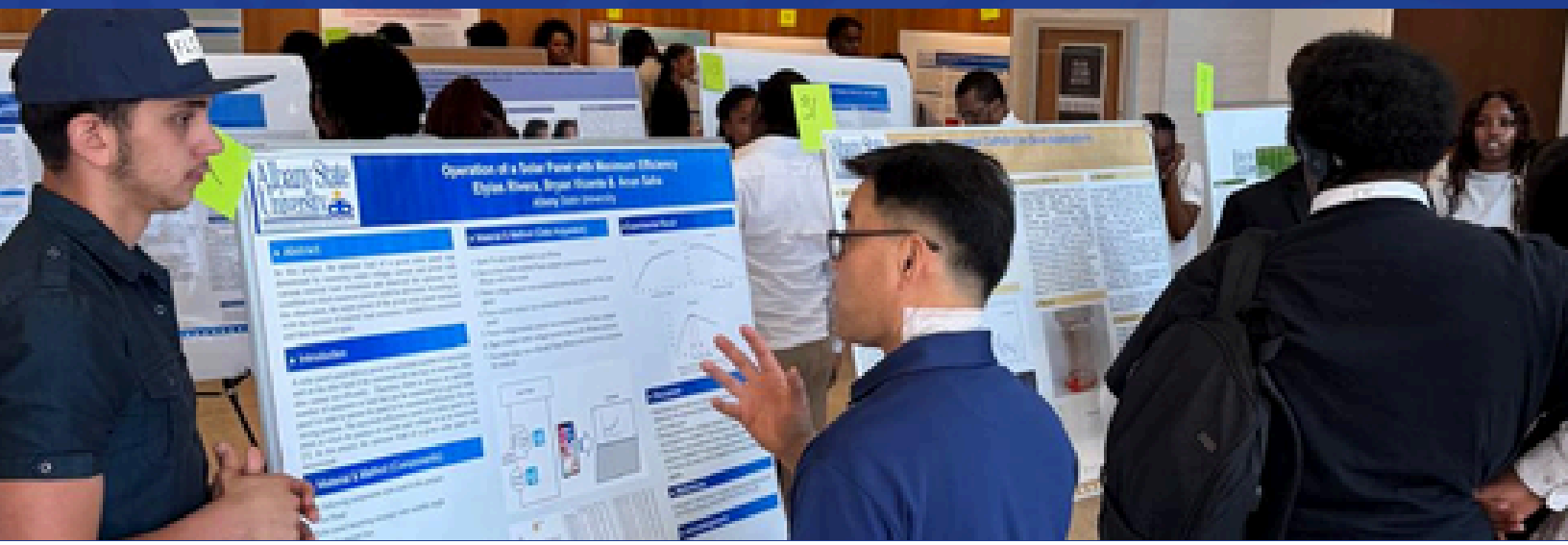
14th Undergraduate Research Symposium

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Transformation of Research

April 17, 2026 | 8:30AM

BIlly C. Black Building Auditorium
East Campus



Albany State University
CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES (CTSE)

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Sustainable Agriculture in Space

Welcome message from Nneka Nora Osakwe PhD

Professor of English

Executive Director, Center for Transformational Student Experiences (CTSE).

Provost's Special Assistant for Internationalisation and Global Engagement

Fulbright & Gilman's Scholarship Advisor

Good morning, esteemed faculty and staff, honored guests, proud families, and most importantly, our exceptional student researchers. It is my honor and distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 14th Annual Albany State University (ASU) Undergraduate Research Symposium. Today, we gather not only to celebrate the culmination of a year's worth of dedication, inquiry, and discovery, but also to recognize the spirit of curiosity and perseverance that defines the present ASU academic community as it strategizes to expand, strengthen, and transform students' experiences for academic and career success. To our student researchers, this moment belongs to you. Over the past year, you have asked bold questions, wrestled with complex ideas, and contributed your unique voices to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge. Research is rarely a straight path—it demands patience, resilience, persistence, and courage. And that is why Undergraduate Research (UR) has been classified as one of the High Impact Practices. Students who participate in this required research are highly engaged. As a result, they are retained and mostly graduate timely and successfully.

The 2026 student researchers have undergone through this discipline and their work reflect not only intellectual growth but also a commitment to pushing beyond what is known into what is possible. A perusal of the diverse research topics in the program will convince you. We have both Oral and Poster Presentations of a year-long research outcome, organized in five themes for both oral and poster presentations.
We appreciate the plethora and diverse areas of student research and these have been organized in themes this year instead of colleges. To our faculty mentors: thank you for your guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support. Your mentorship has shaped these projects and, more importantly, has helped shape the scholars and thinkers presenting today. Your investment in our students is deeply appreciated and profoundly impactful."

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the faculty and staff members who prepared and presented 10 workshops in various research areas to help enhance students' knowledge and skills as they worked on their projects. The ultimate goal was effective research engagement, and this symposium with 64 research presentations by the students is a testimony of excellent academic outcome.

I want to specially thank our Keynote Speaker and distinguished scholar, Dr. Cadavious Jones, the Dean of the Division of Science and Mathematics at Rust College in Holly Spring, Mississippi. His presentation focus is the Symposium theme: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Transformation of Research. To our collaborating campus and community partners, guests, families, and supporters: your support and presence here today is a testament to the importance of community in academic achievement. Your encouragement fuels the confidence and ambition that our students carry into their work. We truly appreciate you all. This symposium is more than a showcase of completed students' projects—it is a celebration of inquiry, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. Each presentation you will see today represents a journey; from question to exploration, from challenge to insight, and from effort to achievement. As you engage with the presentations, I encourage you to ask questions, offer perspectives, and celebrate the diversity of thought and creativity represented here. Let this be a space where ideas are not only shared, but also inspired. Once again, welcome to this special occasion. Congratulations to our student researchers on this remarkable accomplishment, and thank you all for being part of this meaningful academic exercise and celebration. Enjoy the Symposium.

April 17, 2026

Dear Esteemed Participants,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 14th Undergraduate Research Symposium at Albany State University. Today is a celebration of our students—their curiosity, their hard work, and their commitment to growing, learning, and making an impact.

This year's theme, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Transformation of Research," reflects the evolving world our students are preparing to lead. Research is no longer just about discovery, it is about innovation, adaptation, and creating solutions that will shape the future of our communities and beyond.

What makes this day so meaningful is not just the presentations you will see, but the journey behind them. Each project represents time, discipline, and a willingness to ask important questions. Our students are not only gaining knowledge, they are learning how to think critically, solve problems, and lead with purpose.

At Albany State University, we are committed to providing opportunities that prepare our students for success beyond the classroom. Experiences like this symposium allow them to apply what they've learned, collaborate with others, and build confidence in their abilities. That is what truly transforms potential into progress.

To all of our student presenters, know that we are incredibly proud of you. Your work reflects the excellence and determination that define our institution. Continue to push boundaries, stay curious, and remain committed to making a difference.

Thank you to our faculty, staff, and partners for your continued support in guiding and uplifting our students. Your dedication makes moments like this possible. I wish you all a successful and inspiring symposium.
Building the Future of ASU Together,

Robert O. Scott
President

Albany State University

Provost and Vice President For Academic Affairs

Dr. Annice Yarber-Allen

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Honored Guests,

Welcome to the 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium!

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to greet you on behalf of Albany State University's Division of Academic Affairs. Today's symposium is a testament to what is possible when curiosity meets commitment — and when students are supported by a faculty and institution that believe deeply in their potential

This event is far more than a showcase. It is a celebration of the intellectual courage our students demonstrate every day — the willingness to ask bold questions, pursue rigorous inquiry, and present their findings with confidence and pride. In doing so, they exemplify the very best that Albany State University has to offer.

To our student researchers: you are the reason we are here. The work you have invested in your research, your presentations, and your academic journey is a reflection of your dedication and the excellence that defines this institution. I encourage you to embrace this moment, own your accomplishments, and carry the spirit of scholarly inquiry with you throughout your careers and lives.

To our faculty mentors and staff: your role in shaping the next generation of scholars and leaders cannot be overstated.

And to our guests and community partners: your presence affirms that the work happening at Albany State University matters — and that our students are ready to make their mark on the world.

Congratulations to all participants. May today inspire you to dream bigger, reach higher, and continue building on the foundation of excellence that brought you here.

With pride and warm regards

Albany State University

College of Arts and Sciences

Dear Scholars,

It is a great privilege to welcome you to the 14th Undergraduate Research Symposium at Albany State University.

Your research presentations demonstrate your commitment, hard work, and dedication. Your research presentations are the capstones of inquisitive, curious, and creative endeavours. Congratulations!

While these projects are capstones, your scholarly journey does not end here. Research is so much more than the presentation of findings. By completing and submitting your research findings, you have joined a grand conversation that has been ongoing for centuries. I hope that you, as scholars, will continue the conversation through experimentation, debate, and presentation. An inquisitive mind will take you far.

Keep up the good work, and best wishes in all of your endeavours.

Charles R. Williams

Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Albany State University

College of Business, Education & Professional Studies

Welcome to the 14th Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Peter A. Ngwafu, PhD

Dean, College of Business, Education & Professional Studies

Today, we gather to celebrate the spirit of inquiry, discovery, and intellectual curiosity that lies at the very heart of academia. Research is not simply about finding answers. It is about asking meaningful questions, challenging assumptions, and pushing the boundaries of knowledge. It is through this process that we deepen our understanding of the world and contribute in meaningful ways to society. Indeed, research is not reserved for a select few; it is the responsibility and privilege of every curious and engaged mind. For our students, participation in research represents far more than an academic requirement. It is an opportunity to sharpen critical thinking, ignite creativity, and gain a deeper appreciation of their chosen disciplines. Through their work, they become active contributors to knowledge and innovation, equipped to address the complex challenges of our time. Research empowers them not only to learn, but to lead, to question, and to create solutions that shape the future.

As we showcase the outstanding work of our undergraduate researchers today, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to fostering a culture of curiosity, inquiry, and excellence within our college and university. May this symposium inspire continued exploration, collaboration, and a lifelong passion for discovery.
Welcome once again and let the exploration begin.

Thank you.

Albany State University

Darton College of Health Professions

Dr. Sarah G. Brinson
Dean – Darton College of Health Professions

Greetings,

Welcome to the Albany State University Undergraduate Research Symposium. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you today to celebrate this culmination of diligent scholarship and intellectual curiosity.
This symposium serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our undergraduate students to push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation. Each research project presented here represents countless hours of dedication, critical thinking, and academic rigour.

As the Dean of the Darton College of Health Professions, I am immensely proud of the remarkable achievements of our students. Their contributions to their respective fields not only showcase their individual talents but also reflect the academic excellence that is the hallmark of Albany State University.

Today, we gather to celebrate not only the culmination of months or even years of hard work but also the beginning of new intellectual journeys. The research presented here embodies the spirit of inquiry and discovery that lies at the heart of higher education.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the participants, mentors, and supporters who have made this symposium possible. Your dedication to the pursuit of knowledge inspires us all.
As we embark on this journey of exploration and discovery together, let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. May this symposium serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and innovation.

Once again, welcome to the Albany State University Undergraduate Research Symposium. I wish you all an enriching and enlightening experience."

Sincerely,

Sarah Brinson

Albany State University

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Welcome Message from the Dean of the Graduate School

Charles O. Ochie, Sr., Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 14th Undergraduate Research Symposium. This event represents an important milestone in the academic journey of our students and a celebration of intellectual curiosity, creativity, and scholarly engagement.

Undergraduate research plays a vital role in higher education. It provides students with the opportunity to explore ideas in depth, develop critical thinking skills, and engage meaningfully with faculty mentors and peers. Through research, students move beyond the classroom to become active contributors to knowledge and innovation.

The Graduate School is especially pleased to see the growing number of undergraduate students participating in academic research. Your engagement not only strengthens your academic foundation but also prepares you for advanced study and professional success. We strongly encourage and advocate for undergraduate research as a pathway to discovery, leadership, and lifelong learning. I commend all the students presenting their work, as well as the faculty and staff who have supported them along the way. Your dedication and commitment are truly inspiring. I wish you all a successful and rewarding symposium.

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Dr. Jarrod Benjamin

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Albany State University

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you participating in the 14th Albany State University Undergraduate Research Symposium.

This symposium is a powerful celebration of inquiry, creativity, and intellectual courage. Research is central to who we are as a university—it fuels innovation, sharpens critical thinking, and equips students to solve complex global challenges. Your work on display today reflects not only academic rigor, but curiosity, resilience, and a deep commitment to discovery. You represent the future of scholarship, leadership, and service.
Our division is deeply committed to excellent customer care, intentional service, and student-centered support. Student satisfaction is not just a priority—it is a responsibility we embrace daily. We understand that your success in research and in life is strengthened when you feel valued, supported, and empowered. That is why we work collaboratively with our academic partners to ensure you experience both high expectations and high support as you pursue excellence.

In partnership with the academy, we are proud to help foster an environment that blends rigor with care—preparing you to contribute meaningfully to research, innovation, and knowledge creation. Through co-curricular engagement, leadership development, mentorship, and holistic support, we are committed to preparing you not only for graduation, but for the global workforce and advanced academic and professional degrees.

As your Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, I pledge to always advocate for you and to ensure you have access to experiences and resources that enrich your journey—from the classroom to the laboratory, from discovery to impact. You are the epitome of excellence, and you are my priority as your leader.

Thank you for your dedication, your scholarship, and your willingness to push boundaries. I applaud each of you—students, mentors, faculty, and staff—for making this symposium a testament to what is possible when talent, opportunity, and support converge.
Welcome, and congratulations on your extraordinary achievements.

Warm regards

Keynote Speaker

CADAVIOUS M. JONES, PH.D.

Dr. Cadavious M. Jones is a nationally recognized academic leader, applied mathematician, and STEM innovator currently serving as Dean of the Division of Science and Mathematics at Rust College. With nearly two decades of experience in education, including extensive leadership in higher education, Dr. Jones has distinguished himself as a leader in developing workforce-aligned STEM programs, advancing undergraduate research, and securing multi-million-dollar funding to expand institutional capacity.

A Fulbright International Education Administrators Program Fellow (France and Senegal, 2025–2026), Dr. Jones's work sits at the intersection of mathematics, data science, artificial intelligence, and institutional research. His leadership has resulted in more than $6.3 million in funded initiatives spanning cybersecurity, AgriTech, robotics, and STEM workforce development, including partnerships with industry leaders and government agencies. His efforts have contributed to national recognition of Rust College's STEM initiatives, including acknowledgement during remarks by President Joe Biden at the National HBCU Week Conference.

Dr. Jones is deeply committed to expanding access to high-impact educational experiences, particularly for underrepresented students in STEM. He has led and supported undergraduate research initiatives across disciplines, mentored students in areas ranging from epidemiological modeling to big data analytics, and helped position research engagement as a critical pathway to graduate study and career success. His work emphasizes the integration of theory and application, ensuring that students not only understand complex concepts but also apply them to real-world challenges.

In addition to his leadership in academia, Dr. Jones has contributed to global research collaborations and educational initiatives in Australia, Japan, Germany, Wales, and across Africa. He has served as a reviewer for federal agencies and scholarly journals and continues to shape conversations around innovation in STEM education, workforce development, and the evolving role of technology in research.

As keynote speaker, Dr. Jones brings a forward-looking perspective on Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Research, exploring how emerging technologies are reshaping discovery, expanding access to knowledge, and redefining the role of undergraduate research in preparing the next generation of scholars, professionals, and innovators.

Program Agenda

Friday, April 17, 2026

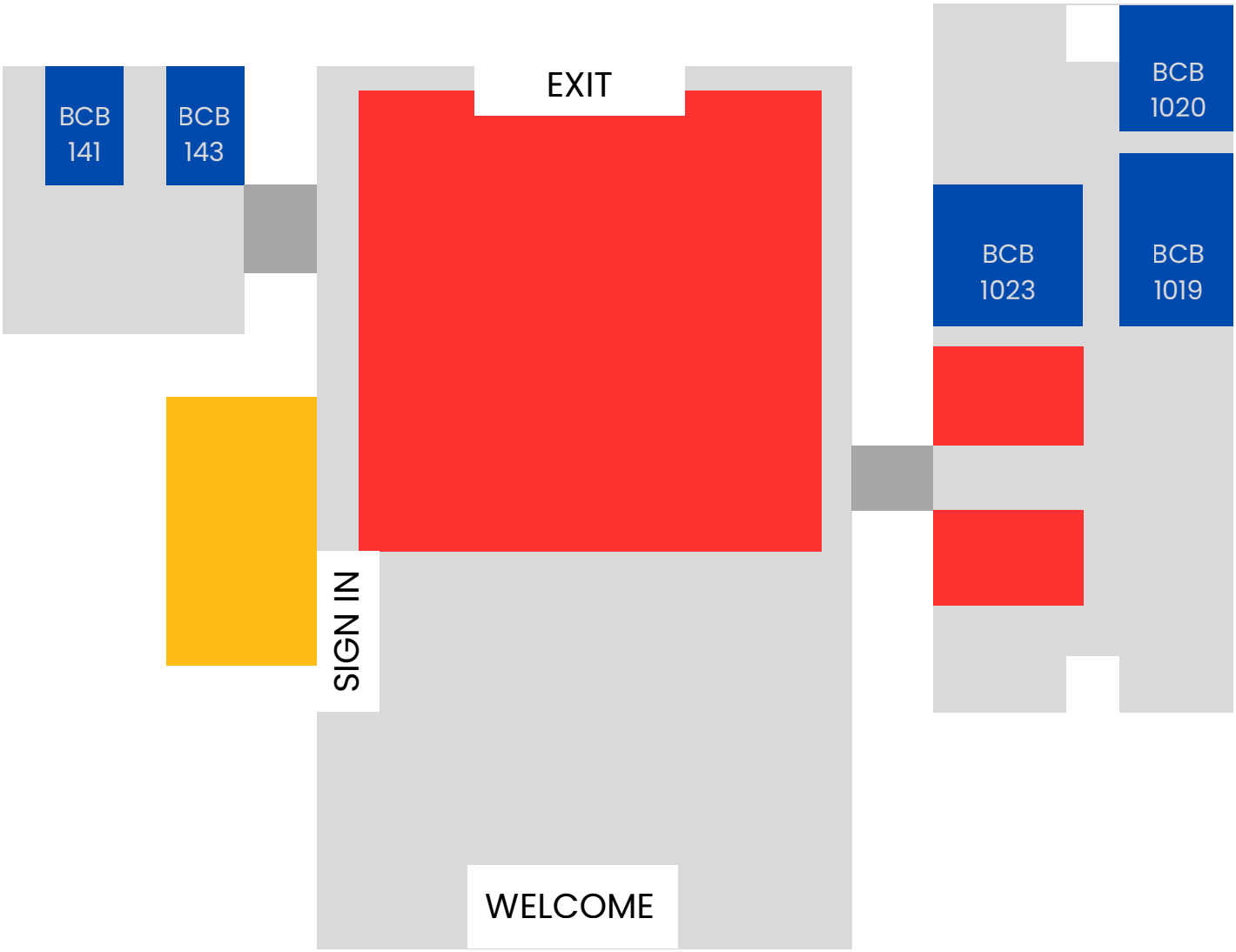
TIME	EVENT
8:30AM - 9:00AM	Symposium Sign-in, Networking, Poster Setup
8:30AM - 9:00AM	Welcome & Acknowledgement • Dr. Nneka Nora Osakwe, CTSE Director • Dr. Robert Scott, ASU President • Dr. Annice Yarber-Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs • Dr. Jarrod Benjamin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management • Dr. Erin Wiggins Gilliam, Vice Provost for Student Academic Progression • Prof. Charles Williams, Interim Dean COAS • Dr. Peter Ngwafu, Dean CBEP • Dr. Sarah Brinson, Dean DCHP • Dr. Charles Ochie, Dean, Graduate School
9:15 - 9:20AM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker Kendra Ross
9:20 - 9:50AM	Keynote Address Dr Cadavious Jones, Dean, Division of Science & Mathematics, Rust College
9:50 - 10:00AM	Questions & Answer
10:00 – 10:10 AM	Transition to Rooms
10:15 – 12:15 PM	Oral Presentations (Main Theme & Special Session)
12:15 – 1:15PM	LUNCH BREAK
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Poster Presentations
2:45 - 3:15 PM	Intermission
2:45 – 3:10 PM	Scholarly Engagement Activity | BCB AUDITORIUM
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Awards & Closing | BCB AUDITORIUM

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS - ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Natural & Applied Sciences — BCB 141
- Computational Mathematics & Data Science — BCB 143
- Social Sciences & Public Policy — BCB 1019
- Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies — BCB 1020
- Special Session – Senior Research Projects in Mathematical Modeling — BCB 1023

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – BCB ATRIUM

Event Map BILLY C. BLACK BUILDING



POSTER PRESENTATION
Billy C. Black Building Atrium

ORAL PRESENTATION
Billy C. Black Building Class Room

AUDITORIUM

Oral Presentations

SESSION 1

Natural & Applied Sciences

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM, BCB ROOM 141

NPS-01 (10:15–10:27)
Investigating the Synergistic Effects of PFOS Chemicals and Microplastics on the Viability and Motility of Brown Planaria (Dugesia sp.)
Mykala Eckler
Mentor: Dr. John L. Williams

NPS-02 (10:28–10:40)
Design, Synthesis and Characterization of Potential Water Soluble Imidazopyridines: Antimicrobial Compounds
Bailey Gray, Kayla Doris
Mentor: Dr. Richard

NPS-03 (10:41–10:53)
Biofilm Formation of Wild-Type and Pressure-Stressed Escherichia coli O157:H7, Salmonella enterica, and Listeria monocytogenes Pathogens of Public Health Concern in Pasteurized Milk, Distilled Water, and on Abiotic Surfaces
Kendra Ross
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

NPS-04 (10:54–11:06)
Inactivation of Spores of Bacillus atrophaeus and Geobacillus Stearothermophilus by High Pressure, Mild Heat, Caprylic Acid, and Citricidal
Ryleigh Vaughn, Esther Antwi-Boasiako, Evelyn Redmond
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

NPS-05 (11:07–11:19)
Decontamination Efficacy of Escherichia Coli and Salmonella by the Synergistic Effect of Ten Different Antimicrobials and High-Pressure Processing at 25°C and 37°C
Tereza Thomas, Laila Dowdy, Evelyn Redmond
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

NPS-06 (11:20–11:32)
The Effect of Water Quality on Yeast Growth: A Comparison of Flint River, Cromatie Beach, and Purified Water Sources
Katelyn Lunsford
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

NPS-07 (11:33–11:45)
Investigation into Stabilized all Inorganic CsPb1-xMnxBr3 (with x=0.1–0.3) Perovskite Solar Cells
Emery Allen
Mentor: Dr. Liqiu Zheng

SESSION 2

Computational Mathematics & Data Science

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM, BCB ROOM 143

MCD-01 (10:15–10:27)
Classification of Gene Expression Data
Garret Godwin
Mentor: Dr. Wanjun Hu

MCD-02 (10:28–10:40)
Approximating Roots: A Comparative Study of Numerical Methods for Nonlinear Equations
Emari Knowles
Mentor: Prof. Saha Jayanti

MCD-03 (10:41–10:53)
Optimized Campus Route Planning: A Geospatial Application for Albany State University Navigation
Jada Rodgers, Kendall Akins
Mentors: Dr. Alex Alochukwu & Prof. Lekeon Little

MCD-04 (10:54–11:06)
Automated Attendance System Using Fused Biometrics and Proximity
Christopher Davis, Collen Lawrence
Mentors: Dr. Alex Alochukwu & Prof. Lekeon Little

MCD-05 (11:07–11:19)
The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics on Audit Quality and Tax Compliance
Destini Fletcher
Mentor: Dr. Edgars Patani

MCD-06 (11:20–11:32)
Machine Learning Integration for RNA Cancer-specific LncRNA Exploration (MIRACLE)
Ayodeji Williams
Mentors: Dr. Olabisi Ojo & Dr. Wanjun Hu

MCD-07 (11:33–11:45)
Factors Affecting Performance of a Microwave Absorber
Anna Reese, Isaiah Webb
Mentor: Dr. Arun Saha

SESSION 3

Social Sciences & Public Policy

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM, BCB ROOM 1019

SSP-01 (10:15–10:27)
Evaluating the Harms of Using AI Programs as Therapists Among College Students
Francesca Onumah
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Whitehead

SSP-02 (10:28–10:40)
Trends and Disparities in Undergraduate Internship (TRUDI) Placements Across City Departments: A Case Study of the City of Austin
Jane Oluwaniyi
Mentor: Dr. Rachel Ojo

SSP-03 (10:41–10:53)
Mental and Emotional Effects of SANE Nurse Evidence Collection on Themselves and Sexual Assault Survivors
Emaria Banks
Mentor: Jaunice Tunstall-Redditt

SSP-04 (10:54–11:06)
Homelessness Among U.S. Military Veterans: Policy Gaps, Health Challenges, and Barriers to Support
Trinity Baggs
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson-Richard

SSP-05 (11:07–11:19)
Locked Away for a Lie: A Study on False Accusations & their Impact on Incarcerated Individuals
C-yanni Outen
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson Richard

SSP-06 (11:20–11:32)
Who Watches the Watchers? Power, Abuse, and Accountability in Corrections – A Case Study of Gwinnett County Jail
Rhyan Winston
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson-Richard

SSP-07 (11:33–11:45)
Do the US Budget and Trade Deficits Lead to an Expansionary or a Contractionary Economy
Al Childs
Mentor: Dr. Amaechi Nwaokoro

SESSION 4

Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM, BCB ROOM 1020

CJH-01 (10:15–10:27)
Forensic Science's Role in Understanding Environmental Racism: Marginalized Communities at a Crossroads
Chelsea Zeon
Mentor: Dr. Kristine Konkol

CJH-02 (10:28–10:40)
Impact of Environmental Racism on Communities
Zaria Steele
Mentor: Dr. Johannes A. Badejo

CJH-03 (10:41–10:53)
Credit Card Fraud
Alana Bryant
Mentor: Dr. Victor Williams

CJH-04 (10:54–11:06)
The Impact of Drug Abuse and Misuse in Adolescent
Manuel Makayla
Mentor: Dr. Cajetan C. Ihe

CJH-05 (11:07–11:19)
Mental Health in First-year College Students at Albany State University
Latosha Collier
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Whitehead

CJH-05 (11:07–11:19)
Mental Health in First-year College Students at Albany State University
Latosha Collier
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Whitehead

CJH-06 (11:20–11:32)
How Headphone Type and Listening Habits Affect College Students' Hearing
Kendall Davis
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

CJH-07 (11:33–11:45)
Discrepancies Between Training Goals and Self-Selected Resistance Training Intensity: An Analysis Across Sex, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Training Experience
T'Miyah Williams
Mentor: Dr. Aram Yoon

SESSION 5

Senior Research Projects in Mathematical Modeling

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM, BCB ROOM 1019

SRP-01 (10:15–10:27)
Iowa Farmer Multivariate Revenue Income Model for Eggs, Pork and Beef
Jonathan Jack M. Balote

SRP-02 (10:28–10:40)
Three-Month Moving Averages and Exponential Moving Averages of Gold Prices (2019–2021)
Zion Pease

SRP-03 (10:41–10:53)
A Multivariate Revenue Income Model for Precious Metals Trade
Cameron Brown

SRP-04 (10:54–11:06)
A Multivariate Revenue Model for Cotton, Tobacco, and Peanuts
Francesca Onumah

SRP-05 (11:07–11:19)
A Study of COVID-19 Death Trends in Texas, Georgia, and California
Tajae Hinds

SRP-06 (11:20–11:32)
Nebraska Farmer Multivariate Revenue Model
Derrick Drayton

SRP-07 (11:33–11:45)
Comparative Analysis of Moving Averages for Egg and Beef Prices (2020–2025)
Jaiden Davis

SRP-08 (11:46–11:58)
Multivariate Linear Model for Agricultural Data (Corn, Soybeans, Wheat)
Ayodeji Williams

ABSTRACTS:
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 1: Natural & Applied Sciences

Investigating the Synergistic Effects of PFAS Chemicals and Microplastics on the Viability and Motility of Brown Planaria (Dugesia sp.)

Mykala Eckler, *Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science*
Mentor: Dr. John L. Williams

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and microplastics are persistent environmental contaminants that accumulate in biological systems and are difficult to eliminate. While each has been associated with adverse physiological effects, their potential synergistic interactions remain poorly understood. This study evaluates the combined effects of PFAS and microplastics on the planarian species Dugesia tigrina as a model organism. In Phase 1, a protocol for quantifying swimming speed in Dugesia tigrina was developed and validated using automated video analysis tools, demonstrating consistent and reproducible tracking of locomotor activity. In Phase 2, organisms will be exposed to varying concentrations and combinations of PFAS and microplastics, and changes in swimming behavior will be quantified as a function of exposure. This work aims to provide insight into how these contaminants, individually and in combination, affect biological systems and may contribute to broader environmental health risk assessments.

Design, Synthesis and Characterization of Potential Water Soluble Imidazopyridines: Antimicrobial Compounds.

Bailey Gray, Kayla Doris *Mentor: Dr. Richard*

Multi-resistant strains of bacteria represent a major threat to public safety, public health, the global community and global economy. Research and development of new generations of antimicrobials to combat the spread of antibiotic resistance has now become of paramount importance. Imidazopyridines possess antimicrobial properties, however these compounds are often difficult to synthesize and have poor solubility in polar solvents. An ecofriendly method of synthesizing water soluble imidazopyridines will be explored in this project. The combination of the antibacterial properties of imidazopyridines, designed to be water soluble, is expected to provide new chemical entities with unique pharmacological properties. In view of this, the present study, will synthesize, characterize and evaluate the antimicrobial activities of potential water soluble imidazopyridine compounds. The characterization of the new molecules will be achieved using melting point determination, 1H and 13C NMR spectroscopy. In addition, each new compound will be evaluated for its effectiveness against various gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria.

Biofilm Formation of Wild-Type and Pressure-Stressed Escherichia coli O157:H7, Salmonella enterica, and Listeria monocytogenes Pathogens of Public Health Concern in Pasteurized Milk, Distilled Water, and on Abiotic Surfaces.

Kendra Ross, *Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science*
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

Bacterial biofilms on food processing equipment surfaces present a significant public health challenge, enabling pathogenic persistence and facilitating product cross-contamination. Foodborne pathogens, including Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella enterica, form resilient biofilms on stainless steel surfaces commonly used in food processing plants, compromising food safety and reducing product shelf life. While biofilm resistance to industrial sanitization is well established, the mechanisms by which stress adaptation modulates biofilm formation remain poorly understood, particularly in dairy products. This study examined biofilm formation by wild-type and pressure-stressed pathogens from a four-strain cocktail of E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella enterica serovars in sterile milk on stainless steel surfaces at 5°C and 37°C. Pressure-stressed cells were exposed to 15,000 PSI (103 MPa) at 25°C for 15 minutes. Using a randomized block design with two biologically independent repetitions.

Inactivation of Spores of Bacillus atrophaeus and Geobacillus Stearothermophilus by High Pressure, Mild Heat, Caprylic Acid, and Citricidal

Ryleigh Vaughn, Esther Antwi-Boasiako, Evelyn Redmond

Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

Bacterial endospores represent a critical challenge in food safety and preservation due to their remarkable resistance to conventional physical and chemical treatments. Bacillus atrophaeus, a thermophilic, spore-forming bacterium commonly used as a biological indicator, exemplifies this resistance and serves as an ideal model organism for investigating spore inactivation strategies. High-pressure processing (HPP) has demonstrated potential for microbial control, but its effectiveness against highly resistant endospores remains limited. This study investigated the synergistic effects of combining HPP with mild heat and antimicrobial agents to enhance Bacillus atrophaeus spore inactivation. Spore suspensions were subjected to high hydrostatic pressure ranging from 200 to 500 MPa at 55–60°C for 0, 3, and 5 minutes, both with and without antimicrobial compounds, including Citricidal, caprylic acid, and lactic acid. Results demonstrated that pressure treatments alone at 400–500 MPa achieved approximately 1 log reduction compared to untreated controls at 55°C. However, when combined with antimicrobial agents, notably lactic acid, inactivation improved significantly, achieving 2.5 log reductions at 500 MPa. These findings demonstrate that combining HPP with mild heat and specific antimicrobial compounds produces synergistic effects that substantially enhance spore inactivation. The results suggest that tailored combination treatments could offer more effective strategies for controlling spore-forming pathogens in food processing. However, further research is warranted to optimize treatment conditions, clarify the mechanisms underlying these synergistic effects, and evaluate efficacy against other resilient spore-forming pathogens in commercial food applications.

Decontamination Efficacy of Escherichia Coli and Salmonella by the Synergistic Effect of Ten Different Antimicrobials and High-Pressure Processing at 25°C and 37°C

Tereza Thomas, Laila Dowdy, Evelyn Redmond

Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science
Mentor: Dr. Niamul Kabir

Foodborne illnesses remain a persistent public health challenge worldwide, with Escherichia coli and Salmonella serovars causing severe gastrointestinal illness, particularly in vulnerable populations. Microbial contamination throughout the farm-to-table continuum undermines food safety and consumer confidence. This study investigated the synergistic efficacy of high-pressure processing (HPP) combined with mild heat and ten bactericidal compounds to enhance inactivation of E. coli and Salmonella in food products. Orange juice was inoculated with target concentrations of 10^7 CFU/mL and subjected to 400 MPa elevated hydrostatic pressure at 25°C and 37°C for 0 (untreated control), 3, and 5 minutes using Hub880 Barocycler Units.

Treatments included ten bactericidal compounds: Citrospet, Citricidal, caprylic acid, carvacrol, lactic acid, benzoic acid, thymol, citric acid, DL-malic acid, and sorbic acid at 0.01% concentration. Results were analyzed using Tukey- and Dunnett 's-adjusted analysis of variance. Results demonstrated remarkable efficacy with synergistic pressure and mild heat at 37°C, achieving ≥99.99% reduction (≥4 logs CFU/mL) of E. coli and ≥5 logs CFU/mL reduction of Salmonella. Six compounds—sorbic acid, malic acid, carvacrol, caprylic acid, lactic acid, and thymol—emerged as optimal antimicrobial partners, while benzoic acid and citric acid derivatives showed comparatively moderate effects. These findings provide a data-driven foundation for developing tailored, product-specific HPP protocols that maximize microbial inactivation while preserving food quality, ultimately advancing consumer protection and public health outcomes.

The Effect of Water Quality on Yeast Growth: A Comparison of Flint River, Cromatie Beach, and Purified Water Sources

Katelyn Lunsford

Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifeday

This project looks at how different types of water affect yeast fermentation. The goal is to see if water quality changes how well yeast produces carbon dioxide. Water samples were collected from the Flint River, Lake Loretta, and purified water to compare how yeast reacts in each one. The experiment measures carbon dioxide production using balloon inflation and will later be tested using a CO_2 sensor for more accurate results.

Water chemistry, including hardness and possible contaminants, is also being considered to understand how these factors might influence yeast activity. It is expected that differences in water quality will lead to different fermentation results, with some water sources supporting better yeast growth than others. This study helps show how environmental conditions can impact biological processes. Understanding these differences can help provide insight into how water quality may impact ecosystems and the organisms that depend on them. This research also highlights the importance of monitoring environmental water conditions.

Mandouma G. Synthesis of tetraarylphosphonium/tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate Salts and Their Potential Anticancer Activity Against HeLa Human Cell Lines

Blessing Pierre
Mentor: Dr. Ghislain Mandouma

Investigation into Stabilized all Inorganic CsPb1-xMnxBr3 (with x=0.1–0.3) Perovskite Solar Cells

Emery Allen
Mentor: Dr. Liqiu Zheng

SESSION 2:
Computational Mathematics & Data Science

Classification of Gene Expression Data

Garret Godwin, *Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics*
Mentor: Dr. Wanjun Hu

This project establishes a computational pipeline for analyzing gene expression data using machine learning and topological data analysis. Gene expression datasets were obtained from GitHub and processed in a Python-based Google Colab environment, where data loading, validation, and preprocessing were performed using NumPy and scikit-learn. Feature selection methods, including Variance Threshold, SelectKBest, and Principal Component Analysis (PCA), were applied to reduce dimensionality and identify informative genes. Visualizations such as heatmaps, label distribution plots, and PCA scatter plots were used to explore dataset structure, while persistent homology was applied using Ripser to generate persistence diagrams that capture the underlying shape of the data. Machine learning models, including Naive Bayes, Decision Trees, and Logistic Regression, were implemented to evaluate classification performance.

Approximating Roots: A Comparative Study of Numerical Methods for Nonlinear Equations

Emari Knowles, *Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics*
Mentor: Prof. Jayanti Saha

Nonlinear equation like x^3-2x-5=0 was solved by three different numerical methods such as Bisection method, Newton-Raphson method and Secant method. We implemented these methods manually and compared their performance in terms of speed (execution time and iterations) and accuracy (proximity to the true root).
Our results showed that Newton-Raphson method was the fastest among all three solution methods.

Optimized Campus Route Planning: A Geospatial Application for Albany State University Navigation

Jada Rodgers, *Kendall Akins, Department of Mathematics,*
Computer Science, & Physics
Mentors: Dr. Alex Alochukwu & Prof. Lekeon Little

Navigating unfamiliar campus environments often leads to confusion, inefficiency, and accessibility challenges for students, faculty, and visitors. This project addresses these issues through the design and development of a real-time route-planning prototype specifically for the Albany State University campus. Developed using Maui .NET, the application integrates geospatial data and campus-specific layouts to optimize pathfinding for both outdoor walkways and building interiors. To overcome common GPS limitations in indoor environments, the system utilizes static floorplan overlay to represent interior spaces effectively. The resulting demo provides a functional framework for localized navigation where general-purpose mapping services often lack detail. Future work will involve user testing to evaluate the system's impact on navigation efficiency and its ability to reduce campus-wide accessibility barriers.

Automated Attendance System Using Fused Biometrics and Proximity

Christopher Davis, Collen Lawrence,
Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics
Mentors: Dr. Alex Alochukwu & Prof. Lekeon Little

Traditional manual attendance systems in educational settings are often time-consuming and prone to human error. To address these inefficiencies, this project designed and implemented an automated "smart" attendance system leveraging facial recognition technology. The proposed system captures real-time data by identifying students through biometric analysis, eliminating the need for manual input. Beyond simple record-keeping, the system provides instructors with comprehensive analytics on student attendance patterns, including frequency, absenteeism, and punctuality. Experimental results demonstrate that this implementation offers significant improvements in operational efficiency, data accuracy, and overall usability compared to conventional methods.

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics on Audit Quality and Tax Compliance

Destini Fletcher, School of Business
Mentor: Dr. Edgars Patani

Artificial intelligence (AI) is developing day by day. With the increase of AI use in various aspects of society, business and finance sectors must correspond to these technological advances. Data analysis is another powerful tool that is reshaping the accounting and finance world. Auditors and other tax professionals are using artificial intelligence and data analysis to navigate through complex data, redefine financial integrity, and automate everyday tasks.

Using literature review of various journals, this study characterized findings on current trends and practices on audit quality and tax compliance. It also explores the benefits and challenges of adopting AI in these areas. The study relied exclusively on literature collected from Google Scholar, including peer reviewed journal articles, academic books, conference papers, and scholarly research publications. This study concludes that artificial intelligence and data analytics play a transformative role in enhancing tax compliance and audit quality. The literature consistently demonstrates that AI improves accuracy, strengthens fraud detection, and increases the efficiency of both auditors and tax authorities. However, the advantages of AI must be balanced against its challenges. Issues such as data quality limitations, algorithmic bias, privacy risks, and lack of transparency underscore the need for powerful governance frameworks and ethical guidelines. Overall, the findings suggest that AI is most effective when used as a complement to human ability rather than a replacement, and as technology continues to evolve, future research should explore its long-term implications.

Machine Learning Integration for RNA Cancer-specific LncRNA Exploration (MIRACLE)

Ayodeji Williams,
Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics
Mentors: Dr. Olabisi Ojo & Dr. Wanjun Hu

Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNA), which constitute a large portion of the human transcriptome, are increasingly recognized as critical regulators in cancer biology, particularly in osteosarcoma (OS). Despite their significance, many lncRNAs remain poorly characterized due to limitations in traditional experimental approaches. The MIRACLE framework integrates machine learning–based coding potential tools to improve the identification and functional interpretation of lncRNAs in OS transcriptomic data. Analysis of five Augmented STAR-aligned RNA-seq datasets revealed a consistent lncRNA-dominant transcriptional profile, with lncRNAs representing approximately 28% of detected genes. Key transcripts, including MALAT1, NEAT1, NORAD, and H19, were highly expressed across samples, with MALAT1 reaching levels above 12,000 TPM in aggressive profiles. Significant proportions of reads mapped to ambiguous and unannotated regions, suggesting the presence of novel lncRNAs. Comparative patterns across datasets indicate variability in expression linked to tumor progression and cellular stress adaptation, with NEAT1 particularly elevated in advanced conditions. These findings support the hypothesis that lncRNAs serve as central regulators in OS pathogenesis, functioning through mechanisms such as microRNA sponging, chromatin remodeling, and stress-response modulation. Their high expression, tissue specificity, and correlation with disease stage position them as superior biomarkers compared to traditional protein-based markers. Integration with machine learning tools enhances the discovery of both annotated and novel lncRNAs, enabling scalable and reproducible analysis. Collectively, this work demonstrates the potential of computational genomics frameworks like MIRACLE to advance biomarker discovery, improve diagnostic precision, and provide accessible research workflows for undergraduate training in cancer genomics.

Factors Affecting Performance of a Microwave Absorber

Anna Reese, Isaiah Webb,
Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics
Mentor: Dr. Arun Saha

A microwave absorber is a single or multilayer sheet of dielectric materials stacked one above another with metal plane on one side while other side is exposed to receive electromagnetic signals of which one particular frequency is targeted to be absorbed. In this research, the frequency behavior of a microwave absorber was studied when the dielectric constant or electrical property of the absorbing material was varied. The dielectric constant was controlled by adding circular metal patches on the absorbing material in a periodic fashion. Experimental results showed that the operational frequency or absorption frequency was shifted to the lower frequency region when the dielectric constant was increased gradually resulting from the increase in metal patch density.

SESSION 3: Social Sciences & Public Policy

Evaluating the Harms of Using AI Programs as Therapists Among College Students

Francesca Onumah
Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, & Physics
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Whitehead

As artificial intelligence (AI) programs become more common in mental health support, it is important to understand their potential risks and limitations. This study examined the use of AI programs as therapist tools among college students, with a focus on emotional connection and trust. A cross sectional survey was conducted with 28 college students to gather data on their experiences with both professional therapy and AI supported mental health tools. The survey included rating scale and yes or no questions measuring emotional connection, perceived understanding, and willingness to use AI for future support. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze participant responses. The results suggested mixed to negative experiences, with many participants reporting feeling neutral to disconnected after interacting with AI programs and expressing limited trust in AI as a replacement for professional therapy. Additionally, a majority of participants indicated hesitation toward future use of AI support. These findings suggest that while AI tools may offer convenient and accessible support, they may lack the emotional depth needed for effective mental health care. Overall, this study talks about the importance of using AI cautiously and reinforces the need for accessible, human-centred mental health services for college students.

Trends and Disparities in Undergraduate Internship (TRUDI) Placements Across City Departments: A Case Study of the City of Austin

Jane Oluwaniyi
Mentor: Dr. Rachel Ojo

Mental and Emotional Effects of SANE Nurse Evidence Collection on Themselves and Sexual Assault Survivors

Emaria Banks
Mentor: Jaunice Tunstall-Redditt

Homelessness Among U.S. Military Veterans: Policy Gaps, Health Challenges, and Barriers to Support

Trinity Baggs, *Department of Criminal Justice*
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson-Richard

The United States has long recognized its responsibility to provide housing assistance for vulnerable populations through the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, yet thousands of veterans remain homeless today. Despite federal, state, and local programs intended to protect them. This project examines why veteran homelessness still exists despite the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. Focusing on three critical factors—service-related health conditions, lack of family support, and uneven state enforcement of housing policies- is applied. Findings will inform strategies for strengthening federal and state support systems, with implications for reducing homelessness among veterans across the United States. The methodology being used is both qualitative and quantitative research. Using these data helps me review the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and state-level initiatives to identify gaps and inconsistencies.

Also, understand ways to increase the spread of this act to all 50 states of the United States. The survey included yes/no and open-ended questions, and participants were only asked to provide their state. The participants were randomized. The results showed low awareness of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. Only two participants were familiar with the Act, while the majority indicated either no knowledge or a limited understanding. Also, the federal law of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and VA programs apply to all 50 states. Overall, the findings suggest a gap between awareness and action. More effort is needed to improve knowledge of housing policies and provide stronger support for all veterans returning to civilian life.

Locked Away for a Lie: A Study on False Accusations & their Impact on Incarcerated Individuals

C-yanni Outen, *Department of Criminal Justice*
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson Richard

Wrongful convictions have devastating effects, and exoneration is just the first step in that long journey. Wrongful conviction represents a miscarriage a justice, depriving individuals of their freedom while inflicting superfluous and personal harm. This research will use articles and findings to investigate the causes and consequences of wrongful imprisonment in Georgia. While also showing the most effective Support systems that help the falsely accused be successful in their reintegration. Data Will then be taken from these findings to conclude the percentage of the exonerees in Georgia. Contrary to what is often believed exonerees leave prison without anything except mental health issues, financial trouble, cultural shock, and instability. No identification, no money, no job, no caseworker, and no housing. Without many resources from the government non-profit organizations began to step up and provide legal representation, investigations, re-entry support, community education, and policy reform to exonerees and people who are still in prison while being falsely accused. Around 4% of incarcerated people in the United States are innocent of convicted crimes. That means around 2,500 innocent people are imprisoned in Georgia. As a state, as a community, and as a country, we need to do better at providing help, and resources to those who must suffer from the toil that false convictions lead to

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Who Watches the Watchers? Power, Abuse, and Accountability in Corrections – A Case Study of Gwinnett County Jail

Rhyan Winston, *Department of Criminal Justice*
Mentor: Dr. Kizzie Donaldson-Richard

This study examined the conditions, oversight practices, and lived experiences of individuals housed in Gwinnett County Jail. The purpose of the research was to better understand how jail environments impact inmates and to identify potential gaps in safety, accountability, and rehabilitation efforts.

A qualitative research approach was used, including analysis of publicly available reports, news articles, and documented inmate experiences. Additional focus was placed on identifying patterns related to overcrowding, staffing issues, and access to basic needs such as medical care and protection from violence.

The results showed that many concerns have been raised regarding jail conditions, including reports of unsafe environments, limited resources, and insufficient oversight. Patterns suggested that systemic issues, such as understaffing and lack of transparency, may contribute to these challenges. These findings also highlighted how negative jail conditions can impact both inmate well-being and overall public trust in the criminal justice system.

In conclusion, the study emphasized the need for improved oversight, increased transparency, and stronger accountability measures within local detention facilities. Addressing these concerns is essential not only for protecting inmate rights but also for promoting fairness and effectiveness within the justice system as a whole.

Do the US Budget and Trade Deficits Lead to an Expansionary or a Contractionary Economy

Al Childs
Mentor: Dr. Amaechi Nwaokoro

SESSION 4: Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies

Forensic Science's Role in Understanding Environmental Racism: Marginalized Communities at a Crossroads

Chelsea Zeon, *Department of Biology, Chemistry, & Forensic Science*
Mentor: Dr. Kristine Konkol

Environmental racism refers to the unequal burden of environmental hazards placed on communities of color because of systemic inequalities in policy, enforcement, and resource allocation. This study investigated how environmental racism has affected marginalized populations in the United States and examined the role of forensic science in uncovering and understanding these impacts. Three major case studies were analyzed: The North Carolina hog farm crisis, The Flint, Michigan water crisis, and Louisiana's Cancer Alley. The analysis showed that affected communities consistently faced higher exposure to environmental pollutants, reduced political influence, and delayed or inadequate government response. In North Carolina, large scale hog farming operations were found to disproportionately impact Black and low-income rural populations through significant air and water contamination. In Flint, policy failures and lack of regulatory oversight resulted in widespread lead exposure, causing severe and lasting neurological and public health effects. In Louisiana's Cancer Alley, the dense concentration of petrochemical facilities in historically Black communities was associated with increased cancer risks and ongoing health disparities. Overall, the study identified recurring patterns of environmental injustice, including economic vulnerability, weak regulatory enforcement, and long-term health consequences. The findings demonstrated that environmental racism operated as a systemic issue rooted in historical, political, and economic inequalities. Additionally, the study showed that forensic science played a critical role in detecting environmental hazards, assessing health outcomes, and supporting efforts toward accountability and justice. These results demonstrated the need for stronger regulatory enforcement, greater community involvement, and more equitable environmental protections moving forward.

Impact of Environmental Racism on Communities

Zaria Steele, *Department of Health Sciences*
Mentor: Dr. Johannes A. Badejo

This study investigates environmental racism by analyzing three emblematic cases in the United States: the Memphis AI supercomputer facility that operated far beyond permitted limits in a predominantly Black neighborhood, the Flint water crisis where political mismanagement caused lead poisoning that disproportionately harmed

African American families, and Louisiana's Cancer Alley where petrochemical industries have contributed to exceptionally high cancer rates among Black working-class populations. By drawing on scholarly research, investigative reporting, and community accounts, the project demonstrates how environmental harm is distributed along racial and economic lines, reinforced by weak governance and systemic inequities. The central thesis is that environmental racism persists because power structures prioritize corporate and industrial growth over the well-being of vulnerable communities, and that advancing justice requires a combination of policy reform, regulatory accountability, and grassroots advocacy.

The Impact of Drug Abuse and Misuse in Adolescent

Manuel Makayla
Mentor: Dr. Cajetan C. Ihe

Mental Health in First-year College Students at Albany State University

Latosha Collier
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Whitehead

How Headphone Type and Listening Habits Affect College Students' Hearing

Kendall Davis
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

Discrepancies Between Training Goals and Self-Selected Resistance Training Intensity

T'Miyah Williams
Mentor: Dr. Aram Yoon

Special Session– Senior Research Projects in Mathematical Modelling

Iowa Farmer Multivariate Revenue Income Model for Eggs, Pork and Beef
Jonathan Jack M. Balote

This paper examines how an Iowa farmers could forecast their earnings from three primary agricultural commodities: pork, beef, and eggs. To predict total farm income, we develop a multivariate revenue model, which essentially uses many factors simultaneously, such as pricing, production volume, and cost fluctuations. The model helps illustrate which of these goods are more profitable and how shifts in the market may impact the farmer's total income by comparing them collectively. The objective is to provide a better understanding of how these three agricultural products combine to strengthen the farmers' income revenue.

Three-Month Moving Averages and Exponential Moving Averages of Gold Prices (2019–2021)

Zion Pease

This project focuses on analyzing gold price trends using two common time series models: the three-month moving average (3MMA) and the exponential moving average (EMA). The data used in this study covers monthly gold prices from January 2019 to December 2021. The main goal is to see how well these methods help smooth out price fluctuations and show overall trends, especially during periods of uncertainty like the COVID-19 pandemic. To complete the analysis, historical gold price data was collected and used to calculate both the 3MMA and EMA. The results were then compared to see how each method responds to changes in price over time. The three-month moving average provides a smoother view of trends, while the exponential moving average reacts more quickly to recent price changes and ensure price stability. Overall, this project shows that both methods are useful, but they serve slightly different purposes depending on the situation. The findings highlight how these techniques can be applied in real-world financial data analysis and demonstrate their relevance in the field of data science.

A Multivariate Revenue Income Model for Precious Metals Trade

Cameron Brown

This study focuses on a multivariate revenue model for precious metals, specifically gold, diamonds, and platinum. Using production and income data from the last decade, we have developed a revenue model for a hypothetical company in the industry that focuses on these three metals. This model will illustrate past production values and revenues, as well as provide predictions for future production and income.

A Multivariate Revenue Model for Cotton, Tobacco, and Peanuts

Francesca Onumah

This study presents a multivariate linear revenue model for three major agricultural commodities: cotton, tobacco, and peanuts. The model uses average yearly prices from 2020 to 2025, based on reports from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Federal Reserve Economic Data. Using the formula

$$R(x) = a_0 + a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3$$

where each variable represents the quantity of one commodity, a table of annual prices was created to estimate total revenue for a farmer producing these crops. The results show that changes in cotton and peanut prices had the largest effect on overall revenue, while tobacco prices remained more stable. These findings help illustrate how different crops contribute differently to farm income and can guide farmers in making production decisions. Overall, the model provides a simple way to understand the relationship between commodity prices and revenue, with broader applications for agricultural business planning and economic analysis.

A Study of COVID-19 Death Trends in Texas, Georgia, and California

Tajae Hinds

This study examines the number of Covid-19 deaths reported in three U.S. states: Texas, Georgia, and California. The goal of the study is to observe how death rates changed over time and to compare trends among the three states. Data on Covid-19 deaths were collected from publicly available sources and organized into a time-series format for analysis. Statistical methods, including averages and trend analysis, were used to better understand patterns and changes during different periods of the pandemic. The analysis showed that each state experienced increases in deaths during major outbreak periods, although the timing and severity of these increases were not the same in all states.

Differences in population size and public size and public health measures may have contributed to these variations. Overall, the study provides a clearer understanding of how Covid-19 impacted different states and demonstrates the value of tracking data trends when responding to public health emergencies.

Nebraska Farmer Multivariate Revenue Model
Derrick Drayton

This study examines the Nebraska Farmer Multivariate Revenue Income Model for chicken, beef, and corn production. The purpose is to understand how these different sources of farm income work together. The model studies how things like prices, costs, and production levels affect total farm profit. It also shows how raising animals and growing crops at the same time can impact income. The results suggest that farmers can make more stable money by not depending on just one product. Overall, this model helps farmers make better decisions to improve their income and manage risk.

Comparative Analysis of Moving Averages for Egg and Beef Prices (2020–2025)
Jaiden Davis

This study analyzes price trends of eggs and beef in the United States from 2020 to 2025 using three-month simple moving averages (SMA) and exponential moving averages (EMA). The objective is to evaluate price volatility and compare the responsiveness of smoothing techniques in identifying market trends. Data was analyzed to observe short-term fluctuations and long-term patterns, particularly during periods of economic disruption and supply chain instability. Results indicate that egg prices exhibited greater volatility compared to beef, with sharper fluctuations over shorter periods. Additionally, the exponential moving average proved more responsive to sudden price changes, while the simple moving average provided a smoother, more stable trend line. These findings highlight the effectiveness of EMA in detecting rapid market shifts and SMA in illustrating overall pricing trends, offering valuable insights for economic analysis and forecasting.

Multivariate Linear Model for Agricultural Data (Corn, Soybeans, Wheat)
Ayodeji Williams

This paper investigates the joint relationship between Corn, Soybeans, and wheat yield in Iowa, particularly climatic variables such as precipitation, alongside anthropogenic factors like fertilizer use, and soil quality, to fill the gaps that already exist in the univariate models. We took data from the USDA NASS from 2020 to 2025, with a focus on soil quality, taking into account the covariance between corn, soybeans, and wheat yields. The model follows the form Y=XB+E, where Y is the multi-crop yield matrix, X as the matrix for environmental predictors, and E the error terms associated.

POSTER SESSION (1:30 – 2:30 PM)

Undergraduate Research & Scholarly Inquiry Poster Showcase

MAIN CATEGORIES

Natural & Applied Sciences (NPS-P)
Poster numbers: NPS-P01 – NPS-P07

Computational Mathematics and Data Science (MCD-P)
Poster numbers: MCD-P01 – MCD-P07

Social Sciences & Public Policy (SSP-P)
Poster numbers: SSP-P01 – SSP-P07

Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies (CJH-P)
Poster numbers: CJH-P01– CJH-P07

SPECIAL CATEGORY- INTERDISCIPLINARY

Grant-Funded Research Projects (GFR-P)
Poster numbers: GFR-P01 – GFR-P06

Global Learning Exploratory Research Projects (GLE-P)
Poster numbers: GLE-P01 – GLE-P18

Course-Based & Capstone Research Projects (CGS-P)
Poster numbers: CBC-P01 – CBC-P10

BCB ATRIUM – A

NPS-P- SERIES: - Natural & Applied Sciences

NPS-01
Investigating the Synergistic Effects of PFOS Chemicals and Microplastics on the Viability and Motility of Brown Planaria (Dugesia sp.)
Mykala Eckler

NPS-02
Design, Synthesis and Characterization of Potential Water Soluble Imidazopyridines: Antimicrobial Compounds
Bailey Gray, Kayla Doris

NPS-03
Biofilm Formation of Wild-Type and Pressure-Stressed Escherichia coli O157:H7, Salmonella enterica, and Listeria monocytogenes Pathogens of Public Health Concern in Pasteurized Milk, Distilled Water, and on Abiotic Surfaces
Kendra Ross

NPS-04
Inactivation of Spores of Bacillus atrophaeus and Geobacillus Stearothermophilus by High Pressure, Mild Heat, Caprylic Acid, and Citricidal
Ryleigh Vaughn, Esther Antwi-Boasiako, Evelyn Redmond

NPS-05
Decontamination Efficacy of Escherichia Coli and Salmonella by the Synergistic Effect of Ten Different Antimicrobials and High-Pressure Processing at 25°C and 37°C
Tereza Thomas, Laila Dowdy, Evelyn Redmond

NPS-06
The Effect of Water Quality on Yeast Growth: A Comparison of Flint River, Cromatie Beach, and Purified Water Sources
Katelyn Lunsford

NPS-07
Investigation into Stabilized all Inorganic CsPb1-xMnxBr3 (with x=0.1–0.3) Perovskite Solar Cells
Emery Allen

BCB ATRIUM – B

MCD-P- SERIES: - Computational Mathematics & Data Science

MCD-01
Classification of Gene Expression Data
Garret Godwin

MCD-02
Approximating Roots: A Comparative Study of Numerical Methods for Nonlinear Equations
Emari Knowles

MCD-03
Optimized Campus Route Planning: A Geospatial Application for Albany State University Navigation
Jada Rodgers, Kendall Akins

MCD-04
Automated Attendance System Using Fused Biometrics and Proximity
Christopher Davis, Collen Lawrence

MCD-05
The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics on Audit Quality and Tax Compliance
Destini Fletcher

MCD-06
Machine Learning Integration for RNA Cancer-specific LncRNA Exploration (MIRACLE)
Ayodeji Williams

MCD-07
Factors Affecting Performance of a Microwave Absorber
Anna Reese, Isaiah Webb

BCB ATRIUM – C

SSP-P- Series : Social Science & Public Policy

SSP-01
Evaluating the Harms of Using AI Programs as Therapists Among College Students
Francesca Onumah

SSP-02
Trends and Disparities in Undergraduate Internship (TRUDI) Placements Across City Departments: A Case Study of the City of Austin
Jane Oluwaniyi

SSP-03
Mental and Emotional Effects of SANE Nurse Evidence Collection on Themselves and Sexual Assault Survivors
Emaria Banks

SSP-04
Homelessness Among U.S. Military Veterans: Policy Gaps, Health Challenges, and Barriers to Support
Trinity Baggs

SSP-05
Locked Away for a Lie: A Study on False Accusations & their Impact on Incarcerated Individuals
C-yanni Outen

SSP-06
Who Watches the Watchers? Power, Abuse, and Accountability in Corrections – A Case Study of Gwinnett County Jail
Rhyan Winston

SSP-07
Do the US Budget and Trade Deficits Lead to an Expansionary or a Contractionary Economy
Al Childs

BCB ATRIUM – D

CJH-P SERIES: - Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies

CJH-01
Forensic Science's Role in Understanding Environmental Racism: Marginalized Communities at a Crossroads
Chelsea Zeon

CJH-02
Impact of Environmental Racism on Communities
Zaria Steele

CJH-03
Credit Card Fraud
Alana Bryant

CJH-04
The Impact of Drug Abuse and Misuse in Adolescent
Manuel Makayla

CJH-05
Mental Health in First-year College Students at Albany State University
Latosha Collier

CJH-06
Discrepancies Between Training Goals and Self-Selected Resistance Training Intensity: An Analysis Across Sex, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Training Experience
T'Miyah Williams

CJH-07
How Headphone Type and Listening Habits Affect College Students' Hearing
Kendall Davis

BCB ATRIUM – (E-G)

IRP—SERIES: -Interdisciplinary Research Presentation Series

GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

GFR-P01
Isolation and Characterization of 1,4-Dioxane-Degrading Bacteria
Leire Rodriguez Najera
Grant: Department of Energy MSIPP Program
PI/Mentor: Dr. Yong J. Lee

GFR-P02
Metals in the Soil: Tracing Industrial Impact in Environmental Systems
Camryn Slappey
Grant: NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)
Mentors: Dr. Gavin Piccione & Dr. Meredith Hastings
PI: Dr. Daniel Ibarra

GFR-P03
Isolation and Characterization of Bacteria with the Ability to Degrade 1,4-Dioxane in Contaminated Areas
Najya Toodle
Grant: Department of Energy MSIPP Program
Mentors: Dr. Yong Jin Lee & Mrs. Sri Sandhya Manne
PI: Dr. Yong Jin Lee

GFR-P04
Microbial Water Quality in Drinking Fountains on the East Campus Buildings at Albany State University
Darshan Balasubramani
Grant: USG STEM Initiative
Mentor: Dr. Yong Jin Lee
PI: Dr. Seyed Roosta

GFR-P05
Bridging Gaps: Understanding Anxiety Among Young Adults
Kenya Jackson
Grant: Bridging Gaps Research Initiative
Mentor: Dr. Addie Campbell-Mungen

GFR-P06
Helping Hispanic Voices Learn Culture, Language, and Philosophy
Kourtney Marshall
Classification: Coursework / Grant-linked
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

COURSE-BASED /CAPSTONE PROJECTS

CGS-P01
What Would Be Without The Genius Of Us?
Connor Jennings
Classification: Capstone
Mentor: Dr. Erica Decuir

CGS-P02
Students' Best Career Choice- A Pilot Study at Albany State University
Layla McFarlane & Jykeria Underwood
Mentor: Dr. Nneka Nora Osakwe

CGS-P03
From Diversity to Retrenchment? Examining Changes in Representation in American Media Advertisements Across the Trump Era
Caleb Jenkins
Classification: Capstone
Mentor: Prof. Robert Bennett

CGS-P04
Mental Matters: Evaluating Youth Mental Health Programs in Georgia and Nigeria
Lawrianna Brooks
Classification: Spring Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Addie Campbell-Mungen

CGS-P05
Ethical, Culturally Competent Approaches to Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect in Albany, Georgia
Shamandria Clark
Classification: Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Addie Campbell-Mungen

CGS-P06
Healing Across Borders: A Multilevel Evaluation of Refugee Youth Mental Health Services in Georgia
Lawrianna Brooks
Classification: Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Addie Campbell-Mungen

CGS-P07
Supply Constraints and Federal Intervention: Rethinking Housing Policy in Georgia
Leah Cowen
Classification: Coursework
Mentors: Prof. Leslie Charles & Dr. Matthew Collins

GLOBAL LEARNING EXPLORATORY RESEARCH PROJECTS

GLE-P01
Religious Demographic & Influence of Kenya
Jaiden Dukes
Classification: Global Learning
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

GLE-P02
Excellent Hispanic Contributions to Albany in 50 Years of Newspapers
Isaiah Flynt
Classification: Global Learning
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

GLE-P03
Ancestry in Hispanic Communities
Maziya Amarrie Frazier
Classification: Global Learning
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

GLE-P04
Artistic Interdisciplinary Nature of Music in Ghana
Sidney Porter
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

GLE-P05
Comparing the difference between Protestant Churches in the American south and Liberia
Isaiah Jones
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

GLE-P06
The First Fifty Years of Contributions of Latin-American Screenwriters to U.S. Cinema
Phoenix Steele
Classification: Global Learning
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

GLE-P07
The contributions of Wendo kolosoy, Joseph Kabasele, and Franco Luambo to Congolese rumba music
JaReyon Feagins
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

CGS-P08
Firearms Trace Data
Kassandra DuBois
Classification: Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Uzoma Okafor

CGS-P09
AI Researching the First 50 Years of the Original 11 NBA Teams Through Hispanic Newspapers
Tristen Andrew Moore
Classification: Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

CGS-P10
Healthcare Problems Among Hispanic Children (Ages 1–13)
Shamari Stalling
Classification: Coursework
Mentor: Dr. Krzysztof Sliwa

GLE-P08
The Use of Theatrical Music in Ethiopia
Nigel Spurlin
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

GLE-P09
Habitat Fragmentation and the Role of Elephants as Indicators of Ecosystem Health
Jayda Howard
Classification: Global Learning
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P10
Voices in the Crowd: Acoustic Communication and Individual Recognition in Penguin Colonies
Zion Bailey
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P11
Mechanisms of Regeneration in Ambystoma mexicanum
Russell Neal
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P12
Egypt
Alias Harris
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

GLE-P13
Sudan
JaMesha Jasper
Mentor: Prof. Joel Johnson

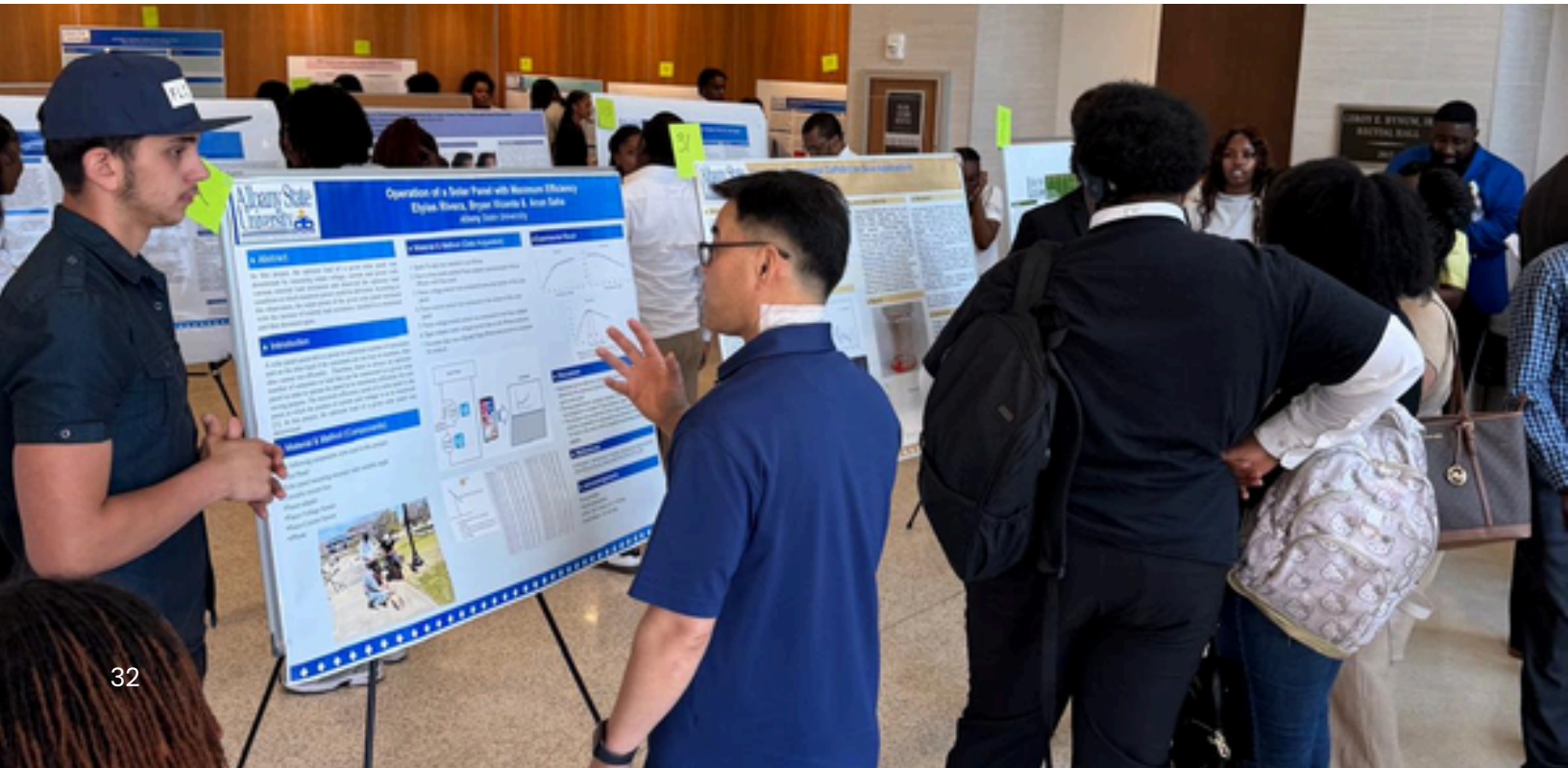
GLE-P14
Life of Gekkonidaes
YaKari Branch
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P15
The Neural Bungee Cord: Helical Optic Nerve Redundancy as a Specialized Adaptation in Chamaeleonidae
Alexis Berry
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P16
Evolutionary adaption of camels.
Kirsten Bufkin
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P17
The Unique Locomotion of Kangaroos: Biomechanics of Hopping
Noah Stovall
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo

GLE-P18
Varanus komodoensis (Komodo Dragons).
Bernice Ansele
Mentor: Prof. Samuel Ifedayo



Undergraduate Research Student Biodata

Hi, my name is **Jane Oluwaniyi** and I am from Nigeria. I am a senior Biology major here at Albany State University graduating this fall semester. My plans after graduation are to continue working as a medical scribe at the emergency center, get a full-time job, and also study for my MCAT. My research is about collecting data from Austin about how minorities lack representation when it comes to internship, using tableau we plan to get an advanced visualization to give us a clear and visually driven communication of equity with diversity patterns to stakeholders

My name is **Jada S. Rodgers** and I am a junior here at Albany State University. My major is computer science with an emphasis in information assurance. My group's research is focused on how we can develop an app to make navigating around campus more efficient for newcomers. My plan after college is to become a front-end software developer.

Greetings! My name is **Kendra Ross** and I'm from Wilmington, Delaware. I'm a Forensic Science major at Albany State University; I am pursuing a career as a Forensic DNA Analyst. I stay involved on campus as the Social Media Chair for the Ancestral Terrace Club and an active member of both the Criminal Justice Club and CWOE (Collegiate Women of Empowerment). My current research focuses on how different foodborne pathogens form biofilms on various surfaces, which has helped me strengthen my lab skills and explore important public health questions.

My name is **Chelsea Zeon**, and I am from Norcross, Georgia. I am a forensic science major at Albany State University, and my career goal is to become a Crime Scene Investigator. My undergraduate research project, Forensic Science's Role in Understanding Environmental Racism: Marginalized Communities at a Crossroads, explores how forensic methods can help document harm, trace contamination, and analyze public health impacts in communities facing environmental injustice. Through this work, I hope to help bridge the gap between forensic science and environmental justice to support accountability and better protections for vulnerable communities.

I am **Katelyn Lunsford,** a Biology major at Albany State University. Alongside my college coursework, I am also taking real estate classes online. My research focuses on how different water qualities can affect yeast growth, helping explore environmental effects on microorganisms. After earning my degree, I plan to attend veterinary school to become a wildlife veterinarian.

My name is **Christopher Davis,** and I am a student at Albany State University, majoring in Computer Science. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and I have a strong interest in technology, coding, and problem-solving. After completing my degree, I plan to pursue a career in software development or cybersecurity. My research focuses on exploring innovative approaches in computer science that can improve everyday technology solutions

I am Makayla Manuel, a Criminal Justice major from Atlanta, Georgia, studying at Albany State University. My academic interests focus on criminology and understanding the factors that shape criminal behavior and justice outcomes. Through my undergraduate research, I aim to build a strong foundation for my future career as a criminal defense attorney. I am excited to continue developing my skills and contributing meaningful work to the criminal justice field.

My name is Rhyan S. Winston, and I am a Criminal Justice student at Albany State University from Lawrenceville, Georgia. After completing my degree, I plan to attend law school and build a career advocating for fairness in the legal system. My research focuses on oversight and accountability in the Gwinnett County Jail, inspired in part by personal experiences with how the justice system affects families. I hope my project sheds light on patterns of abuse and pushes for meaningful change.

Hello, my name is Anna Reese, and I am an Engineering Major. I am currently a sophomore, and I am from Albany, Georgia. After I receive my associate degree, I plan on transferring to UGA to complete my bachelor's in mechanical engineering. The research I am conducting is based on the electromagnetic signals that microwaves give off and how we will create a device made out of dielectric material and metal patches that will be able to absorb certain signals that we want to keep, and repel the remaining signals that we do not need

I am Alana Bryant, a 21-year-old senior at Albany State University, born and raised in Augusta, Georgia. I am majoring in Management Information Systems and plan to graduate in May 2026 with an A average on the Dean's List. After graduation, I intend to continue my education by earning cybersecurity certifications and eventually join the military a year or two into my career. My current research focuses on cybersecurity and credit card fraud, exploring how cybercriminals exploit payment systems and identifying strategies to strengthen digital payment security for all stakeholders. I am passionate about creating safer online environments and helping consumers protect their financial information. Outside of academics, I enjoy working out, reading, and taking night walks, which help me stay balanced and motivated as I pursue my goals.

I am Emari Knowles, a first-generation American and first-generation college student of Bahamian and Jamaican heritage, currently a senior at Albany State University graduating in May 2026. As a STEM major, I aim to set the standard for the rest of my family while preparing for a career in cybersecurity. My current research focuses on nonlinear equations and evaluating three different solution methods to determine which is the fastest, most reliable, and most accurate. After completing my degree, I plan to pursue certifications and graduate studies to further strengthen my skills and expand my opportunities in the field.

My name is Emaria Banks. I am from South Carolina and a senior BSN major at Albany State University. I am also a former ASU softball student-athlete and am now fully focused on my academics to graduate early in May. After graduation, I plan to take my nursing licensure exam and pursue a career as a pediatric psychiatric nurse in the Atlanta, Georgia area, working with children, adolescents, and adults. My research focuses on the mental and emotional effects of forensic evidence collection on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and their patients. I chose this topic because sexual assault trauma impacts both mental and physical health, and many survivors experience retraumatization during evidence collection. My goal is to raise awareness and advocate for more trauma-informed, patient-centered evidence collection techniques that minimize retraumatization.

I am Mykala Eckler. My major is biology, here at ASU. I was born and raised in Albany, GA. After graduating from ASU, I plan on attending medical school to become a primary healthcare physician. My research investigates the potential synergistic effects of PFAS Chemicals and Microplastics using Dugesia Tigrina.

Hello, my name is Bailey Gray. I am a Senior Chemistry major with a minor in Forensic Science at ASU. My research is about designing imidazopyridines for use against different strains of bacteria. After completing my degree, I will be going to medical school to become a forensic pathologist.

My name is Garret Godwin and I am currently attending Albany State University to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science with an emphasis in Mathematics. During my spare time I like to spend time with my family, play golf, and ride motorcycles. My research focuses on classifying gene expression data by integrating machine learning techniques with topological data analysis to identify meaningful biological patterns.

Hello, my name is Tereza Thomas. I am 20 years old and from Stockton, California. I came to Albany State because I wanted to graduate from a HBCU and experience different culture. I received a stem scholarship for this school, majoring in Biology. I aspire to be a biochemist or work in toxicology testing samples in a laboratory hospital.

My name is Emery Allen, and I am a Senior Computer Science Major at Albany State University. I am from McDonough, Georgia and I enjoy working with computer software and hardware. I am considering getting my Masters n Computer Engineering to get a career as an Embedded Systems Engineer making use of both my backgrounds in Computer Science and Engineering.

My name is Trinity Baggs, and I am a 21-year-old fourth-year Criminal Justice student at Albany State University. I was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and raised in Pompano Beach, Florida. Although my major is Criminal Justice, my long-term goals are to become a District Attorney as well as an entrepreneur and author. Throughout my life, I have been actively involved in a variety of sports and leadership roles, including holding leadership positions within Broward County Public Schools. Most notably, I served as the Freshman Class President at Albany State University during the 2023–2024 academic year. I aspire to be the first person in my family to attend law school, and I am deeply motivated by my faith, believing that without God, nothing is possible.

Hello! My name is C-yanni Outen. I am a sophomore here at Albany State, who traveled all the way to Georgia from Pennsylvania. Here at the unsinkable I major in criminal justice. Hoping that after I get my degree I can be prepared to do 2 years of patrolling, then get my foot into the door with homicide investigation. My long terms goals are to also use my degree to go to law school and become a criminal defense attorney. My research aims to explore the challenges faced by individuals who have been falsely accused and imprisoned as they re-enter society. It will also identify the most effective support systems that aid in their successful reintegration, contributing to a better understanding of their needs and how to meet them.

I am Ryleigh Vaughn, a Biology major from Albany, Georgia, and a student at Albany State University. My academic interests focus on food safety research, specifically studying the synergistic effects of high-pressure processing, mild heat, and antimicrobial compounds on the inactivation of bacterial spores such as Bacillus atrophaeus and Geobacillus stearothermophilus Amaya CUR proposal 09182025. After completing my degree, I plan to pursue a career in dentistry, where I hope to apply my scientific background to improve patient care and public health outcomes.

I am Destini Fletcher, a Senior Accounting major here at the Unsinkable Albany State University. I am from Stockbridge Ga, by way of Miami, Florida. With a passion for solving problems, helping others, and remaining financially stable, my plans post-graduation are to continue my education, gain my CPA license, and be the boss that I was created to be. This research is about the effects that Artificial Intelligence has on the business world, specifically Accounting and how we can use these tools to help us and not harm us in the long run.

My name is Ayodeji Williams, and I'm a senior studying computer science with a concentration in mathematics. I've always had an immense love for learning and research since I was a kid. I grew up in Albany, GA, but I was born in Nigeria. I love reading and watching movies, and I enjoy any form of storytelling (video games included). I also analyze and discuss them with others. I aspire to be extremely educated in my field and as many other fields of study as possible, to be a "jack of all trades," a Renaissance man, and an eternal student. I'm excited for what the future holds.

My name is Francesca Onumah, and I am a 22-year-old senior Computer Science major from Norcross, Georgia. I am interested in cybersecurity and enjoy learning new things. After completing my degree, I plan to earn a master's degree and later pursue a career in aerospace. I am currently conducting research titled Evaluating the Harms of Using AI Programs as Therapists Among College Students, which examines how students feel emotionally and mentally after using AI chatbots for therapeutic support and explores the potential risks and responsible use of this technology.

My name is Isaiah webb , I'm a sophomore at ASU I'm from water bury Connecticut and my major is engineering, I'm also a undergoing research student learning about Factor Affecting pe]rformance of a Microwave Absorber. My hobbies are going to the gym being around friend's and playing basketball , also cooking for my self

Hello, I am Kendall Akins, a student at Albany State University. I am from Leesburg, Georgia, so I didn't go far for college at all. I am majoring in engineering, inspired by my brother and his wife, both successful mechanical engineers. While they influenced my interest in the field, I would like to be an aerospace engineer because I am very intrigued by aircraft and spacecraft. I hope to design and create advanced flight vehicles in the future, and I'm excited to keep exploring that passion as I move through my studies.

Hello my name is Collen Lawrence. I am 20 years old, and I am from Albany Georgia. My major is Computer Science and in future, I want to be a software technician.

I'm Al Childs. Business management is my major. I'm from a little town called Camilla Ga. I enjoy reading books and learning new things because if you not learning, you're dying. After I graduate in May, I intend to continue my education by pursuing a master's degree. I take my schooling very seriously because I will be the first person in my family to graduate from college. I attended to this fantastic HBCU for that reason.

My name is Amirah Muhammad, I am a junior computer science major here at Albany State university. I am very active on campus as a soccer player, a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the Vice President of the Association of Computing Machinery, and a model for ASU's modeling troupe. My career aspiration is to become a UX designer. Over the summer I plan to use what I learn at internships, online courses, and my computer science background to reach this goal.

I am Zaria Steele and I am a sophomore at ASU. My major is Health science with a concentration in diagnostic medical sonography, and I hope to become an OBGYN ultrasound tech. I am from Arlington, Texas and I am passionate about learning, equality, and healthcare. My research project is about the harmful effects of environmental racism. This topic is important to me because we only get one earth and one body so we should treat ourselves and everything around us with kindness.

I am Zaria Steele and I am a sophomore at ASU. My major is Health science with a concentration in diagnostic medical sonography, and I hope to become an OBGYN ultrasound tech. I am from Arlington, Texas and I am passionate about learning, equality, and healthcare. My research project is about the harmful effects of environmental racism. This topic is important to me because we only get one earth and one body so we should treat ourselves and everything around us with kindness.

Interdisciplinary Course-Work and Grant Research Student Biodata

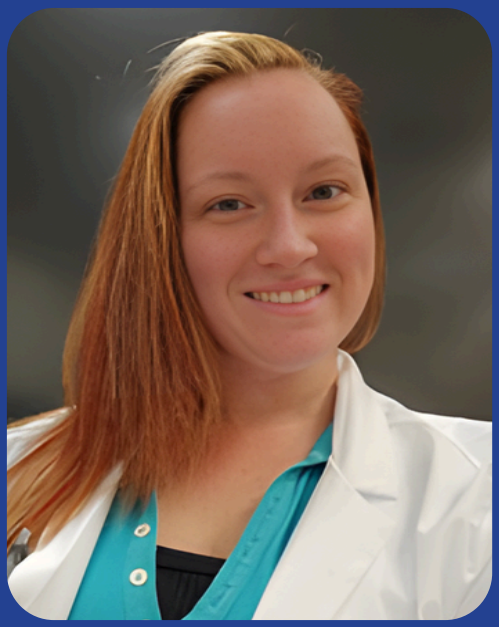
My name is Leah Cowen, and I am from Birmingham, Alabama. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with an expected graduation date of May 2027. I come from a supportive family that has instilled in me the values of service, leadership, and academic excellence. My research interests center on public policy, housing reform, and government accountability, with a particular focus on addressing structural inequalities through legislative solutions. On campus, I serve as President of the History & Political Science Club and a member of three honor societies. I am also a general member of The Esteemed Holley Ambassadors, where I help represent ASU and support admissions department. Beyond campus, I volunteer at Faith Community Outreach Center, supporting community-based programs and outreach efforts. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in public policy and government service, working to develop impactful policies that strengthen communities and expand opportunity.

My name is Sidney Porter, a native of Carrollton, Georgia. Raised in a single-parent household for much of my childhood, I was instilled with the values of family, resilience, and hard work. I graduated in the top fifteen percent of my class of 422 students from Carrollton High School. Determined to attend an HBCU, I chose Albany State University to pursue a degree in Music Education. I am currently a junior Music Education major with a minor in Music Industry, maintaining a 3.5 GPA while actively serving on campus. I am a three-year member of the Marching Rams Show Band, serving as Saxophone Section Leader and Uniform Committee Chair. I am also a Fall 2024 initiate and current Chapter President of the Rho Delta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Inc. After graduation, I plan to become an elementary music teacher and later pursue a master's degree in Educational Leadership to become a principal.

My name is Lawrianna Brooks. I am a 22-year-old college student from Toccoa, Georgia. My research interests include the evaluation of youth mental health programs. The purpose of this research is to promote accountability and participation. I have been a part of several community services projects with organizations such as United Way of Southwest Georgia, Feeding the Valley, Helping Mamas, Strive2Thrive, PruittHealth Hospice, and projects conducted by Albany State University Student Organizations. My career interests are substance abuse and mental health counselor or a university school counselor. My expected graduation date is December 2026.

My name is Najya Toodle. I am a senior biology major here at Albany State University from Loganville, Georgia. My expected graduation date is fall 2026 and my research interest emerged from the want to do what I can to make a change that would result in the world being a little healthier. Future career goals of mine are to get my doctorate as an OB/GYN and open up my own practice in rural areas to give more women the healthcare they deserve. 1,4-dioxane is an industrial solvent with high water solubility, making it a persistent environmental contaminant, especially in groundwater. This study aims to isolate and characterize microorganisms capable of using 1,4-dioxane as their sole carbon and energy source. Soil and water samples were collected from contaminated sites, including the Savannah River Site and the Dougherty County Solid Waste Management and Landfill. From enrichment cultures, 36 isolates were obtained and examined for morphological characteristics using Gram staining and light microscopy. More than 85% of the isolates were straight to curved rods with a diplobacillus arrangement. Genomic DNA was subsequently extracted and quantified from each isolate for downstream PCR amplification and Sanger sequencing for identification. This work advances our understanding of microbial degradation potential and contributes to the development of bioremediation strategies for 1,4-dioxane-contaminated environments.

My name is Kassandra DuBois and I am originally from a small town in Florida called Sorrento. I grew up there until I was about 22 years old with my older brother, mother and father. I proceeded to move to North Dakota and then to Cairo, Georgia. I have volunteered throughout high school with JROTC and currently with my local church (First Baptist Church of Cairo), while attending Albany State College for my Bachelor of Science. My research interest is with the forensic science aspect of the world; I love to investigate how it has changed and what has affected this change, regardless of what forensic aspect it is. I am a very curious person by nature and want to know how the world and science work. I am expected to graduate this December 2026, and I am looking into local career prospects where I currently live in Cairo, Georgia, since I am going to continue on with my Master's here at Albany State University.



Camryn Slappey is from Dawson, Georgia. She is interested in environmental and public health research. During the summer of 2025, she participated in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates at Brown University. This experience allowed her to develop her research skills and gain hands-on experience. Outside of academics, she is involved in her college and community through volunteering, and she is a member of the Velma Fudge Grant Honors Program and Women in pre-med. She is expected to graduate in 2027.

My name is Jykeria Underwood, and I'm from McRae-Helena, Georgia. I grew up in a small town with my mom and my two brothers one older and one younger who mean a lot to me and always push me to do my best. Being from a small town taught me the importance of hard work, family, and staying dedicated to what I want in life. I am currently a Health Science major because I have a strong interest in helping others and learning more about the healthcare field. I'm especially interested in topics related to community health, disease prevention, and improving access to healthcare in underserved areas. I enjoy being involved in community and college service activities that allow me to give back and gain hands-on experience and give back to the community. After graduating in May 2029, I plan to pursue a career in the healthcare field where I can make a positive impact and continue growing professionally.

My name is Kourtney Marshall I was born in February 28, 2004 and I'm 21 years old and I attend Albany state as a junior in my first year, I am from Atlanta Georgia I was born in a family of 5 I have 3 brothers and 1 sister I'm the middle child my mother name is also Courtney my career aspects are learning philosophy and my expected graduated is May 2026 some of my ingest are playing my video game on my Xbox or playing basketball and having fun with my friends and family

My name is Connor Jennings, and I am from Chattanooga, Tennessee. I come from a close-knit family, which has taught me the value of support, teamwork, and responsibility from a young age. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management with a minor in Museum Studies at Albany State University. I am actively involved in multiple campus organizations and serve as a member of the track team, balancing athletics with leadership and service roles. My research interests include museum management, marketing for cultural institutions, and African American history, with a focus on how business strategies can enhance community engagement and cultural preservation. I regularly participate in college and community service initiatives, aiming to make a meaningful impact in both educational and cultural spaces. Looking ahead, I aspire to leadership roles in museum administration or marketing direction, and I expect to graduate in December 2026.

My name is Jaiden Dukes, and I was born in Albany, Georgia, but I was raised in Lincolnton and Augusta, Georgia. I come from a family of educators and musicians, which has influenced my love for learning and music. I am currently a sophomore majoring in Music Education with a focus on percussion. My research interests include music performance, percussion techniques, and how music can positively affect students in the classroom. On campus, I am a proud member of Kappa Kappa Psi band fraternity, where I serve and support the band program. I am also one of the drum majors in the Marching Rams Show Band, which has helped me grow as a leader. In my free time, I enjoy playing the drums and spending time with my friends. After graduation, expected in 2028, I plan to become a band director and inspire future musicians.

My name is Shamandria Clark and I am 24 years old. I am from Dawson Ga with only a population of 4,292, but I currently reside in Albany Ga. My 2 children reside here as well, my son is 1 years old and my daughter is 2 months old. My research interests include children and single mothers whom I can relate to. I attend Albany State University and have done community work at Little Blessings daycare and the YMCA. I am expected to graduate in December this year, if everything goes accordingly to plan. I aspire to become a Pediatric social worker or Child and Family Welfare social worker

Good afternoon my name is Tristen Moore a junior from Albany State University majoring in Mass Communications. I am originally from Stockbridge a suburb in Atlanta,Georgia. My research interests is to gain as much information in the areas I'm not familiar with understanding so I can develop a skillset to understand more of my weakness. My expected date of graduation I'm forward to is the year of 2027. I plan on making a name for myself in the sports industry of mass communication.

My name is Jaron Harris. I am a junior Music Education major from Tifton, Georgia, and my family is primarily based in Ashburn, Georgia, with some members residing in Tifton. My research interests are “How to become an effective band director” and “How to build a strong, powerful band program and marching band. In college, I have been a part of the Marching Rams Show Band at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, for the last three years. For the past two years, I have also assisted the Turner County High School “Titans of Sound” Band in Ashburn, Georgia. As stated, I am a junior Education major, and my expected graduation date is Spring 2028. After I graduate, I plan to continue my education at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida, majoring in Educational Leadership. Based on available opportunities, I would like to begin my career as a high school band director. If that is not immediately possible, I plan to join the Air Force to help fund my graduate school goals while gaining additional experience as I wait for positions to become available.

Hello, my name is Darshan Balasubramani, and I am a dual enrollment student at Albany State University while completing my senior year at Lee County High School, where I will graduate in May 2026. Originally from India, I moved to Florida in 2018, an experience that strengthened my adaptability and broadened my perspective. My family has been a strong source of support and encouragement throughout my academic journey. Currently, I am conducting research on water quality in Albany State University's campus water fountains, and I hope to expand my research interests to colorectal cancer in the future. I serve as the president of HOSA at my high school and intern at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, where I gain valuable clinical exposure and deepen my commitment to healthcare. I aspire to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), combining my interests in anesthesia, patient care, and pain management to make a meaningful impact in the medical field.

My name is Kenya Jackson, and I am from Gainesville, Georgia. I come from a close and supportive family, and having two deaf parents played a major role in shaping who I am and why I chose social work. Growing up, I often helped with communication and learned early about barriers to access, advocacy, and inclusion, which led me to pursue this field. I am a social work major with research interests focused on marginalized communities, older adults, ethical practice, and the use of critical thinking in social work interventions. I am actively involved in college clubs and participate in college and community service through mentoring and volunteering with programs that provide food and support to underprivileged individuals and families. My career goal is to become a clinical social worker, providing direct mental health and supportive services to individuals and families.
I expect to graduate December 2026

My name is Shamari Stalling, and I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I come from a loving and supportive family that includes my mom, my brother, my sister, and a stepsister on my dad's side. Their encouragement has played a major role in shaping who I am today. I currently attend Albany State University, where I am working toward completing my undergraduate degree, with an expected graduation date of May 2028. I am passionate about helping people and making a positive impact in my community. One of the ways I express myself creatively is through hairstyles and makeup, which allow me to showcase my personality and artistic skills. I enjoy using my talents to help others feel confident and beautiful. In the future, I hope to build a career that allows me to continue serving others while also embracing my creativity and individuality.

My name is Layla Mcfarlane, and I am originally from Decatur, Georgia. I come from a supportive family that values education, independence, and hard work. I am currently majoring in Health Science, where I am building a strong foundation in patient care, medical terminology, and healthcare systems. My long-term career goal is to become an ultrasound technician, as I am passionate about working in diagnostic imaging and helping patients during important moments in their healthcare journey. I am a member of the Delta Lambda Delta Honor Society, which reflects my dedication to academic excellence and commitment to success. Although I am focused on healthcare, I also plan to pursue my real estate license after college to expand my professional opportunities and build financial independence. I expect to graduate in Spring 2028 and hope to work in a hospital or imaging center clinic while continuing to grow both professionally and personally.

My name is Jareyon Feagins, and I am a native of Columbus, Georgia. I come from a close-knit family with deep roots in Alabama, whose values of discipline, faith, and perseverance have significantly influenced my personal and academic development. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Education at Albany State University, where I am an active member of the university band and participate in various campus and community initiatives. My academic and research interests include instrumental pedagogy, music performance, and the cultural and educational impact of music within historically Black communities. Through volunteer service and engagement with local schools, I strive to contribute positively to both the university and the broader community. Upon completion of my degree, I intend to pursue a career as a band director, dedicated to fostering musical excellence and academic achievement among students. I anticipate graduating in May 2027.

My name is Maziya Amarrie Frazier. I am a freshman majoring in Health Science at Albany State University (Albany, Ga.) I am from a small town in South Georgia called Jesup. There, I graduated from Wayne County High school. I have family all over the United States, but my immediate family lives in Jesup with me. I am interested in studying Health Science because I have always loved helping people. My passion for caring for others and my love for science made choosing my major very easy. Alongside helping people, I really enjoy cooking. Cooking has always been something I love to do. I enjoy cooking all dishes, because I love and respect all different cultures. I also enjoy reading, hanging out with friends, and exploring new places. I have taken 2 Spanish classes and plan to take them all throughout college. I graduate in May of 2029.

My name is Isaiah Jones, born and raised in the DC, Maryland, Virginia area. More specifically, Woodbridge, Virginia. Most of my family is primarily from the south, My father is from the South Carolina/Middle Georgia area, and my mother is from the Louisiana/DC area. Music. has always been a passion of mine, being able to feel what I feel in the sounds, tones, frequencies, etc. I read a lot, mostly autobiographies, and books about black history. I'm a writer, I can write anything from poetry, to songs, and I'm currently writing a book, set to public when I graduate with my masters. I'm expected to graduate in Spring 2027 with my bachelors in Mass Communications.

Award Categories

Oral Presentation Awards

- Best Oral Presentation Overall
- Best Oral Presentation – Natural & Applied Sciences
- Best Oral Presentation – Computational Mathematics & Data Science
- Best Oral Presentation – Social Sciences & Public Policy
- Best Oral Presentation – Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies
- Best Oral Presentation – Senior Research Projects in Mathematical Modeling

Poster Presentation Awards

- Best Poster Presentation Overall
- Best Poster Presentation – Natural & Applied Sciences
- Best Poster Presentation – Computational Mathematics & Data Science
- Best Poster Presentation – Social Sciences & Public Policy
- Best Poster Presentation – Criminal Justice, Health & Applied Studies
- Best Poster Presentation – Grant Funded Research Project
- Best Poster Presentation – Course-based / Capstone Research Project
- Best Poster Presentation – Global Learning exploratory research Project

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CENTER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES (CTSE)
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM & BEYOND
FY 2026 SPRING CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS	DATE	TIME	FACILITATOR
Faculty/Staff Conference and Course IZN Presentation	January 7, 2026		
Undergraduate Research Committee Meeting	January 28, 2026		
Undergraduate Research Program Orientation & Awareness	January 29, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	
WORKSHOPS			
Worshop 1# Using AI to Ethically Spark Research Topics	February 5, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. John L. Williams
Worshop 2# Humanizing Human Research Data	February 10, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Tiffany Pogue
Worshop 3# Research Process and Data Collection	February 17, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Prof. Jayanti Saha
Workshop 5# Using Case Studies in Research	February 18, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Alex Alochukwu
Workshop 5# Undergraduate Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI): The Infusion of AI"	February 24, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Vijay Kunwar
Undergraduate Research Committee Meeting	February 25, 2026	12:30PM-1:00PM	
Ship IRR publication copies to ASU by	March 31, 2026		
Workshop 6# Research Questions, Hypothesis, Methodology, and Results	February 26, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Zephyrinus Okonkwo
Workshop 7# Making It Make Sense"	March 3, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Kenya Lemon
Workshop 8# Writing Effective Research Abstracts	March 18, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Nneka Osakwe
Submission of April Symposium Abstract (Be sure to revise tense to show completion)	March 23, 2026	12:00PM	
Workshop 9# Putting Quality into Qualitative Research	March 31, 2026	2:00PM-3:15PM	Dr. Patrick Whitehead

Workshop #10 Preparing and Presenting PowerPoint	April 1. 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Mr. Phillip Davis

Symposium Abstracts Submission

Workshop #10 Looking Ahead: The Symposium & Program Wrap-up	April 2, 2026	4:00PM-5:00PM	Dr. Nneka Osakwe
Submission of Symposium PowerPoint Slide Deck And Oral Presentation Posters	April 9, 2026	5:00PM Deadline	
14th Undergraduate Research Symposium	**April 17, 2026**	**8:00AM**	
Summer 2026 Undergraduate Research Institute (20 Students Accepted)	June 1 - June 30, 2026	10:00AM-3:00PM	
ASU 10th Curriculum Internationalization Symposium	**June 29 - June 30, 2026**	**9:00AM**	

2026 Undergraduate Research Committee Members and CTSE Staff

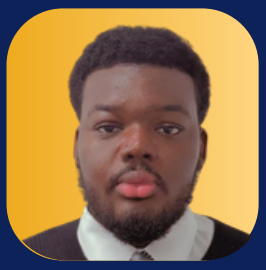
Undergraduate Research Committee

- Dr. Alex Alochukwu - Chair
- Prof. Brandon Henry
- Mr. Philips Davis
- Dr. Patrick Whitehead
- Dr. Joan McCrary
- Dr. Vijay Kunwar
- Dr. Arun Saha
- Dr. Ihuoma Ohamadike
- Dr. MD Naimul Kabir
- Dr. Edgars Patani
- Prof. Jayanti Saha
- Dr. Kizzie Donaldson-Richard
- Dr. Rondrea Mathis

CTSE Staff

Dr. Nneka Nora Osakwe
Director, CTSE

Ms. Monica Reed
CTSE Data & Admin Support Specialist



Mr. Isreal Peters
CTSE Graduate Assistant

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The organizing committee would like to express its appreciation to all colleges, department, organizations. and individuals who provided support for the 14th UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM. Some of these include the following:

- Dr. Robert Scott, ASU President
- Dr. Annice Yarber-Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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- Dr. John Williams, Chair of Natural Sciences
- Dr. Louise Wrensford, Executive Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
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- Mr. Antonio Leroy, MPA, Director of Residence Life, Housing & Community Engagement

THANK YOU OUR REVIEWERS, MODERATORS AND JUDGES

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- Dr. Dorene Medlin
- Dr. JoAnn McCrary
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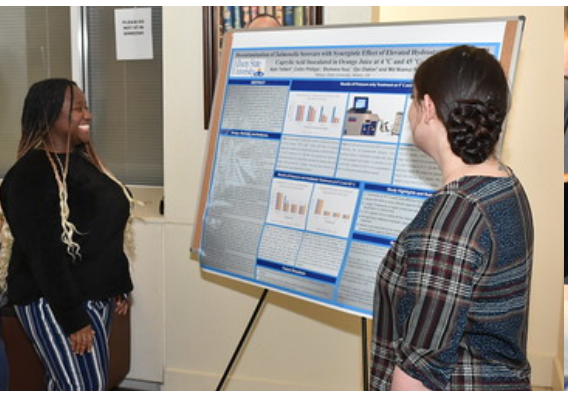

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- Global & International Learning Experiences
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- Fulbright & Fellowship Engagement v Off-Campus
- Research & Internship Opportunities

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- Building research capacity across disciplines.
- Creating globally competitive graduates
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- Summer Undergraduate Research Writing Institute
- Research Skill Development Workshops
- Study Abroad Support (in collaboration with OIE)
- Curriculum Innovation & Faculty Collaboration

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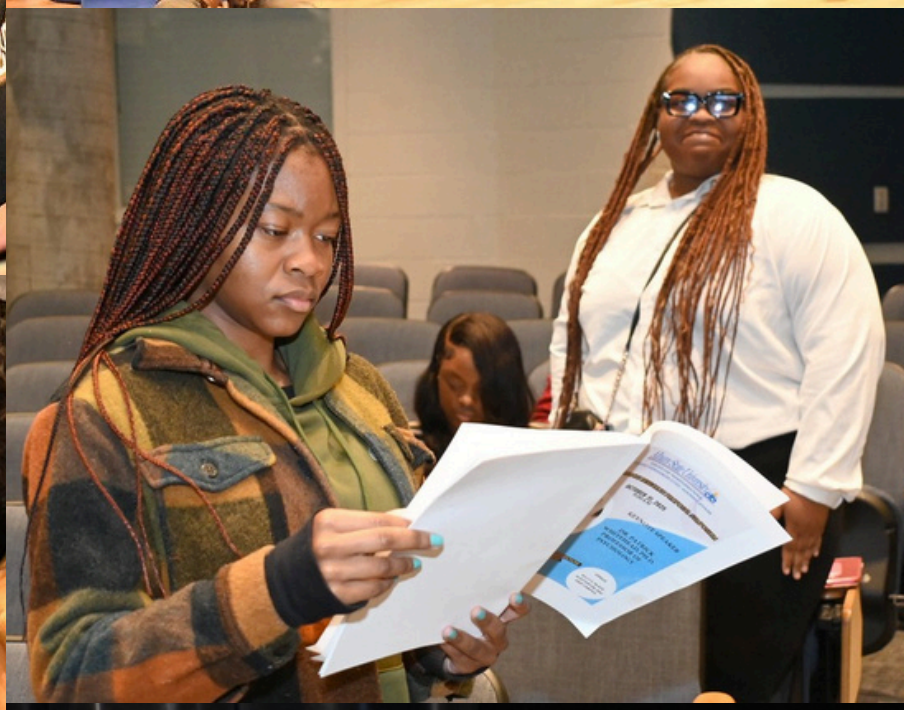

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