



Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**IPBGG EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING
EIGHT NEW STUDENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2022:**



Brody Deaton

Mr. Brody Deaton is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Master's program for 2022 working with Dr. Paul Raymer. His duties include laboratory, greenhouse and field activities associated with turfgrass cultivar development and management research efforts.

Brody received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University (2021). His previous employment experience includes a temporary technical worker position at the Athens' Turfgrass Research and Education Center (2021); a warehouse position at Pennington Seed (2019-2020); summer camp counselor positions (2018-2019); as well as serving in several capacities for a landscaping and lawncare firm (2014-2016).

Please welcome Brody to our Institute, his work space is located at the Griffin campus Turfgrass Research and Education building, room number 222. His email is: Brody.Deaton@uga.edu.



Kamalpreet Kaur Dhillon

Ms. Kamalpreet Kaur Dhillon is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022. She is working with Dr. Brian Schwartz and her research entails working in Dr. Schwartz's turfgrass breeding program.

Kamalpreet Kaur received her Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology from Punjab Agricultural University (2019). She received her Master of Science degree in Plant and Soil Science from Texas Tech University (2020).

Her previous work experience includes a position as a research professional in Dr. Ozias-Akins' lab (2021); and a Graduate Research Assistant position at Texas Tech University (2019-2020).

Let's welcome Kamalpreet Kaur to our Institute, her work space is in NESPAL room 520, Tifton campus; her email address is: KamalpreetKaur.Dhillon@uga.edu.



Austin Hart

Mr. Austin Hart is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022. He is working with Dr. Esther van der Knaap and his research entails investigating the genetic bases of volatiles in ripe tomato fruit.

Austin received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Central Florida (2020).

Mr. Hart's previous work experience includes a position as a quality control lab technician at Edgewell (2020-2021); and positions with Publix (2014-2021). He served as a Plant Science lab volunteer (2019-2021) and completed an internship at Fleet Farming (2018).

Let's welcome Austin to our Institute from the IPS Program, his work space is in CAGT room 124; his email address is: Austin.Hart@uga.edu.



Anne Frances Jarrell

Ms. Anne Frances Jarrell is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022 working with Dr. Robin Buell on potato genetics and genomics. Her duties include characterizing the haplotype diversity in diploid potatoes as part of our Potato 2.0 project focused on converting potato from a tetraploid to a diploid, F1 hybrid crop. She will also be investigating the genetic basis of russeting, the feature of potato skins in the famous Russet Burbank potato, a spontaneous mutation observed over 120 years ago. Wild potato species are sources of adaptive traits and she will be characterizing a *Solanum microdontum* diversity panel to identify genetic sources of heat tolerance and resistance to the late blight pathogen.

Anne Frances received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (2021).

Ms. Jarrell's previous work experience includes a position as a research assistant in the Department of Biology at UNC (2019-2021). She also held a position as an animal husbandry assistant at UNC's Division of Comparative Medicine.

Let's welcome Anne Frances to our Institute from the IPS Program, her work space is located in the CAGT Building, room 248. Her email address is: Anne.Jarrell@uga.edu.



Daniel Matusinec

Mr. Daniel Matusinec is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022 working with Dr. David Bertoli. His duties in the Wild Peanut Lab include: gathering of phenotypic and genetic data, preparing nucleic acid samples, data compilation and analysis, the care of plants, controlled hybridizations, hybrid analyses & tetraploidization; as well as participation in laboratory, greenhouse and field experiments.

Daniel received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2019). He received his Master of Science degree in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics also from UW (2021).

His previous work experience includes various positions at UW-Madison's Department of Horticulture including a research assistant lab position (2018-2021). Daniel also worked for the university while pursuing his undergraduate degree.

Please welcome Daniel to our Institute, his work space is located at: CAGT, room 227. His email address is: Daniel.Matusinec@uga.edu.



Sakshi Pathania

Ms. Sakshi Pathania is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2022, and she is working with Dr. Dayton Wilde. Her duties include conducting molecular and tissue culture research with wild and domestic rose species. Her project will examine the resistance of two wild rose species to rose rosette virus, a pathogen fatal to domestic roses.

Ms. Pathania received her Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology from Punjab Agricultural University (2018). She received her Master of Science degree in Horticulture from the University of Georgia (2021).

Sakshi's work experience includes a position as a graduate research assistant in the Department of Horticulture at UGA (2018-2021). She also held a graduate teaching assistant position in UGA's Department of Horticulture (2019). Additionally, she completed several internships during her undergraduate studies.

Please welcome Sakshi to our Institute, her work space is located at: Miller Plant Sciences, room 1319. Her email address is: Sakshi.Pathania@uga.edu.



Bukhtaawer Talat

Ms. Bukhtaawer Talat is a student 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 research activities relate to cotton genomics and breeding focusing on host-plant resistance.

Bukhtaawer received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology from University of the Punjab (2018). She received her Master of Philosophy degree in Biological Sciences from the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (2020).

Her previous work experience includes several internship positions: The Halal Research Council, Nestle Pakistan Limited and the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (2017-2021).

Let's welcome Bukhtaawer to our Institute, her work space is in NESPAL room 222, Tifton campus; her email address is: Bukhtaawer.Talat@uga.edu.



Samantha Wegener

Ms. Samantha Wegener is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Master's program for 2022 working with Dr. Peng Chee. Her duties entail evaluation of QTLs from interspecific introgression for the improvement of cotton fiber quality.

Samantha received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriscience and Environmental Systems with Emphasis in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics from UGA (2021). She also received an Associates' Degree in Science from Technical College of the Lowcountry.

Ms. Wegener's previous work experience includes a position as a research assistant in Dr. Chee's lab, at which time she was also named a Borlaug Scholar (2020-2021); additionally, she held several other positions while pursuing her undergraduate studies. Please welcome Samantha to our Institute, her work space is located at: NESPAL Rm 222. Her email address is: Samantha.Wegener@uga.edu.