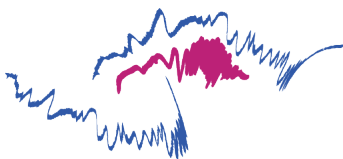


AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES



David Harbaugh & Marissa Shank

David Harbaugh is a recent graduate from the Wilkes Honors College, where he pursued his studies in Biological Chemistry. During his undergraduate journey, he had the privilege of working under the mentorship of esteemed professors, including Dr. Joseph Kissil, Dr. Catherine Trivigno, and Dr. Jordan Merritt. David's passion for scientific exploration and research, particularly in cancer therapy development, has shaped his academic pursuits. With a deep commitment to contributing to the field, he aspires to leverage his knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on cancer treatment and patient outcomes.

Marissa Shank is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University's Wilkes Honors College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biological and Physical Sciences. Marissa's interest in research was found under the guidance of Dr. Jordan Merritt through a Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE). Marissa has presented her CURE research at the 12th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and the 20th Annual Wilkes Honors College Symposium.

NOTE: David Harbaugh and Marissa Shank completed the research project and submitted it with equal contribution.



Alysa Suissa, Marcos Klingler, & Jake Pearman

Alysa Suissa was born and raised in Miami and currently is an undergraduate senior at FAU. She is pursuing a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences. She has plans of continuing to the Biomedical Master's Program at FAU. Alysa plans to pursue a career within the medical industry. She is doing research with Dr. Zhang focusing on genetics and plant biotechnology. Alysa's current research involves the insertion of a human gene into plants through chloroplast transformation.

Marcos Klingler was born and raised in South Florida, and recently graduated from FAU with a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences. Having a previous publication doing a metagenomic study, Marcos is pursuing a career in research focusing on genetic engineering and biotechnology. He has worked in Dr. Zhang's lab for almost two years at FAU.

Jake Pearman is a Florida Atlantic University alumnus who graduated in 2023 with his Bachelor's in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. During college, Jake founded and ran the Aerospace Experimental Association, where he organized FAU's first CubeSat and High Altitude Balloon missions. Furthermore, upon graduation, Jake commissioned from the University of Miami as a United States Air Force officer and is currently serving as a pilot. He is also an industry advisory board member for FAU COECS, helping to establish the aerospace program and center.



Amparo Godoy Pastore

Amparo Godoy Pastore is a fourth-year undergraduate student at Florida Atlantic University's H. L. Wilkes Honors College in Jupiter, Florida. Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, she moved to the United States to pursue a B. A. in Interdisciplinary Mathematical Science with a minor in Spanish Literature, combining her two passions. In her pursuit of knowledge, Amparo found herself captivated by the works of Latin American literary masters such as Ricardo Palma.

Isaac Dash

Isaac Dash is a Florida Atlantic University High School student working as an undergraduate researcher at the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics (MPCR) lab under the mentorship of Dr. William Hahn. Isaac has been interested in machine learning and artificial intelligence for several years and has been researching the topic as part of the MPCR lab. He presented related research, titled "Automatic Generation of Virtual Learning Environments using Generative Adversarial Neural Networks", as an oral presentation at the 12th Annual FAU Broward Student Research Symposium in 2022.

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