

LSU Health New Orleans  
Winter/Spring Research Internship Program  
Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

*Winter/Spring 2022 Newsletter*

**DEAR STUDENTS, PROGRAM ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS,**

We hope you are doing well! Through this newsletter, we hope to provide updates on the program, as well as share the academic and professional achievements of program participants with our community. If you are a program alumnus and would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please share your academic and professional achievements [here](#).



**Ashley Santana**  
REU Program Participant 2019  
University of Central Florida

Ashley Santana's mentorship with Dr. Hamilton Farris in 2019 solidified her decision to pursue research. After graduating from University of Central Florida, Ashley was awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship and NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

She is now pursuing a master's degree in biotechnology at New York University. Her current research consists of finding ovarian cancer in-vitro models using patient derived tumor organoids at the New York Stem Cell Foundation Research Institute.



**Trivia Frazier**  
Undergraduate Program Participant 2008  
Tulane University

Following her summer internship in 2008 as a Tulane undergraduate, Dr. Frazier received her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Tulane School of Medicine in 2012, and her MBA from Tulane in 2018. She co-founded Obatala Sciences in 2017, and is currently serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the company. One of her main goals is to promote diversity among research.



## **Gregory Schwing**

**Undergraduate Program Participant 2017  
University of New Orleans**

Gregory Schwing worked alongside Dr. Chindo Hicks for the summer of 2017. He attributes his success to this program as it kick started his interest in research. After graduating from the University of New Orleans, Gregory started working towards his MDPH at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. He now dedicates his time to developing molecular modelling software for the University. Alongside schooling, he works remotely in New Orleans and is looking to volunteer at the Fr. Harry Tompson Center.

## **Laura Carrasquilla**

**REU Program Participant 2017  
Northshore High School and University of Alabama**

Laura Carrasquilla joined the program as a senior in high school and as an REU student with Dr. Jovanny Zabaleta for three summers. She worked on projects related to the impact of ancestry on breast cancer and prostate cancer among Hispanic patients. She presented her work at the 11th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved in 2018. Laura attended the University of Alabama and conducted research with the Athletic Training Department on the association of sport specialization with upper extremity injuries among youth baseball players and on health disparities among concussion patients. She graduated summa cum laude with a Biology and Psychology degree in December of 2021 and is currently pursuing her MBA degree at UA. Next fall, she will begin her first year of medical school.



## **Ke'Yon Jones**

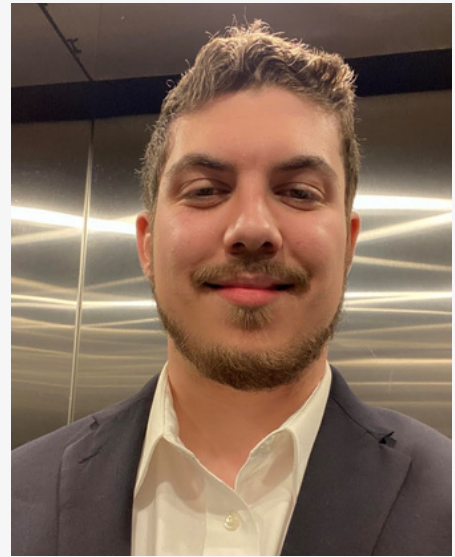
**REU Program Participant 2016  
Grambling State University**

Ke'Yon Jones spent the summer of 2016 working with Drs. Nicolas Bazan and Filipe Muhale in the LSUHSC Neuroscience Center of Excellence. After attending the summer program, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Grambling State University. Ke'Yon is now currently a medical student at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Louisiana.

## Ethan Nicklow

High School Program Participant 2018  
Benjamin Franklin High School

Ethan Nicklow worked with Dr. Chindo Hicks during the summer of 2018 and summer of 2019. Together, they worked using bioinformatics and data sciences to study genomic markers related to leukemia and colon cancer. Ethan contributed to a publication near the end of summer in 2019, and thus was convinced to continue his research. Following his graduation from Benjamin Franklin High School, he now attends Duke University as an undergraduate in Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry. Ethan involves himself in tissue engineering research and helps design and test new polymer-based materials for wound healing and tissue restructuring. As a senior, his potential plans for next year include either pursuing a PhD in graduate school or transitioning into an industry as a biomedical engineer.



## Joshua Lott

REU Program Participant 2016  
Georgia State University

Joshua Lott had joined the 2016 REU program and worked alongside Dr. Hamilton Farris. Joshua is currently a PhD student in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Michigan. He investigates the neuropharmacology of cannabinoid receptor function by studying the subcellular trafficking and signaling mechanisms of these proteins. Additionally, Joshua helped found Scientist for Outreach on Addiction Research, an organization at the University of Michigan that aims to make topics of addiction research more accessible to the general public.

## Tamara Morris

REU Program Participant 2015  
Louisiana State University

Tamara Morris worked in the summer of 2015 with Dr. Harrison Bernard. She graduated in 2017 from LSU in Baton Rouge with a bachelor's in Biology. Following graduation, she obtained a Research Associate position at LSUHSC in the Department of Pharmacology, which resulted in two co-authored publications. Tamara is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Pharmacology at LSUHSC. Her research focuses on the effects of controlled substances on learning, memory, and behavior.

