Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society at Emory University
Laney Graduate School Recognition Ceremony
Program
April 22, 2021 | 3:00-5:00 PM EDT
Zoom Webinar Platform

Welcome and Introduction of Dean Tedesco *Amanda Marie James, PhD*
Associate Dean, Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement
Laney Graduate School

Dean's Remarks and Introduction of President Fenves *Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD*
Dean of Laney Graduate School and Vice Provost of Graduate Affairs

President's Remarks *Gregory L. Fenves, PhD*
President, Emory University

Introduction of Vice Provost Henderson *Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD*
Dean of Laney Graduate School and Vice Provost of Graduate Affairs

Remarks about the Importance of Diversity at Emory *Carol E. Henderson, PhD*
Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer
Adviser to the President, Emory University

Introduction of Assistant Vice Provost Baumgart *Olivia Johnson*
Laney EDGE Fellow

Importance of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society *Joel Baumgart, PhD*
Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Success and Recognition

Introduction of Emory Bouchet Scholars *Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD*

2020 Scholars
Jamie Hamilton, Cancer Biology
Frederica Lamar, Environmental Health Sciences
Tatenda Mangurenje, Anthropology
Sandra Mendiola, Population Biology, Ecology, & Evolution
Raphiel Murden, Biostatistics

2021 Scholars
Brent Allman, Population Biology, Ecology, & Evolution
Lasha Clarke, Epidemiology
Marcelitte Failla, Religion
Jordan Lewis, Population Biology, Ecology, & Evolution
Juan Daniel Rodriguez, Genetics & Molecular Biology

Recognition of Bouchet Scholars *Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD*
Amanda Marie James, PhD

Closing Remarks *Amanda Marie James, PhD*

2020 BOUCHET SCHOLARS

Jamie Aaron Golden Hamilton is a candidate for the PhD in **Cancer Biology** at Emory University. His research focuses on determining how chronic inflammation in the context of childhood obesity alters hematopoiesis, immunity, and leukemogenesis. He has been recognized as a USDA 1890 scholar, a FGLSAMP scholar, and honored as a part of the National Cancer Institute's GMAP program. Jamie received his Bachelor of Science in biology from the illustrious Florida A&M University, where he first conducted research and published in the fields of analytical chemistry and environmental toxicology. Jamie serves as a leader at Emory University in his capacity as the cancer biology representative on the graduate biological division's student advisory council. Upon completion of his PhD, Jamie aspires to build a research lab to study hematological disorders and develop a tissue bank that will increase the number of underrepresented minority samples in research studies. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Curtis Henry, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine*

Frederica Lamar is a candidate for the PhD in Environmental Health Sciences at Emory University. Her research focuses on childhood exposures to chicken fecal contamination along the chicken value chain in Maputo, Mozambique that put children at risk for acquiring enteropathogen infections. Frederica has been recognized as a Gates Millennium Scholar; Center for Global Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Fellow; Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health member; and she represents doctoral students in Emory University's Laney Graduate School as University Relations Officer. She received a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a recipient of the National Society of Black Engineers (Baltimore Metropolitan Area Chapter) William Thomas Batten Jr. Leadership Award. Additionally, she earned a Master of Science in public health with a concentration in global environmental health sciences from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where she received the William R. Hartley, ScD Award for Excellence in Environmental Health Research. Frederica has a passion for mentoring younger generations in her community and believes in bridging the gap between the transition from high school to college. She manages Securing Degrees Debt Free, LLC, where she guides high school students through the college and scholarship application processes by hosting interactive seminars and private sessions throughout the greater Atlanta area. Ultimately, Frederica aspires to work at the intersection of research and food safety, with a passion for mitigating the occurrences of waterborne and foodborne illnesses in resource-limited populations. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Matthew Freeman, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology; Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health*

Tatenda Mangurenje is a candidate for the PhD in **Anthropology** with a concentration in medical anthropology at Emory University. She is also an accelerated Master of Science in nursing student with a family nurse practitioner specialty. Tatenda's research focuses on diversity and mental health in policing. Tatenda has been recognized by the National Science Foundation and has received a Graduate Research Fellowship. She holds a Bachelor of Science in biological anthropology, as well as a Bachelor of Science in psychology, from the University of Arizona, where she was a recipient of the Magellan Scholarship. Tatenda promotes diversity in both her research and teaching. As well, she works with the Life University Center for Compassion, Integrity, and Secular Ethics' Chillon Project, providing hands-on tutoring, research methods, and application mentorship to incarcerated women who are enrolled in the University's Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree program. Ultimately, Tatenda aspires to work at the intersection of advanced practice nursing and medical anthropology, with a passion for improving the lives of medically underserved communities and promoting diversity in higher education. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Peter Brown, Professor, Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Emory College of Arts and Sciences; Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health*

Sandra Y. Mendiola is a PhD candidate in Emory University's **Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution** graduate program. She is broadly interested in exploring how we can leverage insect-microbe symbioses for the control of vector-borne pathogens in agriculture. Her review "An integrative approach to symbiont-mediated vector control for agricultural pathogens" was recently accepted for publication in *Current Opinion in Insect Science* and highlights the importance of integrating population-level modeling into the design and deployment of novel symbiont-based control methods. Her current work focuses on finding a way to control the squash bug, a major pest of commercial squash production in the US, through manipulation of its symbiotic bacteria. Sandra is a recipient of the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship and a fellow of Emory's Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD). Sandra received her Bachelor of Science from Yale University, where she majored in ecology and evolutionary biology and was a part of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF). Throughout her academic journey, she has been a leader of organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of marginalized students in academia. She is an ambassador for Emory's Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) initiative, a founding member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of her graduate program, and a mentor for first-generation undergraduates at Emory as part of their 1915 Scholars program. Sandra hopes to one day be a professor and lead her own lab where she can continue to serve as a mentor and advocate for underrepresented students. *Dissertation Advisors: Dr. Nicole Gerardo, Associate Professor and Dr. Dave Civitello, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Emory College of Arts and Sciences*

Raphiel J. Murden is a candidate for the PhD in **Biostatistics** at Emory University. His research focuses on data integration methods and their applications in neuroimaging statistics. In addition to performing methodological and collaborative research as a statistician, he has served in several student organizations during his matriculation at Emory, including serving as co-founder and vice president of the Emory LGBTQ+ Graduate Coalition and as a student-faculty liaison on the Biostatistics Student Council. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics with a music minor from Morehouse College and a Master of Arts in statistics from Washington University. Raphiel's passion for learning and teaching quantitative sciences, especially with groups that are traditionally underrepresented in those fields, has been a driving force behind much of his career. This joy of teaching and learning also drives his joy of consulting and collaborative work as a statistician. As he nears the completion of his doctoral degree, Raphiel aims to continue his work in collaborative research and teaching. *Dissertation Advisors: Dr. Benjamin Risk, Assistant Professor and Dr. Renee Moore, Research Associate Professor, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Rollins School of Public Health*

2021 BOUCHET SCHOLARS

Brent Allman is a PhD candidate and NSF Graduate Research Fellow in the **Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution** graduate program at Emory University. He is a computational biologist and develops mathematical and individual-based models to answer questions about pathogen evolution. In particular, he is interested in how the social and sexual activities of RNA viruses modify diversity within viral populations. Frequently using influenza A virus as a model system, his dissertation covers themes around stochastic processes, spatial evolution, and the evolution of sex. Prior to his time at Emory, Brent completed a Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) in infectious diseases at the University of Georgia. PREP is where he first became interested in how genetic exchange (sex) among pathogens contributes to the diversity of their populations. He entered the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Mathematics and a minor in Biology from the University of San Diego. Throughout his education, Brent has been involved in a variety of service and leadership roles that contribute to diversity and inclusion in the academy. He has mentored minoritized students through the Initiative to Maximize Student Development with professional development, as well as the Office for Undergraduate Education with grant writing guidance. He also works to garner community within the LGBTQ+ graduate and professional Emory community as the President of the Graduate Coalition. He also facilitates a weekly Queer Graduate Student Discussion Group in collaboration with the Office of LGBT Life at Emory University. Brent plans to continue working to broaden the scope of diversity and inclusion advocacy while he works towards the goal of entering the professoriate as an interdisciplinary scientist. *Dissertation Advisors: Dr. Katia Koelle, Associate Professor and Dr. Daniel Weissman, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Emory College of Arts & Sciences*

Lasha Clarke is a PhD candidate in **Epidemiology** at Emory University. Her research centers around the social determinants of reproductive health disparities, with particular focus on the biopsychosocial effects of gendered racism on Black maternal and child health. In addition to her scholarship, Lasha has volunteered as a birth doula, and has held leadership roles in diversity, equity, and inclusion at the department, research center, and university levels. Lasha holds a Master of Public Health in global epidemiology from Emory University, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Princeton University. Long-term, Lasha aims to lead research that improves health equity and creates meaningful advancement opportunities for historically marginalized groups. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Michael Kramer, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health*

Marcelitte Failla is a PhD candidate in the **Graduate Division of Religion** at Emory University. She is a Black mixed-race educator, researcher, and scholar of African heritage religions in the United States and throughout the African diaspora. Through a Black feminist lens, her work explores how religions such as Yoruba Ifá, Haitian Vodou, and Hoodoo of the American South are used for collective healing and social justice. Failla is a PhD candidate at Emory University whose dissertation investigates Black witchcraft and how practitioners employ its spiritual technology for manifestation, healing, and protection from *anti*-Blackness. As a practitioner of both Ifá and Hoodoo, and a self-identified Black witch, Failla often holds ceremonial space in academic and community settings. Her most recent publication, entitled "Black Femmes, Black Gods: Magic as Justice," can be found in the *Journal of Religion and Culture* at Concordia University. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Dianne Stewart, Associate Professor, Department of Religion and African American Studies, Emory College of Arts and Sciences*

Jordan A. Lewis is a 4th year PhD candidate in the **Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution** program Emory University. His research focuses on how various environmental factors influence both the development, and resulting characteristics, of a host's infection defenses. He is also enrolled in the bioethics doctoral certificate program at the Emory Center for Ethics. Jordan is a recipient of the Laney Graduate School Fellowship, the Emory Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP). He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from Winthrop University where he was a McNair Research Scholar and member of the Honors College. Jordan enjoys teaching and mentoring and has a general interest in improving the experiences of students across all levels. He also has a commitment to diversity and inclusion in the academy and enjoys recruiting undergraduates as well as teaching evolution to K-12 students. Jordan is a Fellow for the Emory Diversifying Graduate Education (EDGE) Program where he assists the graduate school with recruitment of diverse students and various graduate community programs. He plans to continue his journey into the professoriate, where he can continue to pursue his scientific passions while training the next generation of researchers. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Levi Morran, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Emory College of Arts and Sciences*

Juan Daniel Rodriguez is a PhD candidate in the Genetics and Molecular Biology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He earned his master's degree in integrated biology at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, studying the role of the proton channel in the bioluminescent dinoflagellate species. From this work, he earned his first author publication. Before that, he studied for his bachelor's degree in biomedical science at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. His research focuses on the microscopic worm, *C. elegans*, whereas he's investigating how epigenetic modifications can regulate embryo development and cell fate determination. From his proposal, Juan was awarded the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (F31). In addition, Juan has been actively involved in teaching and outreach programs. He had taught in the liberal arts college Oglethorpe University. He is involved in mentoring students from this institution, for example, he mentored a student with her Honor's thesis project. One of Juan's career goals is to increase research opportunities in his hometown of Puerto Rico, especially his undergraduate campus and public high schools. As a member of the Yale Ciencia Academy-2020 (YCA), he started a series of conversations with undergraduates from different institutions of Puerto Rico, including his undergraduate institution. Juan has developed a summer hands-on course for students in Puerto Rico, the course was postponed due to the pandemic but hopefully, he would be able to implement this course. Long-term goals, he sees himself combine his passion for mentoring, teaching, outreach, and becoming a scientist that could impact different areas. *Dissertation Advisor: Dr. David Katz, Associate Professor, Department of Cell Biology, School of Medicine*

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