

NEW COLLEGE

THE LEVITETZ
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Innovation Day

Friday, March 22, 2024

The University of Alabama
College of Arts & Sciences

New College
201 Lloyd Hall
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Welcome and Lunch	11:30-12:00	LY 226
Guest Speaker: Professor Jennifer Caputo 2023 Faculty Leadership and Innovation Award Recipient		
Light Bulb Research Presentations	12:00-1:00	LY 226
Photographs	1:15-1:30	
Seed Grant Presentations	1:30-4:45	
Creative Activities		LY 328
Social Entrepreneurship: Group A		LY 119
Social Entrepreneurship: Group B		LY 120
For-Profit		LY 132
Large Grants		LY 226
Awards Ceremony	5:00	LY 226

GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Jennifer Caputo

Recipient of the 2023 Faculty Innovation
& Leadership Award



Jennifer Caputo is a Senior Instructor in New College and New College LifeTrack at the University of Alabama. She has a Bachelor of Music degree from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, CUNY (City University of New York) and a Master of Arts in Music (ethnomusicology) from Tufts University. She completed Ph.D. coursework and qualifying exams in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University.

Her teaching and performing interests integrate music, dance, creativity in the arts, cultural studies, festivals, arts activism, and community engagement. She strives to incorporate experiential learning opportunities in all her face-to-face and online courses. She thoroughly enjoys introducing traditional-age students on campus and non-traditional students in NCLT to creativity and the arts.

Professor Caputo has been a Blount Senior Fellow since 2020 and designed a Music and Culture in West Africa seminar that functions as a hybrid academic and ensemble course for undergraduates in the Blount Scholars Program. She also regularly works with the UA Percussion Studio as a guest artist and directs a Ghanaian drumming piece each fall during their percussion ensemble concert. Caputo has collaborated with local therapists over the past few years, facilitating therapeutic drumming sessions at the Women and Gender Resource Center and has an upcoming collaboration with the Tuscaloosa SAFE Center.

Professor Caputo is fortunate to have studied world percussion with several outstanding musicians, including Abraham Adzenyah, Emmanuel Agbeli, Robert Levin, Valerie Naranjo, David Locke, Glen Velez, Allesandra Belloni, Raffaele Inserra, Michael Lipsey, David Nelson, I.M. Harjito, Barry Drummond, and Sumarsam. When working with her students, she strives to emulate the same energy and passion her teachers exhibited as she was learning about music, dance, and culture from various geographic areas.

LIGHT BULB PRESENTATIONS



Benjamin Trost

Troubled Waters: Pollution in the Black Warrior River

Rylen Dempsey

Lowering the Threshold: A Lesson on Campus Belonging

Addison Miller

What Can Heritage Language Learners Tell Us about Language

Noah Jacobs

Using Satellite Imagery and AI to Build Climate Resiliency amongst Alabama Smallholder Farmers

**SEED GRANT PRESENTATIONS
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Moderator: Professor Holland Hopson

Ekaterian Menkins & Vera Amezua	1:30
Mary Ruth Payne	1:45
Mateo Chaney-Martinez	2:00
Maziyar Derakshani	2:15
Oluwafunmilayo Akinpelu & Candice Fairchild	2:30
Kanyinsola Olorunnisola	2:45
Judges Confer	3:00

Individual Conferences with Presenters

Menkins & Amezua	3:30
Payne	3:45
Chaney-Martinez	4:00
Derakshani	4:15
Apkinpelu & Fairchild and Olosunnisola	4:30

SEED GRANT PRESENTATIONS
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: GROUP A

Moderator: Professor Amy Pirkle

Ariah Bashir	1:30
Harsh Kathiriya	1:45
Utkarsh Choudhury	2:00
Nathaniel Shannon IV	2:15
Karim Panjawani et al	2:30
Judges Confer	2:45

Individual Conferences with Presenters

Bashir	3:15
Kathiriya	3:30
Choudhury	3:45
Shannon	4:00
Panjawani et al	4:15

**SEED GRANT PRESENTATIONS
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: GROUP B**

Moderator: Dr. Vincent Willis

Jeremiah Cooper	1:30
Matthew Snyder	1:45
Rylen Dempsey	2:00
Victoria Laub	2:15
Venus Watson	2:30

Judges Confer	2:45
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Individual Conferences with Presenters

Cooper	3:15
Snyder	3:30
Dempsey	3:45
Laub	4:00
Watson	4:15

LY 132

**SEED GRANT PRESENTATIONS
FOR-PROFIT**

Moderator: Professor John Miller

Cynthia Hannold	1:30
Mohit Mujawdiya	1:50
Sophie Herrera	2:10
Tamya Morris	2:30

Judges Confer	2:50
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Individual Conferences with Presenters

Hannold	3:15
Mujawdiya	3:30
Herrera	3:45
Morris	4:00

LY 226

SEED GRANT PRESENTATIONS
LARGE GRANT

Moderator: Dr. Julia Cherry

Chandler Olson & Emma Torija	1:30
Dania Botello et al	1:45
James White	2:00
Raj Patel	2:15
Trina Locklear	2:30
Judges Confer	2:45

Individual Conferences with Presenters

Olson & Toria	3:15
Botello et al	3:30
White	3:45
Patel	4:00
Locklear	4:15



**SEED GRANT
JUDGES
CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES
DIVISION**

**Andrew Dewar
Karen Brummund
Tiffany Amirkhanian**



Andrew Dewar

Dr. Andrew Raffo Dewar is a composer, soprano saxophonist, electronic musician, and ethnomusicologist whose music spans the spectrum of through-composed music, aleatoric or algorithmic composition, electroacoustic music, and open improvisation. He studied with experimentalist composers/performers Steve Lacy, Anthony Braxton, Alvin Lucier, and Bill Dixon, and has performed regularly in Braxton's ensembles since 2005.

Recent work includes original music for his ensembles in San Francisco, New York City, and Hamburg, music for film, compositions incorporating ethnographic interviews, biofeedback, and installations and performances utilizing 3D spatial audio.

He has also published ethnographic writing on 1970s intermedia art in Argentina during a military dictatorship, 1960s electronic music collective the Sonic Arts Union, and philosophical issues of ontology in jazz performance and music technologies.



Karen Brummund

Karen Brummund is a visual artist making site-specific installations and researching aesthetic ways to create dialogue in public space. Brummund's artwork has been commissioned by individuals and organizations around the world, including Pezo von Ellrichshausen Architects in Chile, the Sirius Art Centre in Ireland, and the Brady Art Centre in London. She created architectural installations for museums like the Burchfield Penney Art Center and the Everson Museum of Art as well as festivals like Atlanta Celebrates Photography and Digital Graffiti in Alys Beach. Grants from organizations like the Experimental Television Center, NYSCA, Cornell Council for the Arts, and the Alabama State Council for the Arts enable her to create community-based art projects outside of art institutions.

She received an artist fellowship in Architecture and Environmental Art from New York Foundation for the Arts and is a finalist for the 2023 Laguna Art Prize in Venice, Italy. Most recently, Brummund has been researching hospitality and play as modes of art interpretation through an artist residency in an elementary school and through her long term project "Lines Between."



Tiffany Amirkhanian

Tiffany Amirkhanian is a local business owner (Druid City Makerspace) and stained-glass artist. Her passion for craftsmanship and community engagement has made her a respected figure in the local art scene. Through Druid City Makerspace, she fosters creativity and skill-sharing, providing a vibrant hub for artists and makers in her community.

SEED GRANT JUDGES

SOCIAL

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DIVISION

Group A:

Martha Grace Mize

Nicole Dugat

Cristy Moody

Group B:

Rachel Naftel Mosness

Karen Thompson-Jackson

Lane McLelland



Martha Grace Mize

Martha Grace Mize is the Alabama Scenic River Trail's Development and Outreach Coordinator, managing the organization's statewide fundraising and communication efforts. She has dedicated her career to promoting and improving Alabama communities. With years of expertise in nonprofit fund development and PR,

Mize also holds two masters' degrees in Anthropology and Southern Studies focusing on rural Alabama economic development from the University of Mississippi. She has worked in Alabama nonprofits in Perry, Tuscaloosa, Shelby, and Madison counties, as well as with nonprofits in Mississippi, working to increase communication across different audiences and bring new resources and ideas to organizations across Alabama. A Tuscaloosa native but Huntsville resident, Mize believes in the power of communities and grassroots efforts to create positive and lasting impacts on the state she calls home.



Nicole Dugat

Nicole Gelb Dugat serves as the Executive Director of Schoolyard Roots, an education non-profit that brings learning to life through hands-on teaching gardens located at twelve Tuscaloosa-area elementary schools. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Dugat has called Tuscaloosa home since 2016. She holds a degree in Experiential & Environmental Education from Western Washington University and has worked in non-profit Food & Garden Education programs for over 15 years. This work has taken her across the country, including to Common Threads Teaching Farm in Bellingham, Washington, Land's Sake Community Farm in Weston, Massachusetts and The Edible Schoolyard in New Orleans, LA.

She was named one of Tuscaloosa's "40 under 40" in 2020 and has received recognition from the Alabama News Center as an "Alabama Bright Light" for her work with Schoolyard Roots. She is also a certified yoga teacher, an amateur artist, and a mom to two small children. Her favorite things to do are to spend time in her garden with her husband and kids, cook shared meals with home-grown produce, and laugh with her family and friends.



Cristy Moody

Cristy Moody has worked in the nonprofit sector her entire professional career. For the last 26 years, she has served in various nonprofit roles including volunteer coordination, program development, donor relations and strategic planning, culminating in her current position as Executive Vice President of the Walker Area Community Foundation.

Originally from Jasper, Alabama, Moody graduated from Birmingham Southern College with a degree in Psychology. She started her career as a traveling consultant for a national women's organization. Upon completing her travels, she worked with a youth service organization before returning home to Jasper to settle into her career. She began working for the Walker Area Community Foundation in 2001.

Moody is currently a board member of Main Street Alabama and a member of both the Community Initiatives Committee and Early Learning Network of the United Way of Central Alabama. She is a graduate of Leadership Walker County and serves as a facilitator for Youth Leadership Walker County. She has served on the boards of the Jasper Public Library, Walker County Arts Alliance, and Jasper Main Street's Economic Vitality Committee. She is a current member of the Personnel Committee at Jasper's First Baptist Church. She is married to Lincoln Moody and has two sons, Mack (21) and Miller (17).



Rachel Naftel Mosness

Rachel Naftel Mosness is the executive director of the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. The Mathews Center works to strengthen civic life in all 67 Alabama counties and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization located in Montevallo, Alabama. In her role as director, she convenes and moderates deliberative public forums, hosts reporting-out events, conducts moderator and convener training workshops, and assists with the development of youth leadership and community engagement opportunities.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mosness graduated from Auburn University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and from the American Graduate School in Paris in 2015 with a Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy. She was the program and event coordinator at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University.



Karen Thompson-Jackson

Dr. Karen Thompson-Jackson has served as the Executive Director for Temporary Emergency Services for 31 years. She also serves on the Tuscaloosa City School Board, representing District 1. Thompson-Jackson is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and has served in leadership positions in many community organizations and boards, including the Tuscaloosa Junior League, the West Alabama Homeless Committee, Community Services of West Alabama, and the Phoenix House. She received her bachelor and master degrees in social work from The University of Alabama. She earned her Ph.D. in 2019 from the University of Alabama, College of Education, Social and Cultural Studies. Thompson-Jackson is an adjunct instructor for the School of Social Work and a member of the Tuscaloosa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated.



Lane McLelland

Dr. Lane Busby McLelland is the executive director of the Crossroads Civic Engagement Center in the Division of Community Affairs at The University of Alabama (UA). She has worked for over 30 years, both inside and outside of higher education, to foster and develop individual and community capacity for working across social, religious, and political differences. McLelland directs initiatives on campus and in the broader community to advance skills for civic dialogue and to enhance voter education and participation. Her classes and research currently focus on civic leadership development and the design and implementation of campus and community models for more effective civic learning and democratic engagement.



**SEED GRANT
JUDGES
FOR PROFIT
DIVISION**

**Lin Moore
Erica Grant
Amanda Hahn**



Lin Moore

Marlin D. “Lin” Moore, III, a New College graduate, is the chairman and head of insurance division of Pritchett-Moore. He is the 2005 recipient of the Charles Land Member of the Year Award and the 2010 Distinguished Service Award, both given by the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. He is very active in the Tuscaloosa community, serving as a current chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority, a board director for the Boys and Girls Club and The United Way, a board member of the Community Foundation of West Alabama, and member of The University of Alabama President’s Cabinet.



Erica Grant

Erica Grant is a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She is a serial entrepreneur. Grant is the owner of The Charm District, a business incubator that houses three businesses: Charming Kreations Salon, Thrifty Charm Boutique, and Eggie's Kreative Studio. She is co-owner with husband, David Grant, of Catch of Taste. Grant is an adjunct professor at Stillman College. She is the mother of five children; she has two grandchildren. She absolutely loves reading, research, shopping and serving in her community.



Amanda Hahn

Amanda Raey Hahn is the owner and founder of Sweetthang's Custom Cakes and More, LLP, a bespoke cakery located in the heart of downtown Tuscaloosa. With 5 years in business and 20+ years of experience in the kitchen, she has helped create sweet, edible memories not only in Tuscaloosa, but throughout the state of Alabama and the southeast. She has been published in Southern Bride Magazine, The Southern Lady Cooks Magazine, Willow and Pine Wedding Magazine, The Bridal Directory, and several website publications. Her aim is to offer that "once in a lifetime culinary experience" every single time. It's never just cake; it's love in edible form.



**SEED GRANT
JUDGES
LARGE
GRANT
DIVISION**

**Jim Trotter
Dan Daly
Chapman Greer**



Jim Trotter

Jim Trotter is President of the Ballistic Panel Startup, PAKSHIELD. PAKSHIELD is a transferrable and flexible Ballistic Insert that meets NIJ IIIA (3A) Standards and is designed to easily fit into most backpacks, messenger bags, and briefcases to help protect you and your loved ones in the case of an active shooter occurrence. Trotter also serves as Vice President of Development and Marketing for the Walker Area Community Foundation. Previously he served as Live Nations Director of Sponsorship and Premium Seat Sales overseeing the Alabama and Mississippi markets. He is a proud New College graduate with a Depth Study title of "Managing and Promoting the Entertainment Industry." He has vast expertise and experience in both vocal and piano performance. Having been the first Alabamian to attend the GRAMMY Foundation's GRAMMY Camp, Trotter has performed on many stages across the country and is currently on the Board of Directors for the GRAMMY Museum in Cleveland, Mississippi.



Dan Daly

Dr. Dan Daly is the former Director of the Alabama Innovation and Mentoring of Entrepreneurs Center. He has 17 years of experience in the fuel and lubricant businesses. Daly has won several awards, including the Nortech Top 50 Industrial Innovation Award for Northeast Ohio, R&D Magazine Top 100 Industrial Innovation Award, and ACS Environmental Industrial Innovation Award. Daly has a Ph.D. in Physical-Organic Chemistry from the University of Florida, Gainesville.



Chapman Greer

Dr. Chapman Greer is Associate Provost for General Education and served as the 2021-2023 Faculty Senate President. She received her MLIS in Library Information Sciences and her Ph.D. in English, both from The University of Alabama. Her current research focuses on application-based educational practices in project management, data visualization, and privacy calculus in digital communications.

LIGHT BULB RECIPIENTS



Benjamin Trost



Rylen Dempsey



Addison Miller



Noah Jacobs

SEED GRANT PRESENTERS CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



**Ekaterian Menkins &
Vera Amezcua**



**Mary Ruth
Payne**



**Mateo
Chaney-Martinez**



**Maziyar
Derakshani**



**Oluwafunmilayo
Apkinpelu**



**Candice
Fairchild**



**Kanyinsola
Olorunnisola**

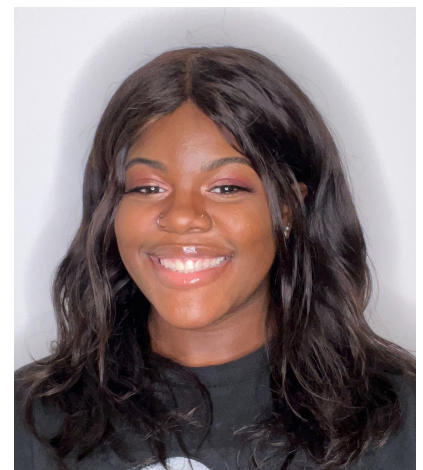
SEED GRANT PRESENTERS

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: GROUP A



Ariah Bashir

**Eoin O'Hearn
Josie Gillette
Karim Panjawani
Lizz Washington**



Harsh Kathirya



Nathaniel Shannon IV



Utkarsh Choud

SEED GRANT PRESENTERS

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: GROUP B



Matthew Snyder



Jeremiah Cooper



Victoria Laub



Venus Watson



Rylen Dempsey

SEED GRANT PRESENTERS FOR-PROFIT DIVISION



Cynthia Hannold



Mohit Mujawdiya

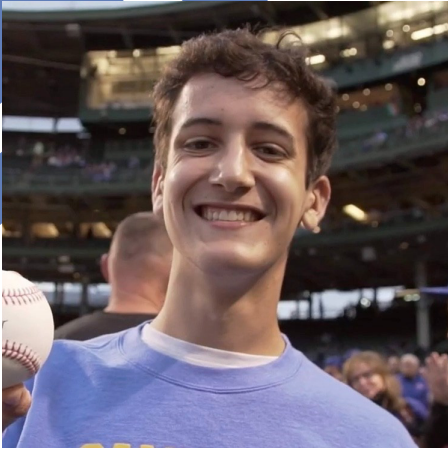


Sophie Herrera



Tamyia Morris

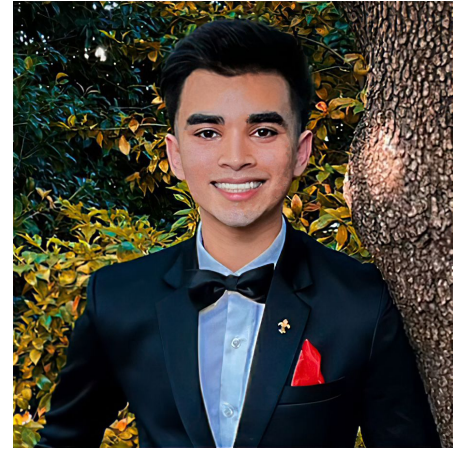
SEED GRANT PRESENTERS LARGE GRANT DIVISION



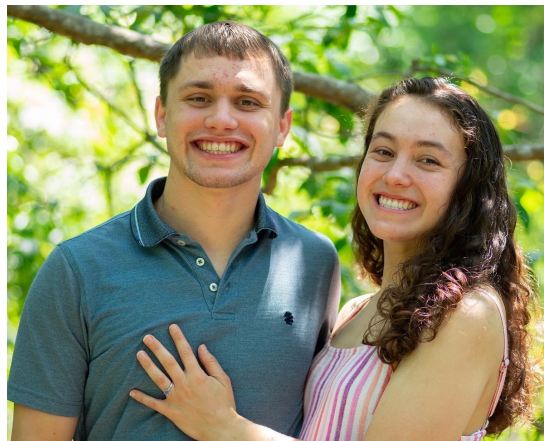
James White



Trina Locklear



Raj Patel



Chandler Olson & Emma Torija



Dania Botello



Delanie Williams



Rilyn Todd

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

JEFF LEVITETZ

Our Judges:

Tiffany Amirkhanian

Karen Brummund

Dan Daly

Andrew Dewar

Nicole Dugat

Erica Grant

Chapman Greer

Amanda Haun

Lane McLelland

Martha Grace Mize

Cristy Moody

Lin Moore

Rachel Mosness

Karen Thompson-Jackson

Jim Trotter

Our Staff & Student Workers

Ta'Kyla Bates

Will Belmonte

Jamilah Cooper

Olivia Goble

Tanner Jones

Jennifer Kunz

Jenna Lewis

Marlie Thompson

Levitetz Leadership Advisory Committee

Natalie Adams, Coordinator

Julia Cherry

Holland Hopson

John Miller

Amy Pirkle

Vincent Willis