



Zaki Afshar

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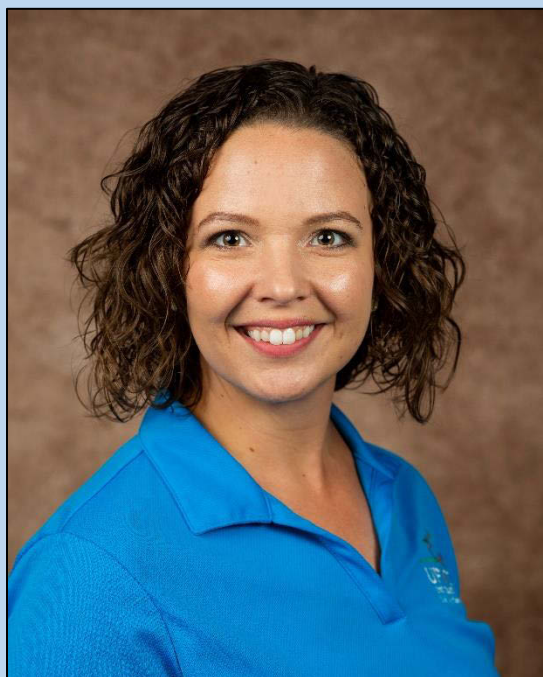
2019

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Graduate

Zaki Afshar is a Graduate Research Assistant and Master's candidate in the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Zaki's thesis research focuses on characterization of stripe rust resistance in the winter wheat variety Hatcher and genetic mapping of this resistance in a doubled haploid population. Zaki is phenotyping the population at Fort Collins as well as in collaboration with the USDA-ARS scientists in Rossville, KS and Pullman, WA.

Mentor: Don Jones, Cotton Inc.



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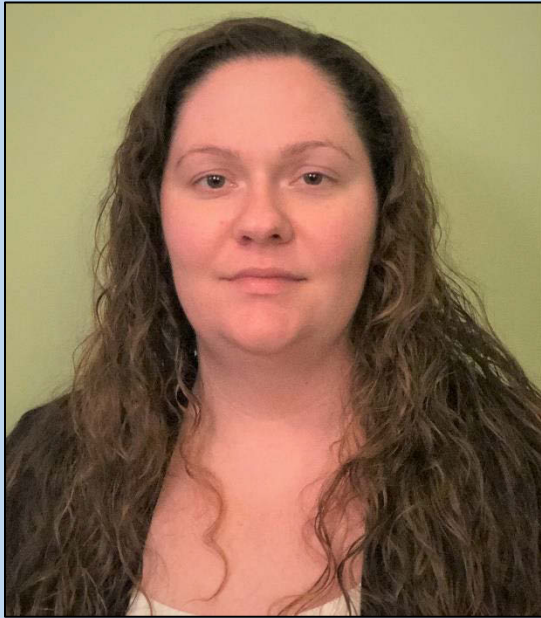
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Jessica Chitwood

Graduate

Jessica Chitwood is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida under the direction of Dr. Sam Hutton. Her research seeks to improve genetic resistance in tomato to Fusarium wilt using conventional and molecular breeding strategies with the goal of contributing to more productive tomato cultivars that require less chemical input by growers. Jessica also volunteers on campus and in community events such as school career days and plant breeding clinics for the home gardener.

Mentor: Sara Potts, Corteva



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Heather Manching

Graduate

Heather Manching is a PhD candidate at the University of Delaware studying under Dr. Randall Wisser. Her research focuses on the genomic response to artificial selection in maize for environment-specific flowering time adaptation. She received her B.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina in Wilmington, where she also completed her M.S. studying the relationship between phyllosphere diversity and multiple-stress response in maize.

Mentor: Klaus Koehler, Corteva



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Stephanie Sjoberg

Graduate

Stephanie Sjoberg is a PhD candidate in Dr. Arron Carter's winter wheat breeding program at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Her research focuses on understanding the genetic basis and relationship between preharvest sprouting and seedling emergence in winter wheat. She has received travel awards and invitations to present her research at several national conferences. Stephanie has led the organization of WSU's Plant Science Symposium for three years.

Mentor: Jennifer Yates, Bayer



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Daniel Sweeney

Graduate

Daniel Sweeney is a PhD candidate studying with Mark Sorrells at Cornell University. Daniel's research is focused on genomics-assisted breeding of two-row spring malting barley for the craft brewing industry in New York state. He is particularly interested in application of genomic selection to reduce breeding cycle time and the relationship between barley malting quality, pre-harvest sprouting resistance, and grain dormancy.

Mentor: David Bubeck, Corteva



Caio Canella Vierira

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Graduate

Caio Canella is a Master's student at the University of Missouri under Dr. Pengyin Chen's guidance. Caio studies the resistance of soybean to Southern Root-knot nematode. He is part of the University's soybean breeding program and has been involved in the release of several soybean cultivars. Caio is originally from Brazil, where he received his B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Sao Paulo. Caio's career goal is to transition to industry as a plant breeder after completion of his studies.

Mentor: JD Rossouw, Bayer



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Tannis Anderson

Undergraduate

Tannis Anderson is an undergraduate student attending the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, earning a bachelor's degree in Plant Science, focusing on plant breeding and genetics. She has been working in soybean breeding programs, including the University of Minnesota's soybean breeding program and breeding program at Brushvale Seed, a soybean breeding and producing company in Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Mentor: Arron Carter, WSU



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Adrienne Blakely

Undergraduate

Adrienne Blakey is a senior studying Plant and Soil Sciences and Agricultural Communications at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. She has served in multiple leadership roles in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the Student Government Association, community-led service initiatives, and has actively contributed to the wheat breeding research community. Adrienne hopes to combine her passions for science, education and food security in her future career.

Mentor: Jodi Scheffler, MSU



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Adam D'Angelo

Undergraduate

Adam D'Angelo is an undergraduate student double majoring in Plant Biology and Agriculture & Food Systems at Rutgers University. He is currently doing research with Dr. Thomas Molnar's hazelnut breeding lab, working on his Senior Honors Thesis, which will involve phenotyping Turkish and Latvian hazelnut germplasm and mapping the self-incompatibility alleles present in high profile individuals. Upon graduation, he plans to earn his PhD in Plant Breeding.

Mentor: Emilio Oyarzabal, Bayer



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Elizabeth De Meyer

Undergraduate

Elizabeth De Meyer is an undergraduate at Cornell University in the Plant Sciences major with a concentration in Plant Breeding and Genetics. She has completed summer internships at Cornell Agritech, in Geneva, New York, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, in St Louis, Missouri. Elizabeth will finish her Honors Thesis, upon graduating this fall, for her research in the Sorrells Lab on the fine mapping and characterization of kernel morphology loci in wheat.

Mentor: Barry Tillman, UFL



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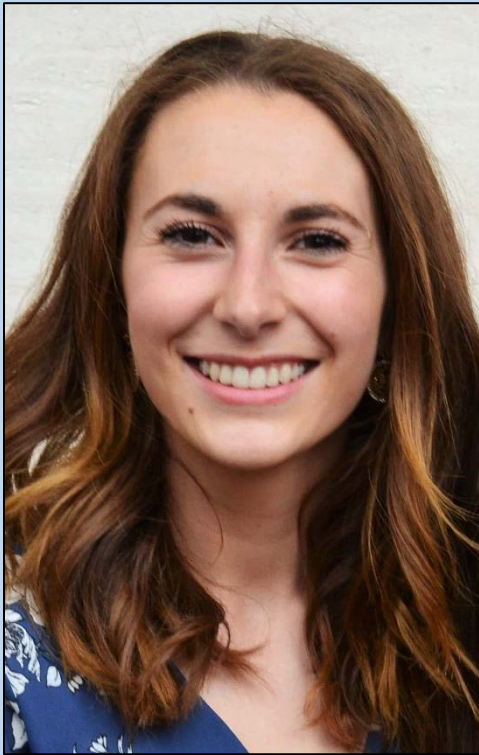
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Jordan Knapp-Wilson Undergraduate

Jordan Knapp-Wilson works as a research scientist in Tucson, AZ where he attends school. He collaborates with professors at the University of Arizona such as Dr. Duke Pauli, who researches crops such as cotton and sorghum. He has plans to continue working with professor Pauli over the summer. Their goal is to examine USDA cotton data entries from the past 35 years, showing a relationship between cotton improvements throughout time and their corresponding regions.

Mentor: Rosalyn Shim, TTU



Sarah Marsh

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Undergraduate

Sarah Marsh is a senior Plant and Environmental Soil Science major with a Plant Breeding minor from Texas A&M University. She is originally from a family farm in Northern California, where from a young age she became interested in agriculture and the ways in which it could be advanced. She is Chancellor of the Texas A&M University chapter of Alpha Zeta and Secretary of the Agronomy Society.

Mentor: Jane Dever, TAMU