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The Savannah State University Journal of Research

SPRING 2015

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SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION

Savannah State University, the oldest public historically black university in the State of Georgia, develops productive members of a global society through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service and community involvement. The University fosters engaged learning and personal growth in a student-centered environment that celebrates the African American legacy while nurturing a diverse student body. Savannah State University offers graduate and undergraduate studies including nationally accredited programs in the liberal arts, the sciences and the professions.

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For more information about Savannah State University's grant and sponsored research programs contact: Office of Sponsored Research Administration, Chellu Chetty, Ph.D., associate vice president. 912-358-4277, chettyc@savannahstate.edu, linux.savannahstate.edu/osra

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Smart, Bold, Proud — Seriously Impressive. Those words apply to every facet of life at Savannah State University, but they resonate especially loudly when we talk about our grant and sponsored research programs.

Smart. Some of Savannah State's best and brightest students have taken part in the university's many grant and research programs. One of those former students, Eric Corbett, was a scholar in the university's prestigious Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSL-SAMP) program. Today he is working toward a Ph.D. in digital media at Georgia Tech and has a summer internship lined up at Google.

Bold. Savannah State has long been committed to helping those most vulnerable — the children and youth of our community. The Social Work Department's new Master of Social Work Behavioral Health Specialization Program grant aims to do just that by training talented MSW students for future careers as behavioral health clinical social work practitioners, working specifically with children, adolescents and transitional-age youth, as well as those who are at risk for developing or who have a behavioral health disorder.

Proud. SSU was the recipient of several new grants in the past year, among them the prestigious National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, a $1.4 million award that will enable the university to offer scholarships and intensive training to talented students and STEM professionals who are committed to teaching in our nation's at-risk schools. When our students return to the classroom as teachers, they empower the next generation of STEM scholars and make a difference in the daily lives of countless students.

Seriously impressive. Savannah State's Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC U-STAR) program puts underrepresented minority students on the path to graduate research and careers in the areas of biomedical and behavioral sciences. Savannah State's MARC U-STAR scholars are some of the most accomplished students on campus and will go on to represent SSU at graduate schools across the nation.

Articles about Eric Corbett, the MSW Behavioral Health Specialization Program, the Noyce Scholarship and MARC U-STAR are featured in the pages of this issue of *Arising*. I hope they will inspire you as much as they have inspired me.

Sincerely,
Cheryl D. Dozier
President

This year's edition of *Arising* demonstrates Savannah State University's commitment to academic excellence. The university's academic pursuits not only take place in the classroom, but also in the university's many labs, on boats in Savannah's waterways and even on the shores of other countries.

Lab time is a crucial component to the College of Sciences and Technology curriculum. Professors like Kai Shen, Ph.D., an assistant professor of chemistry and forensic science, are taking lab work to the next level. Shen, who is featured in *Arising's* Faculty Spotlight, was recently awarded a grant to purchase a Horiba Raman microscope, a state-of-the-art piece of equipment that will enhance the research of Shen, his colleagues and students across campus.

Savannah State's marine sciences program is the only one of its kind in the state located in a natural setting, giving students and faculty direct campus access to the marsh, ocean and wetland areas of Savannah and the surrounding area. The university's Marine Mammal Program, which is featured in the pages of this publication, is just one example of how direct access to research enhances student learning.

Study abroad programs are an important part of Savannah State's curriculum, with faculty-led trips to various locales around the world. Devonte Cliett, who is featured in the Student Voices section of *Arising,* describes his experiences traveling to the U.K., where he and his fellow students received certificates in sustainability from Nottingham Trent University.

The grant and research programs described above and in the pages of this magazine are the result of the hard work of our faculty, staff and the Office of Sponsored Research Administration. SSU's more than $40 million in current active funding benefits the university as a whole, but most of all the students, who have the opportunity to engage their minds and expand their horizons.

Sincerely,
C. Reynold Verret
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Lending A Helping Hand

The transition to college was not easy for Shalyric Moye, a Dublin, Ga., native, who arrived on the Savannah State University campus in fall 2014. The freshman biology major was spending hours a day in band practice while trying to adjust to college life and keep up with her classes. She almost reached her breaking point one day during her Freshman Year Experience (FYE) course.

"I had so much on my shoulders," Moye says.

But before she could hit rock bottom, Moye's FYE instructor Marilyn Hutchinson, Ph.D., stepped in and got Moye back on her feet.

"[Dr. Hutchinson] helped me get myself together," Moye explains. "She became a mentor and a person I could go to."

Helping students find and stay on the path to graduation and beyond is what Hutchinson does every day as director of Savannah State's Mentoring and Research Programs. The innovative program, which began in 2012 and was restructured and relaunched in 2014, helps match students to grant program scholarships, organizes networking events with area professionals, offers shadowing programs with local companies and businesses, hosts workshops, helps arrange student internships, and organizes test prep courses for graduate and professional school exams.

Today Moye's outlook is better than ever. She has learned how to communicate with her professors and is even applying for the university's prestigious Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSLSAMP) program.

Brittany Bush, a senior biology major from Tucker, Ga., credits the Mentoring and Research Programs with helping her secure a spot as a Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC U-STAR) scholar, a prestigious program that seeks to increase the number of minorities in behavioral and biomedical sciences.

"[The program] is the reason I have a scholarship. I talk to [Dr. Hutchinson] whenever I need help with classes, to discuss my future. She helps me with career building and skill building," says Bush, who is currently applying to graduate school in the area of biomedical research.

Hutchinson works alongside the program managers of Savannah State's many scholarship grants, staying apprised of the latest opportunities and the requirements that come along with each program.

Terrell Leggette, a junior electronics engineering major from Macon, Ga., is currently applying for the PSLSAMP program with help from Hutchinson. She is also helping Leggette explore internship opportunities and network with industry executives.

"The [Mentoring and Research] program has taught me that every opportunity is a business opportunity," says Leggette, who recently networked with Georgia Power executives at an event attended by Hutchinson, who serves as an education consultant for the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) and a content expert for curriculum support, supervision and mentor-

ing for the SCCPSS' Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) program.

In addition to matching students with scholarships at Savannah State and internships at local companies, Hutchinson oversees a successful shadowing program that places students in local offices to work with industry-specific professionals over the course of a semester. She currently has shadowing programs in place for students interested in the fields of medicine, electronics engineering and education. For many of the students in the shadowing program, the experience has been their only opportunity for authentic engagement in their field of interest.

Hutchinson is also fostering partnerships with other universities to give SSU students additional opportunities to expand their educational horizons. Savannah State recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina State University (NCSU) that will guarantee five SSU students slots in the university's graduate program, while NCSU will send some of its students to Savannah State. The program, which will be run by SSU's graduate studies office, is just one example of how the Mentoring and Research Programs seek to help students succeed on the campus of Savannah State and beyond.

But one of the greatest resources the Mentoring and Research Programs offer is Hutchinson herself.

"I want students to find out what they really want to do in life or to realize that they want to go in a different direction. Before you invest a lot of time and a lot of money, it's important to be exposed to a field," says Hutchinson, who personally drives students to their internships if they can't find their own transportation. "I want students to know that there's an office here that cares about them."

▲ Marilyn Hutchinson, Ph.D., (center), director of SSU's Mentoring and Research Programs, advises students across campus, including (from left to right) freshman Shalyric Moye, junior Terrell Leggette and senior Brittany Bush.

Student interns in SSU's Marine Mammal Program spend time on the water and in the lab. (Clockwise from top) Cody Rigney, a junior marine sciences major, studies distribution of dolphins. Associate Professor of Marine Sciences Tara Cox, Ph.D., is director of the Marine Mammal Program. Rachael Randall, a graduate student in marine sciences, spends time in the lab analyzing dolphin blubber for stable isotope ratios. Cassandra Harris, a sophomore marine sciences major, is working to reassess human interaction rates of bottlenose dolphins.

A DOLPHIN TALE

When a dolphin washed ashore on Tybee Island in early February, it could have been another heart-wrenching tale of an animal meeting a tragic end. But thanks to Savannah State University's Marine Mammal Program, the death of the bottlenose dolphin known as Phineas will become a teachable moment.

Led by Tara Cox, Ph.D., an associate professor of marine sciences, the Savannah State Marine Mammal Program had been tracking Phineas since 2009. The program is funded through several grants at the university, including the Title VII, National Science Foundation Enhancing Diversity in Geoscience Education (EDGE), Bridge to Research in Marine Sciences Research for Undergraduates (REU) and Students Engaged in Naval STEM Research (SENSR) programs, among others.

Eleven undergraduate and three graduate students from the various grant programs currently serve as interns in the Marine Mammal Program. The students assist faculty with tracking the local dolphin population in Savannah-area waterways, then map their results back in the SSU Dolphin Sciences Lab.

The SSU Marine Mammal team had spotted Phineas at least 16 times over the past five years, tracking the adventurous mammal as he swam around Tybee Island and up and down the Bull River.

Beachgoers found Phineas' body on Tybee's north beach and contacted local authorities. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources was called in and performed the necropsy with assistance from SSU students and staff. The DNR then shared the deceased dolphin's picture to its local stranding network, of which Savannah State is a part.

"When they did the necropsy, the dorsal fin was in really good shape," explains Cox. "We identify animals by unique patterns of nicks and notches on their dorsal fins. My lab manager Robin Perrtree immediately recognized that it was one of our animals."

Cox hopes that the lab results from Phineas' necropsy will shed some light on why the dolphin was so emaciated and sickly when he washed ashore. The samples taken during the necropsy are currently being tested for a variety of illnesses including brucellosis, a bacterial infection, and morbillivirus, an illness similar to the human form of measles.

While disease may have been the cause of Phineas' death, other dolphins in the area face challenges brought on by humans. Through their research, Cox and her team have discovered that the Savannah area has the world's worst begging problem.

"We see dolphins begging about two-thirds of our days on the water and about a quarter of our sightings," explains Cox, who developed five metrics to compare dolphins in the Savannah area to those in other dolphin hotspots around the world.

Begging poses a danger to dolphins, which are at risk for injury when they swim so closely to boats. The human snacks that boaters often feed dolphins can also harm the popular mammals.

Cassandra Harris, a sophomore marine sciences major from Stone Mountain, Ga., is currently working in the Marine Mammal Program to reassess human interaction with the local bottlenose dolphin population, updating research that was conducted by Perrtree over the last several years. Harris, who has been intrigued by dolphins since she visited Sea World as a child, is chronicling the number of begging events per sighting and per day, as well as the number of human interactions per sighting and per day.

Harris' research will help Cox and her team understand the extent of dolphin-human interaction in the area.

"My ultimate goal is to affect policy with our science," says Cox, explaining that members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration came to Savannah a few years ago to observe the waterways and conduct outreach.

Cox and her team also regularly visit schools and talk to local fishermen in hopes of discouraging people from feeding dolphins.

"It looks like there has been a slow decline [in begging]," Cox says. "It's hard to say why, but we're getting news articles out, we're doing outreach and there's been some enforcement. That may be making a difference."

Harris' research will be presented at a conference this spring and will be an important step in addressing and understanding the issues facing the local population, something that will help protect dolphins like Phineas for years to come.

Faculty Spotlight

KAI SHEN Ph.D.

Kai Shen, Ph.D., makes a difference in the lives of students every day on the campus of Savannah State University, inspiring the young scientists to engage in research that could change the world. Thanks to a trio of grants, Shen, an assistant professor of chemistry and forensic science, is exposing his students to cutting-edge research in the areas of Alzheimer's and cardiovascular diseases.

In 2013, Shen, who received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, was awarded a Steps Toward Academic Research (STAR) Fellowship from the University of North Texas' (UNT) Texas Center for Health Disparities. As part of the program, Shen traveled to the UNT campus every other month to receive extensive training on health disparity issues, community-based research methodologies and grant development.

Shen was paired with Meharvan Singh, Ph.D., an established scientist at the UNT campus, who inspired him to become passionate about disparity issues of Alzheimer's disease in minority populations. Under Singh's mentorship, Shen and SSU colleague Karla-Sue Marriott, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry and forensic science, prepared a preliminary proposal to study the role of the brain's sigma-1 receptor in the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

At the end of his fellowship, Shen submitted their work to the Texas Center for Health Disparities, which selected the proposal for a peer-reviewed Pilot Project award. This $10,000 seed grant supports Shen's ongoing research efforts at SSU to correlate sigma-1 receptor structure with its roles in the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Shen serves as the Pilot Project's principal investigator (PI), with Marriott

and Singh serving as co-PIs. The team utilizes several student interns at SSU, who also assist with the research efforts.

Shen's research on the sigma-1 receptor will be enhanced further thanks to a second grant he received in October 2014 from the U.S. Department of Defense/Army Research Office. The $331,997 grant, which is part of the Department of Defense Research and Education Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions, enabled the university to purchase a top-of-the-line Horiba Raman microscope.

"It is the only Raman microscope with an ultra violet laser in the coastal Georgia region," says Shen. "The ultra violet Raman will provide a very unique capability to analyze how the protein structure changes. This information can't be extracted by other analytical techniques. We're very fortunate to have it."

Shen plans to use the high resolution microscope, which will be installed in a dedicated lab in the Drew-Griffith science building this spring, to analyze the function of the sigma-1 receptor in Alzheimer's, using compounds created by his colleague Marriott. His goal is to see how the compounds can be used to treat the disease.

Shen serves as the grant's PI, along with four co-PIs: Christopher Hintz, Ph.D., associate professor of marine sciences; Hua Zhao, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of chemistry and forensic science; Paramasivam Sivapatham, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental science; and Marriott. Shen and his co-PIs will utilize the microscope to conduct research in the areas of marine sciences, chemistry, engineering, biology and forensic science and will also use the high-tech instrument as a teaching tool for students.

"It's a benefit for students engaging in research and for teaching efforts," Shen explains. "We have designed 11 upper-level courses that will involve the microscope, and we estimate that every year, around 160 students will have access to the instrument."

In addition to his work with Alzheimer's disease, Shen is also focusing his research efforts on a disease that disproportionately affects minorities: hypertension. In January 2015, Shen received a $296,692 grant from the National Institutes of Health Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Program to investigate the role of the metavinculin protein in mediating crosstalk between vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs) and extracellular matrix (ECM). VSMCs and ECM have been found to contribute to aortic stiffness, which causes hypertension — a main risk factor in cardiovascular disease.

"Cardiovascular disease is very deadly, killing, based on CDC data, roughly 600,000 folks a year. One of the biggest risk factors is hypertension. We want to find out how hypertension leads to cardiovascular disease, but we don't know the mechanism," Shen explains.

Shen's ultimate goal is to create effective interventions against hypertension development and reduce cardiovascular-related mortality by revealing vascular remodeling mechanisms.

To help with the research phase of the grant, Shen has enlisted student interns, who are paid to assist him in the lab.

"We want to inspire students and get them involved in STEM research, especially biomedical research," says Shen, who hopes his student interns will go on to complete graduate studies in STEM-related fields. "It's our hope to increase the population of minority students in the biomedical field."

Despite his success in securing three grants in such a short period of time, Shen, who joined SSU in 2012 as an assistant professor after completing post-doctoral work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, remains humble, praising Savannah State and its many faculty and staff members for helping facilitate his endeavors.

"There are synergetic efforts across campus. This is teamwork," Shen says. "I'm blessed to have so much help from so many folks."

▲ Kai Shen, Ph.D., (left) works with interns in his lab, including (from left to right) Eddie Gontee, a senior biology major from Atlanta, and Christian Lyle, a junior biology major from Savannah, Ga., both of who assist Shen with his cardiovascular research, and Sakura McLaughlin, a junior biology major from Savannah, Ga., who assists Shen with his Alzheimer's research.

Strengthening STEM in Savannah

Savannah State University's College of Sciences and Technology (COST) is tasked with overseeing the education of nearly 1,500 students majoring in STEM-related disciplines on campus. Now thousands more students from the Savannah area will benefit from the knowledge of COST's esteemed faculty thanks to the Georgia Math Science Partnership (MSP) program.

MSP is a statewide initiative that seeks to improve teacher quality and increase the academic achievement of students in the areas of mathematics and science by creating partnerships with state agencies, institutions of higher education, high-need local education agencies and schools.

Savannah State's $448,000 grant, funded by the Georgia Department of Education, will enable the university to create a two-year professional development program for middle school science teachers. The program, which is a partnership between Savannah State and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS), will equip the teachers with the skill set and tools necessary to effectively teach science to grades 6-8.

During the program, 48 SCCPSS and Effingham County School System teachers, along with two teachers from area private schools, will come to the Savannah State campus during the summers of 2015 and 2016 to participate in an intensive two-week summer session.

"We're working with those schools that are in the most need in terms of students' skills and abilities in science," says Jonathan Lambright, Ph.D., COST dean and the grant's project director.

Lambright and his team used CRCT scores as a basis for determining the most needy schools, ultimately selecting eight SCCPSS schools, among them Mercer, Myers, DeRenne, Hubert, East Broad Street, West Chatham, Isle of Hope and Southwest middle schools.

During the summer session, eight faculty members from COST and SSU's School of Teacher Education will work with the teachers to introduce STEM topics in the areas of earth science, life science and physical science. In addition to learning about topics such as hydrology and meteorology, evolution, and energy and its transformation, the teachers will be exposed to new and innovative methods of content delivery.

The teachers, who will receive a stipend

◀ (Left) College of Sciences and Technology Dean Jonathan Lambright, Ph.D., serves as the Georgia Math Science Partnership's (MSP) project manager. (Opposite page, left) Middle school science teachers Veronica Smith from Mercer Middle School (left) and Helen Ward from Effingham County Middle School (right) are two of 50 area teachers participating in the MSP program this summer. (Opposite page, right) Teachers and members of the MSP team pose in front of Hill Hall after signing their contracts of participation in the summer 2015 program.

for their participation in the program, will also attend follow-up sessions throughout the subsequent academic year, completing a total of 100 hours of instruction.

Lambright is working with Savannah State colleagues including Co-Project Manager Patrick Dean and Coordinator of Curriculum Development Alex Kalu, Ph.D., professor of civil engineering, along with SCCPSS Chief Academic Officer Ann Levett, Ed.D., and Program Manager for Science Holly Rutledge to develop the innovative curriculum.

Levett says that the high-quality professional learning experience teachers receive during the course of the program will prepare them further to implement college and career-readiness standards effectively.

"Our classrooms and schools are increasingly filled with a more diverse student body — race, class, ethnicity, ability and culture. As expectations for positive student performance outcomes increase, considerably more students may have challenges meeting those higher-level expectations, especially in the areas of science and mathematics," Levett says. "Through this Math and Science Partnership effort, our district's teachers will receive intensive, content-rich professional development, with the goal of improving classroom instruction and, ultimately, student achievement in math and science."

Lambright is confident that the MSP program will be a success and believes that the initiative will not only benefit the middle school teachers and their students but will also have a positive impact on Savannah State and other institutions of higher education.

"Important concepts of science and mathematics start as early as elementary and middle school. Everything builds upon that," says Lambright, noting that students who don't learn those concepts early on are at risk for falling behind in high school and college.

"The students that we're trying to reach now will ultimately appear at the doorsteps of Savannah State, as well as other area institutions of higher education," Lambright says. "In the nation there's an issue of students not being prepared in science and mathematics, and this is our opportunity to try to reverse that trend and tighten the ties between institutions of higher education and the public school system so that when the students come to us, they're prepared and ready to take college-level classes."

SSU's RESEARCH STARs

While many of their classmates enjoyed some well-earned time off last summer, Mandisa Taqqee and Brittany Bush spent their vacation in the lab. Taqqee, a senior biology major from Los Angeles, worked in the neuroscience department of the University of California, Los Angeles, studying transcription factor FoxP2, a protein in humans that is linked to speech development. Bush, a senior biology major from Tucker, Ga., headed to the University of California, Davis, where she conducted research in the college's physiology department on ameliorating decreased ligament function caused by estrogen levels.

The unique summer research opportunities were made possible by Savannah State University's Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC U-STAR) program. Both Taqqee and Bush have been MARC U-STAR scholars since their junior years at SSU.

Funded by a $2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the five-year program seeks to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue graduate research and careers in the areas of biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Each year, five qualified undergraduate students majoring in STEM disciplines including biology, behavioral analysis, chemistry, marine sciences or mathematics, are funded for participation in the highly selective and rigorous training program. The students, who receive a monthly stipend, conduct research with SSU faculty mentors, spend at least one summer conducting research off site, present their research at conferences, and attend seminars, journal club meetings and workshops. The students must also make a commitment to apply to at least five graduate schools.

"We provide [the students] with training that is likely to enhance their chances of succeeding in graduate school," say Cecil Jones, Ph.D., a professor of chemistry and the grant's principal investigator. "Graduate school requires a great deal of research skills. We provide them with the research and the critical thinking skills that we think will benefit them and give them the best possible chance for success."

Taqqee first became interested in research while participating in Savannah State's Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSLSAMP) program. As a PSLSAMP scholar, she had an opportunity to conduct research with her faculty mentor and attend conferences featuring inspiring keynote addresses by successful researchers. When fellow SSU students began telling Taqqee about MARC U-STAR — a program dedicated to the discipline of research — she was intrigued.

Now in her second year of the MARC U-STAR program, Taqqee spends much of her time working in the lab with her faculty mentor, Carol Pride, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Marine Sciences Department, to monitor toxins that produce algae in local estuaries. Taqqee has enjoyed attending

seminars and conferences and appreciates the many networking opportunities made available to her as a MARC U-STAR scholar.

"MARC U-STAR will benefit me by adding multiple experiences not only to my resume but also to my life as a whole," says Taqqee, who has applied to several graduate schools and hopes to one day earn a D.M.D./Ph.D. "It will allow me to look and be more competitive when applying to graduate programs."

Bush chose to apply for MARC U-STAR because it seemed like an excellent way to explore her interests and determine her career path. She is currently working with her faculty mentor Sue Ebanks, Ph.D., an assistant professor of environmental science and marine sciences, to study the effects on commercial juvenile shrimp exposed to the dredged portion on the Savannah River. Her work with Jones during her first year as a MARC scholar resulted in the publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript titled "Indirect Measure of Catalase Activity From the Muscle Tissue of a Merlangius Merlangus."

Bush, who has been inspired by the many researchers she has met at conferences around the country, has already applied to five graduate schools. Her interests include biomedical research, specifically reproductive biology, and she hopes to one day earn either a D.O./Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.

"[MARC U-STAR] will open doors as far as graduate school because this program is very prestigious and carries a serious name around the country," Bush says. "It has benefited me thus far, and I have done some serious networking with people highly respected in the science community."

▲ (Above) Senior biology major Mandisa Taqqee assists faculty mentor Carol Pride, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Marine Sciences Department, with research monitoring toxins that produce algae in local estuaries. (Opposite page, left) Chemistry Professor Cecil Jones, Ph.D., is the MARC U-STAR program's principal investigator. (Opposite page, right) Senior biology major Brittany Bush has already applied to five graduate schools and hopes to one day earn either a D.O./Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.

RESEARCH CONFERENCES EXPAND STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE

Attending local, regional and national conferences is an important component to many of Savannah State University's STEM-related grant programs.

"Students work vigorously in the lab with faculty mentors throughout the year to conduct research," explains C. Reynold Verret, Ph.D., provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "The opportunity to take that research and present it at prestigious conferences around the country expands students' horizons by exposing them to prominent researchers in their respective fields, giving them invaluable networking opportunities and developing important presentation skills that will ultimately enhance their future careers."

In the past year, SSU students have attended the regional Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Conference, hosted in September 2014 by the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta; the national Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, held in November 2014 in San Antonio, Texas; and the Emerging Researchers Conference in STEM, held in February 2015 in Washington, D.C.

In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in Savannah State's Annual Research Conference and RIMI (Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions) Symposium Research Day, which takes place every spring. Known as Research Day, the one-day event highlights the research completed by undergraduate and graduate students and their faculty mentors. The goal of the conference is to enhance students' research communication skills and to help prepare them for careers in the global marketplace.

During Research Day, students attend networking sessions, present posters, participate in workshops and attend roundtable/panel discussions. The event is sponsored by the Office of the President, Office of Sponsored Research Administration, Quality Enhancement Plan 'The Write Attitude', and the National Institutes of Health-National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities' RIMI program.

Alumni Spotlight

ERIC CORBETT

Eric Corbett was a first-generation college student with no experience in research when he enrolled in Savannah State in 2007. Today the Bridgeport, Conn., native is a Ph.D. candidate at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a summer internship lined up at Google.

Corbett, who moved to Savannah with his family when he was 17, chose Savannah State because he liked the university's computer science technology program.

"I found the computer science program appealing because it is a blend between electronics engineering and computer science," Corbett explains. "This allowed me to explore my interests in programming and circuits simultaneously."

During his four years at Savannah State, Corbett took advantage of numerous opportunities on campus, including the competitive Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSLSAMP) program. Funded by the National Science Foundation, PSLSAMP seeks to increase the number of underrepresented minority students across the state who complete undergraduate degrees in STEM-related fields.

"PSLSAMP played a huge role in enhancing my academic studies. The speakers, summer research opportunities and conferences provided much-needed context and exposure to research that you oftentimes don't get in the classroom," Corbett says. "Getting that exposure makes you more focused as you go through classes and also provides the spark to think more critically of your academic work."

The PSLSAMP program also enabled Corbett to participate in summer study research programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studied parallel programming and performed benchmark analysis, and Carnegie Mellon University, where he developed a user interface for labeling patient exercise to train a sensor-based virtual coaching system for home rehabilitation.

The user interface Corbett developed at Carnegie Mellon caught the eye of a recruiter from NASA, which led to Corbett completing an internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in summer 2012. During the summers of 2013 and 2014, Corbett served as an intern at the Intel Corporation.

"Summer research is incredibly significant because it provides exposure to how the concepts and skills you learn in class can be applied to larger, more complex issues. This application makes classes far more interesting," says Corbett, who received a bachelor of science degree in computer science technology at SSU in 2012 and went on to earn a master of science degree in human centered computing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2014.

Corbett began his doctoral studies at Georgia Tech last fall. The Ph.D. program in digital media, which he plans to finish by 2019, employs an interdisciplinary approach to computing and technology from a humanistic perspective. Corbett's research is focused on how technology can be used to support collective action through community and civic engagement.

Corbett credits his time at Savannah State and his experiences as a PSLSAMP scholar with preparing him for the rigors of a Ph.D. program.

"I did not even know what research was until I started in the PSLSAMP program. Research initially was a distant, foreign concept that did not matter to me, and furthermore was too complex for me to ever be a part of. My time at SSU and being a part of the PSLSAMP program helped to demystify research," Corbett says.

Corbett, who plans to start his career in the area of research and eventually teach at the college level, encourages students, especially those interested in research, to become PSLSAMP scholars.

"Joining the PSLSAMP program allows students to get to know their professors and build relationships with them both inside and outside of the classroom," he says. "This opportunity is invaluable."

HOW GRANTS WORK

Savannah State University has more than $40 million in active grant funding in 2015. That number is seriously impressive, but how does the grant process work?

1

THE IDEA

SSU's faculty members are encouraged to conduct original research outside the classroom. When a faculty member has an idea, he or she can contact Savannah State's Office of Sponsored Research Administration (OSRA), which assists with the remainder of the process.

2

FUNDING

The first step in the grant process is finding a funding source. OSRA subscribes to many services that will connect a faculty member to opportunities for federal, state, foundation and private funding.

3

THE PROPOSAL

OSRA staff assists faculty members with every facet of proposal development, a process that typically takes two to three months. OSRA staff members help faculty identify resources to gather background information; compile preliminary research data; perform literature review; develop concise and measureable program objectives by meeting to discuss the grant opportunity; generate a project timeline; assist with program and budget development; and address all compliance issues, among other tasks. OSRA reviews all proposals to ensure compliance with the specific application instructions and requirements.

4

THE AWARD

OSRA staff acts as the liaison between the university, the faculty member and the granting organization to negotiate the terms of the grant and to outline the steps necessary to bring the program to life. The award is then forwarded to the Office of Business and Financial Affairs for financial post-award management.

SERVICE, SUPPORT, SUCCESS

Semaj Grant always envisioned herself as a nurse. But when the Jacksonville, Fla., native returned from serving an eight-month tour in Iraq, she had a change of heart.

"I experienced the difficulties of war on service members mentally, physically and emotionally and wanted to help but was not sure how to do so," explains Grant, who served as an E-5/Sergeant in the United States Army.

When her stint in the military ended, Grant matriculated at Brewton Parker College, where she learned more about the field of human service and began to engage in intensive community service and outreach. Later on, while taking classes at St. Leo University at Fort Stewart, she had several chance meetings with Diane Bell, a graduate of Savannah State University's master of social work (MSW) program.

"Through [Diane's] encouragement, professionalism and dedication to helping others, I ultimately decided to pursue a degree in social work," says Grant, who went on to receive a bachelor of general studies degree from Columbia College in 2013.

Alganon Askew, Sr., began to contemplate a future in social work during his undergraduate studies at Armstrong State University, where he was working toward a degree in health science with a concentration in health administration.

"I [decided to choose] social work as a career because of my personal life experiences — experiences such as growing up in a fatherless home with a single parent, and being a product of a teenage pregnancy and marriage," says Askew. "I have a desire to serve those who have been through similar life experiences such as mine, or those who are in need of help in general."

Today Askew and Grant are both thriving as second-year students in the Savannah State MSW program and both were selected to participate in the Social Work Department's prestigious Master of Social Work Behavioral Health Specialization Program.

Funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, the Master of Social Work Behavioral Health Specialization Program seeks to expand the number of professionally educated and trained behavioral health clinical social work practitioners who serve children, adolescents and transitional-age youth or those who are at risk for developing or who have a behavioral health disorder.

The three-year, $650,000 grant has enabled Savannah State's Social Work Department to develop new curricula that focuses on behavioral health, with the ultimate goal of creating a specialization program in the area. The program also provides up to 15 second-year MSW students with one-year, $10,000 scholarships, which serve as a catalyst to prepare them for specialization in behavioral heath.

Askew and Grant are two of 12 MSW students who currently receive the scholarship. Requirements of the award include taking three specialized courses; participating in a research class in the area of behavioral health focused on children, adolescents

▲ (Above, left) Master of social work (MSW) student Alganon Askew, Sr., is completing his field work practicum at Memorial Health University Medical Center. (Above, right) Associate Professor of Social Work Roenia Deloach, Ph.D., LMSW, works closely with grant scholarship recipients, among them Semaj Grant, a second-year MSW student. (Opposite page) Co-Principal Investigator Deloach (right), with her co-PIs Linda Samuel, Ph.D., LMSW, assistant professor of social work (center), and Bernita Berry, Ph.D., MSW, professor of social work (left).

and transitioning-age youth; presenting research at various conferences; completing relevant field work; and taking the social work licensure exam upon graduation. The scholarship recipients also receive help with job placement.

"Our goal is to increase the number of licensed professional social workers in the behavioral health field," says Associate Professor Roenia Deloach, Ph.D., LMSW, who serves as the grant's principal investigator (PI) along with co-PIs Assistant Professor Linda Samuel, Ph.D., LMSW, and Professor Bernita Berry, Ph.D., MSW.

The Master of Social Work Behavioral Health Specialization Program utilizes several community partners who offer field work opportunities for the scholarship recipients during the year-long scholarship program.

Askew is currently completing his clinical field placement at Memorial Health University Medical Center and credits the experience with helping him apply theory to practice.

"At Memorial Health I am exposed to mental illness, and I am involved in the treatment process as a part of the treatment team," says Askew, who plans to sit for the Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) exam shortly after graduation, work toward obtaining his license as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and eventually work in the behavioral health field as a clinical social worker.

Grant travels to Brunswick, Ga., for her field work practicum at Morningstar Children and Family Services, a nonprofit organization that specializes in the holistic care of children and adolescents with dual diagnosis of intellectual developmental disabilities and mental illness.

"The experience has been challenging, stressful, rewarding and meaningful thus far," Grant says. "The agency humbles my spirit and challenges me mentally to find interventions that are appropriate to the population; every day I expect the unexpected."

Grant plans to obtain her LCSW within the next four years in conjunction with completing a doctoral degree in philosophy or education. Her career goals in social work are centered on social justice and advocacy by promoting a positive change in the way that society views individuals with mental illness and being a voice for those repeatedly oppressed and discriminated against.

Deloach says the program, in its first year, is running smoothly and has already generated interest among the next group of students who will apply for the scholarship program this spring. She hopes the program will have long-term benefits that will impact not only the MSW students, but also those they serve.

"One of the things going on now on a national level is that we don't have adequate mental health and substance abuse programs and services for adults," Deloach says. "If we focus on adolescents and youth and can provide quality services for them, it will impact adult services later."

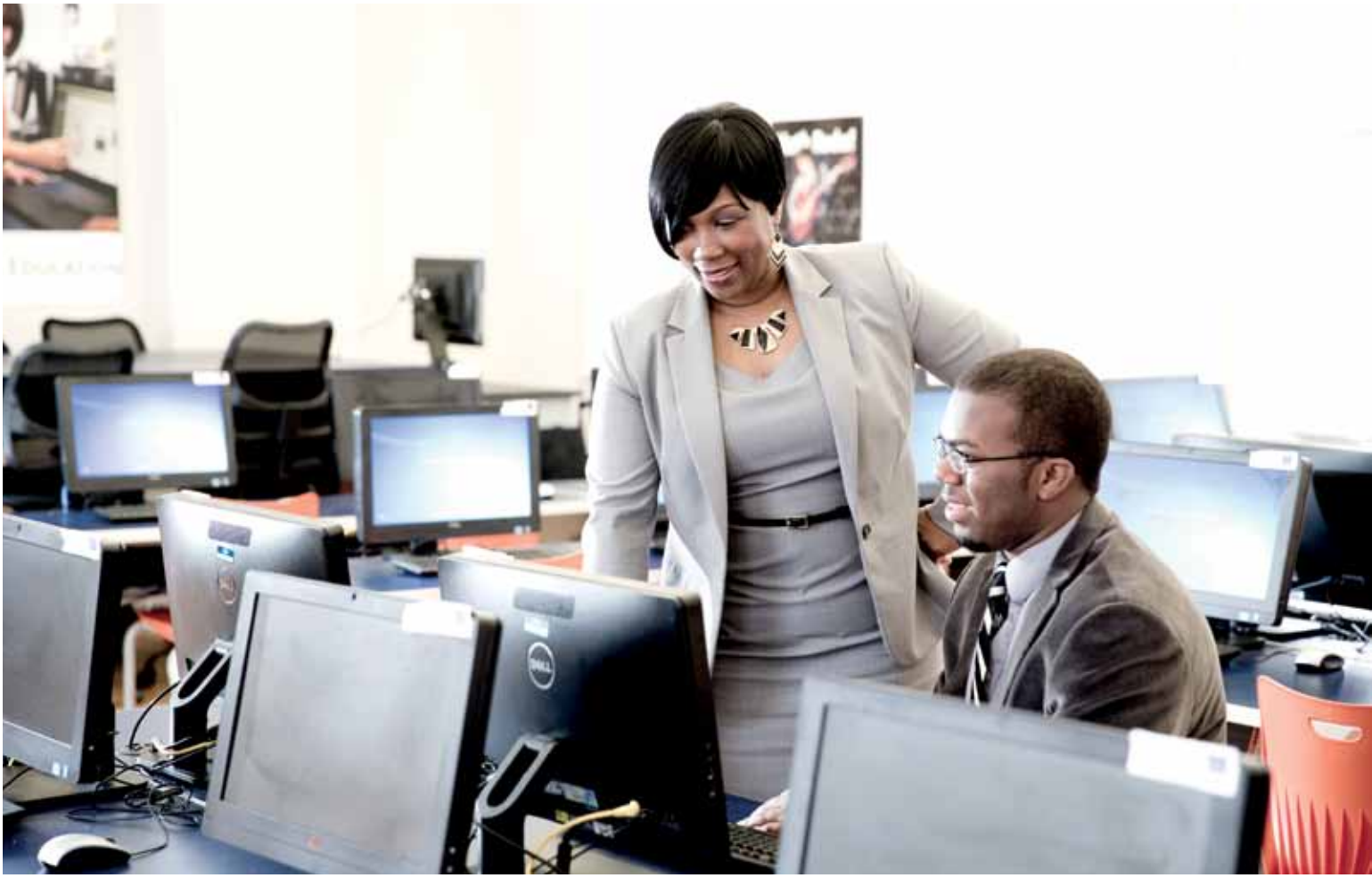
EMPOWERING THE STEM TEACHERS OF TOMORROW

Isaac Wright discovered he wanted to be a teacher while working part time at Ombudsman, an alternative high school in Chatham County. As part of his position, the Savannah, Ga., native taught mathematics and realized quickly that he was making a difference in the students' lives, both academically and socially.

"Toward the end of the school year, I was able to enter the students in an engineering competition, which opened their minds to more career pathways," says Wright, who was subbing at Ombudsman while working toward a degree in computer science technology at Savannah State University. "The feeling of knowing that I had assisted these students on their journey to success was what inspired me to become a teacher."

That powerful experience compelled Wright to switch majors in 2013 and join SSU's newly formed School of Teacher Education (SOTE). Today Wright, who is majoring in mathematics with a secondary teacher education certification track, hopes to expand his horizons even more by applying for the university's new National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

The prestigious $1.4 million grant program seeks to increase the number of high-quality, technology education-certified STEM teachers in high-need middle school classrooms. The five-year program will pre-



pare at least 28 undergraduate mathematics and engineering majors and eight STEM professionals currently working in the field to become certified middle school or high school teachers of mathematics and/or science for grades 6-12.

"[The goal of the program is to create] an enthusiastic, caring, compassionate teacher, someone who is reflective, someone who is open to the diverse needs and concerns and desires of their students," says Assistant Professor Keenya Mosley, Ph.D., the grant's principal investigator (PI).

The Noyce program includes three components: an undergraduate scholarship for current or rising juniors, a summer internship experience for undergraduates and a post-baccalaureate program for STEM professionals. Wright is applying for the competitive undergraduate scholarship program.

"The [undergraduate scholarship] program offers mentoring, professional development, field experience activities and networking opportunities, which will assist me in becoming a highly-qualified mathematics teacher," Wright says. "These four components will allow me to gain experience and speak with educators about their experiences in the classroom with students. This will help prepare me for my first few years of teaching as I begin to apply educational theory to practice."

Undergraduate students accepted into the scholarship program will receive a $10,000 scholarship for each year of participation. Noyce Scholarship recipients will be required to complete all the steps necessary to earn a degree from SOTE, including receiving a minimum GPA in their content area courses, completing field work at an area school, and passing or exempting the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) exam, in addition to completing at least 25 hours of mentoring activities and attending specialized workshops.

In exchange for the generous stipend, the students must commit to teach at an at-risk school for two years for every year they receive the scholarship. The students have up to eight years from the time of graduation to meet the requirement; if they fail to do so, their scholarship will turn into a loan.

Students who may be considering a teaching career are eligible to apply for the Noyce summer internship program. The four-week program gives students with an interest in teaching an opportunity to plan lessons and teach students enrolled in summer programs. The interns will prepare their lesson plans for two weeks, then spend two weeks teaching K-12 students in SSU's STEM 360 program and other summer programs. The interns will receive $1,000 for their month-long internship.

Professionals who are already working in a STEM-related field may qualify for the Noyce post-baccalaureate program. Those selected for the program will receive $10,000 for one year and must take 27-30 hours of credit hours and complete a student-teaching clinical internship at an area school.

The post-baccalaureate program, which was approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, is currently being reviewed by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Once approved, it is expected to begin in summer or fall 2015.

Launching the Noyce Scholarship program has been a group effort. In addition to working with 14 school districts in the region, SSU is teaming up with several local partners including Savannah Technical College and the YMCA. Mosley's team at SSU includes co-PIs Mulatu Lemma, Ph.D., professor of mathematics; Mohamad Mustafa, Ph.D., professor and chair of civil engineering technology; Asad Yousuf, Ph.D., professor and coordinator of electronics engineering technology; and Andre Overton, program coordinator. The Noyce teammates each bring varied backgrounds to the table but all have the same goal: to improve STEM education in K-12.

"In the five years prior to the approval of the Noyce grant, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System had over 500 STEM teachers leave the schools," says Mosley, explaining that the dramatic loss of teachers in STEM-related areas drove the demand for a Noyce program in the Savannah area. "Such a significant loss can ultimately impact student success in STEM. Our primary purpose is to recruit and sustain teachers in the SCCPSS and throughout the state of Georgia. We want to be a partner and produce quality teachers for students enrolled in STEM classes."

◀ Assistant Professor Keenya Mosley, Ph.D., principal investigator of the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, mentors junior Isaac Wright, a student in SSU's School of Teacher Education. Wright is planning to apply for a Noyce Scholarship.

"Strengthening STEM education is vital to preparing our students to compete in the 21st century economy and we need to recruit and train math and science teachers to support our nation's students."
— President Barack Obama

Focus on Sustainability

Savannah State University's Global Logistics and International Business Education and Research (G-LIBER) Center of Excellence is committed to exposing students to the concept of sustainability.

Sustainability in business involves three pillars, says Amit Arora, Ph.D., an assistant professor of logistics and supply chain management in SSU's College of Business Administration (COBA): economic, environmental and social.

"Businesses think about economic sustainability," Amit Arora explains. "But true sustainability looks at all three aspects and doesn't focus on just one. Environmental and social aspects must be in the picture."

Several COBA students were introduced to the concept of sustainability during the summer 2014 semester. The students traveled with Amit Arora and Anshu Arora, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing, to Nottingham Trent University's Nottingham Business School in the U.K., where they took courses and worked at local businesses as sustainability consultants. Each of the five SSU students who participated in the study abroad program earned "Sustainability in Practice" certificates in sustainability.

Amit Arora and Anshu Arora, along with Reginald Leseane, Ed.D., associate dean and associate professor of computer information systems, are now working to bring a certificate in sustainability program to the Savannah State campus.

The COBA professors received an $8,000 grant from the National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance to launch Sustainability Performance through Environmental Risk Benchmarking (SuPERB): A Certificate Program for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education. Leseane serves as the grant's principal investigator (PI), while Amit Arora and Anshu Arora serve as co-PIs.

The program is currently in the planning stages, with the professors brainstorming ideas and securing local business partners.

"As future business leaders, [it's important that the students] focus not just on profitability but also the planet and people," Amit Arora says.

In addition to the SuPERB and study abroad programs, COBA is further expanding students' exposure to sustainability by participating in the annual Academy of International Business – Southeast Conference (AIB-SE). Five COBA students attended the 2014 conference in Miami, which drew 350 participants from more than 50 countries around the world. Wynitta Lee, a senior marketing and accounting major from Augusta, Ga., was the winner of the Best Undergraduate Paper Award for "A Tale of Two Worlds: Subliminal Advertising Versus Reality." Students Devonte Cliett, a senior global logistics and international business major from Savannah, Ga., and Chelsea Young, a senior accounting major from Albany, Ga., also presented their sustainability-related research projects during the conference.

Leseane chaired the Sustainability Panel at the conference, along with Jerome Baddley, chartered environmentalist and consultant from Nottingham Trent University.

The 2015 AIB-SE Conference will be held in Savannah in November 2015 and will be hosted by the Savannah State University College of Business Administration.

▲ Devonte Cliett works closely with his faculty mentor Amit Arora, Ph.D., an assistant professor of logistics and supply chain management in SSU's College of Business Administration.

For more information on the 2015 Academy of International Business – Southeast Conference, hosted by the SSU College of Business Administration, please visit www.aibse.org.

Student Voices

DEVONTE CLIETT

In June 2014, I traveled with four fellow students and my professors Anshu Arora, Ph.D., and Amit Arora, Ph.D., to the U.K., to study abroad at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). During the trip, the students and I took classes on the NTU campus and worked for U.K.-based food and beverage sector small businesses. We served as consultants to the businesses, helping them learn how to become sustainable.

I had the opportunity to work for Food and Drink Forum (the Forum), a company that provides technical and business support to farmers, primary processors, food manufacturers, caterers and retailers. At the end of the study abroad program, I presented the company with a manual to help make the business more sustainable.

The purpose of the manual was to provide the Forum with ideas and techniques to utilize sustainable practices in cooperation with their partners and to implement green initiatives.

Financial benefits of sustainability for the Forum include reduced energy and water usage and costs, reduced paper and waste and grants that may be available for improvement. Environmental benefits include reduction in carbon footprint, paper and resource efficiency, and reduced emissions. In addition, becoming sustainable will help improve working conditions, increase productivity and increase staff loyalty, along with helping the Forum increase marketability and improve competitiveness.

At the end of the study abroad program, the students and I received "Sustainability in Practice" certificates in sustainability from NTU's Nottingham Business School.

I have learned a lot through my opportunity to study abroad in the U.K. Sustainability is growing by the numbers in the U.K. and now is here in the United States. During the program, I learned about how individuals and organizations are responsible for creating a carbon footprint and how important it is to keep track of greenhouse emissions produced by an organization's operations. In learning the footprint, I learned how to calculate it and learned ways to reduce it as well.

Upon my return to my job as a manager at Chick-Fil-A, I actually started incorporating some sustainable practices at our store. One is to recycle our foam cups, which are then used to create our plush cow toys.

My opportunity abroad also allowed me to participate in the 2014 Academy of International Business – Southeast Conference (AIB-SE) in Miami and COBA Research Day, where I won Best Paper and Presentation for an Undergraduate. I look forward to seeing what else sustainability can bring me.

▲ Devonte Cliett is a senior global logistics and international business major from Savannah, Ga.

CURRENT GRANT FUNDING *at* SSU

FUNDING AGENCY	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
American College Health Foundation	Jacqueline Awe
U.S. Department of Education	Dedra N. Andrews
U.S. Department of Education	Dedra N. Andrews
National Science Foundation	Chellu Chetty, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/NIBIB	Chellu Chetty, Ph.D.
Thurgood Marshall College Fund	Chellu Chetty, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation	Tara Cox, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Education	Mary Carla Curran, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration	Roenia Deloach, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/NIMHD	Cheryl D. Dozier, DSW
U.S. Department of Education/Armstrong State University	Francisco Duque
University System of Georgia Board of Regents	Francisco Duque
HBCU Library Alliance	Mary Jo Fayoyin
GA/Department of Natural Resources	Chandra Franklin, Ph.D.
GA/Department of Natural Resources	Chandra Franklin, Ph.D.
USA Funds	April Gentry, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Education	Gary Guillory, Ed.D.
University System of Georgia Board of Regents	Nat Hardy, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Defense/Office of Naval Research	Christopher Hintz, Ph.D.
NOAA/University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Dionne Hoskins, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/NIGMS	Cecil Jones, Ph.D.
Georgia Department of Education	Jonathan Lambright, Ph.D.
NASA/GA Tech	Jonathan Lambright, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation	Mulatu Lemma, Ph.D.
National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance	Reginald Leseane, Ed.D.
United Negro College Fund	Karla-Sue Marriott, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation	Keenya Mosley, Ph.D.
UGA/National Science Foundation	Mohamad Mustafa, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/SAMHSA/CSAP	Johnnie Myers, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation	Carol Pride, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation	Carol Pride, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Education	Zenobie Purnell
U.S. Department of Education	Bobby Roberts, Jr.
U.S. Department of Energy	Kenneth Sajwan, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health	Kai Shen, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Defense/Army Research Office	Kai Shen, Ph.D.
University of North Texas Health Science Center/National Institutes of Health	Kai Shen, Ph.D.
National Endowment for the Humanities	Robert Smith, Ph.D.
UGA/University System of Georgia Board of Regents	Robert Smith, Ph.D.
DHS/ ORISE	Larry Stewart, Ph.D.
Georgia Professional Standards Commission	Cora Thompson, Ed.D.
U.S. Department of Education	Tamara Waterman
American Chemical Society	Hua Zhao, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/NIGMS	Hua Zhao, Ph.D.
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation	Hua Zhao, Ph.D.

TOTAL CURRENT FUNDING

GRANT	DURATION	AWARD
Sexual Violence Prevention	2014-15	$2,500
Title III	2014-15	$3,178,986
SAFRA	2014-15	$1,073,036
MAGEC-STEM PLUS	2009-15	$2,138,394
Expanding Diversity in Engineering and the Physical Sciences	2011-15	$610,560
Consortium of Undergraduate STEM Success	2011-16	$5,000
Bridge to Research in Marine Sciences Research Experiences for Undergraduates	2012-15	$303,577
HBCU (Graduate) Coastal Ocean and Underwater Research to Advanced Graduate Education (COURAGE)	2009-15	$3,000,000
Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training	2014-17	$687,306
Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions	2009-15	$3,857,587
CAMINO Project	2012-15	$25,500
Somos Tigres College Transition Program	2014-16	$100,000
Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research in HBCUs	2014-15	$6,000
A Plan of Action to Assess the Extent of Damages Caused by Coastal Hazards to Marsh Vegetation	2013-15	$194,214
Cycle 17 A New Technology to Quantify and to Predict Loss or Recovery of Marsh Vegetation Using Rhizome Viability Index	2014-15	$134,591
Financial Literacy Experts Squad	2013-15	$25,000
Student Support Services	2010-15	$1,455,763
Closing the Gap Through Online Learning	2014-15	$24,926
Students Engaged in Naval STEM Research (SENSR)	2012-15	$173,309
Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center	2011-15	$1,461,135
MARC U-STAR Program	2012-17	$2,044,855
Enhancing the Ability of Middle School Educators to Improve Students' Achievement in Science	2014-16	$447,548
NASA Space Grant	2010-15	$51,000
Building Undergraduate Innovations in Lower Divisions in STEM	2009-15	$1,499,990
SuPERB- A Certificate Program	2014-15	$8,000
Countermeasures to Modulate and Augment the Immune System on the International Space Station	2013-15	$276,000
SSU/STC Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program	2014-19	$1,421,715
Strengthening the STEM Pipeline in the Peach State Recruitment, Retention, and Research (New Alliance)	2012-17	$600,000
'Get In The Know' HIV and Substance Abuse Awareness	2013-16	$900,000
GK-12 - Building Ocean Literacy in a Coastal Community	2009-15	$1,765,876
EDGE - Oceans of Opportunity	2009-15	$2,214,887
Educational Talent Search	2011-16	$2,197,030
Upward Bound	2013-18	$2,866,885
Environmental Justice, Community Education and Advisory Project	2013-17	$881,468
Metavinculin Regulation of Cell Cytoskeleton Remodeling in Response to Substrate Stiffness	2014-17	$296,692
MRI: Acquisition of a Raman Microscope for Interdisciplinary Research and Training	2014-17	$331,997
STAR Fellowship	2014-15	$10,000
Studying the African American Experience in Savannah and Southeast Georgia	2011-15	$99,929
NRC Foreign Language	2014-15	$6,000
Fighting Terrorism: A New Mission and Model for the 21st Century	2014-15	$45,400
Georgia Network for Transforming Educator Preparation Planning Award	2014-15	$10,000
GEAR UP DeRenne	2011-18	$2,800,000
Tailoring Ionic Liquids for Deep Desulfurization of Liquid Fuels by Oxidative Extraction	2015-18	$70,000
Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE)	2012-17	$1,131,545
Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award	2012-17	$60,000
		$40,494,201

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