

Education

- Fall 2019 - May 2025* **Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN
Ph.D. Student, Department of Anthropology
Area of Concentration: Biological Anthropology
Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- December 2021* **Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN
M.A. Anthropology
Area of Concentration: Biological Anthropology
Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- May 2019* **College of William & Mary**, Williamsburg, VA
B.S. Biology and Anthropology
Summa cum Laude
Cumulative GPA: 3.9

Professional Experience

- 2019 - Present* **Genetic Anthropology and Bio-Cultural Studies Lab, Vanderbilt University**
Graduate work under Dr. Jada Benn-Torres
- Participated in projects employing genetic methods to answer questions about population structure and genetic ancestry in the Caribbean
 - DNA Extraction, PCR amplification, and Pyrosequencing methods for Y Chromosome genotyping and methylation analysis
 - Cleaning, Extraction, and Library Prep protocols for sequencing of mtDNA from ancient samples
 - Data visualization and statistical analysis in RStudio and MATLAB software
- 2017 - 2019* **Undergraduate Research Assistant, William and Mary Institute for Historical Biology**
Undergraduate Research under Dr. Michael Blakey
- Participated in osteological analysis and documentation of fragmentary skeletal and dental remains.
 - Visualization of dental microwear using HIROX microscopy
 - Comparative analysis of musculoskeletal markers using African Burial Ground Database in SPSS
 - Edited and formatted manuscripts and transcribed recordings from academic conferences.
 - Acted as an administrator for the “Remembering Slavery Resistance and Freedom Project” Facebook page, which educates the local community about events related to the history and commemoration of resistance and enslaved people in Eastern Virginia.
- 2016 - 2019* **William & Mary Cellular and Developmental Genetics Lab**
Undergraduate Research under Dr. Matthew Wawersik
- Lab work focused on the genetic mechanisms involved in sex determination and maintenance in *Drosophila melanogaster*
 - *Drosophila* mating, dissection, fixation, immunostaining, and imaging protocols using Confocal microscopy.

- Utilized immunofluorescence and RNAi knockdown strategies to visualize the impact of target genes on development in larval and adult *Drosophila* gonads.

2015 - 2016 Sharpe Community Scholars Program

Freshman CBPR Research under Dr. Monica Griffin

- Community-based participatory research on eco-therapy and the use of green space to combat academic stress on college campuses.
- Creation of surveys and statistical analysis to gauge public knowledge and perceptions related to research questions.
- Work featured in the *William and Mary News* and *Bristol Herald Courier*.

Presentations and Publications

In Progress Taiye Winful, Katie McCormack, Elsa Mueller, Lijuan Chen, Jada Benn Torres. “Indigenous Caribbean ancestry among Afrodescendentes in Puerto Rico.”

2022 American Association of Biological Anthropologists Meeting

Denver, Co. and Virtual

Poster: “Genetic Approaches to the Paternal Ancestry of Contemporary Afro-Puerto Rican Communities”

2021 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Meeting

AAPA-AAAG Joint Symposium: Thinking beyond the lab? Anthropological geneticists’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the summer of civil unrest

Recorded Talk: “Future Directions in Anthropological Pedagogy: Insights into the role of technology in teaching anthropological genetics from the Covid-19 pandemic”

2020 Graduate Research Symposium

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA [Remote]

Poster: “Genetic Perspectives on the Paternal Ancestry of Afro-Puerto Rican Communities”

2019 Undergraduate Science Research Symposium

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Poster: “The Role of Chigno in the Developing and Adult *Drosophila* Testis”

2018 Triangle Consortium for Reproductive Biology

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Durham, NC

Poster: “Analysis of Chinmo’s Role in *Drosophila* Sex Maintenance”

2018 Undergraduate Science Research Symposium

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Poster: “Analysis of Chinmo Regulation and Stem Cell Sex Maintenance”

2016 Sharpe Engaged Scholars Academic Symposium

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Poster: "Ecotherapy and Stress"

Teaching Experience

2019 - Present **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Vanderbilt University, Department of Anthropology

Courses:

- Introduction to Biological Anthropology (Spring 2022; Spring 2021)
- Evolutionary Genetics (Fall 2021)
- Human Adaptation and Disease (Fall 2020)
- Anthropology of Healing (Spring 2020)
- Human Osteology (Fall 2019)

Summer 2021 **Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth- Peer Mentor**

- Course: Anthropology in Action: How Research is Applied to Advocacy and Activism

Funding Awards

- 2022 Vanderbilt Evolutionary Studies Initiative Pilot Grant (\$5000)
- 2022 Vanderbilt Arts and Sciences Summer Research Award (\$5000)
- 2022 Vanderbilt Arts and Science Travel Award (\$500)
- 2018 Recipient of the Nathan Altshuler Fellowship for summer research in Anthropology (\$800)

Professionalization and Language Skills

- Intermediate French language proficiency.
- Certificate in College Teaching (Complete Spring 2023)
- Vanderbilt Microbiome Analysis Workshop Certificate

Honors and Awards

- 2022 Vanderbilt Anthropology Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
- Harold Sterling Vanderbilt Award
- Russell G Hamilton Scholar
- 2015 Recipient of the Center for a Public Anthropology Award for Op-ed Writing

Professional Memberships

2022 - Present American Association of Anthropological Genetics (AAAG), Student Member

2019 - Present American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA), Student Member

Service to Discipline

- Peer review for Nature Communications
- Student volunteer at AABAs (2022)

Extracurricular University Service

2019 - Present **Vanderbilt Anthropology Graduate Student Association (VAGSA)**

- President (2022- Present)
- Secretary (2019-2022)

2019 - Present **EVOst - Evolution @ Vanderbilt**

- Interdisciplinary organization of trainees interested in research associated with evolutionary science.