



Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**IPBGG EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING
NINE NEW STUDENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER 2022:**



Danielle Essandoh

Ms. Danielle Essandoh is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022, working with Dr. Soraya Bertoli. Her duties include laboratory, greenhouse and field activities associated with screening wild derived peanut lines for various diseases, post-harvest seed evaluation, genetic analyses of segregating populations, and microscopic studies of fungal-plant interactions.

Danielle received her Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science from the University of Ghana (2017). She received her Master of Science degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems from Makerere University (2021).

Her previous employment experience includes a temporary teaching assistant position within the Crop Science department at the University of Ghana (2017-2018); and an internship position at Biotechnology Centre, Ghana Atomic Energy (2016).

Please welcome Danielle to our Institute. Her work space is located in CAGT Rm. 235, and her email is: Danielle.Essandoh@uga.edu.



Raegan Holton

Ms. Raegan Holton is a student in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022. Working with Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins, her research will focus on genetic factors that may reduce aflatoxin contamination of peanuts. Additionally, Raegan works as a researcher coordinator for Premium Peanut, overseeing research activities, as well as academic and industrial efforts/projects (2021-current).

Raegan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Georgia Southern University (2018). She received her Master of Science degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics at the University of Georgia (2021).

Her previous work experience includes an internship in plant sciences at Walt Disney World (2017), where she worked in hydroponic greenhouses and a biotechnology laboratory. While attending Georgia Southern University, Raegan worked in a transcriptomics analysis research project (2017). Let's welcome Raegan to our Institute. Her email address is: raegan.wiggins25@uga.edu.



Prasanna Kharel

Mr. Prasanna Kharel is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022. He began his research summer of 2022 with Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins. His duties entail participation in a peanut breeding program in all aspects: lab, greenhouse, and field research concerning the application of genomic and phenomic information in peanut crop improvement.

Prasanna received his Bachelor of Science degree from Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal (2017). He received his Master of Science degree in Agronomy from the University of Florida (2021).

Mr. Kharel's previous work experience includes a position as a Lab Technician at UF/IFAS, MFREC, Huo's lab (2021-2022); student OPS at West Florida Research and Education Centre-Weed Science Lab (2021); and a Graduate Research Assistant position at the University of Florida (2019-2021).

Let's welcome Prasanna to our Institute. His work space is located in NESPAL Rm. 213, Tifton Campus, and his email address is: P.Kharel@uga.edu



Amna Nazir

Ms. Amna Nazir is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022. She received an HEC Fellowship to support her studies at UGA, and she is working with Dr. Peng Chee. Her duties include research activities relating to cotton genomics and breeding.

Amna received her Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (2009). She also received her Master of Science degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (2011). She received an associate's degree in Science from the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Faisalabad (2005).

Ms. Nazir works as a Scientific Officer at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad under Govt. of Pakistan (2012-

Current).

Let's welcome Amna Nazir to our Institute. Her work space is located in NESPAL Rm. 306, Tifton Campus, and her email address is: Amna.Nazir@uga.edu.



Gema Nugraha

Mr. Gema Takbir Nugraha is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG M.S. program for 2022. He began his research with Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins during summer 2022. His duties in the peanut genetic improvement program include research in the lab, greenhouse, and field that involves experimental design, planting, plant maintenance, crossing, genotypic and phenotypic data collection and analysis, and communication of results.

Gema received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Pests and Diseases from Padjadjaran University (2015).

His previous work experience includes positions as a Graduate Research Assistant in plant pathology at the University of Georgia (2021-2022); a field research assistant at Sinar Mas Agro Resources and Technology (2019-2020); an agronomy administrative staff member at P.T. Condong Garut (2016-2019); and a grower assistant at American Color, Inc. (2017-2018).

Please welcome Gema to our Institute. His work space is located in NESPAL Rm. 306. His email address is: nugraha.gema@uga.edu.



Swikriti Pandey

Ms. Swikriti Pandey is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022, and she is working with Dr. Cecilia E. McGregor. Her duties include greenhouse, field, and laboratory research, as well as organizational tasks, in the cucurbit breeding program.

Ms. Pandey received her Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture at the Agriculture and Forestry University in Nepal (2017). She received her Master of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Georgia (2022).

Swikriti's work experience includes a position as an enterprise development officer through Shayata Samjick Sanstha, a local NGO funded by Oxfam International, (2018-2019). She also held internships with Zone Implementation Unit, Government of Nepal (2017) and N-Argo, Pharping, Nepal (2016-2017).

Please welcome Swikriti to our Institute. Her work space is located in Miller Plant Sciences Rm. 1102, and her email address is: Swikrit.Pandey@uga.edu.



Sameer Pokhrel

Mr. Sameer Pokhrel is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022, working with Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins and Dr. Justin Vaughn. His research activities entail participation in all aspects of the peanut genetic improvement program including research in the lab, greenhouse, and field.

Sameer received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences from the Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal (2017). He received his Master of Science degree in Horticultural Sciences from the University of Florida (2021).

His previous work experience includes positions at the University of Florida as an OPS worker (2021-present); a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Florida (2019-2021); as well as, a horticulture and agronomy instructor at Shree Raghunath Adarsha

Secondary School (2018).

Let's welcome Sameer to our Institute. His work space is located in CAGT Rm. 214, and his email address is: Sameer.Pokhrel@uga.edu.



Rachel Rackers

Ms. Rachel Rackers is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG M.S. program for 2022 working with Dr. Katrien Devos. Her research will entail the investigation of host genotypic effects on AMF synthesis.

Rachel received her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from North Carolina State University (2021).

Ms. Rackers' previous work experience includes a position as an undergraduate research assistant at North Carolina State University in the Plant and Microbial Biology Department (2022). She also worked at Lawndale Veterinary Clinic as a kennel assistant (2016).

Please welcome Rachel to our Institute. Her work space is located in Miller Plant Sciences Rm. 4509, and her email address is: Rachel.Rackers@uga.edu.



Iago Schardong

Mr. Iago Schardong is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022 working with Dr. Peng Chee. His duties entail researching cotton genomics and breeding focusing on host-plant resistance.

Iago received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology from the Federal University of Goias (2019). He also received his Master of Science degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Federal University of Goias (2022).

Mr. Schardong's previous work experience includes positions as an intern at the Plant Genetics and Genomics Laboratory of the School of Agronomy (2018-2019), and an assistant English teacher at Academia Washington-English School (2015).

Please welcome Iago to our Institute. His work space is located in NESPAL Rm. 306, Tifton Campus, and his email address is: iagosch@uga.edu.