

Contributing Author Biographies

MEGAN ALDERS, SONIA BARON, CAITLIN BENEDICT, COURTNEY HUNT, RANDHIKAA NEELAVANNAN, STEFÁN RAGNARSSON, JULIAN RAMIREZ, KRYSTAL SHEA ST PETER, H. F. TRULSON

Megan Mackay Alders, Caitlin Benedict, Courtney Hunt, Randhikaa Neelavannan, Stefán Ragnarsson, Julian Ramirez, and H. F. Trulson are currently students at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. Sonia Baron is an international student at the Honors College. Krystal Shea St Peter graduated from the Honors College in May of 2016.

Megan Mackay Alders is currently studying Psychology and after she graduates, she plans to go to graduate school to study School or Child Psychology. When she isn't studying or reading, Megan can be found snuggling her dog or binge watching HGTV.

Sonia Baron has an A.A degree from Broward College. She transferred to the Wilkes Honors College during the spring of 2016 to continue her undergraduate studies in Psychology. She reads fiction in her spare time.

Caitlin Benedict is currently pursuing her B.A. in Psychology. Once she graduates, she plans on going into the Peace Corps for two years and then intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology. She enjoys dancing and travelling in her spare time.

Courtney Hunt is a second year student studying Psychology with the hopes of going into psychiatric nursing. She spends her spare time planting flowers, caring for her fish, and learning about a variety of new and exciting topics.

Randhikaa Neelavannan is currently a student of Psychology who will be a junior this coming Fall semester of 2016. She spends her free time reading novels, travelling, and petting random strangers' dogs.

Stefán Ragnarsson graduated from Broward College with an A.A. and is currently pursuing his B.A. with a concentration in Psychology at the Wilkes Honors College. He is interested in both personality and social psychology.

Julian Ramirez is currently an undergraduate Psychology student at the Honors College. Upon graduation, he wishes to pursue a commission as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Krystal Shea St Peter is planning to attend graduate school at Florida Atlantic University in the fall. When her nose isn't buried in a textbook, she enjoys curling up with a good mystery novel or cuddling with her cat.

H. F. Trulson is a graduate from Broward College with an A.A.S. in Air Traffic Control and an A.A. degree. She spends her free time traveling as much as she can as a flight attendant.

ARIELLE AUGUSTIN

Arielle Augustin is a junior at Florida Atlantic University majoring in sociology and interdisciplinary studies and minoring in health administration. She is interested in science and foreign languages and cultures. In the near future, she plans to pursue a master's degree in public health and begin working in disadvantaged communities in the United State and underdeveloped countries around the world to promote health education and quality medical care. One of her biggest goals is to work in Haiti, her parents' country of origin, to improve the environmental and social problems that it currently faces.

LOREN BARCENAS

Loren Barcenas is 19 years old and will graduate from FAU in May 2017 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biological Sciences as well as a minor in Spanish. She has presented her work at three research symposia statewide. Before attending medical school, she plans to obtain a Master's of Translational Medicine to support her long-term goals of pursuing clinical research and the development of medical technology.

KELSEY DOYLE

Kelsey Doyle will be receiving a Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Certificate of Environmental Science in December of 2016. After graduation, she will be pursuing a career with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Law Enforcement Officer. In addition, she hopes to earn a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Policy and Administration from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. In the meantime, her research interests aim to further describe and evaluate wildlife crime rates and detection/prevention techniques, including the illegal harvesting of saw palmetto berries from state property. In 2015, Kelsey was inducted as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and earned the National Engaged Leader Award. Currently, she volunteers at the Savannas Preserve State Park writing lesson plans for school field trip programs that encourage environmental conservation and appreciation.

AIDA GONZALEZ

Aida is a non-traditional student with a strong desire to be a medical doctor and help humanity through their healthcare needs. Being a registered nurse for twenty years has given her the opportunity to be a patient's healthcare advocate, working closely with patients and doctors in different healthcare fields. Inspired by her late father's battle with cancer, Aida returned to school to pursue a career in medicine, currently finishing a BS in Biochemistry. During her studies, she has worked on developing new nanomaterials for biomedical applications with Dr. de Lill. This work has been presented numerous times, including FAU Chemistry Club Research Symposium (2015, 1st Place Award), FAU Undergraduate Research Symposium (2016), So-FLACS (2016, awarded), nanoFlorida (2016, awarded), and Florida Inorganic and Materials Symposium (2016). Aida is the mother of three children, all FAU Owls, helps her husband run their family business, and is a full-time healthcare provider for her mother.

CHELSEA HUBE

Chelsea Hube is a veteran of the United States Navy, where she travelled the Western Pacific on an aircraft carrier, the USS John C. Stennis, and performed meteorological and oceanographic tasks to prepare Navy forces for maritime missions. She is also a recent graduate of the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University with a concentration in Women's Studies: Women's Health. This concentration is an interdisciplinary area of study that provides a strong background in biological sciences and Women's Studies with an emphasis on women's health and midwifery. Hube desires to attend Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing's Accelerated Nursing Program and ultimately receive a Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Advanced Holistic Nursing. She plans on becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife to pursue her passions of midwifery and caretaking and eventually open a luxury birth center in Palm Beach County.

LOUIS LEE

Louis Lee graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 2016 with a B.S. in Ocean Engineering. Throughout his studies, Louis participated in multiple undergraduate research efforts with the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC) as well as the Institute of Sensing and Embedded Network Systems Engineering (I-SENSE) at FAU. His contributions at SNMREC include co-authoring a journal paper titled

“An Assessment of Florida’s Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Resource,” that was published in the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews. Louis was also awarded the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Award at FAU where he worked with Dr. VanZwieten on adaptive control of ocean current turbines for load reduction. He is currently a mechanical engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division working for the Unmanned Systems Technology Branch.

ZARA MANSOOR

Zara Mansoor is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University, where she earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Biology, magna cum laude. She has a passion for evolutionary ecology and conservation biology, with her primary experiences being within the field of avian ecology. She is interested in a career in academia, where she hopes to teach and uphold the importance of the environmental sciences.

MARCUS MCGUIRE, NICOLAS TUTUIANU, PAUL MORRIS, SHAWN MARTIN, WASHINGTON GARCIA

Marcus McGuire is a dual enrollment student from FAU High School. He has spent the last two years studying computer science full time at FAU. He is a member of the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Laboratory, run by Dr. Elan Barenholtz in the Center for Complex Systems. His research interests include Machine Learning and Computer Vision. Following the completion of his bachelor’s degree, He intends to pursue a graduate degree in one, or both, of these topics.

Nicolas Tutuianu is a dual enrollment student from FAU High School pursuing a computer science degree at FAU. Currently at 17 years of age, he has studied computer science full time at FAU for the past two years. He is a member of the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Laboratory run by Dr. Elan Barenholtz in the Center for Complex Systems. His research interests include Machine Learning, Cybersecurity and the Internet of Things.

Paul Morris received his Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from FAU in the Spring of 2016, at age 18. He has worked as an app developer and is a member of the FAU Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics laboratory. There, he conducts research in machine learning, robotics, and computer vision. He intends to pursue a graduate degree in these fields at FAU.

Shawn Martin is 17 and is a dual enrollment student at Florida Atlantic University. He is currently a full time student in his third year at FAU pursuing a Bachelor’s in Computer Science. He is a member of the Machine Perception & Cognitive Robotics Laboratory located in the Center for Complex Systems at FAU. His research interests would include Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Information Security, and Data Science. He intends to continue his research and education after the completion of his undergraduate degree.

Washington Garcia is a third-year Computer Engineering student at FAU. He has been part of the Machine Perception & Cognitive Robotics (MPCR) Lab the past year working on the R.O.V.E.R project. In the past he has worked for Phillips as a SWE Intern and acted as president for FAU’s IEEE Student Branch. This summer he will be at Duke University doing research on Cloud Infrastructure Reliability using Data Mining and Natural Language Processing techniques. His research interests currently consist of Big Data and Machine Learning, particularly in their application to robotics and self-defining software.

EVGENIYA RAKITINA

Born and raised in Russia, Evgeniya Rakitina moved to the United States at the age of 22, after completion of her joint Bachelor’s and Master of Arts degrees in linguistics and cross-cultural communications. In Miami, she started to write for the local periodicals and medical journals while working on her degree in medical

interpreting. At around the same time she attended Florida Atlantic University in pursuit of her second baccalaureate degree in Biology, where she enrolled in the Biology Honors Research program working on a genetics project in Dr. Binninger's lab. Following successful completion of this program, Evgeniya presented her research findings at local and national conferences, as well as serving as a reviewer for the Council on Undergraduate Research. She graduated in 2016 and is now applying to the Medical School, aspiring to continue work on her research while obtaining a medical degree.

ANNA RISO

Anna Riso is a junior at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College pursuing a double major in English Literature and Cognitive Neuroscience. She works as a Student Library Assistant, and as an intern in the Godenschwege lab. She also volunteers as a Student Ambassador, and holds several leadership positions in student organizations, including Spectrum and Cliché Literary Arts Magazine. After graduation next year, she hopes to go on to graduate school, to study either developmental neuroscience or cognitive studies in literature

DEREK VAUGHN

Derek Vaughn is entering his senior year at FAU pursuing a bachelor's in Communications with an interdisciplinary focus in Peace Studies. Derek is also the founder and organizer of FAU's Rhetorical Oracle: A Grassroots Speech Lab Initiative. This Independent Study recently launched in the fall and offers presentation/public speaking tutoring and lectures to the student body. Originally a Musical Theatre BFA student at New World School of the Arts, Derek has always had a visceral interest in the human condition and the stories that reflect it. This currently transfers into his studies and potentially future research in social justice issues and the rhetoric that creates, reflects, and perpetuates them. Outside of academia, he plans to make several trips to Mysore, India to further his studies in Asthanga Vinyassa yoga and its philosophical texts, in a more self-reflexive study of what it means to be human.