

Keynote Speaker

Casey Bethel



Women in STEM Panel

Speakers:



Dr. La'Nese Lovings
N/A



Nikita Burrows
Assistant Professor of
Chemistry
Monmouth University



Danielle Gaitor
Biologist
Dalhousie University

Moderator



Dr. Danielle Watt, Ph.D.
Director of the Office for Biomedical
Research, Education, and Training
University of Minnesota, Medical School

Panelist | Women in STEM Panel

Dr. La’Nese Lovings, Ph.D
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of Toledo



Graduating from Franklin High School in Seattle, WA. Dr. La’Nese Lovings desired to attend a HBCU. However, the world had different plans and she spent 2 years at Highline Community College in Des Moines, WA. Dr. Lovings then transferred to Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA, an HBCU) where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics and honors in Theology. After graduating she took a job at XULA as a laboratory technician for 2 years while applying to graduate schools. The first cycle of graduate school interviews and acceptances did not work out. Despite this set back, the second cycle landed her into a PhD program straight from her bachelor’s degree. Dr. Lovings successfully defended her Dissertation for her PhD in Chemistry in November of 2020. Following her defense, she took a much-needed mental break from work and academia to focus on herself. She is currently applying to positions in her field.

Panelist | Women in STEM Panel



Dr. Nikita Burrows, Ph.D **Assistant Professor of Chemistry** **Monmouth University**

Nikita Lauren Burrows is currently an Assistant Professor at Monmouth University, specializing in organic chemistry with a focus in chemical education. She began Georgia State's chemical education Ph.D program in the fall of 2012 after completing her B.Sc. in Biology (minor in Chemistry) at the University of the Bahamas in 2011. In 2014 she became a Teacher quality fellow in the Bio-bus program. In that same year she was nominated for and received a Molecular Basis of Disease (MBD) Fellowship. She completed research in Dr. Mooring's lab where she focused on Project-based laboratory curriculum development, assessment and evaluation.

Nikita is actively involved in the School of Science Strategic plan for Pedagogy. Her group is primarily concerned with the investigation and development of meaningful learning environments for students in lower division undergraduate chemistry courses. Current projects include:

- Design, development, and evaluation of the undergraduate chemistry project-based laboratory environment
- Assessment of the laboratory environment for pre-medical students and development of transferable skills.
- Students' conceptual understanding of fundamental chemistry concepts in a general, organic, and biochemistry course

Fun Fact: Nikita has her own Youtube channel where she reviews hair care products for black women

Panelist | Women in STEM Panel

Danielle Gaitor, M.Sc.
Biologist
Dalhousie University

Danielle Gaitor, M.Sc. B.Sc., is a Bahamian scientist, author, and creative. She is passionate about inspiring the youth to be their best selves and to love themselves unconditionally. Ms. Gaitor obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Spelman College in 2015 and a Master of Science Degree in Medical Neuroscience from Dalhousie University. As a scientist, Danielle has spent several years conducting research in various areas including translational research on drug-resistant Ovarian Cancer cells. Danielle also spent time in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia conducting research at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). There, her research focused on exploring the immune system of Cnidaria.



Panelist | Women in STEM Panel



Dr. Danielle Watt, Ph.D.

**Director of the Office for Biomedical Research, Education, and Training
University of Minnesota, Medical School**

Danielle L. Watt, Ph.D. is the Director of the Office of Biomedical Graduate Research, Education and Training (BGREAT) at the University of Minnesota, Medical School. She received her B.A. in chemistry from Albany State University and a Ph.D. in biological organic chemistry from the University of Connecticut, where she studied how chemicals in the environment may damage DNA causing mutations that could ultimately lead to lung cancer. She went on to conduct biomedical research in the fields of cancer development and DNA replication and repair as a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH and as a visiting scientist at Umeå University, Sweden. Dr. Watt then transitioned to higher education administration as the Director of Education, Outreach, and Diversity in the NSF Center for Chemistry at the Space Time Limit at the University of California, Irvine to focus her efforts on the professional development of early career scientists, increasing underrepresented minorities in STEM through managing undergraduate research training programs, and developing K-12 outreach programs, before joining the staff at the UMN Medical School to focus on the recruitment and retention of graduate students and consulting on efforts centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Hacking the Tech Industry

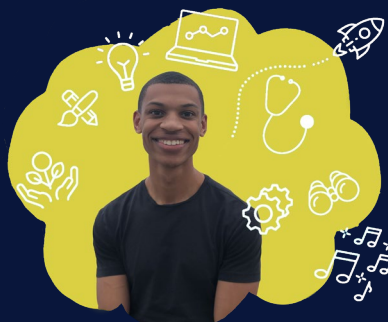
Speakers:



Mr. Preston Akwule
Program Manager
Microsoft



Chaz Woodall
Mobile iOS Engineer
Apple



Armand Raynor
Software Engineer
Google



Colleen Todd
User Experience
Design Technologist
Boomi



Armani Weise
AWS Intern
Amazon

Moderator



Dr. Robert Owor, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science
NASA MAA PI | Director of The CIET
Albany State University

Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry

Mr. Preston Akwule
Program Manager
Microsoft

Mr. Preston Akwule is a 2020 graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology (GaTech). He completed a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering and Concentration in Data Science and Analytics. He was offered a position with Microsoft as a Program Manager for their Azure Hardware Systems and Infrastructure. Preston is a Fall 2017 initiate of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. by way of the Nu Mu Chapter at Georgia Tech is an active advocate for his community. In his free time, he enjoys investing, business, and self-improvement. He is also passionate about data, analytics and design.



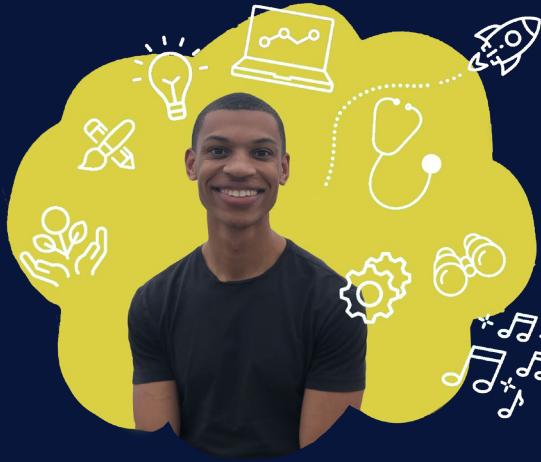
Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry



Chaz Woodall
Mobile iOS Engineer
Apple

Chaz Woodall is an Atlanta native who works with Apple as a Mobile iOS Engineer. He is a firm believer that technology can lead to better exposure and growth in every discipline. Chaz earned a degree in Computational Media from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry



Armand Raynor
Software Engineer
Google

Armand Raynor 2020 graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology (Ga-Tech) Fayetteville, GA. After completing his Bachelor's in computer science, Armand accepted a full-time software engineering offer from Google. Armand works as an iOS Developer on the iGA App Experience Team at Google. He enjoys making music and building robots in his free time.

Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry

Colleen Todd
User Experience Design Technologist
Boomi

Colleen is a Florida native who graduated from Drexel University with her B.S. in Computer Engineering and her B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Since graduation Colleen has joined Boomi where she was a software engineer for 4 years. With her passion for UX/UI she has since transitioned into a "hybrid" role as a Design Technologist where she both designs the Boomi product and develops it. Colleen is also lead for Boomi's Black Network Alliance employee resource group where she dedicates time supporting and cultivating the presence of minorities in the tech industry.



Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry

Armani Weise
AWS Intern | Amazon
Junior | Florida International University

Armani Weise is a native of The Bahamas. After completing high school, he received a full-tuition scholarship to attend Florida International University where he currently majors in computer engineering. Armani has won several hackathons including the Upsilon Pi Epsilon ShellHacks 2021 Hackathon and the Boomi Tech Day 2021 Hackathon. Armani has a strong passion for software development. He recently received an offer to intern as an AWS software engineer at the Amazon headquarters in Seattle Washington. Armani is an active member of the Upsilon Pi Epsilon: International Honor Society for the Computing and Information Disciplines. He serves as a LEAP Program Director for UPE.



Panelist | Hacking the Tech Industry

Dr. Robert Owor, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science
NASA MAA PI | Director of The CIET
Albany State University



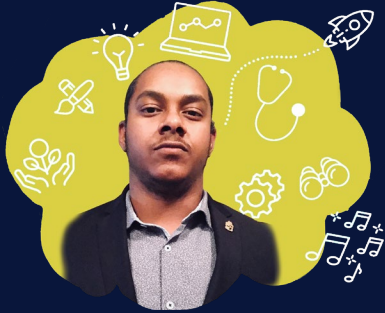
Dr. Robert Steven Owor is the Executive Director of the Center for Innovation and Emerging Technologies (CIET) and Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering at Albany State University. He has been at ASU since 2004. He has written several papers and research projects. His expertise is in Cyber-Security, Software Engineering, Blockchain Technology, Quantum Cryptography, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. He brings this expertise to his faculty colleagues, students and industry professional partners. He is an IBM System Z Champion in Blockchain, Watson and AI Cloud Computing. Working with IBM and the University System of Georgia.

Some of his current projects include Blockchain Secure Financial Technologies, Blockchain Disaster Relief Solutions using Emergency Adhoc Networking. Dr. Robert Owor is also involved in bringing Smart Agriculture to Southwest Georgia. He is leading a project to provide Smart Agriculture Capacity Building, Real-Time Farm Data Analytics, Workforce Development, Multidisciplinary Collaboration, and Formation of Smart Cooperatives, Workshops, Conferences and Boot camps.

NASA has also collaborated with Dr. Robert Steven Owor as Principal Investigator in its early intervention programs for STEM education in Middle and High School in South Georgia. This program seeks to train the next generation of Engineers, Mathematicians and Scientists in Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drone Science. We hope to expand this program to provide a pipeline of students who enter the Math, Science and Engineering Programs at ASU, Georgia Tech and across the country.

Engineering the Future

Speakers:



Bryan Barrett
Plant Superintendent
Sonoco Products
Company



Kaija Wilson
Naval Architect
Mid-Atlantic Regional
Maintenance Center



Johnson Agyapong
PhD Candidate in
Bioengineering
Syracuse University

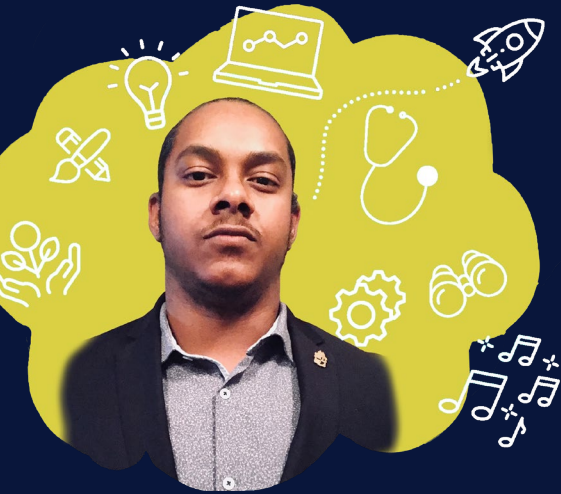


Ahmed Woodson
Aerospace Engineer
Lockheed Martin



Dr. Laquata Sumter Ph.D
Moderator
Engineering The Future:

Panelist | Engineering the Future



Bryan Barrett
Plant Superintendent
Sonoco Products Company

Bryan Barrett is a native of Nassau, Bahamas. He currently the Plant Superintendent at the Neenah Tubes and Cores Converting plant in Neenah WI. Bryan, is a Mechanical Engineer by degree earning a MS and BS in Mechanical Engineering from Tuskegee University. Bryan started his career with Sonoco late 2016 where he found a passion and love for manufacturing and manufacturing processes. Bryan has worked within multiple business groups within Sonoco holding various titles in Process Improvement, lean manufacturing, Plant Quality and Plant Operations. Bryan has a true passion for engineering and the intricacies of manufacturing and operations management.

Panelist | Engineering the Future



Kaija Wilson
Naval Architect
Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center

Ms. Kaija Wilson is Richmond, Virginia native. In 2019, she graduated from Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering with a Structural engineering emphasis. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as a Naval Architect at the Life Cycle Engineering firm in Norfolk, VA. In her role as a Naval Architect, Kaija provides engineering expert support to the US Navy for fleet maintenance and readiness at the Mid-Atlantic Maintenance Center (MARMC). Her work includes accessing the structural integrity and stability of naval ships. Her cadre of skills includes structural engineering, structural design, structural analysis, stress analysis, fatigue analysis, stability analysis, dry docks, and maritime engineering. Ms. Wilson has completed her Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Civil Exam certification and provides support for aspiring engineers who desire to follow a similar path.

Panelist | Engineering the Future



Johnson Agyapong
PhD Candidate in Bioengineering
Syracuse University

I was born and raised in Ghana. I enjoy participating in sporting activities like soccer and table tennis. My career goal is to produce innovative and affordable biomedical devices. To reach this goal, I am learning 3D printing through my PhD project. 3D printing will allow me to create these affordable and innovative biomedical devices.

Panelist | Engineering the Future



Ahmed Woodson
Aerospace Engineer
Lockheed Martin

In spring of 2020, I received my Bachelors in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park. During my time at UMD I was involved in a variety of organizations, extracurricular activities, and study abroad opportunities. While in undergrad I served as Programs Chair of the Black Engineers Society and played for the University's club basketball team. In spring of 2018 I studied abroad in Madrid, Spain at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas. While in undergrad I had several internship and research opportunities as well. In the summer of 2017, I presented my research on micro air vehicles of flapping wing design while also serving as a teaching assistant for the First Year Summer Experience at UMD. In 2018 and 2019 I was a Maryland Space Grant Consortium Engineering Intern at Capitol Technology University and worked with GE Aviation as a Supply Chain Management Intern. Currently, I work with Lockheed Martin in their systems engineering department.

Pathways To Healthcare Speakers



Chiagoziem Agu
Student Doctor
Morehouse School of
Medicine



Janese Bibbs
Student Pharmacist
Mercer University College
of Pharmacy



Morgan Josey
Student Doctor
Meharry Medical College
School of Dentistry



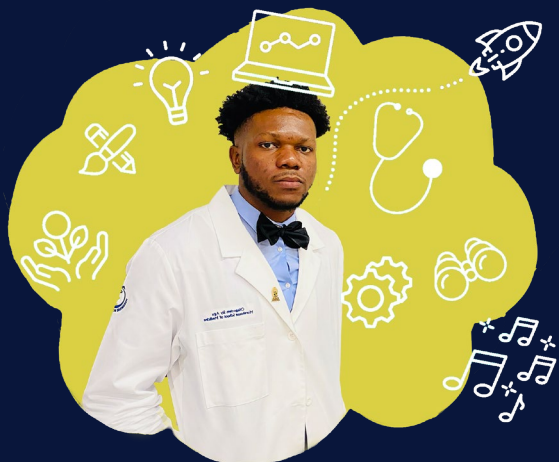
Dr. Matthew Richmond, D.C.
Associate Doctor of
Chiropractic
Back to Health chiropractic

Moderator



Dr. John Williams Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology
Albany State University

Panelist | Pathways to Healthcare



Chiagoziem Agu
Student Doctor
Morehouse School of Medicine

Chiagoziem “Sylvester” Agu is a native of Enugu State, Nigeria and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. Chiagoziem is a 2nd Year Medical Student at Morehouse School of Medicine. Prior to matriculating to medical school, Mr. Agu attended Albany State University. He majored in biology with the intent to pursue a medical degree, specializing in cardiology. While at ASU, Mr. Agu was an S-STEM Scholar and a Velma Fudge Grant Honors student, maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. Chiagoziem was also selected as a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow and was funded to study abroad in South Africa. Outside of academics, he enjoys playing sports such as soccer and table tennis.

Panelist | Pathways to Healthcare



Janese Bibbs
Student Pharmacist
Mercer University College of Pharmacy

Janese Bibbs is a graduate of Albany State University. She is currently a second year pharmacy student at Mercer University College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, GA.

Panelist | Pathways to Healthcare

Morgan Josey
Student Doctor
Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry

Student Doctor Morgan Josey of Columbus, Georgia graduated from Albany State University with a Bachelors of Science in Biology in May of 2019. She then was accepted into the Class of 2023 at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee. As an HPSP Scholarship recipient with the Army, she will be attending a residency program upon graduation.



Panelist | Pathways to Healthcare



Dr. Matthew Richmond, D.C.
Associate Doctor of Chiropractic
Back to Health chiropractic

Dr. Matthew Richmond was born in Queens, New York raised in Covington, Ga. Dr. Matthew graduated from Albany State in May of 2017 and pursued further graduate studies at Life University to acquire his Chiropractic degree. He since then has graduated from Life U as a Doctor of Chiropractic and is looking to open up his practice in the next 2 yrs. He's always had a passion to serve his community with a loving heart and impact those around him. Dr. Matthew's dream is to help people take responsibility of their health and change as many lives as possible one spine at a time.

Panelist | Pathways to Healthcare



Dr. John Williams Ph.D. Associate Professor of Biology Albany State University

John Williams is a native of Albany, GA and a graduate of Albany State University, where he received his Bachelor's of Science in Biology. As a Gates Millennium Scholar and Bridge to Doctorate Fellow, he attended Florida State University, where he received his Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology. During this time, he served as President of the Black Graduate Student Association, and currently maintains an active relationship with the organization. His graduate research focused on molecular mechanisms of cardiac muscle contraction. As a faculty member, his research focuses on cardiovascular physiology and environmental factors affecting public health.

In his spare time, John loves to spend time with his family, travel, and enjoy the newlywed life. With his wife Adisalem, and as a member of the Travelling Medical Missioners, he serves as a sexual health educator at domestic and international health fairs. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he works diligently to provide mentorship and assistance for youth in Albany, GA, particularly on the campus of Albany State University. Dr. Williams lives by the motto: You don't have to wait to be great. You can make an impact on the world in whatever stage of life you find yourself.

Pathways To Forensic Science

Speakers:



Dr. Jennifer L. Rayner
Sr. Toxicologist
SRC Inc.



Alexis Bailey
Crime Scene Technician
Okaloosa County Sheriff's
Office



Jerome B. Neal III
Crime Scene Investigator
DeKalb County South
Precinct



Dr. Angela Curry

Panelist | Pathways to Forensic Science

Dr. Jennifer L. Rayner
Sr. Toxicologist
SRC Inc.



Dr. Jennifer L Rayner is a Senior Toxicologist at SRC Inc., where she has developed toxicity assessments, technical documents, and literature reviews regarding human health risks and environmental impacts through critical analysis of scientific literature and analyzed results of toxicological investigations. She has prepared manuscripts for peer-reviewed journal submission and presented research results and recommendations to specific committees or broad scientific audiences. Dr. Rayner has over 16 years of experience in reproductive and developmental toxicology and 14 years of experience in providing technical expertise in reviewing and evaluating health and ecological studies for various types of chemicals. Dr. Rayner received her B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from North Carolina Central University in 2006, Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006, and was certified as a Diplomate, American Board of Toxicology in 2010. She has been involved with mentoring students in STEM since 2002 through the Society of Toxicology's Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI) Undergraduate Education Program for Minority Students. She firmly believes in helping the next generation to be successful and her passion is to see more underrepresented students in toxicology. She currently serves as a mentor in the Toxicology Mentoring and Skills Development Training Program, a year-long mentoring program for undergraduate students.

Panelist | Pathways to Forensic Science



Alexis Bailey
Crime Scene Technician
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Alexis Bailey is a 2018 graduate of the Albany State University Forensic Science program. Ms. Bailey also minored in both Chemistry and Sociology. While in undergrad, Ms. Bailey participated in several research programs and has presented her work at various conferences including the International Union of Toxicology Triennial Congress. She started working at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office as a Crime Scene Technician in Shalimar Florida. In her role, she is one of 3 Crime Scene Technicians that services the entire County of Okaloosa. She is currently completing her Master's Degree in Forensic Science from the University of Florida.

Panelist | Pathways to Forensic Science

Jerome B. Neal III
Crime Scene Investigator
DeKalb County South Precinct



Mr. Jerome B Neal III is a 2020 graduate from Albany State University. Mr. Neal, a Velma Fudge Grant Honors student, obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forensic Science. While in undergrad, Jerome participated in several Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs including at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The objective of the research was to understand how phenotypic traits vary, which has been a longstanding goal of evolutionary biologists. He co-authored the peer-reviewed research article entitled “Variation in Mutant Prevention Concentrations” in the Frontiers in Microbiology Journal alongside professors from (UCLA). Currently, Jerome works for the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Dept. as a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI). Jerome also is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Criminal Justice. Once he receives his doctorate, Neal plans to become a forensic toxicologist for the FBI or the CIA.

Panelist | Pathways to Forensic Science



Dr. Angela Curry

Ms. Angela Curry is a native of Houston, Texas. She graduated from DeBakey High School for Health Professions then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry, from Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas. She went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Southern University.

Ms. Curry's first professional job upon graduation was consulting as an Environmental Scientist where she was assigned to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (also known as the START Team). The START Team provided technical assistance to the EPA's emergency response prevention and preparedness activities related to natural disasters, man-made incidents, technological hazards, and accidental chemical or hazardous material releases. She also served as an adjunct Environmental Science Instructor at the Art Institute of Houston.

Ms. Curry currently works as a Senior Toxicologist at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality where she serves as a resource for staff regarding human health and chemical risk assessments. This includes:

- Conducting health effects evaluations of air permit applications
- Conducting toxicological reviews and risk assessments and
- Preparing technical reports and fact sheets on chemicals posing risks to human health or threats to the environment

Ms. Curry is a member of the Society of Toxicology, and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry; she co-authored scientific journal publications, and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Ms. Angela Curry is mentoring [Olesia Headen](#).

Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions

Speakers



Ms. Alexius Lampkin

4th Yr Ph.D Student

University of Wisconsin-Madison



Noah Walker

3rd Yr Ph.D Student

Wake Forest University Health
Sciences



Howard Weatherspoon

2nd Yr Ph.D Student

Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
University of Illinois @
Urbana-Champaign,



Adrian Demeritte

4th Yr Ph.D Student

Wuest Lab,
Emory University



Tyshawn Ferrell

1st Yr Ph.D Student

Emory University



Dr. JaNise Jackson, Ph.D.

Chemist

Environmental Protection Agency

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions

Ms. Alexius Lampkin
4th Graduate Student Researcher
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Alexius attended Albany State University, where she earned two B.S. degrees in Forensic Science and Chemistry. During her tenure at ASU, she was a member of the Florida-Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation (FGAMP) and a MARC scholar. During her undergraduate career, Alexius had multiple friends diagnosed with various psychiatric illnesses, which pushed her to attend graduate school and study the neurobiology of mental illnesses.

Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Alexius studies neurobiological substrate changes that occur during the development/onset of mental illnesses and how pharmaceuticals can be used to treat the etiology and symptoms. She continues to participate in the LSAMP program as a WiscAMP BRIDGE to Doctorate Fellow. Alexius is an NSF Graduate Research Fellow and UW-Madison Science and Medicine Graduate Research Scholar.

Alexius is very involved in multiple outreach programs; she aims to show other underrepresented students they can achieve anything they put their mind too and increase visualization of minorities in STEM. Post-graduation, Alexius wanted to pursue a career in clinical pharmacology to increase awareness of racial differences in pharmaceutical effects.

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions

Dr. JaNise Jackson, Ph.D.
Chemist
Environmental Protection Agency



JaNise Jackson was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from Rick Hawkins High school as the class of 2009 salutatorian. She received the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) scholarship from Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. While at Texas Southern, JaNise majored in chemistry and minored in biology earning her B.S. degree in 2013. After completing her degree, she went on to teach ninth grade biology at her former high school for a semester before moving to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue her PhD at Clark Atlanta University. In October 2020 JaNise defended her dissertation research which focused on the synthesis and characterization of substituted imidazole and Imidazopyridine compounds and the investigation of their anti-proliferative properties in prostate cancer. As she sets out to make her mark in industry, JaNise is also passionate about uplifting and encouraging students of color who may not see themselves represented in STEM. She is an advocate for bridging the gap between young students in middle school and high school and those in collegiate and professional careers.

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions



Noah Walker
Graduate Student
Wake Forest University Health Sciences

Noah Walker is a 3rd year Ph.D student at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Noah currently studies Integrative Physiology & Pharmacology. His research focuses on the role of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor sensitivity in nicotine addiction. Prior to attending Wake Forest, Mr. Walker attended the University of Richmond and completed a dual Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry & Leadership Studies. While in undergrad, he conducted theoretical chemistry research in the Donald Lab focusing on understanding the activity of graphene through the phenalenyl molecule. He also studied ring cyclization using borylenes molecules. Noah enjoys watching sports and listening to music.

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions



Adrian Demeritte
4th Year Graduate Student
Wuest Lab, Emory University

Adrian Demeritte obtained his bachelor's degree in chemistry with a concentration in chemical biology from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 2016. Currently he is a fourth year PhD graduate student at Emory University and his research focuses on combatting fungal and antibiotic resistance. He hopes to continue his work to help bolster the chemical industry in the Caribbean one day.

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions

Mr. Howard Weatherspoon | ASU '19
2nd Year Ph.D. Student
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Howard Weatherspoon is a 2nd-year chemical engineering Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from the Metro Atlanta area. He is also an alumnus of Albany State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 2019. While attending ASU, he served as a math peer tutor, president of the Center of the African American Male (CAAM) Mentoring program, and Vice-President of the Delta Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Some academic achievements include 2-time Dean's List, 3-time departmental scholar, highest ranking junior in mathematics, and a S-STEM scholarship recipient. Howard participated in two summer research experiences at the University of California-Irvine in the Chemistry at the Space-Time Limit (CaSTL) Center which led to the opportunity to present at multiple research conferences. He won Outstanding Research Presentation award twice at Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference and at Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference. At the University of Illinois, Howard's research is focusing on modeling quantum dot synthesis theory. Upon completing his Ph.D. he wants to stay in academia as a researcher and a professor at a Historically Black University (HBCU)

Panelist | Rediscovering R&D: Pursuing Graduate Level STEM Professions



Tyshawn Ferrell
1st Year Graduate Student
Emory University

Mr. Tyshawn Ferrell is a 2021 graduate of Albany State University. He found happiness in STEM through a research program at ASU, which helped develop his interest in ecological systems. During his time at Albany State University, Tyshawn spent his summers exploring his interest in STEM through participating in several Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs. He also presented his research at conferences throughout the country. Tyshawn is currently a first-year graduate student in the Biochemistry, Cell & Developmental Biology Graduate Program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Tyshawn was selected as a 2021 National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEMS) Fellow.

Moderator | Pathways to Forensic Science



Dr. Uzoma Okafor, Ph.D
Associate Professor, Director of Forensic Science
Program
Albany State University

Presenter | Developing Your Brand: Entrepreneur Soft Skills Workshop

Mrs. Serena Jones Dorsey
CEO & Founder
Wise Learning Connections, LLC

Serena Jones-Dorsey is the CEO of Wise Learning Connections, LLC an organization that trains & equips individuals in the areas of professionalism, team building and parenting.

She an Alumnus of The Unsinkable Albany State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Early Childhood Education. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Business Management and Administration, from the University of Phoenix. She serves faithfully in the area of HELPS Ministry; Dean of Christian Education for Spoken Word Ministerial Alliance, Inc. under the leadership of Bishop E. Jacob Rieux, Executive Director of Indelible Impressions Learning Center, under the leadership of Pastor Craig Oliver, Sr. She is committed to God and every day she "Dares to be Different".

