



# Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**IPBGG EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING  
NEW STUDENTS FOR SUMMER AND FALL SEMESTER 2019:**



## Lucy Bell

Ms. Lucy Bell is a Research Assistant in the PBGG Master's program for 2019. She is working with Dr. Wayne Parrott and Dr. Andrea Sweigart. Her duties include the development of tissue culture regeneration and transformation/genome editing for *Mimulus*.

Lucy received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Western Michigan University in 2018.

Ms. Bell's work experience includes positions as a research assistant for Native Traits (2017-2019) and most recently as a research assistant for Vestaron investigating transgenic expression of spider peptides in crops for protection from insects (2017-2019).

Lucy has been here this past summer working with Dr. Parrott but let's welcome Lucy Bell, again, to our Institute. Her work space is located at: CAGT room 141. Her email address is: [lucy.bell@uga.edu](mailto:lucy.bell@uga.edu).



## Gaurab Bhattarai

Mr. Gaurab Bhattarai is a Research Assistant in the PBGG Ph.D. program for 2019. He is working with Dr. Patrick Conner and his duties include literature review of pertinent background information for GBS mapping of quantitative traits in pecan, and phenotypic analysis of pecan scab resistance.

Mr. Bhattarai received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Tribhuvan University in 2016 and then his Master of Science in Biology from Missouri State University in 2019.

Gaurab's previous work experience includes his role as an agricultural officer for Action Nepal (2016-2017) and as a graduate teaching assistant for MSU (2017-2019) where he assisted in a genetics laboratory and a biology laboratory.

Gaurab is joining us at UGA all the way from Biratchowk, Nepal. Please welcome him to PBGG, his work space is located at: CAGT Room 248. His email is: [gbhattarai@uga.edu](mailto:gbhattarai@uga.edu).



## Vinavi Lakshman

Ms. Vinavi Lakshman is a Research Assistant in the PBGG PhD program for 2019. She is working with Dr. Melissa Mitchum and her duties entail studies on crop plant resistance to nematodes.

Vinavi received her Bachelors of Science in Plant Sciences from University of Colombo in 2013. In 2018, she received her Masters of Science in Biology from New Mexico State. She joined the Plant, Insect, and Microbial sciences PhD program at University of Missouri before she came to join us at UGA.

Ms. Lakshman's experience includes several teaching assistant roles for New Mexico State University, Open University of Sri Lanka, and University of Colombo. Vinavi also held a research assistant role at the University of Missouri for Dr. Mitchum.

Please welcome Vinavi to our Institute, her workspace is located at: CAGT Room 210. Her email is: [vinavilakshman@uga.edu](mailto:vinavilakshman@uga.edu).



## Natacha Namphengsone

Ms. Natacha Namphengsone is a Research Assistant in the PBGG Master's program for 2019. She is working with Esther van der Knaap and her duties entail work on tomato genetics and fruit shape variation.

Natacha received her Bachelors of Science in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Kansas in May 2019.

Ms. Namphengsone's work experience involves being a research assistant for the Hileman Lab on the *Penstemon* species where she performed independent research to contribute to the lab's overarching theme of exploring genetic mechanisms (2017-2019). Also, she served as a peer advisor for Kansas University (2016-2018), and as a student ambassador for the KU Undergraduate Advising Center (2016-2107).

Let's welcome Natacha from Kansas, to our wonderful Institute. Her work space is located at: CAGT Room 121. Her email is: [natnamph@uga.edu](mailto:natnamph@uga.edu).



## Jubilee Park

Ms. Jubilee Park is a Research assistant in the PBGG Master's program for 2019. She is working with Dr. Wayne Parrott and her duties include isolation of gene control elements out of bladderwort and validating them in soybean or other crops.

Ms. Park received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Emory University in August of 2018.

Jubilee's research experience includes her role as a Summer Undergraduate Fellow for C-CHEM2, an environmental health study at Emory in 2016, her participation in the Cornell Summer Scholars Program (2017), and her role as an undergraduate research assistant for Quave Microbiology Lab (2016-2018).

Jubilee joins us at UGA from her home in Decatur. Please welcome her to our Institute, her work space is located at: CAGT Room 141. Her email is: [jubilee.park25@uga.edu](mailto:jubilee.park25@uga.edu).





## Divya Sharma

Mr. Divya Sharma is a Research Assistant in the PBGG PhD program for 2019. He is working with Dr. Peng Chee and his duties entail elucidation of genes conferring fiber quality and/or disease resistance in cotton.

Mr. Sharma received his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Agricultural in May of 2009. Since then he has gotten a Master of Science in Plant Breeding and Genetics.

Divya's experience includes working as a Research Officer for DuPont Pioneer in Gujarat (2013-2015). During his time at Auburn University, Divya worked as a Research Assistant for Rao's Lab (2018), a Crew Member for the university's community garden (2018-2019), and as a Student Worker for Dr. Koebernick's Lab (2019).

Divya arrived at UGA this summer from Auburn, AL. Please welcome him to our Institute, his work space is located at: NESPAL on the Tifton Campus. His email address is: DivyaBhanu.Sharma@uga.edu.



## Chandler Sprueill

Mr. Chandler Sprueill is a Research Assistant in the PBGG MS Program for 2019. He is working with Dr. Scott Jackson and his duties include research on an NSF-funded project to define regulatory elements in several legume genomes and comparison of these data sets for evolutionary signatures of conserved regulation.

Mr. Sprueill received his Bachelor of Science in Botany from Oregon State University in June of 2019.

Chandler's experience includes working as a Student Technical Assistant for OSU Forest Ecosystems and Society (2016-2017) and for USDA ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit (2018). He has also volunteered at the Clean Water Services in Oregon to educate visitors and customers of CWS's role in the community (2016-2017).

Chandler arrived at UGA this summer from Corvallis, Oregon. Please welcome him to our Institute, his work space is located at: CAGT Room 248. His email address is: cms41284@uga.edu.