

# ORDER OF PEGASUS

REPRESENTING THE MOST DEDICATED, PASSIONATE AND HIGHEST ACHIEVING KNIGHTS

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CLASS OF

2024

# STUDENT DIRECTORY

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## *Welcome, and thank you for helping us honor the Class of 2024 Order of Pegasus recipients.*

The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor a student can receive from UCF, recognizing outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated exemplary academic achievement, university involvement, leadership, and community service.

This year's 30 students are remarkable and are already making an impact on the world. Aside from focusing on academics and campus causes, many of the student honorees volunteered at hospitals, food banks, shelters, and with many other community service organizations. Among them are ground-breaking national and global scholarship winners, researchers, athletes, teaching assistants, and leaders in campus organizations such as Student Government, LEAD Scholars, and the President's Leadership Council.

They are among our brightest students — with a collective GPA of 3.94 — and include National Merit Scholars, Burnett Honors Scholars, and earners of prestigious honors such as the Astronaut Scholarship, Goldwater Scholarship, National Science Foundation Scholarship, and Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

They conducted, presented, and published research on many subjects, including advancements in healthcare for people of all ages and a variety of conditions, domestic violence, emergency management, suicide prevention, natural hazards, and food insecurity on college campuses.

The UCF community is incredibly proud of these recipients and all they have accomplished. Please join us in offering your congratulations and best wishes for a very rewarding and impactful future.

Best,

*Alexander Cartwright*

**Alexander N. Cartwright, Ph.D.**  
President







# THE UCF CREED



## INTEGRITY

I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

## SCHOLARSHIP

I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

## COMMUNITY

I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

## CREATIVITY

I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

## EXCELLENCE

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Texts & Technology, Ph.D.

## COLLEGE

College of Arts  
and Humanities

## HOMETOWN

Seattle, Washington

# PS BERGE

GRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**PS Berge** (they/she) is an award-winning media scholar, game designer, and director of the Discord Academic Research Community. Their research falls at the intersection of trans game studies, experimental game design, and feminist platform studies. Her published and forthcoming research is found in *Game Studies*, *New Media & Society*, *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, and *Games & Culture*.

They have co-founded multiple academic organizations and have had their games and media work recognized at festivals and conferences internationally. PS has been interviewed as a subject-matter expert by journalists for PBS Frontline, The Washington Post, and The Associated Press.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"The Texts & Technology Ph.D. program at UCF approaches digital humanist inquiry in a way that is truly transdisciplinary and invested in collaboration. I've been thrilled with the way that UCF has supported my work as a scholar-artist who works across disciplines."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

This Summer, I will be starting a new position as a **tenure-track Assistant Professor of Experimental Game Design at the University of Alberta**, where I'll be developing a new lab in their Media & Technology Studies program and teaching game development.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
MD Program

**COLLEGE**  
College of Medicine

**HOMETOWN**  
Irvine, California

# YASMINE GHATTAS

GRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Yasmine Ghattas** is a candidate for the MD program at UCF College of Medicine. She has received recognition for her exceptional academic achievements, outstanding teaching skills, and dedication to service. Yasmine has been inducted into two prestigious honor societies—Alpha Omega Alpha and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. The Florida Board of Medicine has also recognized her commitment to humanism and professionalism in medicine.

Yasmine is a clinical researcher with over twelve peer-reviewed publications and accepted abstracts. Her research includes a study on the gender gap in Orthopaedic surgery and pickleball-related fractures. She is also an active member of the UCF College of Medicine community, having co-founded a chapter of the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society. This organization promotes the professional development of women in orthopaedics. Yasmine has also served as the president of the Association of Women Surgeons and vice president of the Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Interest Group.

Yasmine has actively participated in student-run free clinics, collaborating with physician volunteers to assess and treat patients, as well as to provide patient education.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*“Choosing UCF was one of the best decisions of my life. The unparalleled support and mentorship alongside the friendships I developed at the College of Medicine has kept me grounded during these grueling years while giving me unlimited access to the tools and opportunities to succeed (plus I met my life partner at UCF COM!).”*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I am matched into **Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Rochester** and will spend the next five years in upstate New York, immersed in training to be the best Orthopaedic surgeon and compassionate provider I possibly can be!



**DEGREE PROGRAM**

Curriculum and  
Instruction, Ed.D.

**COLLEGE**

College of Arts  
and Humanities

**HOMETOWN**

Orlando, Florida

# NISHA PHILLIP MALAHOO

**GRADUATE****STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Nisha Phillip Malahoo** is an educator and community leader deeply committed to positively impacting her students and the broader community. As a teacher in an underserved community, Nisha addresses challenges like food insecurity and poverty by collaborating with organizations to implement food drives and local law enforcement partnerships. Her proactive leadership and dedication to community engagement align with UCF's core values. In addition, Nisha's research focuses on effectively integrating conceptual and procedural knowledge in mathematics education. She launched a lesson study initiative at Pinewood Elementary to empower teachers to collaborate to change the trajectory of students' mathematical outcomes. She has presented her research at national and state conferences, offering valuable insights into educational practices. Recognized for her innovative teaching strategies, Nisha is currently nominated for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Her work contributes to UCF's goal of achieving prominence by elevating education locally, underlining the institution's commitment to excellence in graduate study and research.

**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"My drive to address the holistic needs of my community aligns with UCF's ethos of community engagement. This empowers my initiatives and shapes me into a leader who balances societal improvement with academic excellence."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

As a passionate educator, I am dedicated to **positively impacting my community through research and initiatives**. My future plans involve expanding my outreach and empowering educators to help students discover the inherent beauty, wonder, and joy of mathematics. I aim to create professional development opportunities, collaborate with schools and organizations, and share my expertise to inspire a love for mathematics in both students and teachers alike.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Texts & Technology, Ph.D.

## COLLEGE

College of Arts  
and Humanities

## HOMETOWN

Sanford, Florida

# KEIDRA DANIELS NAVAROLI

GRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Keidra Daniels Navaroli** is a McKnight Doctoral Fellow and candidate in the Texts and Technology PhD Program. She received her MA in Art History from Florida State University and has completed internships with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Sotheby's Auction House in New York. Keidra's interdisciplinary research focuses on curation, technology, and underrepresented communities of practice. More specifically, her dissertation combines art historical analysis with data science to evaluate the impact of academic museums in Florida.

Keidra's curatorial work has been featured in numerous journals, including Forbes, Culture Type, and the Surface Design Association's International Exhibition in Print. A recent publication with Oxford University Press, *This is America* (co-authored by Keri Watson) received the Textbook & Academic Authors Association's 2024 "Most Promising New Textbook" Award. Currently, Keidra serves on the boards of the Surface Design Association, Association of Academic Museums and Galleries, and Mennello Museum of American Art.



## HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"Supported by an incredible cohort of diverse scholars, I work with UCF faculty in disciplines as varied as public history, philosophy, and digital media, to consider the role of museums in higher education; examine the impact of artificial intelligence and data science on the teaching of art history; and advocate art's critical role in public discourse."*

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

My goal is to become a professor specializing in the emerging practice of digital art history, **teaching students the ways in which data science and computation can aid our understanding of art systems**. In this capacity, I will champion the technological resources available to museum scholars; foster collaborative projects that enhance intellectual access and equity through immersive content; and empower a new generation of arts professionals.



**DEGREE PROGRAM**

Kinesiology, Ph.D.

**COLLEGE**

College of Health  
Professions and Sciences

**HOMETOWN**

Pembroke Pines, Florida

# PAOLA M. RIVERA

**GRADUATE****STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Paola M. Rivera** is a Ph.D. candidate in Kinesiology, an NSCA Doctoral Student Grant recipient, a McKnight Doctoral Fellow, the Kinesiology Graduate Student Association Founder and President, and a UCF 30 under 30 recipient. She is also on her way to being a triple Knight, having earned her B.S. and M.S. in Sport and Exercise Science from UCF.

Throughout her tenure at UC, Paola has maintained an active research agenda within the Institute of Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Science by working with Girls on the Run International, the Down Syndrome Foundation of Central Florida, UCF CARD, and AdventHealth. Her dissertation work explores the intersection of exercise and nutrition on women's health. While at UCF, she has mentored many undergraduate and graduate students who have continued to study at various well-respected institutions for Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Applied Exercise Physiology and Medical School.

**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"The support I have had at UCF over the years has undoubtedly made me the mentor, educator and scientist I am today. Although the Ph.D. journey is arduous, the community I have found taught me invaluable lessons in work ethic, leadership, mentorship, and empathy. UCF is a wonderfully diverse, challenging and supportive institution that I am proud to call my second home over the last several years."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

I have accepted a position as **Assistant Professor in Sport Science at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts**. There I will continue my career as an educator in Sports Science and work with undergraduate students to develop their research skills.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Counselor Education, Ph.D.

## COLLEGE

College of Community  
Innovation and Education

## HOMETOWN

Miami Lakes, Florida

# JAMES MICHAEL RUJIMORA

GRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**James M. Rujimora** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Counselor Education track in the Education Ph.D. program. James has an M.A. in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University and an M.Ed/Ed.S. in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Florida. Currently, James is licensed as a mental health counselor in Florida. He works full-time as the Director of Behavioral Health and Wellness at Camp Boggy Creek, a SeriousFun Children's Network camp for children and their families with serious illnesses.

James' dissertation research focuses on examining the relationships between secondary trauma, vicarious trauma, and posttraumatic growth in parents, guardians, and caregivers of children diagnosed with chronic medical illnesses. At UCF, James has served on the Student Conduct Board, taught and supervised counselors-in-training, published several peer-reviewed manuscripts and authored multiple book chapters and presentations at local, regional, and national counseling conferences.



## HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"My experience at UCF has been marked by personal struggles and academic and professional challenges, ultimately leading to my growth and development. I have had the opportunity to combine and implement the knowledge and values I acquired from my peers and mentors inside and outside the classroom to make a tangible impact on the lives and communities I am involved with."*

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After earning my doctorate, I plan to continue serving as the **Director of Behavioral Health and Wellness at Camp Boggy Creek**, spearheading a renewed focus on campers' and their families' behavioral and mental health. To achieve this, I plan to implement and utilize the research, supervision, and teaching skills learned in my Ph.D. training to support new mental health initiatives at Camp Boggy Creek and the larger network of camps within the SeriousFun Network.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Hospitality Management

**COLLEGE**  
Rosen College of  
Hospitality Management

**HOMETOWN**  
Damascus, Syria

**JIDA  
AWA**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Jida Awa** is a recent Fall 2023 graduate with a degree in Hospitality Management and a certification in information technology. During her time at UCF, Jida founded an organization for hospitality students called Cultures Around the World. She served on the Rosen College Leadership Council as a dean's ambassador, representing the student body, taking initiatives to enhance the student experience at Rosen, and providing opportunities for all students.

She also served on the President Leadership Council, Rosen College Diversity and Inclusion Committee and was a peer mentor in the Peer Outreach Mentoring Program. Jida recently obtained a position with Hello! Florida, where she is responsible for designing and planning engaging live events. Jida's passion for the Hospitality Industry started at UCF and will continue beyond it.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"As an international student, UCF has been my home, my safe space. All I have ever wanted was to leave a legacy and provide a better experience for future students. UCF has given me resources and opportunities that have helped me reach where I am today. I am so incredibly grateful for every faculty member, staff member, mentor, and friend I have met. I will forever be a proud Knight."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

I intend on pursuing a **graduate degree in Hospitality Management**. My goal is to continue being a resource for college students, providing them with opportunities in the hospitality industry that will help them build their careers.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**

Psychology

**COLLEGE**College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College**HOMETOWN**

Orlando, Florida

**LEAH  
BASARIA****UNDERGRADUATE****STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Leah Basaria** is a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar and Valencia College transfer student majoring in Psychology, Clinical Track. Tragedy in her family ignited her passion for suicide prevention. Initially focused on primary/secondary prevention as a Grief Facilitator with New Hope for Kids, a CARE Coach at Valencia College, and a subcommittee lead for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP), Leah found that a common factor in healing is providing resources and support. Her trajectory changed after meeting the Osceola Jail Programs Supervisor and learning they had a re-entry program only for males without violent felony convictions. With great indignance, Leah created a program offered to those excluded from the existing one. Her lived experience, non-traditional journey, and passion for change culminated in Leah launching a 501(c)(3) beginning with classes inside jails and following individuals post-release to ensure their access to the resources and support they need to live better.

**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"Being invited to Scholarship Huddles to earn the university's endorsement and compete for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship was an epic welcome to UCF. That honor, paired with restoring the university's Active Minds chapter to thriving RSO, and presenting my research at the U-LEAD Social Change Showcase and Amy Zeh HIP Student Showcase, boosted my confidence enough to undertake my Honors Undergraduate Thesis on which I worked alongside Dr. Karol Lucken to evaluate my re-entry program."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

I am transferring into the **Forensic PsyD program at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne** after graduating from UCF. I will run my re-entry program in Brevard Jail and complete my practicum by conducting competency assessments for individuals to stand trial. Upon completing my doctorate, I'll bring my family up to Washington, DC, where I can work with federal legislators toward impacting our approach to corrections in a more individualized and treatment-based direction.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Physics

## COLLEGE

College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Des Plaines, Illinois

# OLIVIA BITCON

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Olivia Bitcon** is a Physics major with a minor in Mathematics. She is part of the Burnett Honors College and the Research and Mentoring Program. Olivia has conducted research on asteroid surface science, neutrino astrophysics, and cosmology during her time at UCF, resulting in a publication and an Honors Undergraduate Thesis.

In addition to her research, Olivia has served as President of UCF's chapter of the Society of Physics Students, where she has mentored other Physics undergraduates and coordinated various outreach events for K-12 students and underrepresented minorities. Olivia is a recipient of the Astronaut Scholarship, Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Award, and Benacquisto Scholarship. Olivia's love for physics and helping others succeed has been a driving force for her success at UCF.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"My UCF experience has allowed me to explore topics that matter to me, cultivate leadership skills, and form lifelong friendships. The past four years helped me grow immensely as a person and a physicist."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduating from UCF, I will begin my graduate studies in Fall 2024. I will **pursue a Ph.D. in theoretical aspects of fundamental physics**, with hopes of eventually becoming a professor.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Health Sciences  
Medical Sociology, Minor

## COLLEGE

College of Health  
Professions and Sciences

## HOMETOWN

Murrieta, California

# JADA CODY

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Jada Cody** is a highly motivated student-athlete who is pursuing a major in Health Science with a minor in Medical Sociology. She has an excellent academic record and is able to balance her studies with her athletic commitments. In addition to her academic and athletic pursuits, Jada is also actively involved in research. She is particularly interested in studying the complex relationship between health and society.

Jada is passionate about giving back to her community and has spent many hours volunteering for various service initiatives, which demonstrates her strong sense of social responsibility. Her commitment to academic excellence, athletic endeavors, and community service highlights her multifaceted talents and her dedication to personal growth and societal betterment. Jada's holistic approach to education and engagement underscores her potential as a future leader in the field of health sciences and beyond.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"At UCF, I've experienced a transformative chapter marked by education, self-discovery, and impactful opportunities. This journey has not only equipped me with the knowledge to navigate the world but has also instilled in me the values of leadership and service essential for making a meaningful difference."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduation, I plan to **continue my softball journey, aiming to turn professional both in the United States and internationally**. Following my success in softball, I intend to **pursue dental school, ultimately becoming an orthodontist**. Concurrently, I aspire to explore the real estate industry, leveraging my skills and interests to thrive in this field alongside my dental career.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Biomedical Sciences

**COLLEGE**  
College of Medicine,  
Burnett Honors College

**HOMETOWN**  
Arecibo, Puerto Rico

# NATHALIA CORDERO RODRIGUEZ

UNDERGRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Nathalia Cordero Rodriguez** is a first-generation student majoring in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. During her time at UCF, Nathalia served as a member of the Burnett Honors College Deans' Leadership Council, vice-president for the Pre-Optometry Association, Leader-In-Residence for the Hispanic Association for Colleges and Universities, and a teaching assistant for the Biomedical Sciences Careers course. Nathalia volunteered at Grace Medical Home and served on a mission trip to Guatemala, where she provided eye exams to underserved communities. Additionally, she was a research assistant with the Department of Chemistry, working on developing electrochemical biosensors to detect infectious diseases. Combining her passion for high-impact practices, she studied abroad in Italy, learning about the history of anatomy and completed the Biomedical Sciences Clinical Internship. As a mentor for CREAR Futuros, Nathalia cultivated a supportive environment to foster community and provide academic guidance and personal development to students from diverse backgrounds.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"My time as a Knight empowered me to grow confident in my abilities and discover my passions, allowing me to strive for greatness and challenge my horizons in an uplifting and inclusive environment. I cherish the community that has supported me while at UCF and look forward to reminding future generations that closed doors are not failures; rather, they mean you are one step closer to finding the door that opens."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Following graduation, I will **further my education and become a Doctor of Optometry**. I hope to make patients feel seen at heart while helping enhance their sight. As an optometrist, I plan to **emphasize the importance of patient education and preventive care**. I look forward to mentoring other first-generation students, improving healthcare accessibility in underserved communities, and providing an intersectional approach to eye care.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Biomedical Sciences

**COLLEGE**  
College of Medicine,  
Burnett Honors College

**HOMETOWN**  
Arecibo, Puerto Rico

**AKHILA  
DAMARLA**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Akhila Damarla** is a Burnett Medical Scholar majoring in Biomedical Sciences. Her passion for health equity began as a hospital volunteer and medical scribe, inspiring her research on patient-provider communication and leading to a peer-reviewed journal article and poster presentation awards. Furthering her passion, she founded the Health Promotion and Preventative Care Project at UCF and is now developing educational materials to improve healthcare access for incarcerated individuals, which originated from research for which she won an award.

Akhila has made an impact in several organizations by leading major initiatives. As the Neuroscience Alliance Vice President, she works to make neuroscience education more accessible, leading sheep brain dissections and orchestrating the 2024 USA Brain Bee. While serving in Student Government, Akhila has transformed the Senate's operations as Senate President Pro Tempore, overseeing \$800,000 and expanding outreach. Additionally, as a member of the Student Advisory Council, she worked with UCF Vice Presidents on university-wide initiatives and a pilot ambassadorship program promoting inclusive excellence.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"UCF's dedication to enriching the student experience has forged an environment fostering excellence in the face of diverse backgrounds and circumstances—one that has allowed me to grow and thrive under invaluable mentorship. It has granted me the necessary tools and opportunities to unlock my full potential and charge on both in my personal and professional life."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

After earning my MD, I aspire to **integrate medicine and public health in my professional work**. Recognizing the holistic nature of health, I want to go beyond traditional medical appointments to influence various aspects of patients' health, including education, food security, and community infrastructure. My long-term goal is to be an academic physician researching health equity. I aim to share my research insights with students and pursue projects that amplify my investigation's impact.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Biomedical Sciences, Biology,  
Biotechnology, and Political Science  
*Environmental Studies Minor*

## COLLEGE

College of Sciences, College of  
Medicine, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Orlando, Florida

# JUSTIN DAVIS

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Justin Davis** is a senior quadruple majoring in Biomedical Sciences, Biology, Biotechnology, and Political Science, with a minor in Environmental Studies. He has been involved at UCF in myriad ways, seeking to shape positive change on campus. In his first semester, he founded the Disability Coalition RSO and served as its first elected President.

Since then, he has represented UCF as a member of the President's Leadership Council, enhanced learning as a Psychology teaching assistant and student-athlete tutor, and upheld student rights as a member of the Student Government's Judicial Branch. His Honors Undergraduate Thesis focuses on mitigating *Clostridioides difficile* infections by isolating competitive microorganisms. Because of his scholastic and community engagements, Justin was the only undergraduate student to receive UCF's endorsement for the Rhodes Scholarship this cycle.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"UCF is a place of unparalleled opportunities, a bastion of excellence where I can fervently pursue my curiosities and passions. I've met many incredible people and forged lifelong memories while developing qualities that will allow me to make an impact on the world."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduation, I will **attend law school** before embarking on a career as an attorney and advocate.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Political Science, Pre-Law track  
and Media Management BS

## COLLEGE

College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Wood-Ridge, New Jersey

# BRANDON GREENAWAY

UNDERGRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Brandon Greenaway** is a senior double majoring in Political Science on the Pre-Law track and Media Management. He currently serves as Student Body President and as a member of the UCF Board of Trustees, where he represents all UCF students and ensures that students have a seat at every table where administrative decisions are being made. During his time at UCF, Brandon has been dedicated to servant leadership, mentoring others, and giving back to the UCF community.

Previously, Brandon has served as the Chief of Staff, Academic Affairs Coordinator, and Chair of the Scholarship Committee within Student Government, as well as a member of the President's Leadership Council. He has also been very involved within the Burnett Honors College as a Team Leader for the Honors Symposium class and as a member of the Dean's Leadership Council. Finally, Brandon is a proud brother of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.



## HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"As an out-of-state student, UCF has awarded me life-changing opportunities that have inspired me to step out of my comfort zone and transformed my personal and professional development. At UCF, "Charge On" is not just a saying, it is the spirit of UCF and the students that are here."*

## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduation, **I will be attending law school in the fall.** Some of my areas of interest include **sports and entertainment law, litigation, and governmental relations.** Wherever I land, I hope to always advocate for my client and ensure that their voice is heard. Additionally, I plan on being engaged within the UCF alumni community and will continue to give back to the university that has given me so much!

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Political Science

**COLLEGE**  
College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College

**TAYLOR  
HAYCOCK**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Taylor Haycock** is a senior majoring in Political Science and pursuing certificates in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, German Studies, and Anthropology in Global Health. She is a Burnett Honors College scholar and has worked as a Symposium Team Leader, Student Assistant, and Honors Orientation Ambassador for the college. She has held various leadership roles at UCF, including Co-Coordinator of the Dean's Leadership Council, Director of Social Affairs and Vice President of Honors Congress.

Taylor has been a teaching assistant at Sinjar Academy and UCF Global, interned for Healthy West Orange, an Orlando-area non-profit, and is currently a President's Leadership Council member. She studied abroad in Germany during her junior year and is completing an interdisciplinary Honors Undergraduate Thesis, in which she assesses how European leaders engage with masculinities. She believes education is paramount to developing the next generation of leaders and changemakers.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"My time at UCF has immersed me in a community of exceptional individuals—students, researchers, professors, and mentors—whose passion has inspired me. I carry their excitement for learning in everything I do, propelling me forward with a profound sense of purpose as I make my way in this world."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

After graduation, I will **continue teaching English as a Second Language and exploring how to best serve my community**. I hope to one day be a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State, and my current plan is to pursue a master's degree in Germany to strengthen my German proficiency and gain an international perspective on the issues I am most passionate about.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**

Biology

**COLLEGE**College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College**HOMETOWN**

Spring Hill, Florida

# KATHERINE JOHNSEN

**UNDERGRADUATE****STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Katherine Johnsen** is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology along with a certificate in Geographic Information Systems. Her deep interest in ecology has led her to actively engage in research and leadership roles that align with her passion. Katherine has been working with Dr. Lisa Chamber's Aquatic Biogeochemistry laboratory for over two years, conducting research for her Honors Undergraduate Thesis. Her research focuses on the evaluation of constructed treatment wetland systems as microplastic pollution remediation tools.

Additionally, Katherine is conducting an independent research project in Dr. Barbara Sharanowski's Insect Systematics laboratory. Her research aims to revise the taxonomy of African *Spathius* spp., a genus of parasitoid wasps, and develop a regional key for the same. Katherine's practical experience extends beyond the lab, as she has been working as a Land Management Coordinator at the UCF Arboretum. In this role, she mentors and oversees a team of interns while sharing her passion for ecosystem science and plant identification. Her work at the UCF Arboretum Natural Lands primarily focuses on protecting and expanding our understanding of the natural environment.

**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"I came to UCF with the expectation of receiving a college education, and throughout my time here, I have gained far more than that. UCF allowed me to pursue and explore my passions while leaving me with invaluable experience in research and leadership that has changed the course of my career, and continuously inspires me to better the world around me every day."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

After earning my bachelor's degree, I plan to **pursue a PhD in evolutionary biology**. In the long term, I hope to become the principal investigator of my own laboratory where I can continue to research and evaluate the natural world, pioneer useful knowledge in solving the world's problems, teach the next generation through compassion and enthusiasm, and provide support and mentorship like that which I have received.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Photonic Science and Engineering  
*Bioengineering, Minor*

## COLLEGE

College of Optics and Photonics,  
Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Orlando, Florida

# ALEJANDRO LOPEZ ZELAYA

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Alejandro Lopez Zelaya** is majoring in Photonic Science and Engineering, with a minor in Bioengineering, from CREOL, The College of Optics and Photonics. As a Knight, he has made a profound impact on the UCF community through contributions as an undergraduate student assistant in CREOL and as an ambassador and representative of the President's Leadership Council. Alejandro has served as president of the IEEE Photonics Society, where he was instrumental in the establishment of CREOL's Annual Senior Design Competition, treasurer of OPTICA and SPIE, and director of Pre-Med AMSA.

Additionally, his efforts volunteering at Grace Medical Home and Second Harvest Foodbank have helped the broader uninsured and underprivileged Orlando community. Alejandro's passion for learning has led to an extensive research portfolio, which includes ridge-waveguide-quantum-cascade laser processing, modeling and simulations of novel solid-core and anti-resonant-hollow-core optical fibers, and, most recently, clinical trial work on real-time intraoperative blood monitors.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"Embracing the vibrant tapestry of extracurricular opportunities at UCF has been a transformative journey, where each facet: research, service, leadership, athletics, and community engagement has woven into the fabric of my collegiate experience. UCF's expansive platform not only fostered academic growth but also provided an environment for forging enduring connections with mentors, faculty, and peers."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

As a graduate optical engineer, I intend to **attend medical school**, so I can fulfill my goal of **bridging the knowledge gap between biomedical technology, medical physics, and quality patient care**. I'll continue being an active member in the fields of optics and photonics through research and helping the uninsured and underprivileged communities.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Health Sciences  
Psychology, Minor

## COLLEGE

College of Health Professions and  
Sciences, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Melbourne Beach, Florida

# CALVIN MACDONALD

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Calvin MacDonald** is a senior Burnett Medical Scholar at UCF, is pursuing a Health Sciences degree with a minor in Psychology. During his three-year tenure with Limbitless Solutions, Calvin contributed significantly to clinical research through the design and coordination of clinical trials, aiding in over 15 abstract submissions and co-authoring 2 publications aimed at enhancing the lives of those with ALS and limb differences.

Currently, he is focused on his Honors Undergraduate Thesis project titled "Serious Game-Based Training for Improved Utilization of a Novel Temporalis EMG Interface for Controlling Powered Wheelchairs." Alongside his academic pursuits, Calvin serves as an Emergency Department Medical Scribe, aiding in accurate documentation of patient information to ensure the delivery of high-quality care. Beyond his scholarly endeavors, he has dedicated his time to tutoring, volunteering as a teaching assistant, and participating in intramural sports.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"I don't want to be like every other doctor: I want to be the doctor you would take your family to if they were sick. Thanks to the skills developed through my time at UCF and with Limbitless Solutions, I can confidently say that this immense goal will come to fruition."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Following graduation, I will use my **academic medicine and clinical experiences when attending medical school** in the Fall of 2024 to pursue an M.D. From there, I plan to continue conducting research during my studies to support communities suffering from disabilities. I intend to do a neurosurgical or plastic surgery residency followed by a pediatric fellowship.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Health Sciences

## COLLEGE

College of Health  
Professions and Sciences

## HOMETOWN

Orlando, Florida

# SYDNEY MARTINEZ

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Sydney Martinez** is a recent graduate with a B.S. in Health Sciences granted Knights of Distinction, began her undergraduate journey as a Majorette with the Marching Knights, achieving 3rd place at NBTA nationals. With a fervent dedication to volunteerism and advocacy, she re-established the American Red Cross Club and was appointed to serve as the National Collegiate Assembly Lead.

During her tenure as President of Be the Match, the club ranked 1st in the state for registering potential life-saving bone marrow donors. Sydney's commitment to student success is evident through her involvement in the President's Leadership Council, CHPS Student Advisory Council, Student Undergraduate Research Council, and the Student Health Advisory Committee. She has published and presented extensively as Assistant Director for the Testicular Cancer Research Collaborative. Dedicated to serving the uninsured, Sydney now leads the KNIGHTS Clinic, collaborating with UCF medical students to deliver comprehensive care at Grace Medical Home.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"Embracing the vibrant tapestry of extracurricular opportunities at UCF has been a transformative journey, where each facet: research, service, leadership, athletics, and community engagement has woven into the fabric of my collegiate experience. UCF's expansive platform not only fostered academic growth but also provided an environment for forging enduring connections with mentors, faculty, and peers."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

With unwavering enthusiasm, I am set on **applying to medical school, aspiring to champion a holistic and preventative approach to medicine**. Embracing a patient-centered ethos, I will strive to address equity gaps in healthcare. My commitment to lifelong volunteerism and service-based leadership will continue to guide me. Ultimately, I envision returning to academia, fueled by my passion for mentorship and perpetual learning.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Nursing

**COLLEGE**  
College of Nursing,  
Burnett Honors College

**HOMETOWN**  
Spring Hill, Tennessee

# REBEKAH ELAINE MAY

UNDERGRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Rebekah May** is graduating with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Through rigorous classwork, she found her interest sparked by the mystery and biological machinery of the human body. She conceptualized, executed, and presented her own original research examining the effects of skipping breakfast at UCF, Harvard, and NCUR conferences. Exploration into the nursing profession embodies her drive to use compassion as a tool for change and promises continual learning.

In addition to her years of volunteering with Orlando non-profits and her collective 670 clinical hours in Orlando's healthcare facilities, she is co-founding the Human Rights Clinic of Central Florida, a student-run initiative for asylum-seeker medical support. She represented the College of Nursing as a President's Leadership Council member and has been awarded the Light the Way Nursing Endowed for her dedication to leadership at each step of her journey to becoming a healthcare change-maker.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"When I came to UCF, I was a ball of burning ambition in a solar system of limitless possibilities. As I magnified my skills and passions here, I have become an instrument contributing to the specific good of healthcare accessibility."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I want to be a **leader in preventative medicine for low-resource communities, using translational research to implement the science in underserved communities.** I will pursue my PhD in epidemiology of public health, focusing on effective interventions across the lifespan. Nursing experience and a DNP will help me acquire the skills to implement this research on a clinical management level under a public health organization such as the CDC, Red Cross, or WHO.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Health Sciences  
*Music, Minor*

## COLLEGE

College of Health Professions and  
Sciences, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Suwanee, Georgia

# AADITH MENON

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Aadith Menon** is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Health Sciences with a minor in Music. Aadith has been pursuing research since his freshman year, working in Dr. Seal's AMPAC lab on the biological applications of nanoparticles. Aadith has held several different leadership positions, including Communications Director for Late Knights and Team Leader for Honors Symposium, assisting freshmen students in their transition to college.

In addition, he has served as president of both the Knights of Apollo and the UCF Institute of Healthcare Improvement. With a passion for serving the hospice community, Aadith has volunteered to provide hospice care, served as a hospice care ombudsman advocate, and conducted research exploring hospice patients' well-being through interdisciplinary methods like puppetry.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"My time at UCF has equipped me with the tools to amplify the voices of the often-overlooked populations and cultivate long-term networks that will extend long after I graduate. Navigating the challenges of being an out-of-state student has shown not only my adaptability but also the supportive and welcoming community at UCF."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduating, I will take a gap year to delve deeper into my research activities. Moreover, I intend to **explore international opportunities to gain exposure to healthcare practices in diverse global contexts**. My ultimate goal is to attend medical school and become a physician who prioritizes holistic medicine and the overall well-being of patients.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**

Physics and Mathematics

**COLLEGE**

College of Sciences, Burnett  
Honors College

**HOMETOWN**

Mount Airy, Maryland

# CHARLOTTE MOORE

**UNDERGRADUATE****STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Charlotte Moore** is pursuing degrees in physics and mathematics. She is a member of the Burnett Honors College, where she has had the opportunity to help fellow physics majors as an Honors Orientation Ambassador. Passionate about service, Charlotte is president of UCF's chapter of Circle K International, the largest student-led collegiate service organization in the world.

Charlotte is also an officer in the Society of Physics Students and a member of the Women in Physics Society. She has researched model atmospheres of Jupiter-like exoplanets for the past two years with Dr. Theodora Karalidi at UCF. In 2023, Charlotte participated in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Research Experience for Undergraduates, where she studied active galactic nuclei and their host galaxies. Through her internship, Charlotte has been able to attend major astronomy conferences and publish her research.

**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"Through hardships and change, UCF has given me the opportunity to reach for the stars. Not only has UCF pushed me to do my best, but to also use my growth as a student to help the community around me."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

After graduation, I plan to **pursue my Ph.D. in astronomy**. I aspire to not only learn more about other galaxies and how they began, but also how they've changed over time. My long-term goal is to have a career in research and encourage those in the community to become more involved in astronomy.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Biomedical Sciences  
*Medical Sociology, Minor*

**COLLEGE**  
College of Medicine,  
Burnett Honors College

**HOMETOWN**  
Orlando, Florida

**MAI LY  
NGUYEN-LUU**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Mai Ly Nguyen-Luu** is currently pursuing a major in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Medical Sociology. She has made a significant impact on the UCF community as a Burnett Honors College (BHC) Scholar and as the President/Cultural Chair of the Vietnamese American Student Association (VASA). As a BHC student assistant and Honors Orientation Ambassador, Mai Ly provides guidance to incoming and current students, contributing to the growth of the honors community.

Through VASA, she organizes events with over 800 attendees, and her choreography has been recognized as one of the top three in North America for "Best Cultural Program" and "Most Outstanding Performance." Mai Ly is a Lead Scholar, has served as Honors Congress Historian, and was a member of the Student Government Leadership Council. She also volunteers as a teaching assistant for physiology lab and as a dental assistant locally. Additionally, Mai Ly conducts research on the attitudes and perceptions toward mental health in the Vietnamese community for her Honors Undergraduate Thesis.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"Growing up as a Knight, UCF always felt like home, and I never questioned whether choosing to attend would be the right option for me. Since beginning as an undergraduate student, I have enjoyed all that UCF has to offer through its captivating courses, exciting football games, impactful student organizations, and compelling research opportunities."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

Following graduation, I plan to **gain more experience as a dental assistant and continue my education by pursuing a doctorate in dentistry**. I aim to create deep connections with my patients and earn their trust as their provider, placing great importance on cultural sensitivity to provide them with the best care possible. I also plan to remain connected to UCF, giving back and supporting future generations of Knights throughout their college experience.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Biomedical Sciences  
*Medical Sociology and Health Service  
Administration, Minor*

## COLLEGE

College of Health Professions and Sciences,  
College of Medicine, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Orlando, Florida

# ISHAAN PATEL

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Ishaan Patel** is a Burnett Medical Scholar, majoring in Biomedical Sciences with minors in Medical Sociology and Health Service Administration. He has been conducting research with the Nano Biomaterials Manufacturing Group since his freshman year. His research focuses on cerium oxide nanoparticles for biomedical applications, including type I diabetes and cancer therapies. Currently, he is pursuing his Honors Undergraduate Thesis and has presented his findings at the NanoFlorida and the Student Scholar Symposium conferences.

In addition to his academics and research, Ishaan volunteers extensively with organizations such as Shepherd's Hope, Cornerstone Hospice Care, ORMC, and Salvation Army. He has also traveled to rural areas in Ecuador to set up mobile clinics for communities lacking healthcare. Ishaan is actively involved in several organizations at UCF. He serves as Secretary of MedLife UCF, Student Government Senator and Chair of the APIA Caucus. He has also contributed his time to serve on the CHPS Student Advisory Council and the UCF Student Advisory Council, working to create the Odyssey Ambassadors program. Ishaan's hard work and dedication have profoundly impacted UCF and the surrounding community through his diverse involvement.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"At UCF, navigating a campus of over 68,000 students was surprisingly seamless as the university's vibrant community and extensive resources effortlessly facilitated finding my place, unleashing my potential through diverse opportunities and connections."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduation, I plan to **attend medical school with the goal of becoming a surgeon**. I am interested in continuing research, and I am passionate about working to make healthcare more accessible and equitable for marginalized populations. As a physician, I am eager to get involved in advancing healthcare technologies to improve patient care and outcomes in the future.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Mechanical Engineering

**COLLEGE**  
College of Engineering  
and Computer Science

**HOMETOWN**  
Melbourne, Florida

**LAUREN  
RAY**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Lauren Ray** is a senior pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Lauren is a proud Lockheed Martin Scholar and Women Trending in Technology nominee for Brevard County. She is currently working on two projects for the Department of Defense. One project focuses on assessing the current state of Air Force simulation training in an effort to improve it by integrating data management software and LLMs.

The other is a senior capstone project working to redesign a launchpad water deluge system for the United States Space Force, with the goal being to use only 20% of the 350,000-450,000 gallons of water used currently. Apart from these projects, Lauren is a Thermodynamics Teaching Assistant for the college, a STEM math tutor for K-12 students in her community through her own initiatives, a lead server, and the founder of the Haiti Helpers.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*UCF has given a first-generation college student the opportunity to excel in their engineering technical skills, but also in their musical skills through the UCF Symphony Orchestra, to be well-rounded and successful in college. UCF provides students abundant resources and academic help provided by the faculty that is aimed at fostering growth and helping students achieve their dreams."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

After graduation, I plan to **keep developing my mechanical skills**. I will take the initiative to learn how to become a successful leader, inspiring others to pursue their dreams and show them that nothing is too difficult if they are enthusiastic about it. I will do my best in the industry and perform to the best of my capabilities. I will encourage others to help third-world countries, by promoting community awareness and support.



## DEGREE PROGRAM

Mechanical Engineering and International and  
Global Studies  
*Leadership Studies and Mathematics, Minor*

## COLLEGE

College of Engineering and Computer Science,  
College of Sciences, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Melbourne, Florida

# MARIANA SORROZA AGUILAR

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Mariana Sorroza Aguilar** is pursuing a double major in Mechanical Engineering and International and Global Studies. She also has a minor in Leadership Studies and Mathematics, along with a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Mariana is committed to making a difference in the world by combining her passions for STEM and policy. She currently works as an intern for the National Nuclear Security Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Energy, where she contributes to national and global nuclear security.

Her responsibilities include creating 3D prototypes, assisting with training material, conducting quality assurance and data analysis in collaboration with national laboratories, supporting diversity initiatives, reviewing designs, and much more. In addition to her work in STEM, Mariana is also passionate about mentoring women in STEM, always encouraging them to pursue their dreams and reminding them that they deserve a seat at the table. Her research includes a study on "Soft Skills in STEM." Mariana has been actively involved in the UCF community since starting in the LEAD Scholars Academy. She has contributed significantly to the university and the surrounding community, serving as a member of the President's Leadership Council, STEM Ambassadors, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and Anything Works, the nonprofit she founded in 2020.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"I am immensely grateful for the ways I have grown at UCF in my academics, career, spiritually, and in my social life, and that UCF has provided me with opportunities and friends of a lifetime. I love that UCF represents opportunity, inclusivity, and balance—and it is truly filled with pride. I believe that the more we learn, the greater our commitment should be to serve others."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I plan to **pursue a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering, a PhD in Engineering Management, and a journey of lifelong learning.** I plan to use the knowledge I gain to serve our community. I aspire to continue supporting the National Nuclear Security Administration, to further build Anything Works, and to enjoy time with my loved ones throughout it all.

**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Biology

**COLLEGE**  
College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College

**HOMETOWN**  
Boca Raton, Florida

# SAMANTHA STOLTZ

UNDERGRADUATE

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Samantha Stoltz** is currently pursuing an honors Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She has worked as an undergraduate researcher on several nanobiotechnology projects and publications with the AMPAC lab. Recently, Samantha was awarded the highly competitive Astronaut Scholarship, which reflects her passion and dedication to her field of study.

Apart from her academic achievements, Samantha is highly involved in the UCF and local communities. She is a leader in STEM and charity on campus and has also worked as a member of the UCF Student Advisory Council. In her free time, she volunteers for various organizations related to the environment, health, fundraising, and spreading joy. She is also starting a STEAM program with the local Girl Scouts. With a wide range of hobbies encompassing self-development, learning, arts, and the outdoors, Samantha is an entrepreneur, mentor, and life coach.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"UCF has provided me with an incredible amount of support to foster my knowledge and skills, as well as continuous opportunities to make a positive mark on the world. I couldn't be more grateful to the UCF community for contributing to the person that I am today."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

I plan to **pursue my Ph.D. and research integrated approaches to improve therapeutic outcomes for a number of diseases**. My research interests include epigenetics, nanobiotechnology, oxidative stress-related diseases, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, cancer, drug development, enzyme mimetics, psychology & neuroscience, Vagus Nerve, Pineal Gland & the Brain Gut Axis. My overarching goal in life is to leave the world a happier and healthier place than I found it.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Biomedical Sciences and Spanish

## COLLEGE

College of Medicine, College of Arts and Humanities, Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Boca Raton, Florida

# DARYA SULKOUSKAYA

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Darya Sulkouskaya** is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences and Spanish with a certificate in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL). In her time at UCF, she has been heavily involved on campus through student organizations, research, and internships. As a pre-medical student, she became involved in the Pre-Medical American Medical Student Association and has served as the Sergeant at Arms and Chair of the UCF Medical School Admissions Symposium. She also became involved in the Korean Culture Club, serving as President, Vice-President, and Event Coordinator.

As a senior, she joined the President's Leadership Council as an ambassador of the university and Event Coordinator. Darya's time at UCF has been dedicated to research, professional development, and service through her involvement at the Puerto Rico Research Hub and Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, as well as her role as Assistant Director of the Foot and Ankle Surgical Internship.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"My years at UCF have shown me that I chose the right place to be my home away from home. The sense of community and support I received at UCF has fueled my desire to give back and aid students in finding their way at the university and beyond by providing mentorship and opportunities to grow."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

After graduation, I hope to **complete a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Spain**. Following this chapter, I strive to **attend an MD/MPH program** to better understand the backgrounds of my future patients and learn how to better advocate for them.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Biology

## COLLEGE

College of Sciences,  
Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Orlando, Florida

# ISABEAU TYNDALL

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Isabeau Tyndall** is a biology major on the pre-medical track and a member of the Burnett Honors College. Her Honors Undergraduate Thesis focuses on the impact of homelessness on identity formation for LGBTQ+ youth of color. Isabeau is a Resident Assistant and a member of the President's Leadership Council.

Additionally, she was a Newman Civic Engagement Fellow, a peer mentor in the LEAD Scholars Academy, and the President of the Student Support Foundation. In this role, she led the disbursement of Emergency Relief Grants to UCF students in need. Isabeau's advocacy work for survivors of sexual assault has been featured on the front page of the Orlando Sentinel. In the greater community, she is a Board Member for the LGBTQ+ non-profit Youth Pride Association, a volunteer at Shepherd's Hope free clinic for the uninsured, and an actor in the traveling theatre company Phantasmagoria.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"UCF has equipped me with the tools and encouragement to pursue my loftiest aspirations as a student. Within the embrace of this community, I've delved into every aspect of my curiosity, honing not just my academic prowess but also enriching my self-understanding and connection to my community."*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Following graduation, I plan to **take a growth year prior to applying to medical school**. During that year, I hope to **work as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Germany**—a program for which I am currently a semi-finalist. I plan to become a physician who prioritizes education and cultural competency. In the future, I aspire to be actively involved in initiatives aimed at promoting equity and inclusion within healthcare, as well as global humanitarian relief.

## DEGREE PROGRAM

Biomedical Sciences  
International Studies, Minor

## COLLEGE

College of Medicine,  
Burnett Honors College

## HOMETOWN

Trinity, Florida

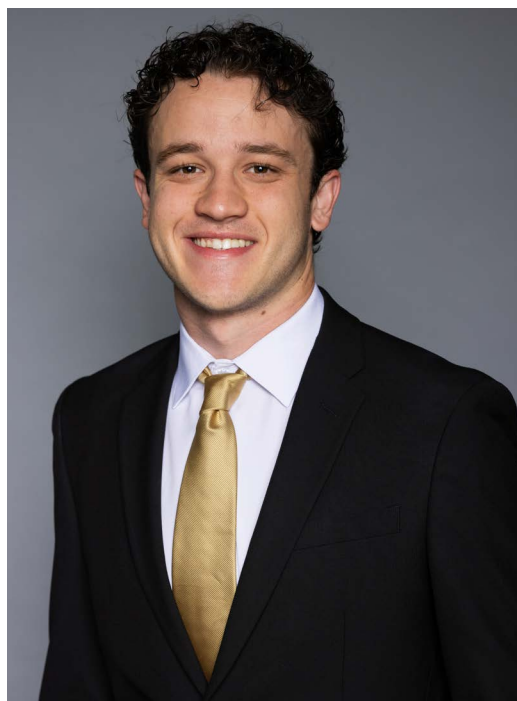
# LUCAS VIEIRA

UNDERGRADUATE

### STUDENT BIOGRAPHY

**Lucas Vieira** is currently pursuing a degree in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in International Studies at the College of Medicine and Burnett Honors College, UCF. He got involved with the student-led nonprofit International Medical Outreach from his first semester at UCF and served on its board for two years. Lucas also helped lead service trips to New Orleans, Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.

During his junior year, he was elected as the president of the organization. Additionally, he worked as a teaching assistant for the General Microbiology and Human Physiology Labs for multiple semesters. He was a member of the leadership board of the 2023 UCF Medical School Admissions Symposium, and he also assisted Dr. Humberto Lopez Castillo with his research, which focuses on the Cardiovascular Health and sexuality of Latinx men.



### HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?

*"Over the past four years, UCF gave me the guidance I needed to reach all of the academic and professional goals I had envisioned for myself. As I embark on the next phase of my journey, I carry with me deep gratitude for the growth I experienced during my time in Orlando, along with a pride to continue to cheer, "Go Knights, Charge On!"*

### WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

Following graduation, I plan on **matriculating into medical school**. Throughout my medical education, I aim to fully immerse myself in learning both inside and outside the classroom, engaging in community projects to become the best version of a physician that I can be. By doing so, I aspire to utilize the tools of medicine to enact positive change in the lives of as many people as I can around the world.



**DEGREE PROGRAM**  
Accounting and Finance

**COLLEGE**  
College of Business

**HOMETOWN**  
Lakeland, Florida

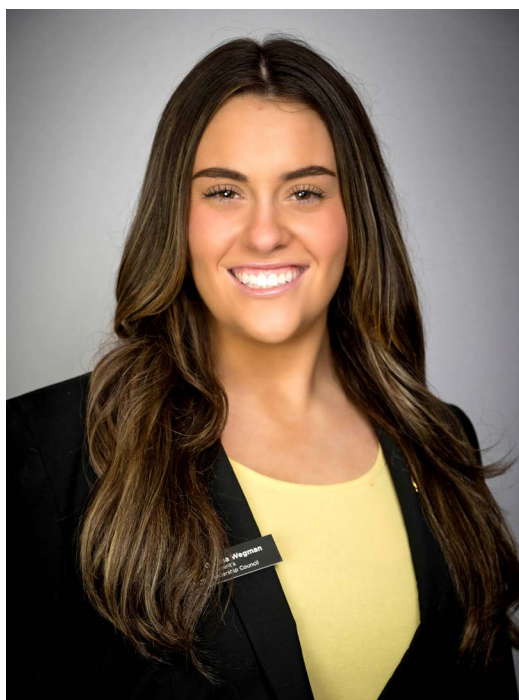
**GIANNA  
WEGMAN**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**STUDENT BIOGRAPHY**

**Gianna Wegman** graduated with a double major in Accounting and Finance and two certificates in Corporate Finance and Banking. Throughout her time at UCF, Gianna was extremely involved across campus and in the community. She was a devoted member of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, where she served first as the Chief Financial Officer and then as the President.

Gianna was also a member of the UCF President's Leadership Council for two years and a College of Business Student Ambassador for four years. She was a member of the Student Government senate and served as the Vice Chair of the CRT committee and was also a Microeconomics teaching assistant. In addition, Gianna was crowned the 2022 UCF Homecoming Queen! In the community, Gianna is passionate about ministry and volunteering through The Action Church. Professionally, Gianna interned with Lockheed Martin as a Finance Cost Control Analyst and with Ernst and Young as a Tax Analyst.



**HOW HAS UCF IMPACTED YOU?**

*"UCF has become my home and place of peace by showing me the value of intentional community. The years I have served at this institution have challenged me intellectually, inspired my ambitions, and provided the resources and support I needed to become the leader I have always aspired to be."*

**WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**

Since I graduated in December, I have been studying for and taking the CPA exam while working at Hamic Previte & Sturwold, P.A. as a tax intern. I have **accepted a full-time position with Ernst and Young as a Wealth and Asset Management Tax Staff in New York City** beginning in July of 2024. I plan to remain in New York City for the foreseeable future and make an impact in the community and professionally!

# THANK YOU

## 2024 ORDER OF PEGASUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Melinda Cartwright**

UCF First Lady

**Bethany Backes**

College of Community Innovation and Education

**Manoj Chopra**

College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Maribeth Ehasz**

Student Success and Well-Being, Retired

**Germane Graham**

University Events and Engagement

**Alicia Hawthorne**

College of Medicine

**Jana Jasinski**

Faculty Excellence

**Bridget Keefe**

Office of the President

**Louis Lubin**

UCF Alumni

**Albert Manero**

Limbitless Solutions

**Vivian Ortiz**

Student Success and Well-Being

**Joshua Roney**

College of Business Administration

**Jeffrey Stout**

College of Health Professions and Sciences

**John Weishampel**

College of Graduate Studies

[ucf.edu/leadership/president/order](https://ucf.edu/leadership/president/order)

