduate studies at Michigan. In 2020, Janae earned her Master of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of Michigan. She is also a proud alumna of Spelman College, where she graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and with departmental honors in 2018. Janae's research interests center on community-based participatory research, mixed methods, and qualitative research approaches. A passionate advocate for health equity, she aims to illuminate the impact of gendered racial stress on Black women's mental health while highlighting the resilience and resistance factors that sustain them.

Eda Bozkurt

Architecture

ebozkurt@umich.edu; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eda-bozkurt>

Eda Bozkurt is a Ph.D. candidate in Architecture at the University of Michigan. Her research examines the relationship between urban transformation, displacement, and power, critically engaging with the socio-spatial ramifications of state-led redevelopment. Grounded in participatory methodologies, her work foregrounds the lived experiences of marginalized communities, illuminating how residents navigate imposed urban renewal and reassert agency over their spatial realities. Her dissertation explores the long-term consequences of urban renewal projects on displaced gecekondu communities in Turkey, tracing the intersection of policy, spatial justice, and adaptation strategies. Eda's commitment to institutional transformation extends beyond research to mentorship and advocacy. She serves as Chair of the Ginsberg Center Student Advisory Board, a Graduate Student Instructional Consultant at the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), and an Engaged Learning Graduate Consultant at the Ginsberg Center. She has actively contributed to the MLK Symposium Organizing Committee, the DEI 2.0 Research Committee, and the Rackham Academic Integrity Hearing Board. Additionally, she has facilitated anti-racism training through the Stop Anti-Black Racism initiative and spearheaded equity-driven programming that uplifts underrepresented student voices. Her contributions to scholarship and advocacy have been recognized with the North Campus Deans' MLK Spirit Awards for Institutional Change and Advocacy, as well as for Community Building and Impact. Looking ahead, she seeks to integrate research, pedagogy, and public engagement to shape urban development policies that prioritize social justice and community agency. Through pedagogical training, faculty development, and community partnerships, she advances scholarship that fosters inclusive and equitable urban futures.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2025

Ashley M. Mello

Immunology

ashmello@umich.edu; www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-mello-0549961a0

Ashley M. Mello is a dual M.S./Ph.D. candidate pursuing her M.S. in Bioinformatics and Ph.D. in Immunology at the University of Michigan. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana where she conducted research as a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) scholar. Her current research focuses on understanding how hypoxia, or low oxygen availability, regulates pancreatic tumorigenesis by modulating tumor-stroma interactions. Through work done on Ashley's first project in the lab, they observed that hypoxia promotes an inflammatory fibroblast phenotype through the induction of tumor cell IL1 α . This study has led to a manuscript that was published in *Oncogenesis*. Throughout her doctoral studies, Ashley has received several fellowships to support her work including the NIH F31 Predoctoral Fellowship, the NIH T32 in Experimental Immunology, and the University of Michigan Rackham Merit Fellowship. Her passion for serving others and sharing her love of science with those who may not typically have exposure to it has led her to volunteer for various student organizations at the University of Michigan aimed at increasing and retaining underrepresented students in STEM. Ultimately, Ashley hopes to motivate and inspire the next generation of young people who will one day make their own contributions to the scientific and medical fields. She also aspires to serve as a trusted scientific voice within her community.

Jennifer Ngoc Nguyen

Medicinal Chemistry

nguyenjn@umich.edu

Jennifer Ngoc Nguyen is a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Michigan, where her research explores the role and therapeutic potential of the human gut microbiota in colorectal cancer. Her dedication to teaching was recognized with the department's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2024. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology from Ferris State University, where she served as the president of the International Student Organization for two years and was a recipient of the Founder's Scholarship. Jennifer has published 4 papers from her undergraduate work focusing on natural product engineering, 1 paper from her early graduate career and multiple manuscripts in preparation. As an international student herself, Jennifer is committed to creating equal educational opportunities for others. She founded an extracurricular educational institution in Vietnam that focuses on teaching English as a second language to K-12 students. Additionally, she established an endowment scholarship at her high school that is designated to for Vietnamese international students. Jennifer's research interests align with recent advancements in understanding the gut microbiome's role in colorectal cancer progression and treatment. Ultimately, Jennifer aspires to work at the intersection of science and business, leveraging her expertise to translate scientific discoveries and new technologies into practical applications that improve human health.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2025

Analidis Ochoa

Joint Program in Social Work and Sociology
aoch@umich.edu

Analidis Ochoa is a PhD Candidate in the joint program in Social Work and Sociology at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the extent to which engaging in the for-profit market for human blood plasma is linked to social and economic inequality. Analidis has earned over two dozen departmental, institutional, and external awards, ranging from year-long fellowships to research grants, and competitive travel grants to present at conferences. Recently, she was selected as a Visiting Fellow through the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Regional & Community Outreach department for 2025. As a part of this competitive fellowship, she will share her research with an interdisciplinary policy audience committed to advancing economic equity. Her work on the U.S. market for human blood plasma has been quoted by journalists at The New York Times and Washington Post, among other international news outlets. Analidis holds a Master of Public Policy and Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northwestern University. Prior to graduate school, she was a middle school teacher in Miami, FL. In the years to come, Analidis plans to pursue a tenure-track professor position, write a book on her dissertation findings, and to leverage her expertise as an interdisciplinary poverty and inequality scholar to improve the lives of disadvantaged populations.

Nolgie Oquendo-Colón

Engineering Education Research
noquendo@umich.edu

Nolgie Oquendo-Colón is a Ph.D. candidate in the Engineering Education Research (EER) program at the University of Michigan. He completed both a B.S. and an M.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. His research focuses on the academic success of neurodivergent engineering college students, particularly those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), by examining their college experiences and the role of classroom instructional practices. Nolgie aims to develop inclusive strategies that support neurodiverse learners through an interdisciplinary approach that integrates teaching and learning methodologies and cognitive science. Through research, service, and advocacy, Nolgie is dedicated to fostering equitable and supportive learning environments in engineering education by serving as the Vice-President of the University of Michigan's ASEE student chapter, on the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, on the Graduate Students Advisory Council and on the Rackham Graduate School's Integrity Board. Committed to increasing accessibility in K-12 education, he has volunteered with ABRE Puerto Rico as a data analyst for education policy initiatives. Additionally, Nolgie works as a graduate facilitator at the Center for Socially Engaged Design (C-SED), where he supports students in integrating human-centered approaches into engineering problem-solving. Nolgie has received the PACE and the Rackham Merit Fellowship, is a GEM Fellow, and has been awarded the Richard F. and Eleanor A. Towner Prize for Distinguished Academic Achievement.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2025

De'Jana T. Parker

Integrated Biosciences

Dr. De'Jana Parker completed her B.A. and M.S. degrees in Biology at Wake Forest University. At Wake Forest, she studied the fungal mycobiome of magnolia plants. In July 2023, Dr. Parker was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Biosciences degree from North Carolina Central University. There, she studied the role of alcohol and vaping in the development of pulmonary inflammation. Dr. Parker was tremendously productive during her graduate education, co-authoring four articles, including a first-author paper in *Toxicology Letters*. In this paper, she developed a mouse model of adolescent binge drinking and showed that alcohol combined with infection with *Klebsiella pneumoniae* causes pulmonary inflammation, which is in part due to the activation of cannabinoid receptors 1 and 2. Dr. Parker's other papers concerned vaping-induced lung disease, an increasing problem in adolescents and young adults. In Fall 2024, Dr. Parker received the University of Michigan Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) postdoctoral fellowship. She currently studies the microbiology of different *Rothia* bacterial species and the interaction of *Rothia* with immune cells. Dr. Parker is very passionate about science communication, outreach, and teaching microbiology. She has taught as a graduate student instructor, supplemental instruction tutor, guest lecturer, teaching assistant, and as Instructor of Record. Ultimately, Dr. Parker aspires to become an assistant professor at a Historically Black College/University (HBCU). She envisions herself teaching undergraduate biology courses and running a microbiology lab that will excite students to consider careers in science.

Sarah N. Steiner

Cell and Developmental Biology

sarahnst@umich.edu

Sarah N. Steiner is a Ph.D. candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology at University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. She earned her Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Cornell University. Her dissertation research focuses on mechanical forces in the development, specialization, and homeostasis of the palmoplantar epidermis (the skin on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet). Her research is supported by an NIH F31 Kirschstein Predoctoral NRSA Fellowship. As a direct product of scientific outreach programs, Sarah believes in sharing her love and enthusiasm for biology through outreach and mentorship. She is the Co-Director of BioMed Focus, a paid summer research internship program for high school students in Southeast Michigan. Sarah also served as an Instructor for Developing Future Biologists, an immersive one-week program providing hands-on research experience and coursework in developmental biology for undergraduates. Sarah's long-term career goal is to become a Principal Investigator at the intersection of engineering and biology, generating insight into development and disease while continuing to lead programs increasing access and success in the biomedical sciences.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Michigan 2025

Andrea N. Valenzuela

Chemical Biology

Andrea N. Valenzuela is a 5th year PhD candidate in Chemical Biology at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the biomedical applications of artificial intelligence for personalized medicine, specifically optimizing tuberculosis drug combinations using machine learning and genome-scale metabolic modeling. Andrea's commitment to scholarship is reflected in her numerous accolades. As an undergraduate at Northeastern Illinois University, she was recognized as a MIT ACCESS Scholar, Princeton MOLBIO Scholar, and Harvard SHURP Scholar. At U-M, she has earned prestigious fellowships, including the Cellular Biotechnology Training Program Fellowship, a National Science Foundation Honorable Mention, the Rackham Merit Fellowship, and the 2024 CEW+ Irma Wyman Scholarship. She has also completed high-impact global internships at Pfizer and GSK. Demonstrating leadership and service, Andrea has served as Resident Director of Henderson House (HH) for the past 4 years. Henderson House is the only cooperative living environment for women students owned by U of M Housing and offers the most affordable on-campus living option. She has played a key role in maintaining community support, house operations, and navigating COVID-19 challenges, earning recognition from the HH Board of Governors. As a dedicated advocate for diversity in STEM, Andrea has been actively involved in student organizations like SACNAS and SCOR, working to mentor, recruit, and build communities for underrepresented students. With a strong character rooted in innovation and impact, Andrea envisions leveraging her expertise in chemical biology and artificial intelligence to drive advancements in health and wellness, ensuring equitable access to transformative scientific breakthroughs.

Victoria Vezaldenos

Education & Psychology

toriavez@umich.edu; <https://www.cmeriproject.com>; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/victoria-vezaldenos-4a4a57149/>

Victoria is a PhD candidate in the Combined Program in Education and Psychology at the University of Michigan (UM). Her research agenda explores ethnic-racial identity development processes for Multiracial adolescents and young adults. Additionally, she has contributed to scholarly projects exploring critical consciousness development in youth activists, scaffolding anti-racist learning, and work developing psychometric measures. These experiences coalesce to inform her dissertation interests which are supported by the Ford Predoctoral Fellowship. For her dissertation, she aims to develop a reliable measure of critical Multiracial ethnic-racial identity to allow for wider-spread use of quantitative methods in the field of Multiracial identity development. While engaging in these research endeavors, Victoria has also dedicated much of her time to creating spaces for marginalized students on campus. She co-founded and continues to serve as President of Puentes, the University of Michigan's first and only interdisciplinary coalition of Latine graduate students and allies. She also is Co-Chair of UMs Latinx Student Psychological Association and works as a Program Assistant in the Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, and Equity Office in the Marsal School of Education. Victoria hopes to leverage these experiences in a future career in academia where she can further solidify her program of research while also serving underrepresented, first-gen students like herself navigating higher education.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2025

Virginia Downing

Educational Policy Studies

Virginia Downing is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Educational Policy Studies with a doctoral minor in Qualitative Research Methodology in Education at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Downing currently is a Morgridge Center for Public Service Community-Engaged Scholarship Fellow. Downing’s research, teaching, and service are motivated to address: How do people, spaces, and policies lead to affirming and equitable schooling experiences for Black youth? Downing utilizes qualitative methodologies and critical theory to explore Black community engagement, community-school relationships, and the role of community-based spaces in education. Recent publications include *Resisting racialized organizational practices: A case study of Black community-centered engagement* published in *Equity & Excellence in Education* (2024), which utilized meeting ethnography to illuminate how Black community members engage within school board meetings. Additionally, Downing and two colleagues published a chapter titled *Community-Based Education* (2024) that argued for the importance of relationship building to sustain community power through the context of a youth-led activism organization. Through a year-long critical qualitative study that draws on ethnographic methods, her dissertation offers insights into Black community-school district relationships by exploring Black community member engagement. Her work expands ideas on the role of community stakeholders in education policy. Downing’s current research has been recognized by the National Academy of Education NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (2024 Finalist and Alternate) and received funding through the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education Policy Engagement Grant.

Tracy C. Guan

Counseling Psychology

Tracy C. Guan (she/her/hers) is a Hoipen Chinese American Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From San Francisco, she earned her BA in Psychology and Social Behavior and Education Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, and her MS in Counseling at UW-Madison. Her scholarship advocates for the wellness of pan and ethnic-specific Asian American college students. Her dissertation focuses on critical incidents and gendered racism for East Asian American doctoral women in health psychology training programs. She is deeply committed to disrupting white supremacy pedagogy across multiple contexts of training (e.g., teaching, advising, supervision) and creating liberatory training environments. She has worked diligently to add to the dearth of literature on Asian Americans in higher education focusing on Asian American ethnic subgroups publishing in the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education* and *Asian American Journal of Psychology*. She published one of the first quantitative studies for Chinese American undergraduate women who are the first generation born in the U.S. To recognize her study’s advancement to the field’s knowledge of people of color, race, ethnicity, and racism, Tracy was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship on Race and Ethnicity Award Counseling Psychology Division 17: Section of Racial Ethnic Diversity from the American Psychological Association (APA). Most recently, Tracy was awarded the 2024 Student Pioneer Award from the APA’s Division 35 Section 5 (Asian Pacific American Women) to recognize her contributions and service to support the mission and growth of AAPI Feminists.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2025

Lisa Je

Chemical & Biological Engineering

lje@wisc.edu, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisaje/>

Lisa (they/she) is the proud daughter of two immigrants living their American dream through Lisa's education. As Lisa enters their final year in the Chemical & Biological Engineering Department at UW-Madison, they reflect on overcoming their previous obstacles. Despite lacking computational experience, they first joined Prof. Manos Mavrikakis's group to study catalysis using computational calculations. However, it was only after they completed a master's degree and left graduate school that they truly realized their passion for research. This drove them to co-author a Science [paper](#) (Science, 380, 70-76, 2023) based on their master's work. With renewed determination, they successfully reapplied to the PhD program, was awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, and now work with Prof. Reid Van Lehn and Prof. Victor Zavala. Their resilience in their PhD on computational materials has resulted in another [publication](#) (Current Opinion in Chemical Engineering, 36, 100796, 2022). Empowered by their unique PhD experience, they now strive to cultivate a research environment inclusive and welcoming for students of all identities. They do this by serving on the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association (ChEGS) and Graduate Engineering Research Scholars (GERS) in several roles over the past few years for outreach, mental health education, and recruiting to bring underrepresented undergraduate scholars across the nation to visit UW-Madison's college of engineering.

Dorothy Lsoto

Environment and Resources

dloto@wisc.edu, www.linkedin.com/in/dorothy-lsoto-443a6088

Dorothy Lsoto is a PhD candidate in Environment and Resources at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, where she earned her MSc. Originally from Uganda, she holds a BA in Environmental Management from Makerere University, Kampala. Her research interests span air quality, health, equity, and renewable energy. Her dissertation supervised by Dr. Jonathan Patz examines air quality disparities resulting from persistent colonial-era racist city designs in Africa with a case study of Kampala. This work has led to a publication currently under review and has been featured in Ugandan media. Lsoto designed and teaches a senior capstone course titled "Air Quality and Equity in an African City" at the Nelson Institute under the supervision of Dr. Aleia McCord. She also contributed to Uganda's first National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations (2024) and the Kampala Clean Air Action Plan (2022). Committed to increasing diversity in higher education, Lsoto supervised by Dr. Erika Marín-Spiotta through the Mellon HEAL STEMM Working Group, has contributed to a chapter titled Interrogating the Academy: Critical Approaches to Engaged Pedagogy, Advising, and Mentorship and the ADVANCEGeo Partnership website, Empowering (geo)scientists to transform workplace climate, microaggressions. Lsoto volunteers with Geneva Campus Church at West High School in Madison, helping minority and low-income students with college applications, and mentors underrepresented high school students interested in STEMM. With a 5% acceptance rate, Ms. Lsoto is a 2024 UCAR Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Next Generation Fellow. She also received the 2024 Charlotte Zieve Scholarship at the Nelson Institute.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

University of Wisconsin-Madison 2025

Orion Risk

Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies

orisk@wisc.edu, orionleerisk.com, [linkedin.com/in/orionrisk](https://www.linkedin.com/in/orionrisk)

Orion Risk is a PhD candidate in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a doctoral minor in Journalism and Mass Communication. His research, utilizing artistic and humanistic methods, delves into three key areas: (1) the connection between care and performance, (2) transgender theatre and performance, and (3) how media narrates creative protest. Their interdisciplinary dissertation transforms the concept of care from abstract to embodied action intertwined with neglect, aiming to influence performance practice, political thinking, and public action. Orion’s practice-based scholarship through the UW Center for the Humanities investigated virtual theatre and care among transgender people during the COVID-19 pandemic. An article for *Performance Research* investigates this research to uncover insights into care, vulnerability, and performance. A recent publication in *Latin American Theatre Review* showcases trans time in the Mexican political cabaret performance “La Prietty Guoman.” Orion’s advocacy for trans communities has been honored by the Pfund Foundation, UW’s GLBT Alumni Council, and the Center for Research on Center and Women. With over a decade of experience as an artist and arts administrator, Orion’s creative trajectory has been honored with the Lyman S.V. Judson and Ellen Mackechnie Judson Graduate Student Award in the Creative Arts. They hold dual MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies; Gender and Women’s Studies) and a BA in culture and performance from the University of Northern Iowa. Orion is a member of the UW Ethics of Care Initiative.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2025

Inga Haugen

Agricultural Leadership and Community Education

ihaugen@vt.edu

Inga Haugen is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Agricultural Leadership and Community Education at Virginia Tech. Their doctoral research is investigating materiality within bureaucratic information systems, particularly at the federal governmental level using the lens of leadership-as-practice to do so. At the heart of their work is the desire for a world where no one goes hungry and the eradication of marginalization. Their work on the Breadfruit Project, outlined in the article Addressing malnutrition and food insecurity with breadfruit in a rural, developing country: a case study and lessons learned in Thomassique, Haiti showcases the real-world application of their outreach efforts. Haugen is passionate about the dissemination of information that prioritizes the needs of communities, including establishing trust and confidence in the information itself, which connects to their work in and with libraries. Haugen's research also focuses on building equitable and inclusive communities where everyone has a sense of place and belonging.

Oziomachukwu Chinaka

Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health

ochinaka@vt.edu

Oziomachukwu Chinaka is a Ph.D. candidate in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Program at Virginia Tech. She holds her B.S. in Human Development and a Master's in Public Health from Virginia Tech. She works in Dr. Brittany Howell's lab, where her research investigates factors influencing pregnant individuals' participation in the Healthy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study. Oziomachukwu has three co-author publications. As a Diversity Scholar, Oziomachukwu created and executed the first-ever Black Women in Research Showcase at Virginia Tech, a project to increase visibility and representation for Black women in graduate school. She values service and mentorship, continuously giving back to her community by volunteering in her local community or mentoring high schoolers, undergraduates, and graduate students. Her experiences drive her advocacy efforts. Currently, Oziomachukwu serves as an ambassador and former mentor for the Our Future of Science program. The program bridges the gap between science and social justice by encouraging students to view science as a tool for positive change. Last year, she served as a Graduate and Professional Student Senate Senator, helping develop and pass resolutions addressing graduate student issues. Oziomachukwu has also been selected as a 2025 Commonwealth of Virginia Engineering and Science (COVES) Policy Fellow, where she will work at the intersection of science and policy. Oziomachukwu looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the legacy of Dr. Edward Alexander Bouchet and the mission of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2025

Pratyoosh Kashyap

Food Systems

pratyoosh@vt.edu, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pratyoosh-kashyap-891873175/>

Pratyoosh Kashyap is a postdoctoral associate at the Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation, within the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education at Virginia Tech. His research employs a mixed methods approach to assess the distinct technical assistance needs of Black, Hispanic, and Tribal agricultural producers for accessing wholesale markets, focusing in the Southern and South-Eastern states of the United States. In his doctoral scholarship, Pratyoosh studied the relationships between the policy environment, community resources, and the adoption of universal free school meal programs and the Farm to School program in the U.S. Further, he conducted countrywide consumer survey to examine the welfare implications for the pork market resulting from an African Swine Fever outbreak in the U.S. His work is published in peer-reviewed journals like Food Policy and Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy. Prior to beginning his PhD, he worked in India with several public and international institutions where his research focused on agricultural and livestock value chains analysis for resource-poor women farmers. Ultimately, he aims to assist policymakers and community leaders in responding to changes in their food environment in a sustainable manner by leading research that allows for more nuanced, culturally sensitive policy design and programming.

Ramón Benítez

Engineering Education

bramon1@vt.edu | LinkedIn: benitezramon

Benítez holds a Ph.D. in Engineering Education from Virginia Tech (VT), where his research explored *cariño* (authentic care, respect) as a central factor in engineering-based learning at an all-girls STEAM academy, and examined how authentic care fosters STEM engagement, strengthens professional learning communities, and supports underrepresented students in engineering fields. Benítez, a licensed teacher, taught middle school mathematics at Gadsden ISD in Chaparral, NM, fostering STEM engagement at a Title I, 98% Hispanic/Latino school during the pandemic. He continues mentoring, applying insights from his research on Communities of Practice (CoP) and mentorship. As a discussant at the AERA annual conference, he shared expertise on mentorship, professional training, and CoP, which he now applies to developing early-career professionals and mentoring efforts. With an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from VT and a B.S. in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, Benítez integrates technical knowledge, policy analysis, and public education to support municipalities achieve safe drinking water and Lead and Copper Rule compliance. Benítez specializes in corrosion, regulatory compliance, public health, and community engagement in water infrastructure. At Ardurra, Benítez conducts corrosion control studies, lead service line inventories, and public participation initiatives, helping communities engage in drinking water decisions. His work focuses on corrosion risk, lead mitigation, and stakeholder education. He develops public health-focused solutions that support sustainability and equitable access to clean water. Benítez has authored reports on corrosion control, predictive modeling, and small system compliance and is pursuing P.E. licensure to further his impact.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2025

Sarah E. Plummer

Social and Cultural Thought

Sarah E. Plummer holds a Ph.D. in social and cultural thought from Virginia Tech and is a Mellon Postdoctoral Associate with Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia (MAAV), a project housed at Virginia Tech. As a member of the MAAV leadership team, Sarah has created an inventory of more than 3,500 monuments in Appalachian Virginia, has analyzed this data, and is creating a public-facing report critical to understanding how and why certain stories are highlighted, funded, and remembered. Her personal research focuses on the performativity of objects through the intersections of Puppetry, Cultural History, the Arts, and Social Theory, and her most recent publication, “Good and Radical Bread: Bread and Puppet Theater’s Sourdough Traditions,” was featured in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* in December 2024. Sarah is an award-winning teacher inducted into the Virginia Tech Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence and has taught courses in Appalachian Studies, History, English, Humanities and Sociology. As a 2024 Appalachian Collegiate Research Initiative Teaching Fellow, Sarah’s students partnered with the Franklin County, Virginia, NAACP to assist community research efforts to learn about 70 United States Colored Troops before, during, and after the Civil War. Her students’ work supports the creation of a monument honoring these undercelebrated soldiers born in Franklin County.

Sonal Sathe

Accessibility and Usability of Health Information

Sonal Sathe is a candidate for the PhD at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on accessibility and usability of health information in disabled technology users. She holds a bachelor’s degree in microbiology and cell science from the University of Florida, a Master of Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health-San Antonio Regional Campus, and a Master of Health Science from the University of Florida. She has been recognized as a member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health and has completed the Preparing the Future Professoriate certificate as well. Ultimately, Sonal aspires to work at the intersection of technology and healthcare with the goal of eliminating health disparities.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2025

Vanessa Ruccolo

Higher Education

vruccolo@vt.edu <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vanessa-l-ruccolo-720254103>

Vanessa L. Ruccolo is a Senior Instructor in the English Department at Virginia Tech, located in Blacksburg, Virginia. She teaches in the first-year writing and technical writing programs. A first-generation college student and a lifelong Hokie, Vanessa holds a B.A. in Communication and English as well as a Master's in English from Virginia Tech. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Virginia Tech Higher Education Administration Ph.D. program. Her research focuses on best practices for teaching English writing to nonnative English speakers (NNES), specifically international Chinese students at higher education institutions across the U.S. Vanessa seeks to understand how instructors have adapted their classes to be more equitable for and accessible to Chinese international students, and how to continue this work with NNES students through a shifting academic landscape.

Whitley M. Johnson

Higher Education

whitley09@vt.edu, www.linkedin.com/in/whitleymjohnson

Whitley M. Johnson is a candidate for the Ph.D. in higher education at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on Black undergraduate women and their lived and self-defined experiences of student success from an anti-deficit lens. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and a Master of Arts Education in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs from Virginia Tech, where she was also a Diversity Scholar. Support and persistence of underrepresented students has been a central tenet of her work and is her passion, which shows inside and outside the classroom. Whitley's research, presentations and service have included presenting to and about: Women of Color; First-Generation students and Black women's persistence in higher education. These presentations have been delivered to campus and local communities and in nationwide venues. Beyond the classroom, Whitley is the May Week Chair of the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. In her position, she leads the committee in recognizing high school scholarship recipients, community trailblazers, and high school students who demonstrate outstanding leadership achievement and outstanding community service. She served as a scholarship reviewer for the Dr. Benjamin and K. Stallings Endowed Scholarship Committee and the 2022 Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO) Liaison to the Black Caucus and to the Black Alumni Society voicing potential collaborative efforts and providing insights on Black graduate student needs. Ultimately, Whitley aspires to work in education policy, influencing and impacting how students are educated and the laws and regulations that govern educational systems.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2025

Yugasha Bakshi

Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning (UEPP)

yugashabakshi@vt.edu, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yugasha-bakshi-44bb1365/>

Yugasha Bakshi is a Ph.D. candidate in the Planning, Governance and Globalization program in the UEPP track at Virginia Tech. Her research explores how trust and risk perception influence a household's water use decisions and consumption pattern, and how these constructs can shape collaborative and cooperative behavior in the context of Delhi, India. As a Ridenour Fellow at Virginia Tech, Yugasha has worked to advance climate action and sustainability efforts within institutional governance structures. She holds a master's in urban management and a bachelor's in architecture. With over five years of professional experience, her work is dedicated to mobilizing the voices of vulnerable groups in the urban governance space and advocating for safe and inclusive infrastructure. Her career trajectory has been deeply rooted in the intersection of implementing water and sanitation programs, responsive urban governance, and addressing the challenges cities face in providing basic services to their residents. She has highlighted issues of water governance on international platforms such as the UN Water Conference, UN SDG Summit, and the Water and Development Congress. Passionate about ensuring water and sanitation for all, Yugasha aspires to contribute meaningfully to bridging research and policy to create inclusive and equitable urban environments.

Sandeep S. Sangha

Industrial and Systems Engineering

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/sandeep-singh-sangha

Sandeep S. Sangha is a candidate for the Ph.D. in industrial and systems engineering with a concentration in operations research (OR) at Virginia Tech. Sandeep's research focuses on building algorithms and large-scale optimization models for logistics, scheduling, and manufacturing problems. Sandeep is honored as a Rehmert-Nachlas Ph.D. Fellow for his scholarly contributions to OR. His work, spanning optimization, machine learning, mathematical modeling, and digital accessibility, is published or under review in esteemed journals, including the JOGO and IJPR. He has also presented at conferences, including CSUN Digital Accessibility and Assistive Technology. At Virginia Tech, Sandeep assists data analytics and assessment, evidence synthesis services, and open education and scholarly communication teams at library and supports graduate school's Sloan Center for Systemic Change grant by collaborating with colleges of science and engineering, leveraging his expertise in data science to identify, investigate, and address systemic barriers to the success of underrepresented students in graduate programs. Sandeep holds two master's degrees in industrial and systems engineering—one from Virginia Tech and another from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD), where he was a recipient of Graduate Research Fellowship from the Government of India. Sandeep earned his bachelor's in production engineering from PEC University of Technology. A passionate educator, Sandeep has served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for thirteen courses and as an instructor for two undergraduate courses at Virginia Tech. Ultimately, his goal is to bridge business and engineering to create innovative, inclusive solutions.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2025

Maegan Ruiz Arney

Education

maegan.arney@wustl.edu

Maegan Arney is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Psychology at WashU using mixed methods approaches to support the emotional well-being and belonging-in-context of educational communities. Her research is deeply informed by her experiences as a teacher and school in St. Louis city schools, and by her coursework in her three previous master's degrees in Teaching, Psychology, and Education. She studies how belonging plays a role in students' choices and motivation, and tests novel interventions to reduce inequality and promote belonging for students whose belonging is most in doubt in schools. She has presented her research at numerous conferences and previously received the Olin-Chancellor's Fellowship for her Ph.D. studies. During her Ph.D., Maegan has been an active member of the graduate student community — she has served as the Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate, an interdisciplinary mentor through the Office of Graduate Studies, and the President of Kappa Delta Pi. She is also active in professional organizations, such as the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and Society for Personality and Social Psychology, where she has served as a mentor, peer advisor, campus ambassador, and committee chair. Maegan has also mentored numerous undergraduate students through Dr. Chris Rozek's Student Emotions & Belonging Lab, and looks forward to continuing to make a positive impact on the academic community as a member of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.

Ashlynn Berry

Chemistry

a.e.berry@wustl.edu

Ashlynn Berry is a Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry at WashU. Her research focuses on nanoconfinement and transition metal catalysis for water oxidation and clean hydrogen production. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2020. Ashlynn was the recipient of the Office of Science Graduate Student Research award in 2023 where she had the opportunity to work at Sandia National Laboratories, expanding her work in nanoconfinement to hydrogen storage. She is active in her community in varying capacities including serving as president of WashU's Black Graduate Student Association for the 2022-23 academic year and mentoring high school students in the St. Louis area. She is currently serving as the treasurer/secretary of the WashU Chemistry Department's Peer Safety Committee which won the Outstanding ACS Student Community Award for the 2023-24 academic year. Ashlynn hopes to continue to promote environmentally friendly energy production in the future.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2025

Tiana Johnson

Mathematics

[Google Sites](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Tiana Johnson is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Mathematics at WashU. Her research focuses on analyzing neural networks and implementing defensive mechanisms against adversarial examples with applications in tsunami prediction. Tiana received her M.A. in mathematics from WashU in 2023, and M.S. in applied mathematics from North Carolina A&T State University in 2021. She received her B.S. in mathematics from Saint Xavier University in 2015, where she was a Schmitt Scholar. As a first-generation student, Tiana served as a mentor to other first-gen students in the Trio Student Success Program during undergrad. She was a mentor to high school students during her time working at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) and is currently serving as a graduate mentor for North Carolina A&T State University Grad Mentor Collective. Tiana is passionate about building the confidence of the next generation of mathematicians. She puts her passion into action by volunteering with the WashU Math Circle to help expand the math interests of students ranging from elementary to high school students. Tiana currently serves as the president of the Black Graduate Student Association at WashU and uses her role to create and strengthen the community of Black graduate students on campus.

Jaisal T. Merchant

Clinical Psychology

jaisalmerchant@wustl.edu

Jaisal Merchant is a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. candidate and Olin Fellow at WashU. She received her bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Tufts University. Her current research, supported by an NIH F31 grant she was awarded, examines how social factors may enhance motivated behavior deficits in individuals with schizophrenia-spectrum disorders. She hopes this research will improve understanding of these motivational deficits in schizophrenia (for which there are currently no treatments) and inform the development of accessible, community-centered interventions. Jaisal has published several papers on her research, been invited to give talks at national and international conferences, and received awards including the Elise Herzog Mental Health Research Fund, Smadar Levin Travel Award, and Association of Women Faculty Student Award. Jaisal also engages in clinical therapy and assessment and has prioritized providing care to traditionally underserved individuals. Her commitment to mental health equity extends to her leadership and advocacy efforts. Jaisal is a co-founder and co-leader of Dismantling Systemic Shortcomings in Education and Clinical Training (DiSSECT), a national organization dedicated to improving antiracism in mental health training programs. She has presented on DiSSECT's work in several settings including co-chairing a symposium on DiSSECT at the American Psychological Association national conference and giving a talk at the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science's Summit on the future of Clinical Science training. Long-term, she hopes to continue integrating her research, clinical work, and advocacy to support the development and implementation of accessible interventions for individuals with serious mental illness.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2025

Sierra A. Wallace

Molecular Genetics and Genomics

s.a.wallace@wustl.edu

Sierra A. Wallace is a Ph.D. candidate in the Molecular Genetics and Genomics (MGG) program within the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences at WashU. Her thesis project focuses on determining replication stress signatures in BRCA1 mutant ovarian cancers in the lab of Dr. Alessandro Vindigni. Sierra is a member of Phi Beta Kappa as well as other academic societies and she was awarded a fellowship through the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program in 2021. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences and minor in Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). While at UMBC, she was a Meyerhoff Scholar, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Scholar, and Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement Scholar. At the end of her first year at WashU, Sierra joined the Vindigni lab to conduct her thesis work. As a member of the lab, Sierra has mentored trainees and made significant contributions to the published literature entitled "A RAD18-UBC13-PALB2-RNF168 axis mediates replication fork recovery in BRCA1-deficient cancer cells." Outside of lab, she serves as a student representative for the MGG program and editor-in-training in the science communication group called InPrint. Additionally, Sierra is the treasurer of the student organization, Association of Black Biomedical Graduate Students; an organization with the goal of fostering community amongst black graduate students at WashU and with the St. Louis community.

Fithi Andom

Social Work

fithie@wustl.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Fithi Andom is a postdoctoral research fellow at WashU, funded by the National Institute on Minority health (T37MD014218). She earned a Ph.D. in Social Work from the Brown School at WashU. Her research focuses on developing community-engaged mental health interventions to improve the behavioral, health and educational outcomes of children exposed to adverse environments. She is committed to advancing research that prioritizes the voices, experiences and strengths of marginalized communities. Fithi holds an MSW from Ohio University, where she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Research Award and inducted into the Phi Alpha National Honor Society for Social Work. She is also a recipient of multiple awards for innovative research ideas, recognizing her contributions to addressing global health challenges and public health issues. An avid advocate for underserved communities, Fithi volunteers with grassroots Eritrean refugee organizations in the US and Israel to promote maternal and child health. As well, most recently at the Brown School, she has served as the project co-coordinator for a pre-doctoral summer institute (LEAD: Leadership, Equity, And Diversity in Higher Education) for underrepresented child welfare professionals interested in pursuing a postgraduate degree. In this role, she actively supported the recruitment of diverse child welfare researchers across the fields of public health, social work, and policy.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2025

Maria Felicita Gonzalez

Biology

m.gonzalez@wustl.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Maria Felicita Gonzalez is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Biology at WashU in Dr. Erik Herzog's lab. Originally from Puerto Rico, Maria received a B.S. in Natural Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey, then pursued a Postbaccalaureate Research Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and recently earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from WashU. Maria's research focuses on understanding the interplay between circadian biology, neuroscience, and brain cancer biology. She discovered that glioblastoma, the most aggressive brain tumor in adults, integrates into the brain's circadian system and uses daily signals like glucocorticoids to grow. Her groundbreaking work has yielded various first-author publications, one recently featured in the cover of *Cancer Cell*, further emphasizing the potential of circadian-based interventions for improved cancer treatment. Beyond the lab, Maria is dedicated to teaching, mentoring, and advocacy. She has assisted in teaching courses like Human Biology, Biological Clocks, and Research Explorations in Genomics, and has mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Her commitment to serving the community is exemplified by her work on the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) Project and co-development of a partnership with Girls Incorporated of St. Louis, providing underserved students with enriching educational and scientific experiences. Maria's commitment to academic excellence, leadership, service, and advocacy extends through every aspect of her life. By promoting diverse and safe spaces, and mentoring the next generation of scholars, she aims to create lasting positive change in academia and beyond.

Keri-Lyn Kozul

Biomedical Sciences

kozul@wustl.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Keri-Lyn Kozul earned a Bachelor of Science (Class 1A Hons.) and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Queensland, in Brisbane, Australia. Her work was the first to identify the biochemical mechanisms of a lethal form of mitochondrial disease, uncovering dysfunctional mitochondrial quality control mechanisms as a key driver. During this time, Keri-Lyn led two publications, contributed to three others, and was awarded a Ph.D. Top-Up Scholarship from the Mito Foundation and Dean's Commendations for academic excellence. She also served as the president of two committees representing student perspectives to her department and wider faculty. She then moved to Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM) in St. Louis, where she currently works as a postdoctoral fellow. Keri-Lyn continues to explore the intricacies of mitochondrial disease, characterizing a novel disease-causing genetic mutation. She has been recognized as a W.M. Keck Postdoctoral Fellow in Biomedical Research, awarded to early-career postdoctoral researchers with potential to become leading experts in biomedical research. Keri-Lyn is also actively involved in various committees including the departmental Women's Group and the Student/Postdoc Liaison Committee. She has completed training in mentorship, leadership, and management as awarded by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at WUSM. Ultimately, Keri-Lyn is passionate about using her practical research skills to find answers that point towards cures for rare diseases. She is also dedicated to serving her community through her career in medical research and advocating for overlooked voices in science.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Washington University in Saint Louis 2025

Richa Mishra

Internal Medicine – Oncology

mricha@wustl.edu | [LinkedIn](#) | [Lab Profile](#)

Richa Mishra earned a Ph.D. in Immunology and Infectious Diseases and is currently pursuing Postdoctoral Research in Oncology Division, Department of Internal Medicine at WashU. Her primary research involves developing therapeutic solutions for breast cancer and myeloma patient care. Dr. Mishra embraces leadership roles to foster collaboration and amplify diverse voices. As Vice President of WiSTEM, she organized workshops, science fests, and mentorship initiatives to empower women in STEM. At the AWIS (Association of Women in Science) Saint Louis chapter, she promoted education outreach and advocated for bridging gaps in academic policies. She has been recognized by the best storytelling award in science communication for making scientific research accessible to multiple audiences. Her advocacy extends to grassroots efforts like fundraising for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, supporting community engagement events, and promoting diversity in academia, including mentoring students in research programs like DICER at WashU. Beyond academia, she is involved in initiatives for young students and Girl Scouts through hands-on experimental skills in STEM education. She volunteers in non-profit services at Balsa as a consultant, supporting local entrepreneurship in St. Louis, and collaborates with them to help shape their ideas into business models. Her work on non-coding RNAs led to multiple publications and grant applications. Dr. Mishra's journey as a researcher, leader, mentor, and advocate reflects a commitment to excellence, equity, and societal well-being that aligns with her long-term goal of fostering collaborative research, advocacy, and mentorship in cancer research for transformative therapies in healthcare.

Ray M. Yang

Chemistry

ray.yang@wustl.edu | [LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

Ray M. Yang is a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Chemistry at WashU. He earned his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Study at Massey University, where his doctoral thesis was recognized on the Dean's List of Exceptional Theses for its significance and excellence. His interdisciplinary research focuses on developing stochastic methods for computationally studying complex physical and chemical systems, from ultracold atoms near absolute zero to metal surfaces heated to thousands of degrees. At WashU, Ray pioneered the surface nested sampling algorithm, a significant advancement in accurately predicting the surface structures of heterogeneous catalysts for sustainable energy processes. He also holds a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honors, double majoring in chemistry and mathematics with a minor in physics, from the University of Otago. As an undergraduate researcher, he received three summer research scholarships, leading to three peer-reviewed articles in top journals, including the Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS). Beyond research, Ray is committed to knowledge dissemination and public science outreach. He is a certified instructor with Software Carpentry, teaching free programming lessons to researchers. Through the Letter to a Pre-Scientist program, he exchanges letters with students in low-income schools to showcase STEM careers and inspire participation in science. He also serves as Vice President of the WashU Postdoc Society, advocating for and supporting the postdoctoral community. He is always available to help, support, serve, and truly care for those around him.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2025

Jhah N. Cook

Neuroscience

Jhah N. Cook is a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience at Yale University, specializing in threat processing in psychiatric disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Her research investigates the dysregulation of corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) and norepinephrine (NE) in trauma-related disorders, utilizing advanced fiber photometry and behavioral paradigms to understand fear and stress responses. She has presented her research at prestigious institutions, including the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Molecular Psychiatry Association (MPA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A committed scholar, she is a SfN Neuroscience Scholars Program Fellow, a Gruber Fellow, and an NIH Outstanding Scholar in Neuroscience Awardee. She has also been recognized as a fellow of the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation. Jhah is deeply engaged in mentorship and service. She has worked with Yale's Student Accessibility Services for three years and serves as a research mentor for Lumiere Education, guiding both domestic and international high school students through neuroscience research. She was also a teaching assistant for Yale Pathways and has been a Graduate Teaching Fellow for multiple courses, including Foundations of Systems Neuroscience and Neuroimaging in Neuropsychiatry. Additionally, she volunteers with the Yale Prison Education Initiative, supporting educational access. Beyond academia, she is the Graduate Chair of Service for Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Through her leadership, research, and commitment to accessibility, she continues to advance neuroscience while fostering inclusivity and mentorship.

Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe is a PhD candidate in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program at the Yale School of Public Health. She also holds a Certificate from Yale's Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Marie-Fatima's research focuses on the impact that carceral systems have on public health. Her published work spans reproductive justice, the public health impact of policing, and public health work in Black queer and trans communities. She is also co-leading a participatory action research project with people engaged in the sex trades, and working on another project dedicated to understanding the potential health impact of racial reparations. Marie-Fatima enjoys teaching and mentoring, with experience teaching courses related to health advocacy, social justice, and reproductive justice. Prior to graduate school, Marie-Fatima worked in HIV advocacy and education, as well as immigrant rights. She was raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she still lives, and received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2025

Lilian Kabeche

Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry/Cancer Biology

Dr. Lilian Kabeche, Ph.D. joined the Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry (MB&B) Department and the Cancer Biology Institute at Yale University in 2019 with the goal of answering a fundamental question in genome stability: How does the DNA damage response (DDR) pathway promote faithful chromosome segregation? Leveraging expertise in cell biology, biochemistry, and biophysics, her lab has built a multidisciplinary research program that has already made significant contributions to this field. Dr. Kabeche and her team have uncovered novel functions of DDR kinases in ensuring faithful chromosome segregation throughout the cell cycle, independent of DNA damage (Trier et al., Cell Reports 2023; Joo et al., Molecular Cell 2023; Black et al., Nature Communications 2024). Beyond her research, Dr. Kabeche is deeply committed to fostering a diverse, global, and multidisciplinary scientific community. She prioritizes mentorship, creating an inclusive and supportive lab environment where researchers from varied backgrounds can thrive. Her lab engages in discussions on inclusion and belonging and collaboratively maintains a living document of expectations to ensure a positive working environment. Dr. Kabeche is also dedicated to inclusive teaching. She redesigned BIOL 101: Biochemistry and Biophysics, a foundational course for STEM majors, to highlight the contributions of women and underrepresented scientists. At the university level, she serves on Yale's Cancer Center DEI Committee, the advisory board for the Yale STARS Program, and organizes the MB&B Assistant Professors group, advocating for junior faculty success.

Sydney Green

History of Science and Medicine

Sydney Green is a candidate for the joint MD-PhD in History of Science and Medicine at Yale University. Her research focuses on the work of Black women writers and activists in the United States from 1970-1990 who sought to establish a specific politic of Black women's health in the context of the emerging discipline of African American women's studies. She was a Boston Medical Library Fellow in History of Medicine from 2019-2020. At Yale School of Medicine, she served on the Dean's Committee for Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice from 2017-2021 and led workshops exploring provider bias and patient stereotyping for the First-Year orientation program. She hopes to specialize in adolescent medicine.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2025

Shavanie Prashad

Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Shavanie Prashad is a Yale Ph.D. candidate who will receive her degree in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry in May 2025. Her research focuses on how neural circuits transition between behavioral states. Shavanie uncovered how a pair of exclusively peptidergic neurons mediates a positive feedback loop that promotes egg-laying muscle activity and behavior in *C. elegans*. Her findings suggest that this feedback loop, along with two others, enables the circuit to switch into its active state. Her work is currently under review for publication, with another first-author manuscript in preparation. Shavanie's scientific achievements have been recognized through prestigious fellowships, including the NIH Diversity Supplement Award and the F31 Predoctoral Fellowship. She has delivered talks at national and international conferences, some funded by Yale Conference Travel Awards, and has received best poster prizes. She earned her A.S. in Biology from LaGuardia Community College and her B.Sc. in Biochemistry from The City College of New York. Before enrolling in graduate school, she conducted neuroscience research as a Yale NIH Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) Scholar. As a PREP Coordinator in Yale's Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity (OGSDD), Shavanie worked alongside fellow coordinators to organize workshops and social events, fostering a supportive community for current PREP Scholars. She also collaborated with OGSDD Fellows to co-lead graduate school application workshops and participated in recruitment activities. Shavanie aspires to become an independent neuroscientist and principal investigator while developing initiatives to increase the representation and retention of students from underrepresented and first-generation backgrounds in STEM.

Jessica G. Santana

Biomedical Engineering

Jessica G. Santana is a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering at Yale University, specializing in the development of MR-based contrast agents for liver cancer imaging. Her work has contributed to advancing molecular imaging techniques to study immune responses in cancer treatment and has been recognized through high-impact publications and presentations at international conferences, reflecting her commitment to scientific innovation. Outside of research, Jessica is deeply committed to mentorship, leadership, and service. She is a fellow in Yale's Advanced Graduate Leadership Program, where she refines her expertise in scientific leadership and professional development. Additionally, she plays a key role as a scientific mentor in the Yale-Brazil Iniciativa Proxima Program, an initiative aimed at fostering international scientific exchange and supporting the next generation of biomedical researchers from Brazil. Through this program, Jessica provides aspiring young scientists with mentorship, research training, and professional development opportunities. Jessica also engages in editorial and advocacy work, serving as a trainee on the editorial board of Radiology Imaging Cancer Journal, where she contributed to the evaluation and promotion of impactful research. Through her scholarship, leadership, and commitment to service, Jessica is dedicated to bridging the gap between biomedical research and clinical application, ensuring that innovations in imaging science lead to meaningful advancements in cancer treatment.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2025

Farrah Shalima Mohammed

Biomedical Engineering

Farrah Shalima Mohammed is a PhD Candidate in the School of Engineering and Applied Science with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering. She is a graduate of Yale University's interdisciplinary Physics and Engineering Biology Certificate Program and is currently enhancing her pedagogical expertise by completing the College Teaching Certificate through Yale's Poorvu Center. A Fulbright Spain Scholar, Robert E. Apfel Fellow, NSF GRFP recipient, Ford Fellow, and NSF ARISE Sponsee, Farrah's academic and research accolades are extensive. Her cutting-edge research harnesses spatial and nanoparticle technology to elucidate the time-resolved evolution of traumatic brain injury (TBI) sequelae. Throughout her doctoral tenure, she has authored multiple research publications, including "Nanoparticle-Based Drug Delivery for the Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury" in Expert Opinion on Drug Delivery and "Brain-Targeting Antioxidant Polymeric Nanoparticles for Stroke Drug Delivery and Therapy," and two first-author reviews that spotlight the latest advancements in nanotechnology for stroke and TBI therapeutics. Beyond her research, Farrah is deeply committed to advocacy and leadership. Farrah founded the Public Health Global Brigades Chapter at her undergraduate institution and has led 5 projects in rural Panama and Nicaragua, empowering community development through building eco stoves and pilas. During her Fulbright tenure, she co-founded the Repsol Entrepreneurship Award winning company FUNGAL, working alongside Galician locals to create sustainable biomaterials. At Yale, Farrah is a three-time elected Graduate Assembly representative and a two-time elected senator for the Graduate and Professional Student Senate, where she championed initiatives addressing student welfare, from tackling food insecurity to expanding access to textured hair products. She has also served as a member of the Yale Fulbright Study/Research Grant Committee, President of the Yale Graduate Society of Women Engineers, contributed as a Science Coach for the BioQuest STEM Mentoring Program, and actively participated in Open Labs, where she has led hands-on demonstrations and mentorship programs for underrepresented middle and high school students.

Atsu Kludze

Chemical Engineering

Atsu Kludze is a Ph.D. candidate, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, and GEM Associate Fellow in Professor Shu Hu's Lab at the Yale Energy Sciences Institute. He earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University, where he conducted undergraduate research in Professor Lynden Archer's Lab, studying nanoscale processes in lithium metal batteries. His dissertation research focuses on photocatalytic chemical synthesis, utilizing light-absorbing semiconductors to convert organic feedstocks into valuable chemical products. Ultimately, his work aims to advance the development of rapid, agile, and on-demand chemical production. Beyond his research, Atsu is committed to mentorship, and has included high school and undergraduate students in his research projects. He is also engaged in outreach, representing Yale's Chemical Engineering department at the National Society of Black Engineers Convention, engaging with K-12 students, undergraduates, graduate students, post-baccalaureate students, and industry professionals interested in applying to Yale. In addition to research and outreach, Atsu has served as a Teaching Fellow for Chemical Engineering Laboratory and Design and Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics and Engineering Improv: An Introduction to Engineering Analysis.



National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees

Yale University 2025

Heather Snell

Neuroscience

Dr. Heather Snell completed her undergraduate degrees in Biochemistry and English literature at Louisiana State University. She then returned home to Fort Worth, Texas, to complete her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in the laboratory of Dr. Eric B. Gonzales. Her work combined cellular biology with pharmacology, receptor modeling, and whole cell electrophysiology to investigate the interactions of the GABAA $\rho 1$ receptor with a class of drugs called guanidine compounds which block acid sensing ion channels (ASICs). She then joined the laboratory of Dr. Kamran Khodakhah at Albert Einstein College of Medicine to focus on understanding the receptors and channels underlying the intrinsic activity of the GABAergic cerebellar Purkinje cells in health, but also in cerebellar disorders, such as the most common form of Episodic Ataxia, Episodic Ataxia Type 2 (EA2). In January 2024, she established her own research program branching off from her work in the cerebellum in the Neuroscience department at Yale School of Medicine as a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor. The Snell lab uses channel and receptor mutations as tools to investigate the cerebellar contribution to neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders on a cellular and subcellular mechanistic level, using transgenic mouse lines, pharmacology, electrophysiology, and in-vitro and in-vivo imaging. Dr. Snell has also received multiple awards and honors, including The Ford Foundation Postdoctoral fellowship, NARSAD from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, and was named a Next Generation Leader Council member by the Allen Institute.



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

René M. Price
Associate Dean, University Graduate School

Alla Mirzoyan
Assistant Dean, University Graduate School

Howard University

Miriam Okine Davies
Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Student Affairs

Johns Hopkins University

Karol Martinez
Assistant Director of Graduate Student Pathways,
Inclusion, and Success

Michigan State University

Terah Chambers, Associate Dean, Graduate
School

Northwestern University

Sheehan D. Fisher, PhD
Associate Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Success

Brittany Young
Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Success

Rutgers University

Rex Nobles
Director, McNair Scholars Program

The Chicago School

Victoria Liu
Associate Professor, Counselor Education Department

The George Washington University

Kimberly Gross
Vice Dean for Programs and Operations

University of California, Los Angeles

Onyi Arah
Associate Dean, Division of Graduate Education

University of California, San Diego

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

University of Florida

Judith Traveis
Associate Dean of Graduate Student Success

University of Miami

Nichole Crenshaw
Associate Provost for Equity and Belonging

Alexander Mas
Assistant Dean of the Graduate School

University of Michigan

Ethriam Brammer
Assistant Dean & DEI Implementation Lead

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
Assistant Dean for Student Services, Inclusion, and
Strategic Partnerships

Washington University in Saint Louis

Jessica Klingler Cissell
Assistant Provost, Graduate Education and
International Community

Paola Cepeda
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Postdoctoral Affairs

Yale University

Michelle Nearon
Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School of Arts and
Sciences



Thank you for attending the
21st Annual Yale Bouchet Conference
on Graduate Education

Congratulations to the 2025
National Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductees!!!



You're Bouchet Society Alumni NOW!

Connect with other Bouchet Alumni on our new Alumni networking platform: **BouchetConnect**
Join TODAY: <http://www.bouchetconnect.org>



Yale GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES