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## *SSP Research Groups*

### *Summer 2023*

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#### **Clement Aubert, Ph.D., Computer Science**

I grew up in Reims (France), and it happened that I just finished reading the absolutely amazing book "Returning to Reims". It a memoir and a meditation on classes, identities, and the (im)possibility that we inherit from our environment. It was a really moving book.

Other than that, I work on Theoretical Computer Sciences, and am interested in programming languages and correct programs!



#### **Jason Weeks, Computer Science**

I was born in Augusta, but moved to Thomson very young, where I attained my high school diploma before coming here for my Bachelor's in Computer Science, which I will have by the time we start the program. Throughout my degree, I worked as a UCA for the beginner programming course, even working with Dr. Aubert for most of my time at UCA! During my final semester as a Bachelor's student, I worked for Dr. Aubert as a client on a project for my senior capstone course, which is what we're working on over the duration of the summer. Some hobbies include video games, programming, music, and various artsy activities from time to time. I plan on pursuing my Master's/Ph.D. here at AU after this summer, and from there, we'll see what happens!



#### **Ian Yelle, Computer Science**

I grew up just north of Atlanta, in a city called Suwanee. I love to play video games and I love fantasy novels, also I play a lot of tabletop role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons. I would love to be a professor someday, I love to teach and I feel like I could help a lot of students thrive in Computer Science.

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### **Hannah Bennett, Ph.D., Kinesiology**



Hannah Bennett (she/her) is an associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology and program director of the BSK at Augusta University. She is the youngest of four children who grew up in a Filipino Irish household in Maine. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Connecticut. She earned a master's degree in kinesiology with a concentration in sport and exercise psychology from Georgia Southern University and completed her schooling at Middle Tennessee State University, earning her doctorate in human performance. Her research focus is on social justice, diversity, and sociocultural aspects within sport and performance. In her free time, she volunteers for a local dog rescue group and enjoys spinning, crocheting, participating in CrossFit, watching sports, watching documentaries, and spending time with her partner and their dogs.

### **Autumn Arrington, Kinesiology**



I grew up 30 minutes from campus in Keysville, GA. If you're not familiar with it you're not alone. It's near Wrens, GA in Jefferson County. My hobbies include going to the gym, kayaking, and reading. My favorite genre is fiction, things like the Harry Potter and The Hunger Games series are my jam. I'm still trying to find the perfect career plan for me, but Kinesiology includes a lot of my interests, so I feel like I'm in the right spot. I'm hoping that new experiences like the Summer Scholar Program will help me find what I love to do. One fun fact about me is that I used to play softball in high school.

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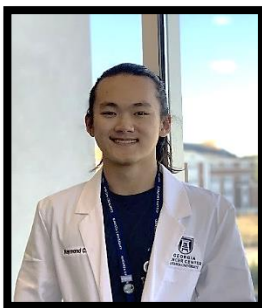
### **Jennifer Bradford, Ph.D., Biological Sciences**



I grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, where I fell in love with nature and science at an early age. My family and I love to camp, hike, fly fish, and explore new places! Fun fact, I have been fly fishing since I was 11 years old. My husband and I have a 10-year-old son and a mini-American Shepherd.

My lab focuses on signaling between cancer cells and immune cells, especially macrophages, in the tumor stroma. We focus on a signaling pathway called the nuclear factor-kappaB pathway, which is upregulated in many types of cancer. I love teaching Biology 1107, Genetics, and Molecular Carcinogenesis, and I work with undergraduates and graduate students in the lab. I'm excited to be involved in the CURS Summer Scholars Program again this summer!

### **Raymond Chen, Cell and Molecular Biology**



I was born in China but spent most of my life back home in Alpharetta, Georgia. In my free time, I like to play video games, read books, crochet, or take a nap. After college, I hope to pursue a medical degree and become a forensic pathologist. One fun fact about me is that I won second place at an international level competition.

### **Sonia Jose, Cell and Molecular Biology**



Hi, My name is Sonia Jose. I am a pre-med student in the Honors Program, focusing on Cellular and Molecular Biology. I am primarily interested in exploring the field of treatment research, which has been a passion of mine since I was a child. I am currently working with Dr. Bradford on the "Involvement of the NF-kappaB and CXCL10/CXCR3 Signaling Pathways in Triple Negative Breast Cancer". In my free time, I enjoy playing around with music and seeing what sounds good to me. I also enjoy exploring Augusta with family and friends, and baking sweets. Also, I recently just moved to Augusta from Lawrenceville, Georgia.

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### **Andrew Craig-Jones, Ph.D., Kinesiology**



I grew up on the south coast of England, moved to California when I was a teenager, and then completed high school and college in CA. I moved to Las Vegas for my doctorate and completed that in 2020. I got married while completing my Bachelor's and had my son soon after. My wife and I now have 3 children and moved to Augusta in 2021. I enjoy all sports, especially soccer and hockey. My current research looks at ergogenic aids and their effect on performance. I also study the influence of lab environments on research variables.

### **Joshua Herring, Psychology**



I was born in South Carolina but moved to Atlanta with my mother to live with my grandparents when I was five. As I grew up, I moved around Georgia a lot, until I joined the Army at 18 years old. After serving four years as an infantry soldier, I was honorably discharged. After three years of college, and working in a medical billing department, I decided that I was not happy sitting behind a desk at a computer every day. So, I decided to become a firefighter and pursue being a paramedic, as I missed the action.

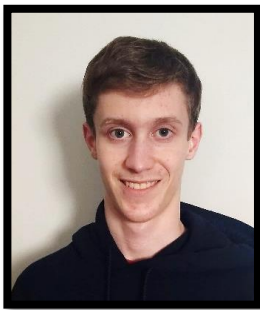
After much deliberation, I decided that I wanted to become a physician's assistant. I left my full-time job, where I made pretty ok money, and became a full-time student again. I should complete my undergraduate degree in psychology next December, but I still have several science prerequisites that I will need to apply to a PA program.

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### **Trinanjan Datta, Ph.D., Chemistry & Physics**

I was born in India, and lived in Africa during my teenage years, before moving back to India to pursue my BS and MS in India and then moved to the USA for a Ph.D.. I like watching sports with one of my current favorites being Formula 1 racing. My favorite book is "The Dancing Wu Li Masters" by Gary Zukov. I read this physics book for layman when I was 14 years old and decided to be a physicist. Current research interest includes theoretical and computational studies of novel magnetic materials and magnetic phenomena in general.



### **Brody Brogdon, Physics**

I grew up in Loganville, Georgia. I played roller hockey for 11 years and my favorite sport is hockey. The team I cheer for in the NHL is the Minnesota Wild. I also enjoy kayaking and fishing which I do pretty much every week. My career aspirations are a job in physics, specifically nuclear science.

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**Jia He, Ph.D., Mathematics**

I grew up in China and came to the U.S. to study for my Ph. D in mathematics education. I enjoy reading, watching movies, traveling, and hiking. I teach math for K-12 teachers' courses and conduct research to improve teacher quality by enhancing preservice teachers' experience of taking math content courses. Ever since I came to Georgia, I have liked Augusta other than one thing: cock roach. Each time I scream when I notice one. My father always mocks me for being cowardly. I have no idea why this little creature drives me crazy when I can handle other bugs without any problem.



**Joe DeSantis, Mathematics with Certification in Secondary Education**

I am from Utica, NY. I enjoy math, learning languages, and spending time with my family. My short-term goal is to complete my degree and certification as a teacher. My long-term goal is to understand math to the highest degree possible. Fun fact-I once worked at an embassy.

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**Jessica Hoffman, Ph.D., Biological Sciences**

I received my BS in Biological Sciences from Clemson University, and then I completed a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Georgia before moving to a postdoc at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. My research is focused on understanding the mechanisms that drive aging across species, and I work with fruit flies, mice, and companion dogs. My hobbies include running and hiking with my dog, Aspen, and I love trying new restaurants.



**Jessica Alvarez, Biology**

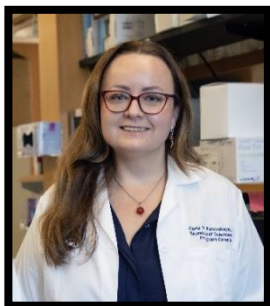
I grew up in Douglas, Georgia. I enjoy reading and listening to music. The type of music that I tend to listen to these days are from Mexican and Spanish artists that my parents grew up listening to. I aspire to become a pediatrician one day as I enjoy being with kids. A fun but weird fact about me is that I can bend or pull my fingers far back that it touches the back of my hand.

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### **Daria Italtovskaya, MS, Ph.D., FAHA, Physiology**



I am a biophysicist by training (I talk physics to the biologists and biology to the physicists, so they all get confused! It's very convenient). In fact, I do have BS and MS degrees in Physics and a Ph.D. in cellular biology. I love traveling (even if it's for work) and mentoring the new generation of scientists. Physiology is my passion, my lab studies everything related to hypertension and kidney disease. Fun fact: I speak 5 languages.

### **Brad Bergum, Psychology**



I am an upcoming senior at Augusta University. Currently, I am a pre-med student majoring in psychology and minoring in neuroscience. It is here that I am a part of the Delta Chi Fraternity and the Pre-Med club. Augusta and the surrounding area is my hometown, having lived here all my life. Most of my time includes studying and working as a pharmacy technician. Some of my favorite activities to engage outside of work and school include weightlifting, playing the guitar, reading, and being with my friends and family. Having participated in sports such as football and running track in high school, I have been an exercise advocate for as long as I can remember. It is this physiological foundation that, I believe, has led me to pursue a career in health and medicine. My career aspirations include the pursuit of a surgical specialty, which is still in process of being determined—although through extensive shadowing of many physicians I have considered specialties such as orthopedics and trauma surgery. A fun fact about me is that I am left-handed (unfortunately).

### **Elizabeth MacKenzie, Psychology Pre-Medicine**



I grew up in Suwanee, GA. I have many hobbies including reading, painting, growing plants, crocheting, cooking, crafting and baking. I like learning new skills and new languages. I am currently a psychology pre-med major with a minor in Spanish. One fact about me is that I am a dual citizen of the United States and Canada.

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### **Deborah Jehu, Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Health Sciences**



I am the director of the Geriatric Assessment, Intervention, & Technologies ([GAIT](#)) lab and an Assistant Professor in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. My research aims to generate new insights into 1) refining therapeutic interventions; 2) refining falls-risk assessments; and 3) providing a better overall understanding of cognition and mobility in older adults. I am passionate about improving the health and quality of life of older adult populations, such as: healthy older adults, and older adults who fall, as well as those with total knee arthroplasty, Parkinson's Disease, stroke, mild traumatic brain injury, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia. I have collaborated with researchers, healthcare professionals, health authorities, and industry partners across the world, which has provided me with a unique perspective on fall prevention research. On a personal level, I enjoy physical activity and exercise (e.g., wrestling, running, biking, fitness classes, gardening), as well as traveling.

### **Charmi Patel, Cellular Molecular Biology**



Hello, my name is Charmi Patel. I am a first-generation Indian American. I enjoy showcasing my culture while being an advocate for cultural competency. When I grow up (ahah cliché, I know), I want to practice medicine in geriatrics or pediatrics (I really love old people and kids)! I also enjoy being an active member of the AU campus to create a prideful Jag Nation. In my free time, I like to bake, do henna, and go on adventures. This summer, I hope to further my studies with Dr. Deborah Jehu in our research regarding the effect of exercise on the executive function of people living with dementia. (hehe... we make the dream team)

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**Madison Kindred, Ph.D., Kinesiology**

I am in my fourth year at Augusta University. I grew up in Massachusetts- I miss the snow and fall seasons! Currently, I live with my family in North Augusta; my husband and I have two children ages 3 and 8 months. We enjoy being outside as much as possible. I am currently researching ways to increase activity among special populations, mainly by targeting an increase in steps. I look forward to a productive summer!



**Daniel Francois, Nursing**

Hello! My name is Daniel Francois and the career I am pursuing is nursing. My hobbies include working out, cooking, and technology. Horror movies are my go-to entertainment when it comes to movies. My favorite show would be either Suits or The Resident. The research I will be participating in is with Dr. Kindred in the Kinesiology department. The topic is the implementation of physical activity into a comprehensive weight control program. A fun fact about me is that I am Blasian. My mother is Filipino and my dad is Haitian.

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**Paul Langridge, Ph.D., Biological Sciences**

I investigate how cells communicate by using the model organism *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit flies).



**Simi Bikhot, Cell and Molecular Biology**

I'm from Macon, Georgia. Research has always been very interesting to me since I was a child, so participating in this program is very exciting! I plan on going into psychiatry once I finish undergrad. I play piano, and I like to garden!



**Grace Neiswender, Cell and Molecular Biology**

My name is Grace Neiswender. I am currently a sophomore, majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology at Augusta University in my hometown of Augusta, GA. In my spare time, I enjoy drawing and painting with different mediums. If I had to choose, my favorite book is called "Tuesdays with Morrie". Going forward (after I graduate from college), I hope to pursue a career in medicine and research. If I were ambitious, I would probably also want to get a Master's in Public Health at some point in my life as this field greatly interests me too. A fun fact about me is that prior to college (from 4th to 12th grade), I was on the Math team.

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**Neil MacKinnon, Ph.D., BSc, MSc, Provost**

I grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada and I'm a dual citizen of the US and Canada. I find conducting research and discovering new things to be very fulfilling. I also love mentoring graduate and undergraduate students.



**Preshit Ambade, DrPH, Research Assistant to the Provost**

I grew up in India and moved to the USA a few years back. I love photography and running. I am currently working as a post-doctoral researcher with a focus on health disparities, international health, health insurance programs, and access issues.



**Kaamya Mehra, Cell and Molecular Biology**

I grew up in Snellville, Georgia. I have been a dancer since I was six years old. I hope to be a physician in the future, and I am passionate about public health. A fun fact about me is that I was born with a blue birthmark in my left eye!

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**Abdul Malmi Kakkada, Ph.D., Chemistry and Physics**

I grew up in India and in West Africa in a country called The Gambia. I conduct research in an area called physics of living systems.

Fun fact: I enjoy playing soccer.



**Shawn Macon, Cell and Molecular Biology**

I was born in and have lived in Georgia all my life, and I grew up in a relatively small town East of Atlanta called Loganville. I am big on cars, computers, sports, and many other things that at least at the moment I cannot think of. One fun fact about me is that I have an unhealthy like for pizza.



**Tom Rusch, Computer Science**

My name is Tom Rusch. I'm a senior computer science major here at Augusta University. I was born in Helsinki, Finland and have lived in Augusta since 2009. My hobbies include longboarding and photography, and I aim to work in software development after graduation. I have spent the last year conducting research in computational biophysics with Dr. Malmi-Kakkada & Dr. Dawson of the Department of Chemistry & Physics, and I am looking forward to continuing this work through this year's SSP.

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**Mykola Mamenko, Ph.D., Physiology and Endocrinology**

I was born, grew up and received my education in Ukraine - a beautiful country with full-flowing rivers, misty mountains, amazing crystal clear sea and heroic people. My work does not leave a lot of time to pursue my outdoor hobbies such as biking and hiking, although I managed a nice trip last year to observe the magnificent Sequoias in California. For the most part, I am enjoying reading (or listening, lately) the (audio)books. This allows to switch gears and "travel" while staying at home or in my car driving to work. My graduate student also enjoys audiobooks, so it's always fun to discuss, retell (if the book in question was not in English) and make her guess the ending...



**Kevin Volk, Cell and Molecular Biology**

I grew up in Dallas, GA which is almost 180 miles away on I-20! I am a professional scholar student in the 4/4 BS/MD program so I will matriculate into the Medical College of Georgia in the summer of 2024. My fun fact is that I earned my Eagle Scout when I was 12.

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**Ana Carolina Morandini, DDS, MSD, Ph.D., Oral Biology and Diagnostic Sciences**

I grew up in Brazil where I did most of my scientific training. My current research is focused in the immunobiology of periodontitis, particularly in the role of gingival stromal cells in oral inflammation. My favorite book at the moment is "Outlive" by Peter Attia, which is a pretty interesting mix of science and art of longevity.



**Rylee Brumbaugh, Biology**

Grew up near St. Simon's Island and I love to play soccer. I played in a travel league during high school and got to play soccer all over the southeast. I want to pursue a career in dentistry, as I always enjoyed going to the dentist as a kid. The current research I am doing pertains to CD73 and the role it plays in the inflammatory response.

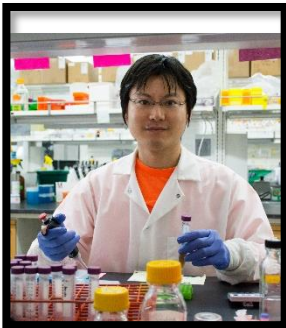


**Marsha Russell, Cell and Molecular Biology**

I grew up just outside of Toronto, Canada in a town called Ajax. I moved to Georgia in 2010. I love to play tennis, spend time with friends and family, watch movies, journal, and sing. My favorite genre of music is R&B and my favorite artist is HER. I want to be a general dentist. I am so fascinated with the mouth and its connections to overall well-being.

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**Shogo Mori, Ph.D., Chemistry and Physics**

I'm from Japan and got a Ph.D. in Chemistry at Texas A&M University. I spend most of my free time with my little kid. My research focus is enzymology in natural product biosynthesis. More broadly molecular biology and biochemistry in the drug discovery field. I teach organic chemistry.



**Shopno Ahmed, Chemistry**

My name is Shopno I grew up in Chicago and moved to Georgia near the end of middle school. My hobbies include playing video games and traveling. My current career aspiration is to be a doctor.



**Skyler Owens, Biochemistry**

I was born and raised in a small town in Georgia called Loganville. My hobbies are playing soccer, watching movies, and spending time with my friends! My career aspirations are to go to graduate school, research diseases, and be a part of curing one! One fun fact is that I have been to the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Boston, and Cozumel! I hope to travel to many more places!

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### **Eric Numfor, Ph.D., Mathematics**



Dr. Numfor obtained his Ph.D. in Mathematics with a concentration in Mathematical Biology and Ecology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2014. In Fall 2014, he joined the Department of Mathematics at AU. His research interests lie at the interface of Mathematics and Biology, with a focus on bridging the gap between immunology and epidemiology. The goals of his research are to propose management strategies for the control of invasive species and the spread of water or vector-borne diseases. He enjoys exploring problems arising in life and social sciences by using mathematics and computational methods. In both 2016 and 2017, he received the Department of Mathematics faculty award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, and in 2017, he received the College of Science and Mathematics Outstanding Young Faculty award.

### **Cameron Cunningham, Cybersecurity Engineering**



I grew up in Wiesbaden, Deutschland. I love writing fantasy short stories and playing many instruments including clarinet, piano, and violin. I collect and enjoy playing board and card games, such as Ligtretto and Arkham Horror. I am a member of the Hesse-Kassel Jaeger Korps, which does Revolutionary War reenactments, where I can demonstrate fire-starting, how to play a period-correct game and just started learning archery with a long bow. When it comes to career aspirations, I'd like to become a penetration tester for someone like Microsoft or Apple. My fun fact is that I've been to over 20 countries across three continents.

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### **Melanie O'Meara, Ph.D., Art & Design**



Melanie Kitchens O'Meara is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design at Augusta University, where she teaches performance courses in the Digital and Visual Storytelling major. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in communication studies with an emphasis in performance studies from Louisiana State University. Her research interests include performance studies, visual culture, and photography theory. Dr. O'Meara regularly presents her scholarship by staging performances at conferences, festivals, and on campus. Recent productions written, adapted, and directed by O'Meara include E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web," "Is She Mad, or Does She Joke," and Sarah K Jackson and Christopher Shipman's "Metaphysique D'Ephemera." Her scholarship is published in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies and Text and Performance Quarterly*. Fun fact: O'Meara is an avid hiker and enjoys spending free time with her family in the Smoky Mountains.

### **Amber Jordan, Digital and Visual Storytelling**



I grew up in Augusta. Some of my hobbies/interests include going to the gym, participating in plays at AU, and playing video games. My career aspirations right now are a little open. I am still trying to figure out if I like being behind the camera, in front of the camera, or on stage the most. A fun fact about me is that I will graduate with a math minor.

### **Sarah "Shiloh" Reimche, Digital and Visual Storytelling**



I was born and raised in Augusta, GA. I enjoy creating in multiple forms whether that is through performance, film, sculpture, painting, sewing, crochet, etc. If it's a creative medium that piques my interest, I will learn how to do it. I also enjoy listening to music and going to local music shows at Grantski's and the Dime Museum. There are multiple avenues I want to explore career-wise in relation to my major. Financially, I would like to support myself with editing videos. Creatively, I'd like to explore experimental performance and filmmaking. One fun fact about me is I am an ex-physics major and I was intending on studying quantum mechanics in the future, and although I still love physics, I know my heart lies more in performance and filmmaking.

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**Olusegun Otungua, Ph.D., Mathematics**

I grew up in Nigeria and like playing soccer. My current research is on analyzing data on tumors and cancer stems cell to study cell proliferation.



**Jonathan Acuna-Robles, Mathematics**

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**Raoul Pacheco, Ph.D., Art & Design**

Raoul Pacheco earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree in ceramics from the California College of Arts in San Francisco / Oakland, California. His work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and is currently housed in private collections internationally. Raoul currently serves as Assistant Chair for the Department of Art and Design.



**Lillie Jester, Art, Psychology**

I was born and raised in Augusta, GA. I'm an art and psychology major and I hope to get my master's in art therapy. I love to cook. I also love to read, especially fantasy and art commentary. A fun fact is I'm currently really into 60s R&B soul music.



**Kat Le, Biology**

I am a Vietnamese American. I was born in Augusta but I grew up in Atlanta, Savannah, and Germany. We were a military family so we moved a lot. My hobbies include creating art, sewing and music. I enjoy collecting plants and traveling. I currently work as a nail technician but I am studying to work in family medicine and maybe in the far future own a business.



**Joseph Tamas, Fine Arts**

I am a fine artist with a general concentration, while I focus on ceramics, I broaden my mediums to things like painting, drawing, and printmaking. I plan to get my master's in teaching once I graduate this fall. I grew up across the country being a military child and was inspired by video games and fantasy movies as I grew up. Currently, I still set my interests to video games and movies, but also music, which serves as inspiration for my art sometimes.

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**Siva Panda, Ph.D., Chemistry**

Siva obtained his MS degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from India. Before joining the Department of Chemistry & Physics at Augusta University, he was working as a senior scientist at Sigma-Aldrich. He did his postdoctoral research studies at the University of Florida. He has published more than 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals and two book chapters. He has been also awarded two patents. In 2018, he received our College of Science and Mathematics Excellence in Research award. His research interest is in new drug discovery and development. Currently, he is working on several projects mostly with undergraduate students. His lab gives the opportunity to the undergraduate students to learn technical skills and present the research work in a public forum.

**Holden Dinkins, Chemistry**

I grew up in Martinez, so I'm a local. I enjoy tennis, and progressive rock music, and read my fair share of Stephen King (mostly the OG stuff). My path, currently, is centered around pharmacy, but I know that I want a career somewhere in the chemistry field. Fun fact: I sang "Owner of a Lonely Heart" by the rock band Yes during my 6<sup>th</sup> grade talent show.

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**Alex St. Louis, Ph.D., Center for Undergraduate Research Scholarship**



My primary research interests include understanding the views of nature of science and scientific inquiry of science learners in K-16 education and improving scientific relations within the greater community. I am an advocate for inclusion within science education and supports curricula and programing that allows students to experience and practice science, including the iBEARS Program. I am most excited to mentor and work with undergraduate students pursuing unique research opportunities.

I am a Georgia transplant, originally from Fort Worth, Texas. My favorite place on campus is my office (AHE 330), where I get to hang out with CURS Ambassadors and students; stop by and say hi this summer! Outside of AU, I love to walk my corgi, Clove, throughout the CSRA and wear the color pink.

**Vanessa Browning, Psychology**



I am going into my 3rd year as a psych major and strive to get into grad school to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Psychology and research fascinate me, and my dream is to one day work and expand on research with psilocybin in the treatment for anxiety and depression. I was born and raised in Augusta, and I like to spend my free time reading, painting, and playing with my dogs outside. When I'm not reading or sleeping, I have earbuds in always listening to music, my current obsessions are the rock supergroup Rainbow and the blues rock guitarist Snowy White with the band The White Flames.

**TK Guerrero, Elementary Education**



I love Harry Potter books and the Star Wars movies. I want to be an elementary teacher because I LOVE kids. I love learning from them as well!

Fun Fact: I am a Party Princess on the weekends!

**Melvin Hilson, Psychology**



I grew up in a small town called Tennille, GA. My interests included sports and learning about the functions of the brain. My favorite book series is the Percy Jackson collection.



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### **Taylor Walker, Ph.D., Communications**



I earned my bachelor's degrees in Communication Studies and Psychology from Ohio University, my Master's degree in Communication from the University of Cincinnati, and my Ph.D. in Communication Studies from Ohio University. My program of research has primarily focused on how embodied differences and identities are constructed, shaped, and constrained through storytelling and organizing practices, with a special interest in health and healthcare. My current work explores medical student training with underserved communities, LGBTQ+ identities in the geographic South, and how healthcare providers are having difficult conversations regarding bodily autonomy and reproductive rights. I teach courses in Public Speaking, Gender Communication, Health Communication, and Research Methods as well as serve as the faculty advisor for our Communication Honors Society (Lambda Pi Eta). Outside of work, I enjoy hanging out with my 2 year old lab/schnauzer mix, 8 year old pit mix, and 1 year old cat; binge watching Hulu and Netflix; and going to trivia and drag shows around the CSRA. One fun fact about me is, I got to spend 15 days in Ecuador collecting data for my dissertation and have actually stood at 0 degrees latitude.



### **Niyah Colbert, Sociology**

I am born and raised in Atlanta, Ga and graduate from Tucker high school. My career aspirations are not as clear as I would want them to be currently, but I am thinking about going to research some way and I am also looking in to different options. Fun fact about me: I cannot whistle.



### **Sade Logan, Biology**

Hello! My name is Folasade Logan, and I was born in Lowell, Massachusetts. I spent the first 5 years of my life in Sicklerville, New Jersey, but moved to Augusta, Georgia about a year later. Now it's been over 10 years since moving. I enjoy reading and watching movies, but I also love solving puzzles, so I like mystery games and escape rooms. I plan on applying to the Medical College of Georgia after I get my Bachelor's degree in Biology. From there, I want to get a doctorate in surgery, although I'm still thinking about my specialty. When I've established my career as a surgeon, I hope to become a forensic pathologist. A fun fact about me is that I once dislocated my knee by standing up! This doesn't exactly sound fun, but the situation itself is so unusual that it's funny. My knee is okay now, though!



**He Yang, Ph.D., Mathematics**

Dr. He Yang is an assistant professor from the Department of Mathematics. His current research areas include numerical analysis, scientific computing, machine learning, and data analytics. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in mathematics. Dr. Yang is a cat lover, and he has two cats.



**Joseph Puetz, Mathematics**

I grew up in North Augusta, SC.

My hobbies are jogging, making music, weightlifting, and playing basketball.

My career aspirations are to contribute massively to mathematics.

Fun Fact: I just learned how to cook.

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