



Editor: Rachel Baugh

Photo Credit: Erin Smith

## 2024 Summer Research Interns

We welcome twenty Lu-Springer Research Scholars in high school who are from eight states and fifteen undergraduate summer research interns from ten states and Tibet.

## Aspirnaut™ Achievements

This year's graduates are spectacular. They have attained many personal milestones and are well on their way to the next step in their aspirational journeys. We celebrate their INCREDIBLE successes.

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## College Bound

**Congratulations High School Class of 2024!! Well done!** We are proud of your achievements and thrilled to share your excitement about graduation and next steps. Your stars are rising.

( ) indicates year participated in Aspirnaut™

- **Karen Escobar-Salgado (2023, 2024)** graduated from Carter High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, and will attend Vanderbilt University on a full QuestBridge Match scholarship. She is a presumptive biochemistry major.
- **Julianna Gallup (2022, 2023)** graduated from Gatlinburg-Pittman High School in Sevierville, Tennessee. She will attend Princeton University on a full QuestBridge Match

scholarship. She plans to travel to India through the Princeton Bridge Year Program during her first year. Her presumptive major is computer science.

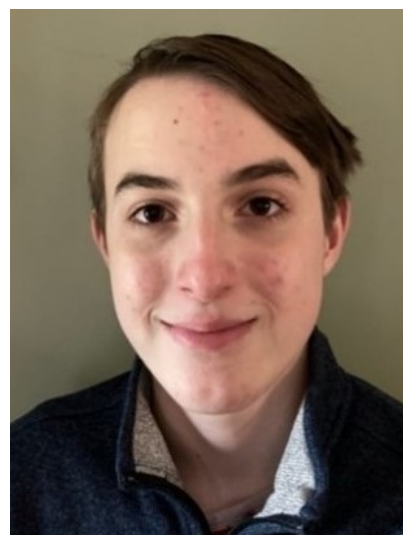
- **Michael Gallup (2022, 2023)** graduated from Gatlinburg-Pittman High School in Sevierville, Tennessee. He will attend Yale University on a full QuestBridge Match scholarship.
- **Ashley Iglesias Ayala (2023)** graduated from YES Prep West Secondary School in Houston, Texas. Ashley will attend the University of St. Thomas and plans to major in cell and molecular biology.
- **Khushi Kaushal (2023)** graduated from Winooski High School in Winooski, Vermont. She will attend Hofstra University and plans to major in pre-medical studies.
- **Sabrina Newenham (2023)** graduated from Mount Desert Island High School in Mount Desert Island, Maine. She will attend the University of Connecticut as a STEM scholar in the honors college. She plans to major in cell and molecular biology and minor in bioinformatics and philosophy.
- **Julia Nguyen (2023)** graduated from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and is from D'Iberville, Mississippi. She will attend the University of Houston and plans to major in biochemical/biophysical science.
- **Grace Park (2023, 2024)** graduated from Burlington High School in Burlington, Vermont. She will attend the University of Rochester. She plan to major in biochemistry or chemistry and will be a member of the Track and Cross Country team.
- **Cesar Rosas (2023,2024)** graduated from YES Prep West Secondary School in Houston, Texas. He is a Gates Millennium Scholar and will attend the University of Texas in Austin. He plans to major in kinesiology.
- **Owen Staples (2023)** graduated from Deer Isle-Stonington High School in Deer-Isle, Maine. He will attend Vanderbilt University on a full QuestBridge Match scholarship and plans to major in biochemistry.
- **Nadine Thao (2022)** graduated from Hmong College Prep Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He will attend The University of Minnesota Twin Cities and plans to major in computer science.
- **Nida Vang (2023)** graduated from Hmong College Prep Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She will attend St. Catherine University and plans to major in nursing.



**Karen Escobar-Salgado**  
Vanderbilt University



**Julianna Gallup**  
Princeton University



**Michael Gallup**  
Yale University



**Ashley Iglesias Ayala**  
University of St. Thomas



**Khushi Kaushal**  
Hofstra University



**Sabrina Newenham**  
University of Connecticut



**Julia Nguyen**  
University of Houston



**Grace Park**  
University of Rochester



**Cesar Rosas**  
University of Texas at Austin



**Owen Staples**  
Vanderbilt University



**Nadine Thao**  
University of Minnesota-Twin  
Cities



**Nida Vang**  
St. Catherine University

# College Graduates

**Congratulations, Undergraduate Class of 2024!** You are well on your way to great things.

- **Mehrael Atkins (2018, 2019)** graduated from Saint Mary's College with a degree in neurobiology. She will attend the University of Virginia for her Ph.D. in neurobiology.
- **Kaleb Branch (2019, 2020)** graduated from Emory University with a degree in anthropology and human biology and a minor in global health, society, and culture on the pre-medical track. He will work at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for two years with the PennPREP Scholars Program before pursuing his M.D./Ph.D.
- **Ava Brittain (2021)** graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in physiology and a minor in dance. She is currently working as a cardiac technician at Ascension St. Thomas Hospital.
- **ZaKylah Bryant (2021)** graduated from Kentucky State University with a degree in biology. During her gap year, she is working as a research assistant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center while applying to medical schools.
- **Cadiz Cantwell (2018, 2019, 2021)** graduated from Clemson University with a degree in health science. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and will serve as a Nuclear and Missile Operations Officer.
- **Justin Cartailer (2017, 2018, 2019)** graduated from Vanderbilt University with degrees in biochemistry and chemical biology. He is working as a research assistant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center while applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.
- **Tikkri Greer (2018)** graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a nursing degree. She plans to start her career as a NICU nurse in Nashville, Tennessee.
- **Bailey Groff (2022, 2023, 2024)** graduated from Elizabethtown College with a degree in biology (pre-health concentration) and minors in chemistry and psychology. She will work as a CNA while applying to medical schools.
- **Halima Ibrahim (2017, 2018)** graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in public relations. She is working as a brand ambassador before starting a master's degree program.
- **Finn Mahoney (2022)** graduated from Berea College with a bachelor of arts degree. He is working as a trailbuilder while completing his medical school applications.
- **Rodrigo Salinas (2021)** graduated from Emory University with a degree in chemistry. Rodrigo will attend medical school at Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.
- **Kaziah Vaughn (2023)** graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in biomedical engineering. She works as a laboratory technician at Green Mountain Antibodies in Burlington, Vermont.
- **Jazmyn Wall (2021)** graduated from Tennessee State University with a degree in biology and a minor in general business. She will attend Wayne State University for her master's of public health.
- **Trevion Williams (2018)** graduated from Hendrix College with a degree in accounting. He will continue his education at Hendrix to earn a master's in accounting.
- **Madison Yarbrough (2018, 2019, 2023)** graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a degree in psychology. She will start the VERTICES PREP postbaccalaureate program at Vanderbilt University.



**Mehrael Atkins**



**Kaleb Branch**



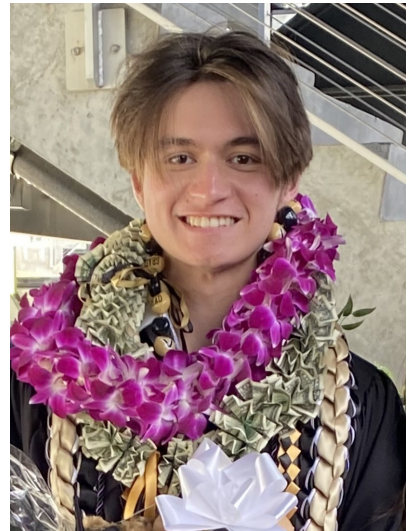
**Ava Brittain**



**ZaKylah Bryant**



**Cadiz Cantwell**



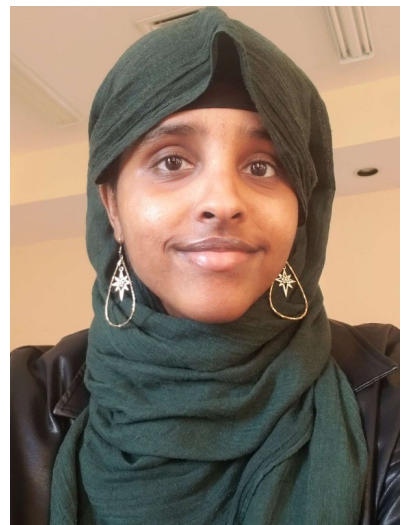
**Justin Cartailer**



**Tikkri Greer**



**Bailey Groff**



**Halima Ibrahim**



Finn Mahoney



Rodrigo Salinas



Kaziah Vaughn



Jazmyn Wall



Trevion Williams



Madison Yarbrough

## **Graduate School Graduates**

**Congratulations Graduate Class of 2024! You are achieving your dreams.**

- **Tyler Alexander (2019)** graduated from Brown University with a master of public health degree.
- **Catherine Emery (2014, 2015, 2017)** graduated from the University of Michigan with a Ph.D. in neuroscience. In the fall, she will start work as an assistant professor of neuroscience at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.
- **Taloe Grace (2012, 2013, 2014)** graduated from Tulane University with a master of public health degree.
- **Cambridge Jones (2021)** graduated from Brown University with a master of public health degree.
- **Amber Prater (2016)** graduated from Wright State University with a master of public health degree.
- **Xavier Shackelford (2010, 2016)** graduated from Lipscomb University with an Ed.D. in learning organization and strategic change.
- **Selvia Wagih (2016)** graduated from Meharry Medical College with a master of health science degree.



**Tyler Alexander**



**Catherine Emery**



**Taloa Grace**



**Cambridge Jones**



**Amber Prater**



**Xavier Shackelford**



**Selvia Wagih**

# Medical School Graduates

**Congratulations Medical School Graduates Class of 2024! Fantastic achievements and on to residency.**

- **Jacob Edwards (2019)** graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He will be completing his residency at Washington University in St. Louis in anesthesiology.
- **Sarwar Kokoy (2019)** graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. He will be completing his residency at the University of Tennessee in Nashville in internal medicine.
- **Anika Mittal (2016, 2017)** graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She will be completing her residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in internal medicine.



**Jacob Edwards**

Washington University in Saint Louis, Anesthesiology



**Sarwar Kokoy**

University of Tennessee in Nashville, Internal Medicine



**Anika Mittal**

University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Internal Medicine

**DONATE NOW**

If you are interested in getting involved or sponsoring an Aspirnaut™ high school experience, please contact Rachel Baugh at [rachel.baugh@aspirnaut.org](mailto:rachel.baugh@aspirnaut.org).

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