

Author Biographies

Christopher Demezier

Christopher Demezier is recent graduate from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). He finished with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Art in Psychology. He is a member of the American Nurses Association, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. During his time at FAU, he was awarded the Leadership Excellence honor, the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, the University Scholar of the Year, Student Leader of the Year, and the DAISY in training award. He is continuing his education at Georgetown University where he is pursuing his Masters. Christopher currently lives in Palm Beach County.

Supriya Gudi

Supriya Gudi is a fourth-year student at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, FL. She is pursuing a major in Cellular Neuroscience and a minor in Spanish Language and Literature. Supriya is currently conducting scientific research at the Godenschwege Lab on the FAU Jupiter campus, and has interned at the Tomchik Lab of The Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, FL for three semesters. She has a strong music background and is a talented vocalist and pianist, having taken lessons for several years. Aside from academics, Supriya is an active musician for a non-profit organization called Mind&Melody, Inc., where she teaches and performs music to patients undergoing neurological impairments, such as dementia.

Tucker Hindle

Tucker Hindle is an undergraduate student in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University and will graduate with a B.S. in Geomatics Engineering in spring 2020. He conducted research, supported by the FAU Kelly Family Foundation Undergraduate Internship Program in Coastal Affairs, which investigated and mapped historical changes in Florida's coastline from 1875 to 2000. He is involved in two FAU student organizations serving as the current president of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and a member of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.

Alexis Martin & Alex Copeland

Alexis Martin is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. In college, she found an interest in organic chemistry and devoted her time researching marine natural products chemistry in Dr. West's lab. The following year, she initiated a collaboration between Dr. West's lab and Dr. Lowell, whom she started research with for the Small World Initiative (SWI). SWI is a program that crowd-sources antibiotic discovery against the increasing evolution of multi-drug resistant bacteria. In June 2018, Alexis plans to present the research findings of the collaboration at the Small World Initiative Annual Symposium in Madison, Wisconsin. After graduation in August 2018, she plans to pursue an industry career before attending graduate school to further her education in interdisciplinary sciences.

Alex Copeland is a senior majoring in biological sciences with a specialization in environment sciences at Florida Atlantic University. He plans on pursuing his Master of Science, with hopes of further researching antibiotic discovery or a related discipline. Alex is a part of Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity & Sustainability (SEEDS) as well as Association of Biological and Biomedical Students. He enjoys giving his time back by volunteering in Science Olympiad, a science competition for elementary and middle school students, and local clean-ups to preserve South Florida's wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Courtney Noya

Courtney Noya is a recent graduate from Florida Atlantic University's Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College. She has been an intern with Athentikos, a nonprofit that hosts camps to teach creative arts to at-risk youth in Guatemala. Inspired by her internship, Courtney has spent the past two years working on her undergraduate honors thesis studying the effects of mission trip participation on volunteers' levels of social awareness and desires for social justice. Following graduation, Courtney will spend a year doing mission work in the United Kingdom while exploring potential academic or professional options for continuing work with nonprofit organizations.

Alyssa Payne

Alyssa Payne is a rising sophomore student pursuing a major in Neuroscience and a minor in Spanish Literature at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College in hopes of attending graduate school for Speech Pathology. As a first generation Cuban-American, she has taken an interest examining the historical impact that Fidel Castro's government has had in current Cuban politics. Her prior research in this area focused on historical analysis of the causes and repercussions of the 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion. With her latest research, historical contextualization of Reinaldo Arenas' autobiography combined with literary analysis provides a glimpse into the struggles of a marginal subject before, during, and after the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

Jazly Pizzuti

Jazly Pizzuti was born in Colombia (South America) and came to the United States as a 3 month old baby. She came to Florida to study at the Harriet Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. She graduated Cum Laude and now has a Bachelors in Women Studies and a double minor in English and Spanish. She will be applying to graduate programs Fall 2018 in pursuance of becoming a University Professor and a published writer. Jazly identifies as a bicultural, bilingual woman. She feels every as American as she feels Latina. Writing *Imagen y simbología de la mujer fragmentada en Pablo Neruda's Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada* allowed her to examine male supremacy by exploring the fragmentation of the female body in literature in a bilingual and bicultural context. As a bicultural feminist she feels passionately about the impact that hidden images and symbols have on their readers, especially because they go so easily unnoticed, simultaneously laying a strong foundation for gender inequality.

Catrin Seepo

Catrin Seepo is an enthusiastic linguist perusing her masters in Linguistics. Originally from Baghdad, Iraq, she grew up as a Chaldean. Displaced by war in her country, Catrin and her family moved to the United States in 2009. Since then, she has obtained a bachelor's degree in Linguistics, and she seeks to further her studies. As a native speaker of Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, she employs her linguistic education to preserve her native language as well as furthering her linguistic research.

Haylee F. Trulson

Haylee Trulson is a senior at the Wilkes Honors College pursuing a major in Neuroscience and Behavior. She first became interested in Science through the unique clinical tales of Oliver Sacks, who opened her eyes to the world of Neurology and Psychiatry. As an advocate for mental health, she aspires to become a psychiatrist to enrich the lives of others and remove the stigma of mental illnesses. She currently works in the Human Development Lab using EEG and eye tracking to study perceptual and cognitive changes of facial perception. Outside of her life as a student she works as a flight attendant and yoga instructor. She spends her free time volunteering, doing yoga, reading, and attending to her two pet cats Sansa and Arya.