

“The Department Welcomes Summer Interns”

Summer research is as strong as ever in the department. Our labs are buzzing with new energy this week as we welcome a brilliant cohort of summer research trainees to the department. These exceptional students are joining us from premier programs like INBRE, UAPB, and others to dive straight into hands-on discovery. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they launch their summer research journey!

“Zhy Powell”

Hi! My name is Zhy Powell, and I am a graduating senior at Philander Smith University, a first-generation scientist from Little Rock, Arkansas, raised by a single mother in a low-income household while most of my family is from Stuttgart, Arkansas. Being from a rural city in the south, no one in my family has a science or science-related background, so I had to build this career path by myself for the most part. Outside the lab, I love good superhero, sci-fi, & action: shows, movies, video games, and comics. I stay active by rollerblading, boxing, & going to the gym. I like watching football, basketball, & soccer. My favorite music genres are Hip-Hop, R&B, and Rock. Above all, I love my mom more than anything in the world, and everything I do is to make her proud.

Zhy will be working with the Basnakian Lab and they are excited for him to join the team. Say hi to Zhy when you see him in the hall!

“Aidan Zhao”

Hi! My name is Aidan Zhao, and I am originally from Little Rock, but these days you’ll find me navigating campus life at the University of Texas at Dallas. When I’m not buried in textbooks, I try to spend as much time as possible out in the fresh air. I’m a bit of an outdoor enthusiast, whether that means chasing down baseline volleys on the tennis court, getting my hands dirty in the garden, or packing up a backpack for a weekend of hiking and camping.

Aidan is a summer research trainee in the Leung Lab. Make sure to stop by and say hi when you get the chance!

“Aniyah Freeman”

Hi! My name is Aniyah Freeman, and I am an undergraduate student in the Department of Human Sciences at UAPB, majoring in the Nutrition and Food Science Program. I am excited to be here at UAMS and to learn the role of food and food-derived products in supporting human health. I would like to gain experience working with others and networking within the team. I am a recipient of the Alumni Endowment Scholarship and the 4-year Academic Challenge Scholarship. In my free time, I like to bake, cook, clean, and crochet yarn. Upon graduation, I plan to go to medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to study medicine, and my future career goal is to become a pediatrician.

Aniyah is supported by the USDA-NIFA awarded to Drs. Deva-
rajan and Mu, and she is working alongside postdoctoral fellow Dr. Yadav this summer. Say hi if you see Aniyah in the hall!

“June Department Breakfast”

The monthly department breakfast is back on Thursday, June 18th hosted by the Mu and Liu Labs! We are working on finalizing the location details (stay tuned to see if we’ll be inside or just outside of room B300), but the menu is already locked in. Come hungry for a fantastic spread featuring donuts, bagels and cream cheese, fresh fruit, yogurt, breakfast biscuits, a special sprouts dish, and even some homemade shakshuka! Wash it all down with fresh juice, coffee, or water.

See you there!