

**2017**

**Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)**



2017 CSTEP Research Interns in front of UB Center for the Arts

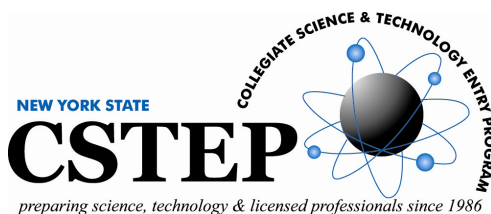
**SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & LUNCHEON**

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

University at Buffalo

Newman Center ~ North Campus



# PROGRAM ORDER

## WELCOME

SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS  
Director, Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)

## OPENING REMARKS

DR. GRAHAM HAMILL  
Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

## LUNCHEON & SLIDESHOW NARRATIVE

NELSON M. RIVERA  
Graduate Assistant

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Neneyo Mate-Kole, Cohort Leader  
Ashley Solomon, Cohort Leader  
Cassandra Ware, Cohort Leader

## POSTER COMPETITION & JUDGES PRESENTATION

LAVONE RODOLPH  
Research Methods Instructor  
Doctoral Student, Computer Science & Engineering

## FACULTY MENTOR & STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATION

SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS  
CSTEP Director

## CLOSING REMARKS

SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS  
CSTEP Director



University at Buffalo

Collegiate Science and  
Technology Entry Program  
Undergraduate Education

"TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS EXPECTED"



Welcome to the 11th Annual CSTEP Summer Research Symposium! Our 8.5-week Summer Research Program enhances the competitiveness of talented underrepresented students pursuing STEM and the allied health professions. I congratulate their dedication to scholarly excellence and research – they are exemplars among their peers. Today, we celebrate the fruition of their hard work as they present their research to peers, faculty and staff; they can look back on their efforts with pride.

Our goal was to structure a holistic, engaging, and transformative experience which provided our students with a fundamental understanding of how research plays an important role in tackling complex societal challenges. I am confident that the structure of our program deepened their understanding of research and how much their respective fields will gain from their knowledge, skills, and experiences.

A significant and effective tool in increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students in graduate programs is to provide them with opportunities to conduct research early in their undergraduate careers. Our research interns have broadened their knowledge and gained insight into critical issues, while developing analytic, leadership, and problem solving skills. In addition, this summer experience allowed them to gain a better perspective of research and its role in society. They also learned the value of teamwork and collaboration which are both essential in today's research and work environments.

To our faculty research mentors, workshop facilitators, tour guides and research methods seminar instructor which number more than 40 – thank you for your time, and expertise. We could not successfully execute the summer research program and create community among this diverse group of talented students without the contributions from UB faculty and staff. We value our collaborations with you and look forward to continued collaborations.

We are confident that the research experience, research methods course, seminars, and field trips fostered a sense of community while enhancing an undergraduate career. I encourage each CSTEP Scholar to continue taking advantage of the resources, opportunities, and services offered by CSTEP to make your UB experience more personal. We hope you found the support, guidance, and nurturing environment we provided to be beneficial. Also, remember the CSTEP motto: "To whom much is given, much is required." It was a pleasure to work with you.

**SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS**  
CSTEP Director

# WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? THE PERKS OF JOINING UB CSTEP

CSTEP offers valuable tools: advisement, tutoring, paid research internships, scholarships, service learning, specialized courses and travel to conferences and workshops, which empower students to become successful in their chosen profession. Our alumni have made major contributions in both their careers and communities. Many of these same graduates report that CSTEP played a key role in helping to develop the confidence and skills necessary to navigate through their college years and into the profession of their dreams.

## **UB CSTEP offers the following programs and services for our students:**

### **PAID RESEARCH & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Paid research and internships are an integral part of CSTEP - to introduce talented underrepresented students to the culture of research, provide insight related to their major and expose students to the rigors of graduate study. The CSTEP Research Internship Program exposes selected students to research and career opportunities in their major. CSTEP works with students to identify faculty research mentors or internship supervisors.

### **ACADEMIC YEAR RESEARCH/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

During the academic year, interns work for 12 weeks per semester under the guidance of a research mentor or internship supervisor. Students are assigned a research project for up to 10 hours per week, at the discretion of the research or internship supervisor. Students are awarded a research stipend from CSTEP during their research or internship experience.

### **SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The CSTEP Summer Research Program is an intensive 8.5-week program designed to enhance the competitiveness of talented underrepresented students pursuing STEM and the allied health professions. The program strengthens participants' research skills and exposes them to the rigors of graduate study. Students are matched with faculty to conduct research for 30 hours per week. In addition to gaining research experience, students participate in a research methods course, seminars, and field trips. As a capstone, at the end of the program, students present their research to their peers, faculty and the University community during our Annual Research Symposium. The summer program takes place from the beginning of June through the end of July. Applications are due in March of each year.

### **TUTORING**

CSTEP students have access to the CPMC Academic Resource Center (ARC) which offers tutoring in courses identified as consistent challenges for students such as anatomy, biology, calculus, chemistry, pharmacology, physiology, physics, and engineering.

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFERENCES**

CSTEP covers travel expenses for selected academic, career, and graduate school conferences and enrichment programs. These opportunities boost students' leadership skills, while building their resumes.

### **GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION**

CSTEP awards scholarships to students for Kaplan Review Courses, which provide preparation for standardized graduate entrance exams, including the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, and PCAT exams. Our staff also assists with personal statement preparation and review, and provides mock interviews for students applying to graduate/professional schools. CSTEP also offers a Graduate School Fee Waiver for current CSTEP students applying to graduate or professional school. More details can be found on our website: <http://cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep/grad-school.php>.

## SERVICE LEARNING CLASS

A cohort of 25 students is selected to engage in a semester-long structured service learning project, becoming a Community Health Educator (CHE). The goal of CHE is to increase the number of individuals participating with the organ donor registry. This goal is achieved by engaging students pursuing allied health majors in service learning, and training them to conduct educational workshops for UB students, and facilitating a campus-wide organ donor registry drive. Our partner for the CHE Service Learning Project is Unyts (formerly Upstate New York Transplant Services).

## CSTEP SHADOW DAY

CSTEP students serve as mentors to high school students enrolled in the Science Technology Entry Program (STEP). As mentors, CSTEP students allow STEP students to “shadow” them by attending classes with them to get a glimpse of what college classes are like.

## CSTEP DAY OF SERVICE

CSTEP students visit local high schools in the Buffalo Public School System to share their collegiate experiences with students in their classrooms. This serves as a vehicle to give students from targeted high schools “college knowledge” while also introducing them to STEM fields and the licensed professions.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY GARDENS

CSTEP students team up with Habitat for Humanity Buffalo, a non-profit charitable organization seeking to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing both within the U.S. and abroad. Through volunteer labor and donations, Habitat for Humanity Buffalo has built and rehabilitated over 225 homes for families who have difficulty obtaining a home through other means.

## SUPPORT FROM THE CSTEP NETWORK OF STAFF, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

We offer academic, career, and personal counseling to assist students in overcoming difficulties, finding solutions, and establishing their priorities. The CSTEP Newsletter, website, and Student Recognition Dinner recognize the achievements of our students and help build the camaraderie that our students have come to rely on.

## MONTHLY EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Monthly meetings help build the community our students have come to rely upon. Students who attend our monthly meetings gain invaluable advice as they have the opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences and receive professional advice from alumni and guest speakers. Below is a list of several of this year’s workshops and enrichment activities:

CSTEP Welcome Back BBQ  
ABC’s of Graduate School  
CSTEP Shadow Day  
Maximize Your Potential  
Rx for Success Seminar (Pharmacy School)  
CSTEP’s Day of Service  
Effective Study Skills  
Time Management

Graduate School Panel  
End of Semester Reception  
Rx for Success Seminar (Medical School)  
Blueprint for Success  
Statewide Student Conference  
Student Recognition Dinner  
Student Research Luncheon  
Summer Research Program

## CSTEP CAREERS

Architect • Audiologist • Biologist • Dietitian • Certified Public Accountant • Chemist • Chiropractor • Computer Scientist • Dentist • Geologist • Engineer • Lawyer • Mathematician • Medical Doctor • Midwife • Nurse Practitioner • Occupational Therapist • Occupational Therapy Assistant • Optometrist • Pharmacist • Physical Therapist • Physicist • Podiatrist • Psychologist • Physician Assistant • Registered Nurse • Respiratory Therapist • Social Worker • Speech-Language Pathologist • Veterinarian

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WNY: UB CSTEP HIGHLIGHTS

CSTEP addresses the shortages of underrepresented students both in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and the licensed professions. Resources available to CSTEP students include: paid research with faculty, internships, graduate school preparation, scholarships for standardized test preparation, academic and career advisement, tutorial services, monthly seminars, travel to professional conferences, and a support network to assist promising students in achieving their academic and professional goals.

During our previous grant cycle, CSTEP received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). This award, administered by the National Science Foundation, recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students and increasing the participation of minorities and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Awardees serve as exemplars to their colleagues in the national effort to develop the nation's human resources in the STEM professions.

## Did You Know...?

- **More than 90%** of UB CSTEP students have entered into the CSTEP targeted professions or attended graduate school after obtaining their bachelor's degree.
- **More than half** of all CSTEP Students possess overall GPAs above 3.0.
- Last year, UB CSTEP exceeded our program enrollment goal of **380** by serving **449** students. Our current enrollment is **408** students.
- Since the program's inception, UB CSTEP has awarded over **170** CSTEP/Kaplan scholarships to students in preparation for standardized graduate school exams (i.e. PCAT, MCAT, GMAT, LSAT, and GRE).
- This year, CSTEP sponsored **11** students, staff, and alumni, including students who presented their research at the 25th Annual CSTEP Statewide Conference: Journey's Beyond Excellence in Lake George, NY resulting in **2** statewide awardees and **1** honorable mention.
- Last year, **34** CSTEP students were placed in funded research internships and completed over **13,000** hours.
- To help provide service to our students, CSTEP has hired, trained, and funded a cadre of approximately **100** Graduate and Student Assistants to work within our office. This also provides critical funding for the student staff to assist with costs as graduate and undergraduate students during their time at UB.
- Last year, there were **128** students in CSTEP's graduating class. Congratulations, Class of 2017!

# WHY DO RESEARCH? STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Written by the 2017 Summer Research Cohort

Research exists in many forms. Whether it is a child turning over rocks to look for bugs, or a NASA scientist combing the night sky in search of extraterrestrial life, research and understanding are integral facets of human behavior. For many students, it is an essential part of the undergraduate experience. The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) Summer Research Program is a comprehensive experience which aims to present students with an opportunity to learn from experts in their fields. For eight weeks, we worked closely under the guidance of a faculty mentor, while also receiving interpersonal enrichment and professional development. The program prepares students for the laboratory environment and serves as a catalyst for their future endeavors.

Students of the CSTEP Summer Research Program are engaging in research for a medley of reasons. Many of them see it as an invaluable learning experience. [Christian Romero-Fischer](#), a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering, believes that “research gives me an in-depth and hands-on view into the world of engineering.” He sees research as an avenue for students to learn valuable skills from professionals in academia. As a senior Psychology major and native of Buffalo, NY, [Leon Butcher IV](#) shares a similar view. Leon says, “Research means a hands-on experience that you can’t receive in the classroom. Research expands your experience of education and training towards your future career.” Many students see research as a method of interacting with knowledgeable professionals in their future careers.

Through their experiences, students catch a glimpse of the day-to-day workings of experts in their fields. [Blessing Hunsu](#), a senior Chemistry major, says “Research is the creation of a new knowledge. It is what we do when we are skeptical about things.” Blessing also sees the broader impact of research, adding “It helps shape our society and hunts for the truth.” [Starr Johnson](#) believes “research is important because there will always be a problem that needs to be solved. But without researching to gain knowledge, you will continue to have a problem.” Starr is in her junior year studying Pharmacology & Toxicology, and her research is “Optimized Registration Procedure for Building 3D Tumor Models from H&E Stained Serial Sections.”

[Sameer Shakur](#), an Electrical Engineering student hailing from Far Rockaway, NY, views this opportunity as a bridge between university and career, stating: “Research should be done because it enhances your undergraduate experience in a positive way. It challenges you by providing a task that will seem daunting, but when you apply yourself it makes research become simple and worth your time.” Sameer’s research

investigates low-ohmic contact resistance to Gallium Oxide ( $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ ) MOSFETS.

In addition to networking, many students see research as the precursor of innovation. “For me, doing research means challenging myself. More importantly, research is to learn and discover new things along the way,” says [Coral Lopez-Jimenez](#), a senior majoring in Chemistry with aspirations of obtaining her MD and PhD. Coral’s research concerns the intrinsically disordered linker of *E. coli* SSB protein. [Lawrence Owusu](#), a junior Chemistry major, sees his research as a way to learn new ideas: “To me, research means thoroughly engaging yourself in a topic you want to explore. Doing research will force you to think in creative ways you may not have before.” To [Godfrey Sakyi](#), “Doing research acts as tool to building knowledge and efficient learning, which will make me put most of the theoretical topics learned from class into practical use.” Godfrey’s research is currently using Raman Spectroscopy to identify and analyze graphene and other atomically-thin materials. [Ariana Roman](#), a Psychology major, says of her research experience: “I believe making small or large strides across various disciplines requires progressing and challenging clear and equivocal data. Research means acknowledging and appreciating the past while embracing and investigating the present and future.”

[Makayla Watson](#) also hopes to leave her mark on history. Makayla is a junior studying Speech & Hearing Sciences, and this summer has been investigating “Noise-Induced Hyperacusis.” Says Makayla, “To me, research means trial and error that can lead to exploring the unknown and I believe it is important because you could discover something that can be life changing to someone.” According to [Tyree Singleton](#), “Without people developing new technologies and trying to answer questions that have yet to be answered, the intellectual progression and general curiosity of mankind would be severely limited.” Tyree is entering his third year as a student in the Department of Industrial Engineering.

Each student has their own reasons for conducting research. For some, it presents an opportunity to gain invaluable career experience. Others see it as a chance to gain recognition as innovators. Nonetheless, research is an integral part of the undergraduate experience. Through the enrichment of the CSTEP Summer Research program, our students learn the importance of research, gaining skills to use in education, the workforce, and beyond.

~2017 CSTEP Summer Research Cohort



## Jabril Abdul-Rashed

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY

**MAJOR:** Exercise Science

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Zachary Schlader

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Thermal, Physiological, and Perceptual Transitions from Exercise to Rest*

**ABSTRACT:** Skin wetness perception and thermal discomfort are large drivers of clothing satisfaction. Factors causing discomfort are unknown during the transition from exercise to rest but may be caused by physiological factors of skin wetness and thermal discomfort. We know about the mechanisms driving comfort at rest and during exercise, however, no one has studied discomfort post exercise. The disconnect between psychological perception and physiological responses causes clothing dissatisfaction post exercise. We intend to sample participants through all phases of exercise with thermal, physiological, and perceptual responses collected. This research will further our understanding of clothing comfortability post exercise.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To become a Physician Assistant.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "What's life without struggle, only warriors prosper."



## Marcus Ashford

**HOMETOWN:** Rochester, NY

**MAJOR:** Electrical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Energy Systems Integration

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Jennifer Zirnheld; Dr. Kevin Burke

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Director/Associate Professor; Co-Director/Teaching Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Energy Systems Integration

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Characterizing Nonthermal Plasma with Optical Emission Spectroscopy*

**ABSTRACT:** Nonthermal plasma (NTP) is of interest because it has been proven to kill melanoma cancer cells through apoptotic cell death. High voltage is applied to a flowing inert gas to produce the NTP. The plasma discharge ideally is a stable plume that can be analyzed by using Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES) to examine the emission properties. Data analysis will reveal plasma characteristics and atomic behavior over the spectrum. Characterization work contributes to research in understanding apoptotic cell death from NTP exposure.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To receive my M.S. in Electrical Engineering and work in the Space or Power Industry.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Don't wanna be another statistic." - Ace Hood





## Leon Butcher IV

**HOMETOWN:** Niagara Falls, NY

**MAJOR:** Psychology

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Biomedical Sciences

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Paul Gollnick

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Biomedical Sciences

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Expression of a Foreign protein in E. coli/ Purification of Bacillus subtilis (TRAP)*

**ABSTRACT:** *Bacillus subtilis* is a bacterium that has a protein that regulates transcription attenuation. This transcription attenuation protein is a trans-acting RNA binding regulatory protein (TRAP). Purification of this protein will occur by way of Phenyl Sepharose chromatography and a pET-17d Trap Vector. Pet-17d TRAP is an Ampicillin resistant vector that binds two wild types. This is promoted through IPTG (the inducer). With this purification, a TRAP protein can be built with every other subunit that cannot bind Tryptophan. A similar mechanism of cooperativity is also followed by the binding of hemoglobin to oxygen.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain my Doctorate of Dental Surgery and become a dentist.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Anything is possible...You have to dream like you've never seen obstacles." - J. Cole



## Joiyeux Clark

**HOMETOWN:** West Hempstead, NY

**MAJOR:** Health & Human Services

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Behavioral Neuropharmacology

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Peter Thanos

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Adjunct Research Associate Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Research Institute on Addictions; Psychology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *The effects of chronic Methylphenidate on the cannabinoid receptor expression in the rat brain*

**ABSTRACT:** Methylphenidate (MP) is a psychostimulant prescribed for individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. MP has the ability to produce side effects such as nervousness, anxiety and loss in appetite. Chronic MP can lead to behavioral changes when administered, however few studies have correlated to the effects of MP on the endocannabinoid system. Autoradiography was performed with [3H] SR 141716A to examine brain CB1 receptor expression. Long term administration of the drug has shown increase in CB1 receptor signaling in the hippocampus which promotes memory. Conclusively, the utilization of MP has shown to benefit individuals with ADHD.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To become a nurse.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."



## Kennedy Colon

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY

**MAJOR:** Civil Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Pinar Okumus

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Understanding the behavior and performance of bridges with high skew*

**ABSTRACT:** Bridges with high skew often have deck cracking and undesired superstructure deformations. It is the hypothesis of this research that these problems are partially due to errors in simplified analysis methods commonly used for bridges. To test this hypothesis, we use the commercial analysis software, CsiBridge, to evaluate analysis methods with different complexity levels and computational demands. We will use 1-D, 2-D and 3-D analyses to identify limitations of each modeling method by comparing the results of models to test data. Overall, we hope to decide which modeling method is the most beneficial for understanding the behavior and performance of bridges with high skew.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To earn my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, eventually become a project manager, and flip houses.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Treat yo'self."



## Leonardo Gobbato

**HOMETOWN:** Yonkers, NY

**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Chemical and Biological Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Marina Tsianou

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Chemical and Biological Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Calcium Oxalate Crystal Growth in Silica Hydrogels with Additives*

**ABSTRACT:** Calcium oxalate is the major constituent of kidney stones. In this study, we investigate the crystallization of calcium oxalate in silica hydrogels as an in-vitro set-up that mimics the in-vivo environment where kidney stones form and aggregate. Furthermore, we employ additives with anionic functional groups that have shown inhibitory effects on crystal formation in aqueous solutions. We investigate the nucleation, growth, and morphological evolution of calcium oxalate as affected by the hydrogel matrix and additive concentration. This research will help further our understanding of how kidney stones form under different conditions.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To get a Master's in Chemical Engineering.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Nothing is true; everything is permitted."



## Blessing Hunsu

**HOMETOWN:** Syracuse, NY

**MAJOR:** Chemistry

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Institute for Lasers Photonics and Biophotonics

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Hilliard Kutscher

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Institute for Lasers Photonics and Biophotonics

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Development and validation of a GC-MS method for the analysis of Isoflurane in Intralipid®*

**ABSTRACT:** Influenza is responsible for a considerable amount of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Novel therapies are necessary to reduce the risk of secondary bacterial infections caused by influenza. Isoflurane is a volatile anesthetic that can modulate the immune system. Unfortunately, the concentration of isoflurane loaded into an intralipid emulsion used for IV administration is difficult to determine. A gas chromatography mass spectroscopy via headspace analysis method was developed to determine the concentration of isoflurane entrapped by Intralipid® emulsion. By developing a robust analytical method, accurate administration of emulsified isoflurane as a treatment for influenza, while avoiding its narcosis properties is possible.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Doctorate in Pharmacy and become a Chemotherapy Pharmacist.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "You wouldn't be who you are without all of the difficult times. Be thankful even during the trials."



## Fedora Jeanty-Fils

**HOMETOWN:** Brooklyn, NY

**MAJOR:** Biomedical Sciences

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Pediatrics; Epidemiology and Environmental Health

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Xiaozhong Wen

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Pediatrics; Epidemiology and Environmental Health

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Gestational weight gain trajectories during pregnancy and postpartum among smokers*

**ABSTRACT:** Gestational weight gain (GWG) is crucial for maternal and infant health. However, the timing and rate of GWG, and postpartum weight retention (PPWR) among smokers and quitters remain understudied. In order to conduct our study, we utilized our Pregnancy and Smoking Cessation Study to classify GWG based on the total GWG and pre-pregnancy body mass index of 17 quitters and 6 non-quitters. We compared weight trajectories between quitters and smokers using t-tests and Fisher's Exact Tests. We found 76.5% of quitters had excessive GWG, whereas 83.3% of non-quitters had inadequate GWG (p-value=0.001). We concluded smoking is associated with inadequate GWG, while smoking cessation is associated with excessive GWG.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Master's in Public Health, become a physician, and open my own non-profit clinic.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## Starr Johnson

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY  
**MAJOR:** Pharmacology & Toxicology  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Pathology and Anatomical Sciences  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Scott Doyle  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Assistant Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Optimized Registration Procedure for Building 3D Tumor Models from H&E Stained Serial Sections*

**ABSTRACT:** A large percentage of patients diagnosed with low-stage Oral Cavity Cancer (OCC) experience loco-regional recurrence. The Histologic Risk Model (HRM) is a clinically validated risk assessment tool used by head and neck pathologists to predict OCC progression. The HRM can be improved using 3D tumor models. We aim to generate these 3D models by creating an optimized registration procedure for serial histopathology. Qualitatively, a sample registration of two images shows proper alignment of tissue edges and large internal structures. Accurate 3D models of OCC, in combination with the HRM, will provide a more accurate prognostic system.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** I plan to continue into medical school and have a career as a forensic pathologist.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "The woman who follows the crowd will usually go no further than the crowd. The woman who walks alone is likely to find herself in places no one has been before." - Albert Einstein



## Sasha Joseph

**HOMETOWN:** Williamsville, NY  
**MAJOR:** Psychology  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Epidemiology and Environmental Health  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Kirsten Moysich  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Epidemiology and Environmental Health

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *The Role of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer*

**ABSTRACT:** Myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSC) are immature myeloid cells that impair tumor immunity. Accumulation of these cells is associated with a suppressed immune system, and frequency in blood and tumor samples is positively related to tumor stage. In our research, we will measure MDSC concentrations in epithelial ovarian cancer patients at two time points: diagnosis (prior to treatment) and post-treatment. MDSC levels will be correlated with clinical characteristics and outcomes. If a strong association between MDSC accumulation and treatment outcomes is identified, this information can be used in the clinical setting in identifying most promising candidates for novel immunotherapeutic approaches.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain my Doctor of Medicine degree and open my own practice, hopefully for disadvantaged families.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all Your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6



## Coral Lopez-Jimenez

**HOMETOWN:** Tonawanda, NY

**MAJOR:** Chemistry

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Microbiology and Immunology

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Piero Bianco

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Associate Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Microbiology and Immunology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Analyzing the intrinsically disordered linker of E. coli SSB protein*

**ABSTRACT:** The *Escherichia coli* single stranded DNA binding protein (SSB) is critical to DNA metabolism. The intrinsically disordered linker (IDL) is critical to all protein-protein interactions of SSB. Truncating and/or mutating the IDL sequence impairs binding to ssDNA2. SSB binds to RecO in-vivo with high affinity. We are determining the key components of IDL that bind to RecO. We will express the relevant proteins in-vivo in the same cell and purify potential complexes using nickel column chromatography. Complexes to be tested include his-SSB+RecO; his-GFP-linker+RecO as well as various linker mutants. This research will help further our understanding of the interaction between the IDL and a key partner protein.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain an MD/PhD and become a medical scientist, working in a county hospital while collaborating with a university to conduct research.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "There are not limits, except the one you set for yourself."



## Neneyo Mate-Kole

**HOMETOWN:** Wheatley Heights, NY

**MAJOR:** Pharmacology & Toxicology

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** University At Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. David Dietz

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Associate Professor and Interim Chair

**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacology & Toxicology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *E3 ubiquitin ligase Trim3 regulates cocaine-induced plasticity in the nucleus accumbens*

**ABSTRACT:** Drug addiction is a chronic brain disease that can develop gradually due to the imprudent utilization of psychoactive substances. These substances, which include heroin and cocaine, utilize dynamic alterations in specific brain regions that are associated with motivation and reward. This includes the nucleus accumbens (NAc). The ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) has been shown to be involved in cocaine-induced plasticity due to its impact on protein degradation. Substrates are polyubiquitinated for degradation via E3 ubiquitin ligases. In this research, we examine tripartite motif-containing protein 3 (Trim 3) an E3 ubiquitin ligase, to see its functional importance on a specific substrate (INO 80) in cue-induced cocaine seeking during prolonged withdrawal.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** My academic goal is to obtain my M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) and become a physician. My career goal after this is to create a STEP-like program in another state for underrepresented high school students to encourage them to pursue STEM-related fields.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Stay far from timid, only make moves when your heart is in it, and live the phrase the sky's the limit." - Christopher Wallace



## Lawrence Owusu

**HOMETOWN:** Inwood, NY

**MAJOR:** Chemistry

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Chemistry

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Janet Morrow

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacology and Toxicology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Fluorescence Sensors for Transition Metals in the Biological System*

**ABSTRACT:** A variety of transition metals are present in the human body, often in trace amounts; iron is the most abundant. These metal ions are mostly present in the catalytic sites of various proteins. With the use of fluorescence sensors that bond to metals, images can be generated to monitor metal levels and their role in biological processes. Our research focuses on the use of a synthetic carbosytril sensor and a synthetic fluorescein fluorophore to detect transition metals in biological processes. Findings will assist in showing how metals play a part in biological processes.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Master's degree.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Treat every opportunity as if it's the last one you'll get."



## Ariana Roman

**HOMETOWN:** New York, NY

**MAJOR:** Psychology

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedicine

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Rina Eiden, PhD

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Senior Research Scientist

**DEPARTMENT:** Research Institute on Addictions

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Cocaine Exposure and Caregiving Status: Effects on Child Behavior Problems*

**ABSTRACT:** Prenatal cocaine exposure contributes to higher externalizing behaviors throughout childhood. Conceivably, a large proportion of cocaine-exposed children may eventually be placed in foster or kinship care, resulting in exposure to greater environmental risks related to externalizing behaviors. This study will review literature examining how child sex, quality of caregiving, and age of entry into foster care may moderate the association between foster care status and externalizing behaviors among cocaine and non-cocaine exposed children. This research increases our understanding of the relationship between caregiving status and externalizing behaviors, and will help identify a program for future research.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a PhD in Clinical or Developmental Psychology, work as a clinician or experimentalist, and pursue candidacy for tenure at a university.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "I am new. History made me. My first language was Spanglish. I was born at the crossroads and I am whole." - Aurora Levins Morales



## Christian Romero-Fischer

**HOMETOWN:** New York, NY

**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Mostafa Nouh

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Thermoacoustics: Piezo-electric Energy Harvesting from Radial Standing Waves*

**ABSTRACT:** Thermoacoustics has emerged recently as a source of utilizing waste heat. The phenomenon of heat-generated sound is still studied in depth today as a means to produce electricity through an efficient use of

piezoelectric materials. The pressure created from sound vibrations accrue a mechanical stress on piezoelectric materials, such as lead zirconate titanate, that forces the also reversible process of internal electrical generation. The radial engine we designed holds up to and follows the same theoretical principles as the radial wave engine described in Jay A. Lightfoot and Patrick Arnott's experimental study. Although the engine is still being developed, we will be running efficiency tests such as the input vs. output power once finally constructed.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and to work as an engineer for an automobile company.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Climb the ladder to success escalator style." – Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace



## Godfrey Sakyi

**HOMETOWN:** Bronx, NY

**MAJOR:** Electrical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Electrical Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Jonathan Bird

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Professor

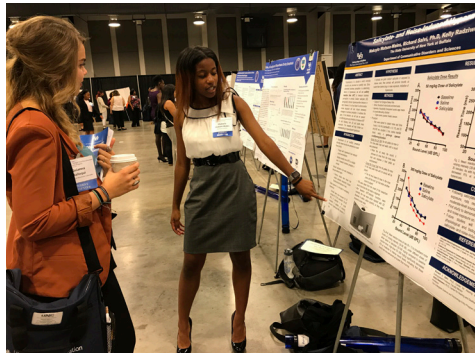
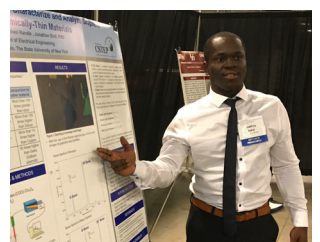
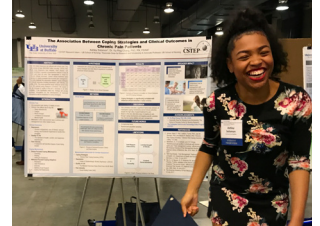
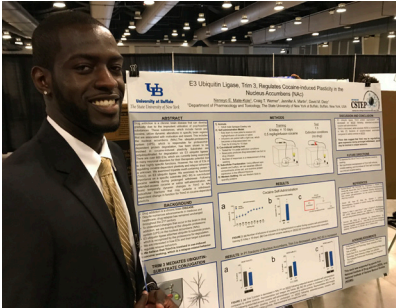
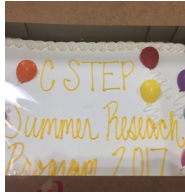
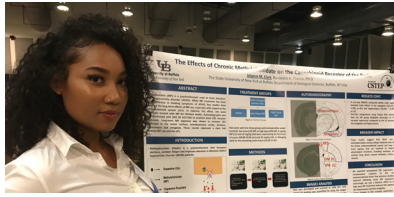
**DEPARTMENT:** Electrical Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Using Raman Spectroscopy to Identify and Analysis Graphene and Other Atomically-thin Materials*

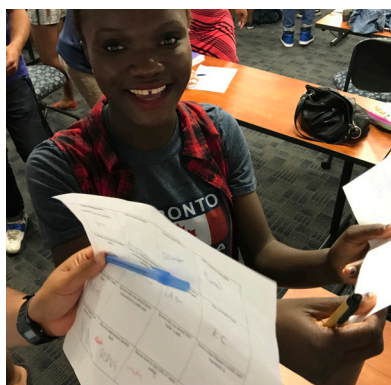
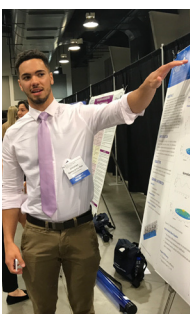
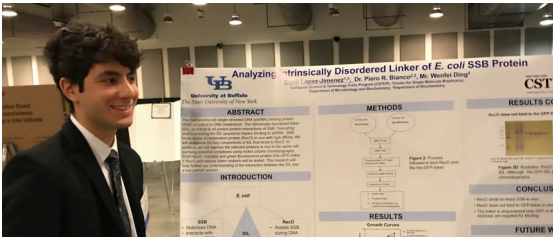
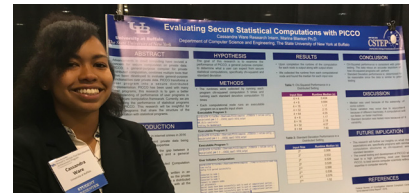
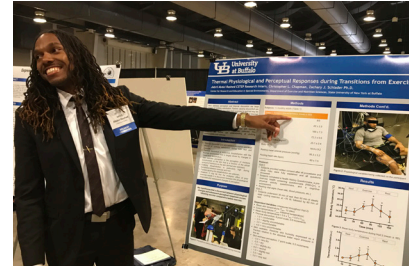
**ABSTRACT:** Graphene is a single layer of pure carbon atoms that are strongly bonded together. Previous works have demonstrated graphene to be 200 times stronger than steel, yet very flexible. It has also been proven to be a good heat and electrical conductive material. Despite its unique properties, developing high quality graphene for commercial use is a very expensive and complex process. This research will utilize Raman spectroscopy to characterize and identify the atomic structure of graphene. I will also identify and characterize other atomically-thin materials such as Cobalt (II) oxide (CoO), Cobalt (III) Oxide (Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>), and Aluminum Oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain my bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and secure a position as a wireless telecommunication technician with a great telecommunication company.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "It is better to walk alone, than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."









## Adline Sarpong

**HOMETOWN:** Mount Vernon, NY

**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Behavioral Neuropharmacology

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Peter Thanos

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Scientist

**DEPARTMENT:** Research Institute on Addictions

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Chronic Effects of Antipsychotic Medication on the Brain's Glutamate System*

**ABSTRACT:** Antipsychotic drugs are a primary use for human neuropsychiatric conditions such as schizophrenia.

Haloperidol and olanzapine, first and second generation antipsychotic agents, have been proven effective against the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia. However, the long-term use of these drugs is unknown regarding its affects towards the brain's glutamate system. Autoradiography using [3H] MK-801 was performed to examine brain NMDA receptor expression. Long-term administration of the antipsychotics olanzapine and haloperidol was found to decrease expression of NMDA receptors in the hippocampus, an area associated with learning and memory. The functionality of these receptors will be examined with further research.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To attend medical school and pursue a career in pediatric medicine.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder." - Jalal ad-Din Rumi



## Sameer Shakur

**HOMETOWN:** Far Rockaway, NY

**MAJOR:** Electrical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Electrical Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Uttam Singiseti

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Electrical Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Investigating Low-Ohmic Contact Resistance to Gallium Oxide (Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) MOSFETS*

**ABSTRACT:** Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are increasingly used and integrated in the electric

grid through Power Electronics. Power Electronics can be reduced in size and cost through reduction of power loss. Gallium Oxide (Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) has a higher band gap than Silicon (used in most devices today), and can handle higher voltages, resulting in reduction of size and lower cost. Thus, it is necessary to reduce the resistance in the Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> MOSFET by increasing power capacity through low resistance ohmic contact. In this project, we are investigating low-ohmic contact resistance to Gallium Oxide (Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** My academic goals are to achieve a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. My career goals are to design a product that no one has ever thought of before and become a CEO of my own company.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best." - Tim Duncan



## Tyree Singleton

**HOMETOWN:** Brooklyn, NY

**MAJOR:** Industrial Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Industrial and Systems Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Jun Zhuang

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Associate Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Industrial and Systems Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Analysis of Retweet Distribution and Information Sharing on Twitter*

**ABSTRACT:** Twitter has been widely used by both the general public and official agents for crisis communication and disaster management. Dissemination speed, distribution, and coverage of crisis information on Twitter are important issues, but have not been thoroughly studied. This research fills this gap by analyzing the dissemination speed, distribution of dissemination time, and the information coverage of tweets during disasters. Tweets posted before and during Hurricane Mathew and Louisiana floods in 2016 were collected respectively for analysis. Results show that the dissemination time of tweets is best fitted with the power law distribution. Also, Disaster Relief Agencies have tweeters that frequently distribute information during disasters.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** I want to obtain a Master's in Industrial Engineering and start my own business.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are for." - William Shedd



## Ashley Solomon

**HOMETOWN:** Bronx, NY

**MAJOR:** Intended Nursing

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Nursing

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Yu-Ping Chang

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Nursing

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *The Association Between Coping Strategies and Clinical Outcomes in Chronic Pain Patients*

**ABSTRACT:** Over 100 million Americans are afflicted with chronic pain. A general comprehensive method to treat all chronic pain doesn't exist. Pain management is important for enhanced clinical outcomes. Current clinical treatment lacks emphasis on coping strategies that increase pain management. This study explores the association between coping strategies and clinical outcomes including depression, pain intensity, and quality of life. This cross-sectional design analyzes survey data from 100 patients using regression analysis. We expect to see an increase in quality of life and a decrease in all other variables. If the hypothesis holds true, findings will provide pertinent information for the development of improved interventions with an emphasis on coping strategies.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** My academic and career goals are to become a Nurse Practitioner with a Master's degree.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Stay ready to keep from getting ready."



## Cassandra Ware

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY

**MAJOR:** Computer Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Computer Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Marina Blanton

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Associate Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Computer Science and Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Evaluating Secure Statistical Computations with PICCO*

**ABSTRACT:** Advancements in cloud computing have revived a concern for secure computation on private data.

PICCO, a general-purpose compiler for private distributed computation, combines multiple tools that have been developed to evaluate general-purpose functionalities over private data. PICCO transforms a user program into a secure distributed implementation. PICCO has been used with many user programs, this research is to gain a better understanding of performance of user programs in this secure computation framework. Currently, we are evaluating the performance of statistical programs using PICCO. This research will be insightful for other programs that share the structure of the computation with statistical programs.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** I plan to go into industry and enter into a Master's program, delving further into research.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "You have to work for the things you want in life."



## Makayla Watson-Wales

**HOMETOWN:** Amherst, NY

**MAJOR:** Speech & Hearing Sciences

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Communicative Disorders and Sciences

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Richard Salvi

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Adjunct Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Communicative Disorders and Sciences

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Noise-Induced Hyperacusis*

**ABSTRACT:** Hyperacusis is a disorder in which everyday sounds are perceived as painfully loud. Since abnormal

loudness perception is a determining factor in hyperacusis, we will use auditory reaction time (ART) to measure loudness perception in animals. Previous studies have shown that sodium salicylate temporarily induces hyperacusis-like behavior in rats. However, that study failed to assess rats following noise exposure, the more clinically relevant way of inducing hyperacusis. In this study, we will use an operant conditioning go/no-go procedure to measure ART in rats following both salicylate and acute noise exposure. This research will help further our understanding of noise-induced hyperacusis.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** My goal is to get my Masters in Speech Therapy so that I can practice as a Speech Language Pathologist. I also will get my Doctor of Audiology degree, so that I can practice as an Audiologist. I also want to obtain my PhD in Audiology and pursue research. Ultimately, I would like to open my own practice, while running a research lab.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "Just do it." - Nike motto



## Daisy Wilson

**HOMETOWN:** Staten Island, NY

**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Chemical and Biological Engineering

**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Marina Tsianou

**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor

**DEPARTMENT:** Chemical and Biological Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** *Utilizing the Constant Composition Method to Investigate Calcium Oxalate Crystal Nucleation and Growth*

**ABSTRACT:** Kidney stone disease is often associated with an increase of mineral supersaturation in the body and lack of natural inhibitory molecules. The objective of this work is to investigate the effects of additives on the crystallization of calcium oxalate, the primary mineral constituent of kidney stones. We study the kinetics of calcium oxalate crystallization in aqueous solutions by employing a constant composition potentiostatic technique and we evaluate the effects of supersaturation, temperature and additives. These studies offer a better understanding of the calcium oxalate crystallization and provide insights on the mechanism of renal stone formation and inhibition.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain my MBA and start my own business.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "We go hard. In everything we do, we're going to accomplish our victory and our goal. If it takes a day, a year, or 20 years, we're going to win. I haven't taken a loss because everything I've done has been a working process to win." - DJ Khaled



# The 2017 CSTEP Summer Research Program expresses thanks & appreciation to the following workshop & tour facilitators for their contributions & support:

## STEPHANIE ADAMS, ESQ.

GENERAL COUNSEL, NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

## DR. JASON ADSIT

DEAN, SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND EDUCATION, D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE

## DR. BILL BAUER

DIRECTOR, HAUPTMAN-WOODWARD INSTITUTE (HWI)

## DAVID BERTUCA

MAP LIBRARIAN, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARY

## DR. KATE BEZRUKOVA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ORGANIZATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES, SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

## HADAR BORDEN

DIRECTOR, BLACKSTONE LAUNCHPAD

## ED BRODKA

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## TERRI BUDEK

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CAMPUS LIFE

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CO-DIRECTOR, UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

## JUDE BUTCH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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DIRECTOR, FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS, OFFICE OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COORDINATOR, STUDENT LIFE

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ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

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MARKETING CAPTAIN, OF THE SEA, LLC

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ATA PRACTITIONER, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BEHLING SIMULATION CENTER

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PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES - ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

## DR. RICHARD KARALUS

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

## DR. ADAM KISAILUS

ASSISTANT DEAN, DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS, ROSWELL PARK CANCER INSTITUTE

## DAWN LONGUIL

GRADUATE PROGRAMS MANAGER (WNY), KAPLAN

## DR. AMY MARSCHLOK

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

## ALLISON McCARTHY

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## LIA MUNOZ

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT, CAMPUS LIFE

## TOM MURDOCK

MANAGER, UB INCUBATOR NETWORK

## DR. CELESTE OWENS

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, AUTHOR

## WAYNE PORTERFIELD

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CAREER SERVICES

## BRITANI PRUNER

UB LINKED COORDINATOR

## NANCY SCHILLER

ENGINEERING LIBRARIAN, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARY

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## LIZ SNIDER

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/CLINICAL DIRECTOR, COUNSELING CENTER

## EZRA STALEY

PAST ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, M&T BANK GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

## DR. CLAYTON STEEN

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT, SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

## DR. ANDREW STOTT

VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

## DR. CHRISTINE TINNESZ

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, METHODS OF INQUIRY

## TIMOTHY TRYJANKOWSKI

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

## JIM ULRICH

PHOTOGRAPHER

## CATE VIVACQUA

CAREER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE, CAREER SERVICES

## OLIVIA WEST

MONEY MANAGEMENT, WEST ADVISORY GROUP

## CHRISTINE WINGO

PAST CSTEP AB PRESIDENT

## LINDA ZILGME

DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

# THANK YOU to our 2017 CSTEP Summer Symposium Judges!

## NAME

## DEPARTMENT

DR. JESSY ALEXANDER

Dept. of Medicine,  
Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

DR. CEMAL BASARAN

Dept. of Civil Engineering

DR. GLENNA BETT

Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

DR. MARY BISSON

Dept. of Biological Sciences

KENDRA CADOGAN

Academic Advisor, Ackers Scholars Program

MR. AKIN CAULCRICK

CSTEP Alumnus & Dupont, Manufacturing Process Engineering

DR. ROSEMARY DZIAK

Oral Biology, UB School of Dental Medicine

MR. PABLO FALCA

Business Executive

DR. JOHANNES HACHMANN

Dept. of Chemical & Biological Engineering

DR. MARK HICAR, MD, PHD

Pediatrics, Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences,  
Clinical Translational Research Center

DR. BLAIR JOHNSON

Dept. of Exercise & Nutrition

MR. LEO KAYEMBE

UB Alumni, Electrical Engineer

DR. JOB AIDUR KHAN

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering

DR. ELINI KYRIAKIDOU

Dept. of Chemical & Biological Engineering

DR. XIAOZHUO LIU

Dept. of Biological Sciences (Post Doc)

DR. SUPRIYA MAHAJAN

Dept. of Medicine,  
Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

DR. HOUTAN MOSHIRI

Dept. of Biological Science (Post Doc)

MR. THOMAS MURDOCK

Manager, UB Incubator Network

DR. HEATHER OROM

Dept. of Community Health and Health Behavior,  
School of Public Health & Health Professions

DR. ATRI RUDRA

Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

MS. ANNIKA SAMUELS

CSTEP Alumna & National Fuel, Industrial Engineering

DR. JONGMIN SHIM

Dept. of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering

DR. FILIP STEFANOVIC

Dept. of Biomedical Engineering

DR. JING WANG

Dept. of Biomedical Engineering

DR. NOEMI WAIGHT

Graduate School of Education

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## An Update On Previous CSTEP Summer Research Interns

First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Naza	Abdelrahman	2016	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate program in Biological Sciences
Frank	Acheampong	2007	Pharmacy	UMass Memorial Medical Center	Clinical Pharmacist - Informatics
Bruck	Adam	2010	Mathematics	IPRO, NYS Department of Health, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, Bureau of Health Informatics	Data Analyst
Priscilla	Adjei-Baffour	2010	Pharmacy		Pharmacy Manager
Geraldene	Agbasionwe	2007	Pre-Pharmacy	Live Good Pharmacy INC	Supervising Pharmacist
Chiamaka	Agbasionwe	2010		Biological Department	Research Intern
Jonathan	Ahmedu	2013	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	Kohasa Engineering Company Ltd. in Port Harcourt, Nigeria; Cornell University	Pipeline Engineer; Masters student
Ali	Al Qaraghuli	2016	Electrical Engineering	Northrop Grumman Space Park (Los Angeles, CA)	Systems Engineer
Andrew	Alegria	2016	Mechanical Engineering	University of Purdue, CCEFP REU Program	Research Intern
Summar	Amin	2013	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo Dental School	Dental Student
Uzoamaka	Aniagba	2014	Biological Sciences	Indiana University School of Medicine	Medical Student
Christina	Aponte	2015	Biomedical Sciences	Nickel City Dentistry	Dental Intern
Barituziga	Banuna	2016	Chemical Engineering	University at Buffalo	Continuing student
Warren	Barrett	2014	Chemistry	University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
Leatrice	Bennett	2014	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate student in Community Health and Health Behavior
Sharece	Blake	2012	Electrical Engineering	Roswell Park Cancer Institute	Research Associate
Kwame	Boakye-Yiadom	2015	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student



First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Kelly	Boamah	2015	Pharmacology & Toxicology	D'Youville School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
David	Bratton	2014	Biological Sciences	Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical School	Medical Student
John	Brito	2013	Biological Sciences	Columbia University	Graduate Student
Ernestine	Brown	2007	Nursing	University of Rochester Medical Center	Nurse Practitioner
Kevin	Bryant	2008	Electrical Engineering, MS	Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc	Electrical Engineering Project Manager
Joaquin	Canay	2015	Biotechnology	Thermo Fisher Scientific	
Kevin	Carpio	2014	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	Northrop Grumman (California)	Aerospace Engineer (Palmdale, California)
Keelan	Chu For	2011	MAE	University at Buffalo	Graduate Research Assistant
Nicholas	Costable	2013	Biological Sciences	Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical School	Medical Student
Emmanuel	Cott	2016	Computer Sciences, MS	University at Buffalo	Graduate Student
Belle	Cunningham	2011	Electrical Engineering	Pepsi	Project Supervisor
Nuris	De La Cruz	2012		Columbia Presbyterian	Psychological Counseling
Mohamed	Diaby	2015	Civil Engineering & Mathematics	Whiting-Turner Contracting Company (Baltimore,MD); UB Structural Engineering	Intern; Graduate Student
Joseph	Diehl	2010	Civil Engineering, MS	Parsons	Bridge Engineer, Manager
Keith	Dolcy	2012	Pharmacy, PharmD	San Francisco, CA	Specialty Pharmacist
Jennifer Lynn	Donato	2015	Biotechnology	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Research & Development Intern II
Ian	Duncan	2010	Mechanical Engineering	Suspension & Steering Dynamics at Honda R&D	Vehicle Performance Engineer
Brandon	Durant	2012		University at Buffalo	Graduate Student
Dr. Corie	Ellison	2007	Pharmacology & Toxicology	Procter & Gamble	Toxicologist

First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Tanahiry	Escamilla	2016	Chemical Engineering	University at Buffalo	Continuing student
Alejandro	Falca	2016	Medicinal Chemistry	Watson Lab	Research intern
Moses	Farley	2007	Electrical Engineering	Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation	Distribution Design & Standards Engineer
Jonathan	Feliciano	2011	Psychology	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Research Analyst
Robert	Ferguson	2014	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo Dental School	Dental Student
Jarrett	Franklin	2016	Electrical Engineering	University at Buffalo School of Engineering	Graduate Student
Daivon	Garrick	2008	Pharmacology & Toxicology	M&T Bank	Credit Risk Analyst
Tavia	Garvey	2011	Pharmacy	Wegman Food Market	Pharmacy Technician
Shawn	Gibson	2015	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Schomburg Fellow; graduate student
Paul	Glenn	2011	Engineering Physics; Electrical Engineering	Brookhaven National Laboratory	Research Intern
Chris	Gnam	2016	Mechanical Engineering	NASA's Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX)	Simulations Development Intern
Isabel	Gonzalez	2011	Civil Engineering, MS	NYC Department of Design and Construction	Project Engineer, Fabrication Engineer
Johnathan	Goodrum	2013	Electrical Engineering	Amazon	Software Engineer
John	Habert	2013	Biological Sciences	United States Marine Corps	
Marda	Hailu	2008	Biological Sciences	Western New England University College of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
Ron	Heichman	2010	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	University at Buffalo	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering PhD Student
Dominique	Hickson	2016	Computer Engineering	University at Buffalo	Graduate School of Computer Science & Engineering
Anna	Huang	2016	Social Sciences Inter-disciplinary	NYC	Applying to graduate school programs
Richard	Hunte	2011	Biomedical Sciences, PhD	Florida	Doctoral Student & Research Assistant
Jessica	Isaac	2008	Pharmacy	Fidelis Care NY	Medicare Clinical Pharmacist

First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Aggrey	Jacobs	2008	Electrical Engineering	UB School of Engineering	Doctoral Student
Anthony	Jones	2008	Biomedical Sciences; Neuroscience PhD	Roswell Park Cancer Institute	Doctoral Student
Jordan	Jorgensen	2011	Electrical Engineering	Global Foundries	Advanced Manufacturing Engineer
Corinna	Joseph	2009	Industrial Engineering	Bechtel Marine Propulsion Corporation (Bechtel Plant Machinery Inc.)	Engineer
Akunne	Kanu	2014	Pharmacology & Toxicology	University at Albany	Graduate Student, Public Health, Epidemiology
Mohammed	Karim	2016	Biomedical Sciences	Buffalo, NY	Applying to medical school program
Jalisa	Kelly	2016	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Medical Student
Muhammad	Khan	2013	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	Northrop Grumman	Reliability Engineer (Florida)
Gael	Lamothe	2011	Civil Engineering	Hunter Roberts Construction Group	Assistant Project Manager
Dr. Richard	Linares	2007	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	University of Minnesota	Assistant Professor
Kaytlan	LoCicero	2016	Nursing/ Social Sciences Interdisciplinary	University at Buffalo	Continuing studies
James	Lopez	2013	Psychology	Power U Center for Social Change (Miami, FL)	Executive Director
Anthony	Lopez	2016	Biology/Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate program in Biological Sciences
David	Louis	2007	Psychology	Bedford Flatbush Chiropractic	Project Director
Jean	Mandat	2009	Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine	Community Health of South Florida, Inc.	Medical Student
Jasmine	May	2009	Medicinal Chemistry	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	Medical Student
Micah	McCurty	2008	Exercise Science		DPT
Ayo	McKenzie	2013	Chemistry	Temple University	Pharmacy Student
Jacob	Milling	2014		University at Buffalo	Medical Student

First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Ashley	Narain	2012	Pre-Pharmacy	University of Bridgeport College of Chiropractic	Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine Student
Jillian	Naylor	2016	Biology/Biological Sciences	Applying to dental school	Dental Assistant
Hieu	Nguyen	2008	Biochemistry	UB Dental School	Dental Student
Thao	Nguyen	2010	Electrical Engineering	Catholic Family Center	English-Vietnamese Interpreter
Aaron	Nimako	2016	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate program in Biological Sciences
Lee-Mary	Njoku	2016	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Continuing Student
Millicent	Nwankwo	2011	Biological Sciences	Shire Pharmaceuticals	R&D Global Health Economic, Outcomes Research, Epidemiology
Andrews	Obeng-Ayarkwah	2013	Pharmaceutical Sciences	University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
Damian	Ogbonna	2011	Computer Engineering	Computer Science and Engineering	Graduate Student - University of Buffalo
Peter	Okoroza	2015	Pharmaceutical Sciences	University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy; CVS	Pharmacy Student; Pharmacy Tech
Ndidiamaka	Okoroza	2016	Biomedical Sciences	Applying to medical school	
Folake	Olaleye	2015	Biological Sciences	D'Youville School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
Abas	Omar	2014	Biological Sciences	Roswell Park Cancer Institute	Clinical Observation Dental Maxillofacial Department
Oluwatosin	Oniyide	2015	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Applying to medical school programs
Iyamu	Osazuwa	2016	Electrical Engineering	University at Buffalo School of Engineering	Graduate Student
Wilberforce	Osei	2008	Chemistry & Pharmacology		Pharmacist
Francis	Perez	2008	Chemical/Biological Engineering, MS		Chemical Engineer
Adonis	Pimienta-Penalver	2010	Aerospace Engineering	Aerospace Engineering, University at Buffalo	Doctoral Student
Rasheen	Powell	2015	Pharmacology & Toxicology	University at Buffalo	PhD Student - Pharmacology & Toxicology
Austin	Price	2014	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Medical Student

First Name	Last Name	Summer Research Prog. Year	UB Major(s)	Where are they now?	What's their title?
Valeria	Prieto	2015	Civil Engineering	University at Buffalo	Master's degree in Civil Engineering
Zakiya	Rhodie	2015	Pharmacology and Toxicology	University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy	Pharmacy Student
Lucas	Rugar	2016	Civil Engineering	Columbia University	Graduate student in Engineering
l'Yanna	Scott	2015	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate program in Biological Sciences
Frank	Segui	2012	Electrical Engineering	Western Michigan University	Graduate Student, Electrical Engineering
Timothy	Semon	2014	Biomedical Sciences	Marquette University (Wisconsin)	Dental Student
Michael	Singletery	2013	Electrical Engineering	University at Buffalo	Graduate Student - Electrical Engineering; United States Army
Souleymane	Sow	2008	Aerospace Engineering	Completed MS in Aerospace Engineering from Purdue University	Aerospace Engineer
Hamlet	Spencer	2014	Mechanical Engineering, MS	University at Buffalo	Graduate Student - Mechanical Engineering
Diamile	Tavarez	2016	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	Continuing student
Shiny	Thomas	2007	Pharmacy	CVS Pharmacy; Touro College	Completed PharmD
Alexandria	Trujillo	2013	Biological Sciences	University at Buffalo	PhD Student - Pharmacology & Toxicology
Douglas	Tsahey	2016	Biomedical Sciences	University at Buffalo	Graduate program in Biological Sciences
Antonio	Upia	2010	Electrical Engineering	Mass Electric Construction Co.	Electrical Field Engineer
Bethany	Walton	2014	English	University at Buffalo	Graduate Student - School of Social Work
Christopher	Williams	2009	Electrical Engineering	Lam Research Corp. / IBM Corp.	Field Service Engineer II, (FSE)
Franklin	Yeboah	2008	Medical Technology	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Grad Intern with RiteAid Pharmacy
Theresa	Yera	2012	Anthropology, Pre-Med	Dept. of Sociology, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University	Teaching Assistant
Yun	Zheng	2012	Medicinal Chemistry	Albany Molecular Research Inc. (AMRI)	Research Scientist I

# CSTEP 2017 SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM STAFF

Shanna Crump-Owens  
CSTEP Director

Patricia "Tia" Greer  
CSTEP Administrative Assistant

Lavone Rodolph  
Research Methods Course Instructor  
Doctoral Student, Computer Science & Engineering

## Graduate Assistants

Rebecca Borowski  
Karole Collier  
Nelson Rivera

## Student Assistants

Dominique Hickson

## Alumni Volunteer

Christine Wingo (Past CSTEP Advisory Board President)

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CSTEP acknowledges the support of Cora P. Maloney College (CPMC), Intercultural Diversity Center, Student Engagement, Campus Life, UB Career Services and all other University at Buffalo faculty, volunteers, workshop facilitators, staff, and students whose contributions made the 2017 Research Summer Program a success!

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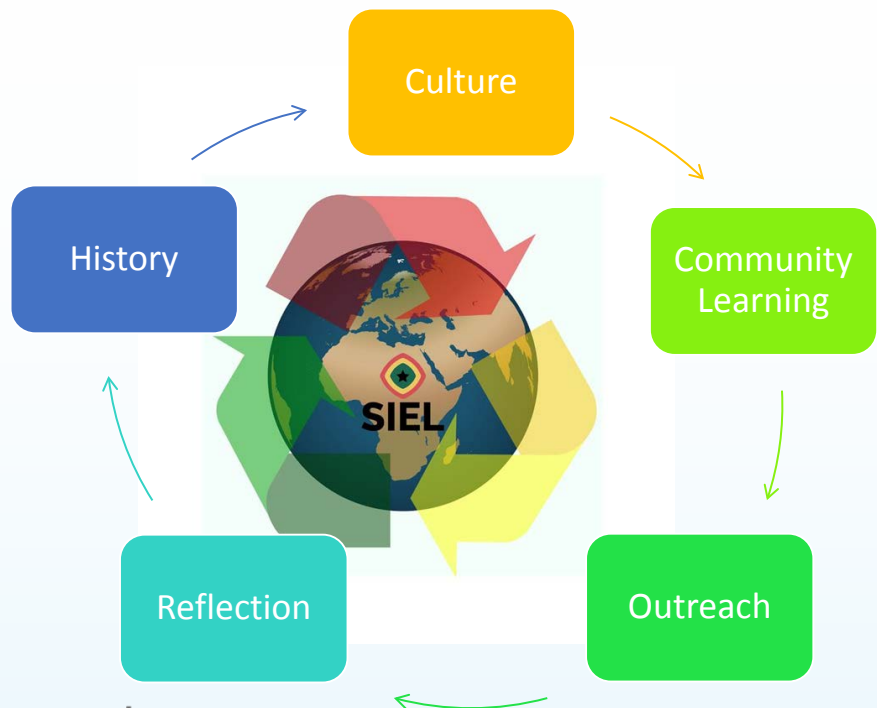
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Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, PhD  
[dasamoah@buffalo.edu](mailto:dasamoah@buffalo.edu)



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\$500 scholarships are available from CSTEP via the CPMC Experiential Scholarship Award. This year's winner was Jillian Naylor '17.

# 2017 CSTEP SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNS



2017 CSTEP Research Interns field trip to Hauptman-Woodward Institute (HWI) with Dr. Bill Bauer