

Career Day!

Sarah Bouthillier

Research Project Coordinator



Vanderbilt
University
Social
Cognition
Lab

Research Project
Coordinator for
Vanderbilt
University/Meharry
Medical College CARE
Study

NEXT EXIT

Ph.D. in Psychology

Class of 2023
B.S. in
Psychology,
Minor in Legal
Studies

Current Role: “I am the Project Coordinator for the CARE Study, a collaboration between Vanderbilt University and Meharry Medical College. In this role, I oversee study recruitment, IRB management, data collection, and inter-institutional communication, while also managing budgets, grants, and participant payments. I supervise and mentor undergraduate and master’s students, coordinate research devices (like Apple Watches, TotTags, and LENAs), and ensure the smooth day-to-day functioning of the lab. I am also working on applying for a PhD in psychology and MFT programs!”

Journey to her career: “I started my academic journey at Belmont University, where I discovered my passion for psychology through classes, leadership opportunities, and hands-on research experiences at Vanderbilt and practicum sites. During undergrad, I worked on several projects in social and personality psychology and got early experience mentoring peers, serving as a teaching assistant, and holding leadership roles on campus. I graduated a little early, in December 2023, with my B.S. in Psychology and continued building my research and management skills at Vanderbilt—first in the Social Cognition Lab and now as Project Coordinator for the CARE Study, a collaboration between Vanderbilt and Meharry Medical College. In this role, I oversee participant recruitment, data management, IRB protocols, grant reporting, and supervise undergraduate and master’s students, while also managing our research devices. These experiences have not only strengthened my interests in relationship and developmental science but also given me the chance to grow as a mentor and team leader. Looking ahead, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology to continue exploring attachment, stress, and close relationships.

Maya Kiev

Masters in Strategic Communication and
Leadership



Maya graduated from Belmont in 2023 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology and with a Public Health Minor. She has worked as an Entomology Lab Assistant and a Surgical Assistant for an Organ Donor Company. Currently, she is in a Master's Program working towards getting a Master's in Strategic Communication and Leadership.

Marie Prepit

Program Coordinator-Bringing Books to Life



Preschool
Teacher

Preschool
Administrator

Currently:
Nashville Public
Library Program
Coordinator

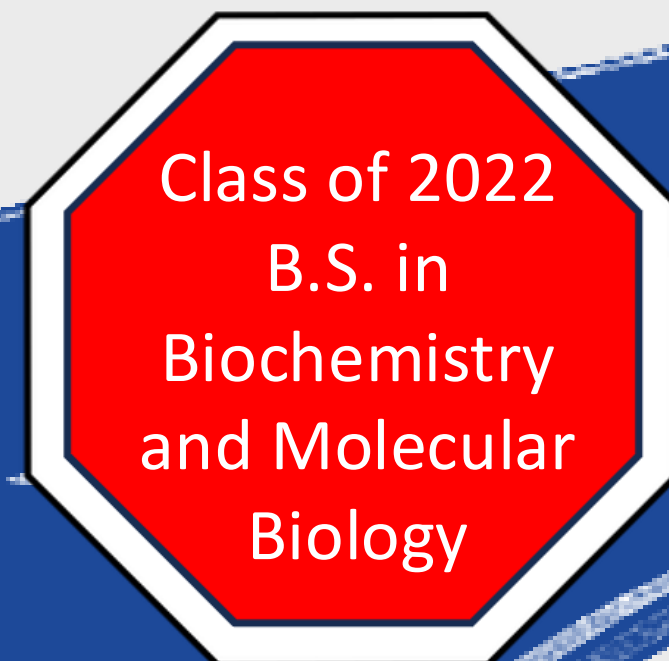
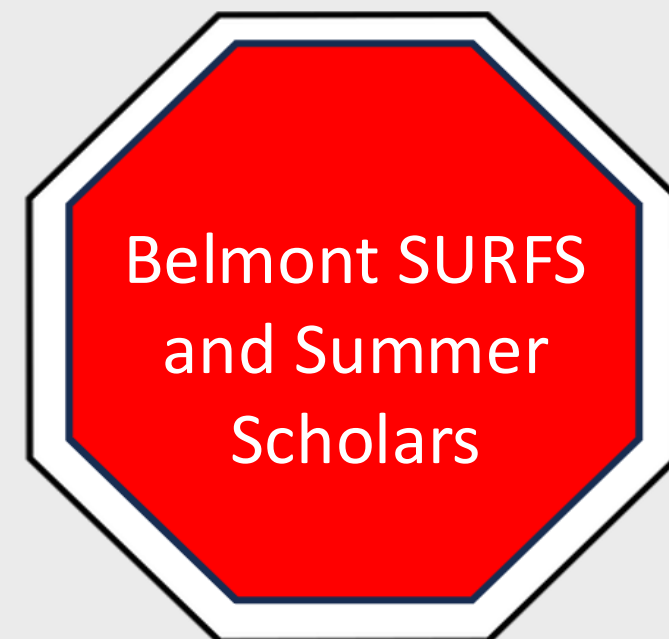
Class of 2013
B.S. in
Psychology with
a Minor in
Spanish

Current Role: "Marie Prepit currently serves as the Program Coordinator for Nashville Public Library's award-winning early literacy outreach program Bringing Books to Life. She coordinates day-to-day programming, partner relations, data collection, and outcome reporting. She also conducts story times, teacher trainings, and workshops for parents, all while supervising part-time outreach assistants."

Journey to Career: "Upon graduation, I taught preschool for 3 years before moving into an administrative role at an area preschool. After serving as an administrator for 3 years, I began my current role at Nashville Public Library. I have served in my current role since January 2020."

Anna Gray

4th Year MD Student



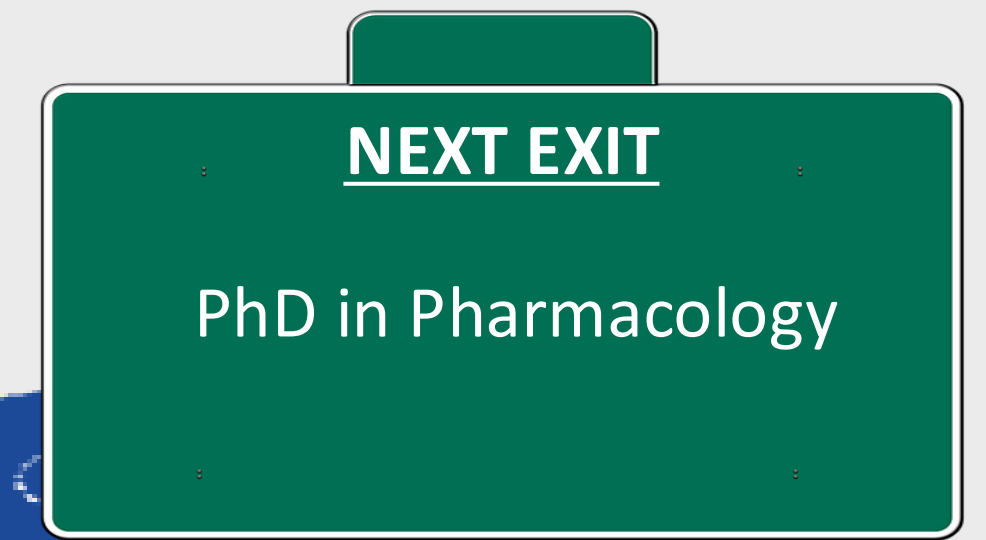
Current Role: "As a 4th year medical student, I have completed core clinical rotations in various specialties, where I work alongside doctors and healthcare teams to learn patient care, and am now completing rotations in the specialty I'll be applying to residency in. My responsibilities include taking patient histories, performing physical exams, assisting with procedures, and presenting cases to supervising physicians. I also spend time studying and preparing for residency!"

Journey to Medical School: "I've wanted to be a physician since I was young, so I structured my education to reach that goal. I majored in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, which prepared me for the MCAT and medical school, while also gaining research experience through SURFS and Summer Scholars — including publishing on drug repurposing with Dr. Barton. I worked as a CNA at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, which confirmed my passion for medicine. At UTHSC, I've continued to build on leadership, mentorship, and service opportunities. During third year, I fell in love with OB/GYN, and now as a fourth-year I'm completing audition rotations in the specialty and applying for residency this fall."



Rachelle Larivee

Second Year PhD Student



Current Role: "I'm a second-year PhD student studying the neural mechanisms of addiction. Beyond coursework, I spend most of my time in the lab investigating how alcohol activates sensory neurons and influences reward pathways. My long-term goal is to uncover mechanisms that could inform new treatments for alcohol use disorder."

Journey to Career: Rachelle was a research assistant for 2 years and worked in the service industry.

Sierra Sherma

Aquatic and Wetland Biologist



Intern for TDOT

M.S. in
Environmental
Science;
Internship at
Shedd Aquarium

Class of
2020
B.S. in
Environmental
science

NEXT EXIT

Aquatic and Wetland
Biologist

Current Role: "Sierra Sherman samples for benthic macroinvertebrates, delineates wetlands, performs hydrologic determinations and writes technical reports for clients."

Journey to Career: "I was thrown into the professional field in the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, so I have had a lot of job uncertainty and worry. I worked as an intern for TDOT during my final year at Belmont, and this is where I found my passion for wetlands. Since it was hard to find a job during COVID, I went back to school to get my MS in Environmental Science and make connections with people. I did an internship in my graduate program with the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago where I studied benthic macroinvertebrates. I have always been a huge fan of entomology, so I wanted to find a career that would incorporate my love for wetlands and insects. I worked through a lot of difficult jobs over the last couple of years to make it to where I am now. I think it would be nice to discuss with the students how hard the path can be, but with drive and passion, you can make it into a career that is fulfilling."

Ben Miner

Senior Software Engineer



Freelance AP
Developer for a
Belmont
Professor

Employed at
Aloompa –
Belmont Alum
Company

Currently:
Software
Engineer

Class of 2019
Audio
Engineering and
Computer
Science

Journey to Career: Ben worked as a freelance ap developer for a Belmont professor, got his first job at Aloompa (Belmont Alum company), and then transitioned more to cloud+infra focus as apart of being a founding engineer for a startup.

Current Role: "Managing cloud infrastructure; optimizing CI pipelines, and creating developer tooling for internal use."

Heather Pickard

Real-Time Systems Analyst



Internship at
TVA (Tennessee
Valley Authority)
summer before
senior year

Earning a job
at TVA upon
graduation as
an A-level
analyst

MS in
Cybersecurity
at Liberty
University

NEXT EXIT

Corporate lead for TVA
Nuclear Cybersecurity
team

Class of 2010
B.S. in Computer
Science with a
minor in
Mathematics

Current Role: "I am the corporate lead for the TVA Nuclear Cyber Security team. We develop policies, perform assessments, conduct monitoring, apply cybersecurity controls, and maintain regulatory compliance for the digital assets related to TVA's 7 nuclear reactors."

Journey to Systems Analyst: "I had an internship at TVA the summer before my senior year at Belmont. I maintained the internship during Christmas break and had a job offer waiting for me upon graduation. I started at TVA as an A-level analyst and I've worked my way up through B-level and C-level (specialist) positions. Now I am the D-level (lead) for the fleet center team. I've been with TVA for 15 years and part of their Nuclear Cyber Security program since its inception."



T. Shardé Curry

Keynote Speaker and Small Business
Consultant

NEXT EXIT

Keynote Speaker and
Founder/CEO of Manna
Enterprises

Cashier to
General
Manager at
Pancake Pantry
for 14 years

Earned Youth and
Adult Mental
Health First
Certification and
Event Planning
Certification

Founder and
CEO of Piece of
Minds Event
Planning
Company

Class of 2008
Bachelors in
Psychology

Current Role: "I travel the world as a keynote speaker, sharing hope on how I overcame suicide loss after losing my mom. When I am not speaking, I work as a small business consultant under my company, Manna Enterprises."

Journey to Career: "I began my career with 14 years in the restaurant industry, working from a cashier to the GM at Pancake Pantry. I developed a love for hospitality, so I sold my event planning company after 5 years. Working for only small businesses and having my own, led me to become a small business coach to help other owners succeed. In my personal life, I lost my mom to suicide in 2021, which led me to become a keynote speaker on mental health and suicide prevention. I am an author and podcast host as well. All of these experiences have made me who I am today. Every path in my career used my Psychology degree as I studied the behavior of people, and it really helped me advance. My goal in college was to become an Organizational Psychologist. Despite not getting my Master's in this, life taught me those skillsets!"

Amanda Martinez

Senior Digital Marketing Analyst



Worked in a chemical toxicology lab leading up to a certifying scientist for 6 years

Started working in customer service quality assurance, which led up to pursuing analytics

Became a Business Intelligence Analyst for a few years

NEXT EXIT
Senior Digital Marketing Analyst for three years

Class of 2010
B.S. in Biology
with a minor in
Chemistry

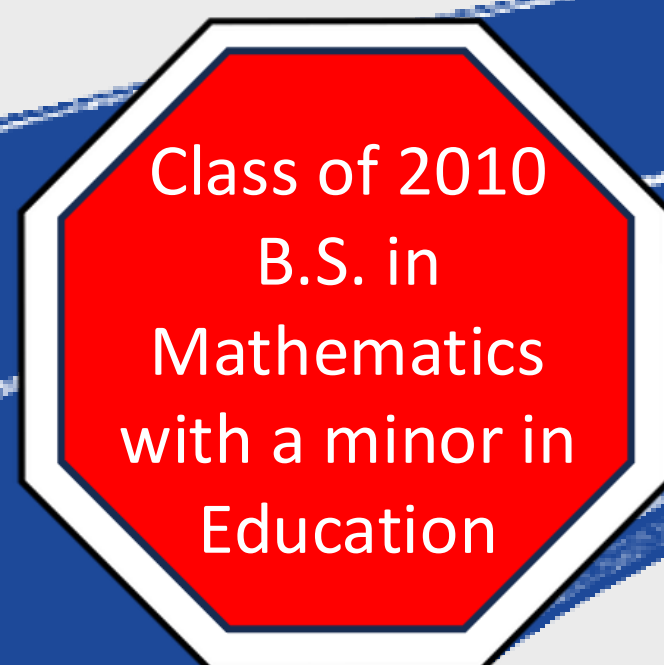
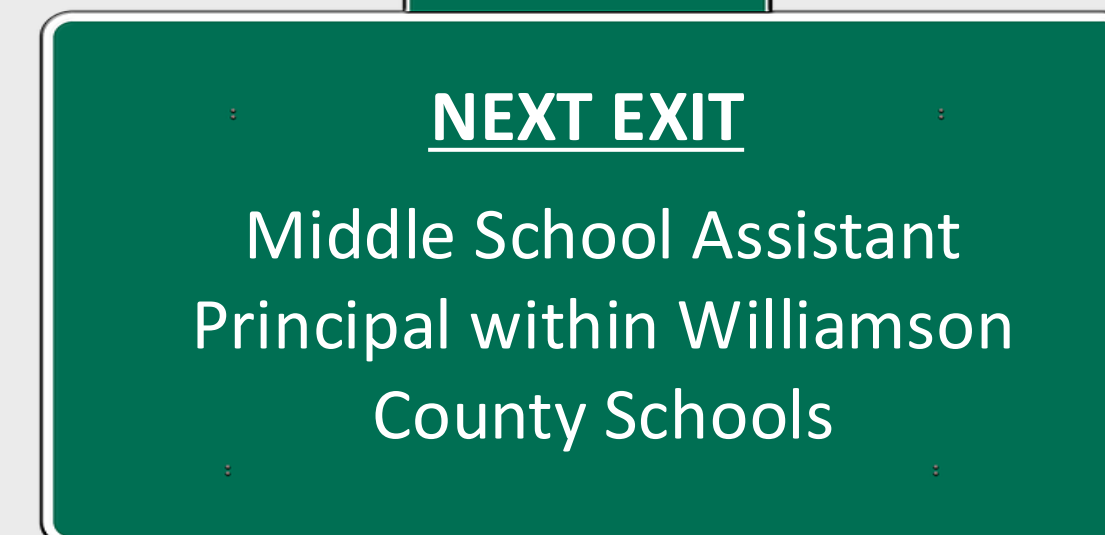
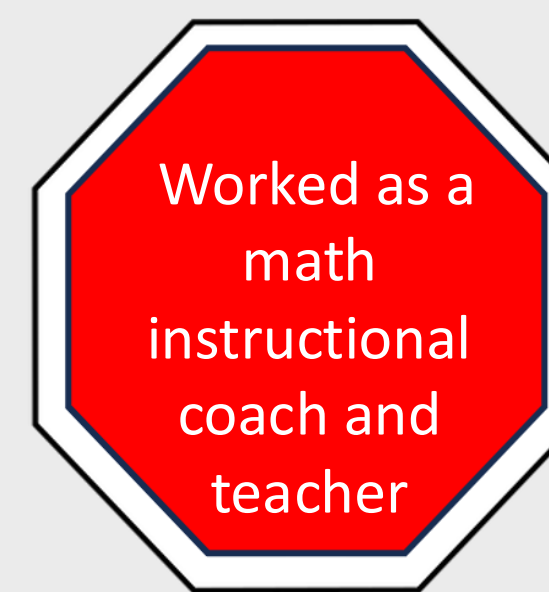
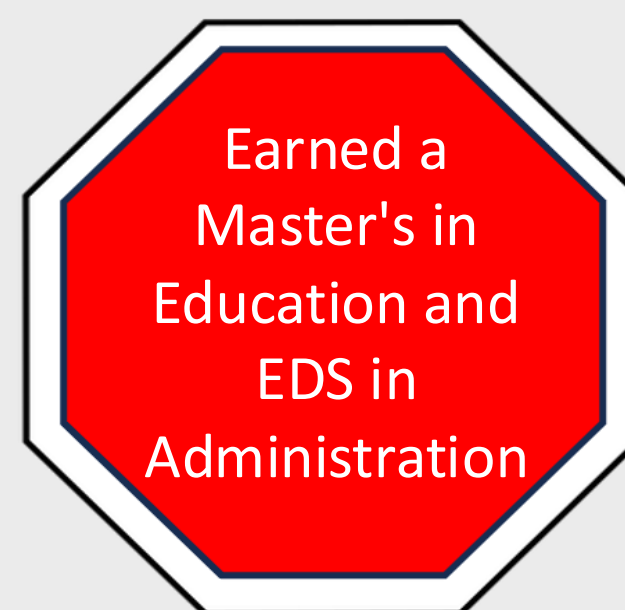
Current Role: "I provide detailed analytics on the success of marketing campaigns, revenue, and customer profiles. I present the data to executives and marketers, providing information to help improve business processes as well as marketing initiatives."

Journey to Career: "My career has been a rollercoaster. After graduation, I worked in a chemical toxicology lab for six years. I progressed through the ranks there, working my way up to a Certifying Scientist, reviewing GC-MS results to determine if patients tested positive or negative for drugs. I then left the lab and moved to doing customer service quality assurance. That is when I decided to continue analytics in the business sector. I then became a Business Intelligence Analyst, working at a few different places before joining my current, marketing-specific role. I have been in my current role for three years, and I am currently working my way into management."



Dawn Hale

School Administrator



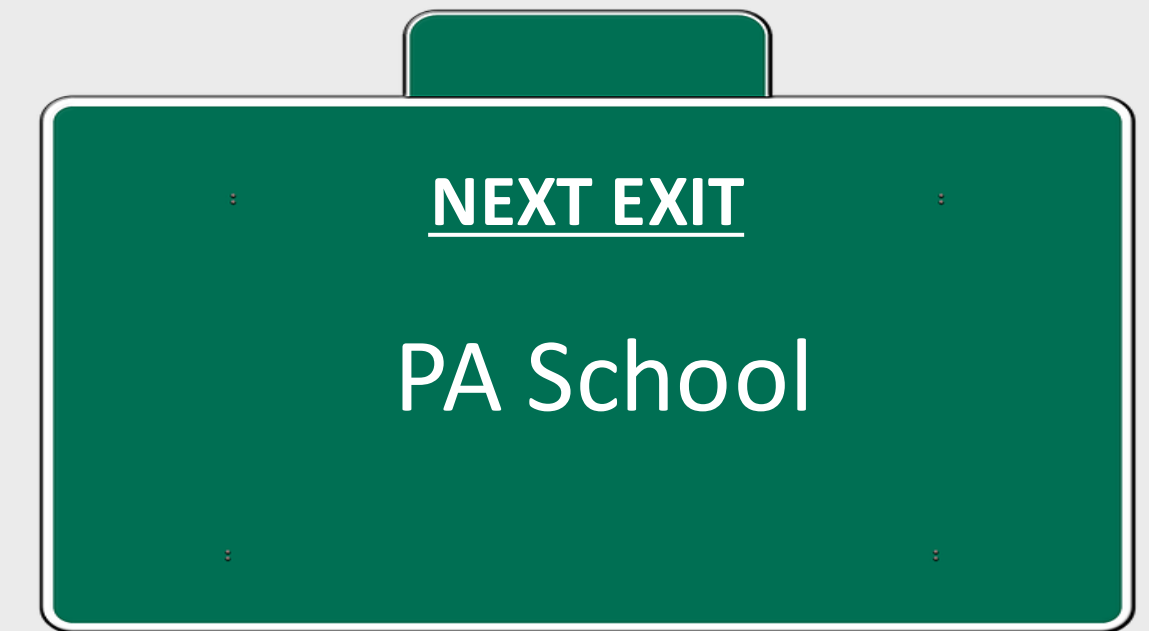
Current Role: " I currently work as a middle school assistant principal. I work with, coach, evaluate, and support teachers with instruction, assessment, remediation, and enrichment."

Journey to Career: Dawn's career began as a classroom teacher, where she discovered her passion for helping students succeed. From there, she became a math instructional coach, supporting teachers and improving instruction across classrooms. Today, she serves as a middle school assistant principal, using her leadership to impact the entire school community.



Mattison Harvey

Dermatology Medical Assistant
(applying to PA school)



Current Role: "Triage patients and prepare them for their office visit. Serve as a scribe and assistant during patient visits, with responsibilities such as prescription management, assisting with minor procedures, and patient education."

Journey to Career: "I started undergrad as a music therapy major but discovered I was more interested in STEM. I decided to pursue PA school following this realization and have been preparing for that next step for the past three years!"



Andy Wicke

Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgeon

DMD at
University
of
Louisville

Residency at
Vanderbilt
University Medical
Center

NEXT EXIT
Private
Practice

Class of 2009
Environmental Studies
Major with Minors in
Chemistry and
Business Admin.

Current Role: I am a private practice oral surgeon in a large group of 11 doctors and 10 offices across middle TN called OMSNashville. I do everything as simple as extracting teeth to full facial reconstruction. I am also a small business owner as I am one of the owner of the practice.

Journey: I went from Belmont to dental school then on to medical residency. I entered private practice straight out of residency. After shadowing many types of medical providers, dentistry and particularly, oral surgery, fit my desires and personality the best.

Schyler Webber

Transplant Psychiatric Nurse
Practitioner



Vanderbilt
MSN Program
Graduate

General
Psychiatry

NEXT EXIT
Vanderbilt
Transplant Team

Class of 2021
Psychology Major
with a
Minor in
Sociology

Current Role: I provide pre-transplant and post-transplant psychiatric care (diagnosing and prescribing medication) for the heart, liver, and lung transplant recipients at Vanderbilt.

Journey: After graduating from Vanderbilt's MSN program, I worked in general psychiatry in Memphis for two years before joining the transplant team at Vanderbilt.

Mary Rockouski

Research Assistant



Research
Assistant

Lab Manager

Class of 2022
Biology Major
with a
Minor in Political
Science

NEXT EXIT

Continuation as a full - time
researcher and helping
graduate students

Current Role: My primary roles at my job are procurement, safety, and research. I manage finances and personnel, as well as serve as my lab's primary point of contact. In addition, I do research full-time, splitting my time between my own individual project and helping graduate students to troubleshoot the final experiments they need to publish.

Journey: I began my current position immediately after graduating as a gap year. Sadly, a few months after I joined my lab, our lab manager passed away. As I began to take over many of her responsibilities, I found myself very fulfilled in the new role, and I've ultimately decided to stay for multiple years.

Christopher Bowens

Pediatric Pharmacist



Doctor of
Pharmacy
degree from
Union
University
College

TPA
Distinguished
Young
Pharmacist
Award

Elected TSIP
executive
committee

NEXT EXIT
Vanderbilt Children's
night pharmacist

Class of 2015
Biology
Major with a
Minor in
Chemistry

Current Role: Night Shift Pharmacist at Level one tramacenter

Journey: Dr. Christopher Bowens received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Union University College of Pharmacy in 2019. In 2019 Dr. Bowens won the Union University College of Pharmacy Experiential Educational Award. He completed a PGY1 community pharmacy residency at Lipscomb University and Marcrom's Pharmacy in 2020. Stayed on at Marcrom's Pharmacy after the residency program was completed and got his teaching certificate. At Marcrom's would become one of the clinical specialist detailing with COVID, Flu, and Strep. February 2022 he was nominated for TPA Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award and in April 2022 would join TPA Legislative and Regulatory Committee. He would join United Rx Long term pharmacy and assist teaching students from Belmont. In June 2023 he would be the elected as Tennessee society of Independent pharmacist(TSIP) executive committee. Then in June 2024 would join Vanderbilt Children hospital as one of there night time pediatrics pharmacist. Furthermore was chosen to participate in TPA emerging leaders Academy. 2025 would be award one of the most influential leaders in pharmacy.

Allison Skinner
Sr Mgr FP&A -
Enterprise Analytics



Financial
Analyst

IT Data
Analyst

NEXT EXIT

Financial and IT Data
Analyst Hybrid

Class of 2019
Mathematics
Major with a
Minor in Statistics

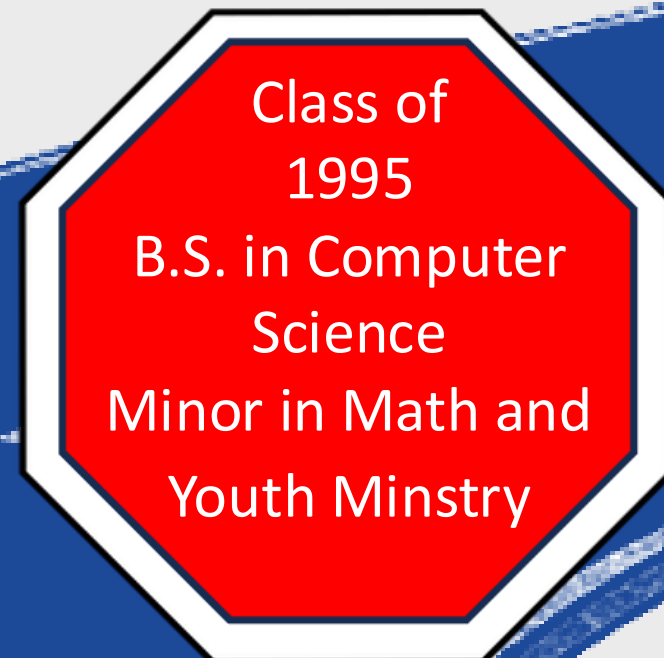
Current Role: Business Intelligence, Data Engineering and Financial Reporting Manager for a large building products manufacturer

Journey: Financial analyst turned IT data analyst and now hybrid!



Danny Mai

Chief Operating Officer



Current Role: "Oversee Technology, Finance, Human Resources operations in a faith-based non-profit. Work to innovate and improve operational processes while balancing organizational capacity and budgets. Develop internal and external relationships with stakeholders to provide meaningful execution of programs and delivery of mission and ministry."

Journey to Career: "Started with computer support, moved into Web Administration, then web development management, then Information Technology Management, moving to CTO, then COO, gradually adding finance administration and treasurer/foundation roles, and most recently Human Resources oversight."



Ritchie Taylor

Associate Dean and Professor

M.S. leading to
first job as
Environmental
Consultant

Ph.D. in
Environmental
Science
Conducting
research on
water quality

Begins working as
a professor of
Environmental
and Occupational
Health Science at
WKU

NEXT EXIT
Professor at WKU

Class of
1989
B.S. in Biology
Minor in
Chemistry

Current Role: "I serve as the Interim Associate Dean in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) at Western Kentucky University (WKU), where I provide leadership in several key areas: research and scholarship, faculty development, graduate studies, and strategic initiatives. As a Professor, I have led externally funded research for over 24 years at WKU, with support from organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Transportation, as well as various Kentucky state agencies and local municipalities."

Journey to Career: "I began my career at Belmont in 1988 when I was encouraged to apply for an undergraduate summer research program at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Lab. I was selected for this prestigious opportunity, and this launched my interest in environmental science and ecological research. Through this experience I was encouraged to apply to graduate school. I was fortunate to be a Graduate Research Assistant at Tennessee Tech University working on an ecological study in the Southern Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee. My first job after my M.S. in Biology was as an environmental consultant for firms in Brentwood, TN assisting industries throughout the United States with environmental compliance issues related to water quality, environmental contaminants, and ecosystem health. I then completed a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and conducted research on water quality of urban streams impacted by wastewater discharges. Following this I began my career as a professor of environmental and occupational health science at WKU and changed my research path to focus on topics such as firefighter health, hazardous material transport, and public health preparedness. I was a student athlete and a first-generation college student. Belmont was a life changing experience for me. I have had an incredible career journey that began at Belmont."



Haley Moore

PhD Candidate in Clinical Counseling

Resident Counselor in a jail-based inpatient facility for incarcerated individuals

Earned a M.S in Mental Health Counseling

Crisis Response Supervisor for South & Midtown Precincts

NEXT EXIT
PhD Candidate in Clinical Counseling | Clinical Coordinator (TBI)

Class of 2020
B.S. in Psychology,
Minor in Biology

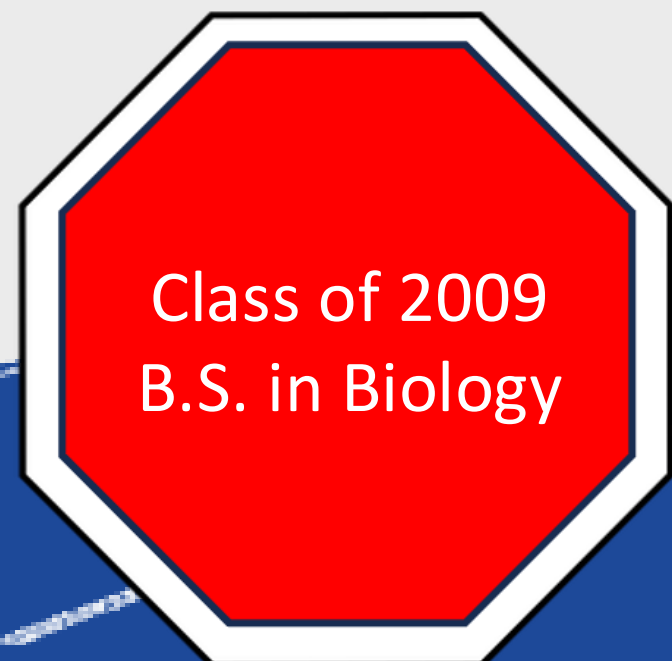
Current Role: "Partners in Care pairs a master's-level clinician with a Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPd) officer to respond to mental health crisis calls, ensuring immediate, specialized support. At the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), no formal mental health services exist for agents, and my role focuses on closing this gap by developing programs that provide essential resources and ongoing support"

Journey to Career: "I began my career as a Resident Counselor in a jail-based inpatient facility while completing my Bachelor of Science and pursuing a Master's in Mental Health Counseling. After earning my degree, I became a Co-Response Counselor, working alongside law enforcement to support individuals in crisis. Following licensure, I was promoted to Supervisor of the South and Midtown Precincts, where I managed crisis response operations. Most recently, I accepted a part-time role with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), where I am building and expanding mental health support services for agents. I am also currently a doctoral candidate at Trevecca Nazarene University."



Josh Cortopassi

Pharmacist



Current Role: "I currently work on a Translational Pharmacogenomics research team at UAB. We have multiple implementation studies going on that provide participants with genetic testing to assess their risks for disease, as well as Pgx testing. We are also working on starting a hospital-wide clinical Pgx service."

Journey to Career: "I have been at UAB as a pharmacist since I graduated pharmacy school. I started as a clinical pharmacist working in the neuro ICU. I then worked in UAB's Specialty Pharmacy where I worked with specialty meds that treat epilepsy. I then transitioned to my current research role in 2023."



Alyssa Merkel

Scientific Research Project Manager

Class of 2009
B.S. in
Biochemistry &
Molecular Biology

Research
Assistant –
Tumor-Induced
Bone Disease
Lab

Master's of
Science in
Laboratory
Investigation

Clinical Project
Manager | National
Research Trials
(2021)

NEXT EXIT

Biorepository Manager –
Clinical Specimen Research

Current Role: "I support and oversee data teams for large national clinical trials. I also manage a biorepository lab where we collect, catalogue, store, and distribute biological specimens for research."

Journey to Career: "After graduating Belmont in 2009, I began working in a research lab investigating tumor induced bone diseases, where I stayed until 2021. From 2012 to 2016, I worked on my Masters degree part time while still working full time in the lab. During my time in this lab, I worked my way from a research assistant to a lab manager. I got to work on many research independent projects as well as supported and mentored students from high school through medical/graduate school. In 2021, due to funding cuts and a desire for a change, I began working in clinical project management. Because of my immense background in basic research, I was a great fit to jump in to work with the statisticians and data management teams on high impact national trials. Recently I have been tasked with running a biorepository lab for managing and distributing clinical specimens for research."

Arielle Adelsperger

PhD Candidate in Neuroscience



Graduate
Student, Indiana
University School
of Medicine

PhD
Candidate –
Indiana
University
School of
Medicine

PhD – University
of Alabama at
Birmingham

NEXT EXIT
Parkinson's Disease
Researcher – UAB

Class of 2020
B.S. in
Neuroscience,
Minor in
Chemistry

Current Role: "I study Parkinson's disease at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. My work primarily focuses on studying the mechanism and efficacy of two novel drugs to evaluate the underlying mechanisms of Parkinson's disease, while also providing justification for future therapeutic development involving two different druggable targets."

Journey to Career: "Right after I graduated from Belmont, I started graduate school at the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM). I became a PhD candidate at IUSM before I transferred to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to finish my PhD."

Seth Adelsperger

PhD Candidate in Hydrology



Class of 2020
B.S. in
Environmental
science, Minor in
Mathematics

M.S. in
Geography &
Hydrology

NEXT EXIT
Hydrology Researcher –
Streamflow & Watersheds
(Midwest U.S.)

Intern – Harpeth
Conservancy
(Senior Year at
Belmont)

Current Role: "I study streamflow at the regional scale in the Midwestern United States. Specifically, my research quantifies the effects of land use/land cover, climate, and physical watershed characteristics on flashiness (how quickly streamflow rises and falls) and streamflow drought (abnormally low flows), with a focus on agricultural watersheds."

Journey to Career: "During my senior year at Belmont University, I completed an internship with the Harpeth Conservancy, which inspired me to pursue a graduate degree in Geography/Hydrology after graduation."

Blaire Lepore

Digital Assurance & Transparency Data Associate



Class of 2025
B.S in
Computer
Science, Minor
in BSA

Full Time
Position with
Internship
Company

Summer 2024
Intern

NEXT EXIT
Digital Assurance &
Transparency Data
Associate

Current Role: " Blaire's current position is in the realm of digital assurance and transparency consulting work for clients in the financial sector. This includes auditing technology, security, and privacy controls."

Journey to Career: Blaire began working for the company as an intern during the summer of 2024 and later accepted a full-time position after graduating from Belmont in 2025.

Jordan Williams

Senior Principal Engineer



Class of 2010
B.S. Computer
Science, Minor
in History

Full time
position at
Amazon

NEXT EXIT
Senior Principal
Engineer at Amazon

Intern at
Amazon

Current Role: "Tech lead for a team of 800 engineers focused on Amazon advertising business"

Journey to Career: "15 years at Amazon, started as an intern after Junior year at Belmont"

Elly Feters

Consulting Actuary



Class of 2017 B.S.
in Mathematics
and Music, Minor
in Business
Administration

Associate of
the Casualty
Actuarial
Society

NEXT EXIT
Consulting Actuary
in Property &
Casualty

Actuarial
Internship
in Pension

Current Role: "I provide professional actuarial consulting services to a wide variety of clients including public and private entities, captive insurance companies, and risk pools. My primary area of expertise is the reserving and forecasting of losses for a variety of Property & Casualty coverages including but not limited to workers compensation, automobile liability, auto physical damage, general liability, and property."

Journey to Career: "I had an actuarial internship in college but in Pension. I realized I was more interested in Property & Casualty and applied for the opening at Select during my last semester, and started there one month after graduation, and I've been there ever since!"



Savannah Carpenter

6th grade teacher
Grade level chair

Master's in Art
and Teaching at
Belmont

5th- 8th
Grade
Teacher

NEXT EXIT
6th Grade Teacher
and Level Chair at
FRA

Class of 2013
B.S in
Mathematics,
Minor in
Education

Current Role: "Instruct 6th Grade Earth & Space science ensuring they learn the skills necessary to further their science education and success in life at large. As a grade level chair, manage the 6th grade teaching team of 10-14 adults and ensure the experience of a 6th grade student is positive and mission-aligned."

Journey to Career: "From my MAT program at Belmont, I was hired out of my student teaching placement to teach Reading/Social Studies at Sunset Elementary (5th grade). During my time there, dependent on need, I taught Math/Science as well as Reading/Social Studies. During my last three years, I also served as the 5th grade Building Leadership Team member. From Sunset, I moved to FRA where I originally taught 7th grade mathematics and pre-Algebra. I eventually also began teaching 8th grade pre algebra before being moved three years ago to 6th grade science to serve as the Grade Level Chair. In total, I spent 5 years at Sunset (including student teaching) and am beginning my 8th year at FRA."

Elise DeTrude

Board Certified Behavior Analyst



3rd Grade
Teacher for
9 years

Masters in Arts
in Teaching at
Belmont 2016

Certificate in
Applied
Behavior
Analysis from
Lipscomb

NEXT EXIT

Private practice, helping
prepare kids with special
needs for school.

Graduated in
2015 w/ B.S in
Psychology and
minor in
Education

Current Role: "I work as behavior analyst at an early intervention autism center in Nashville. I design programs to help toddlers with autism acquire skills (communication, social, pre-academic) and decrease challenging behaviors with a focus on school readiness."

Journey to Career: "I taught third grade in MNPS for 9 years and hit a point around year 7 where I was feeling burned out/ready to specialize. I spent 18 months getting my certificate degree in ABA. My original intentions were to shift into a behavior analyst role with MNPS but decided at the beginning of this year to move into private practice and had my education background to help prepare kids with special needs for school."

Sydne Richardson

5th Grade Math/Science Teacher



M.A. in
Teaching

Teaching at a
public STEM
school

NEXT EXIT

Math/Science Teacher and
Science Chair at Ensworth
School

Class of
2016
B.S. in Psychology
Minor in
Education

Current Role: I teach 5th grade math and science at Ensworth, where I also serve as the Lower School Science Chair. In my role, I develop engaging lessons that foster curiosity and critical thinking while supporting school wide science initiatives. I have been part of the Ensworth community for five years.

Journey to Career: While earning my master's degree, Belmont connected me with Ensworth and gave me my first glimpse into the community I would one day call home. After graduating, I began my career teaching at a public STEM school, where I spent two to three years growing as an educator. When the opportunity opened at Ensworth, I was thrilled to return—Belmont's connection truly shaped my path and led me back to where I am today.

Toccara Houston

Curriculum Manager



Working In
Corporate for
5 years

Graduate
Assistant

NEXT EXIT
Curriculum
Manager

Class of
2006
Majoring in
IDS

Current Role: "I oversee the creation, implementation, and evaluation of educational programs to ensure they meet specific learning objectives and standards."

Journey to Career: "I started in corporate and stay for 5 years and realized that my passion is in higher education. I did some graduate assistant work at another institution that gave me some valuable experience. I reentered higher Ed in 2011."

Kenzie Rushing

2nd Year MD Student



Medical
School

Hands on
learning and
clinical
experience

NEXT EXIT

Practicing Physician

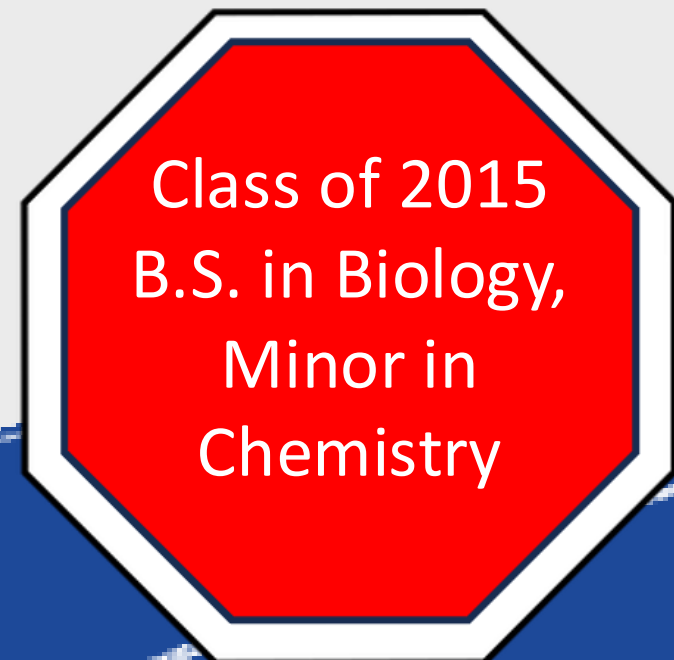
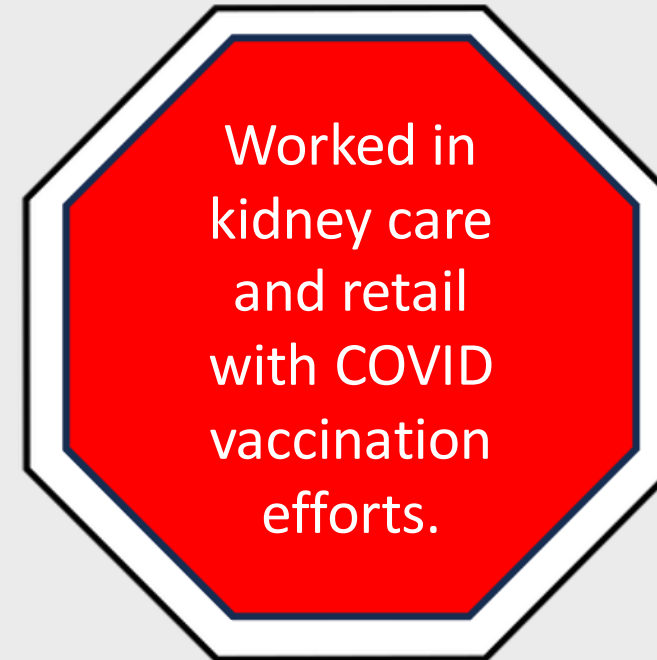
Class of
2024
B.S. in Chemistry
with honors
Minor in Biology

Current Role: "I am a second-year med student, so most of my time currently is spent in lecture or independent study. However, after this year, most of my time will be spent learning hands on in clerkship rotations."

Journey to Career: "I entered undergrad at Belmont with the intention of going to med school and that never changed."



Kyle Tran
Manager
Pharmacist



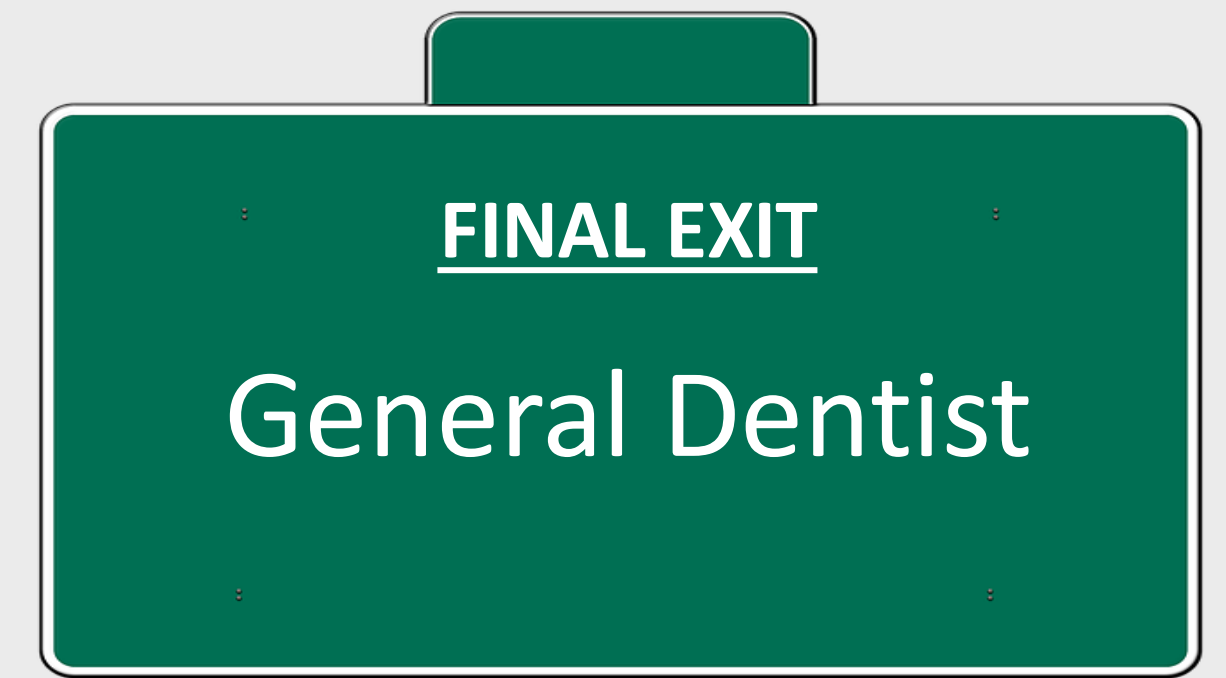
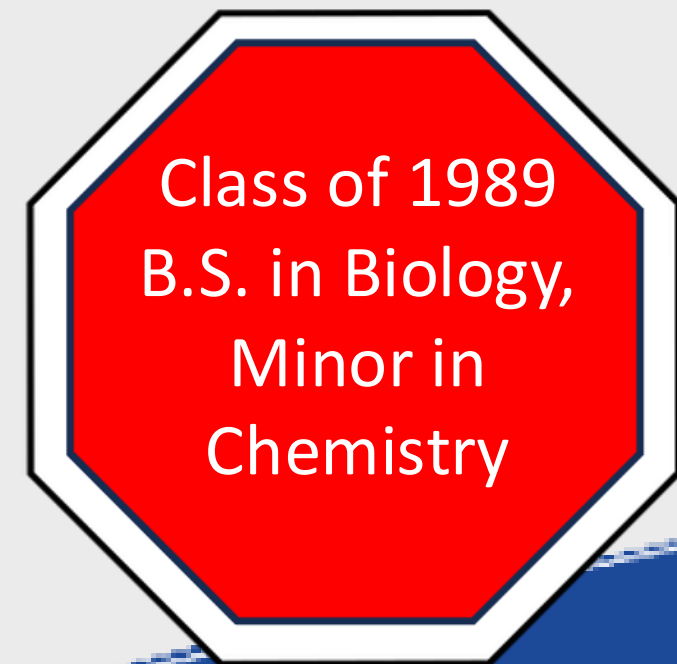
Current Role: "I manage the pharmacy services team for a clinical program that contracts with health plans to keep patients at home and healthy. Specifically, we assist with medication issues, concerns, access, refills, and management."

His Journey: "I was a pharmacy intern at Vanderbilt Children's during pharmacy school. Post graduation, I worked in kidney care and retail with COVID vaccination efforts."



Jason Cabler

Dentist

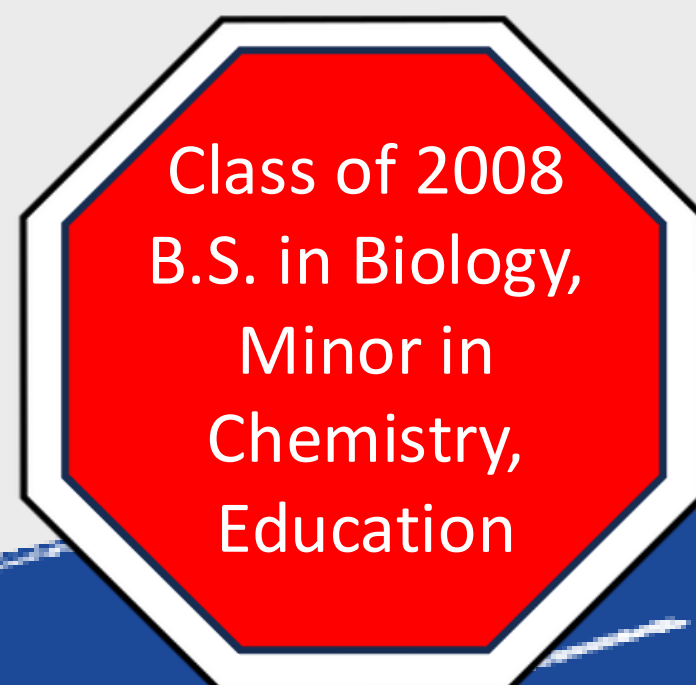
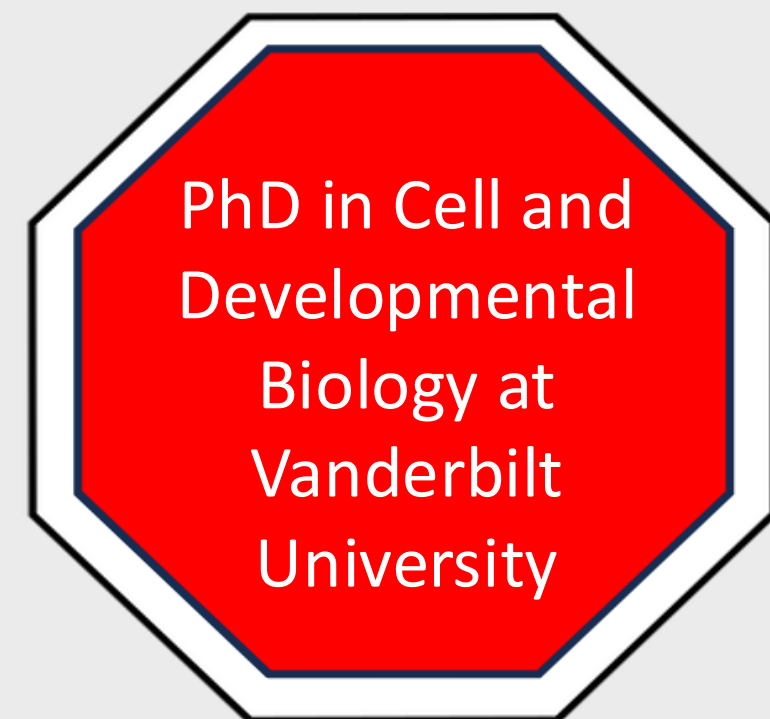


Current Role: "I am a general dentist performing almost all phases of treatment, including root canals, oral surgery, cosmetic dentistry, reconstructive dentistry, implants, and orthodontics."

His Journey: "I had a clear path when I entered Belmont. I wanted to be a dentist and stuck with that path throughout undergrad."



Becky Adams
Associate
Professor of
Biology



Current Role: "I get to teach current Belmont students!"

Her Journey: "I was lucky to go from graduate school to a post-doc to my current faculty position."



Aurora Macdougall

Director of Finance

Class of 2014
B.S. in
Pharmaceutical
Studies

Changed
major to
Business
Operations
of
Healthcare

Worked in
retail, then
specialty
pharmacy and
piloted beta
healthcare
programs

Joined Sarah
Cannon
Research
Institution's CRO
as a Business
Associate

NEXT EXIT
Finance Director at
Pharma Partners

Current Role: "Supporting the financial strategy, leading budget and forecasting initiatives, and managing financial operations within clinical research at a CRO."

Her Journey: "While in school at Belmont, I thought I was going the Pharmacy route. However, second semester senior year I changed my major to follow more of the business operations of healthcare. After working in retail pharmacy, I went to work for a specialty pharmacy where I piloted beta healthcare programs and really became interested in specialized operations within healthcare. Following this position, i joined Sarah Cannon Research Institution's CRO as a Business Associate where I negotiated budgets and contracts with Pharma Partners. My passion for clinical research and mission of SCRI has motivated me to continue growing and I'm now the Finance Director over the team I joined years ago."



Maddie Boerste

Psychotherapist

Elementary
School
Teacher

Got a second
degree in
Psychology by
getting online
Master's in
counseling

Intern at a private
practice and
later hired as a
psychotherapist

FINAL EXIT
Mental Health Counselor
in a Private Practice
Setting

Class of 2020
B.S. in
Elementary
Education and
Psychology

Current Role: "Maintaining a full client load in a private practice setting providing mental health counseling to individuals, couples, and families. Actively engaging in marketing efforts to gain new clients."

Her Journey: "I was a double major at Belmont and began my first career as an elementary school teacher after graduation. While I was teaching I furthered my second degree in Psychology by getting my masters degree in counseling online while teaching full time. Toward the end of grad school, I started my internship at a private practice and was hired as a psychotherapist there."



Stephen May

Vice President, Integration
Management and Planning

Research Assistant at Northwestern University

Master's in Business Administration with a focus in healthcare

Worked as a physician liaison and later moved to project management

NEXT EXIT
Vice President, Integration Management and Planning at Ardent Health Services

Class of 2008
B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry

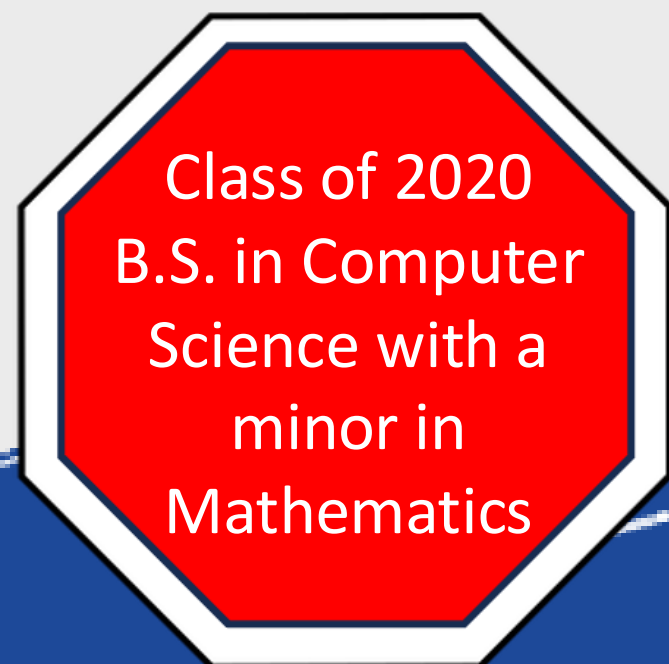
Current Role: "Lead the organization, design, and development of enterprise growth through market planning and development. Track and monitor strategic execution to enterprise growth goals."

Journey to Career: "My journey to healthcare administration began in research at a Lab at Northwestern University. I learned about the business side of healthcare and decided to pursue a graduate degree in healthcare/entrepreneurship. Through my graduate program at Belmont University, I made a connection at Ascension Saint Thomas Health System and received an opportunity to work as a physician liaison, providing support to physicians across the health system. After a couple of years there, I had the opportunity to go to HCA Healthcare and work in project management, focused on strategic growth. This experience is where I learned so much about the processes of healthcare and built my skillset in strategic planning. After 8 years, I made the move to my current role at Ardent Health, leading enterprise strategic planning."



Madison Everett

Technical Program and Project
Manager



Current Role: "As a Technical Program and Project Manager, I help connect business goals with technical teams to make sure projects stay on track and deliver real value. I don't write code myself, but I translate complex technical work into plans, timelines, and priorities that everyone can follow. Basically, I make sure the right people, tools, and processes come together so great ideas actually get built and launched!"

Journey to Career: "I started as a Software Engineer, which taught me how tech actually gets built. From there, I moved into Business Analysis and Project Management, where I worked with leaders to design better processes and support early-stage businesses. Over the years, I've partnered with CEOs, developers, and client teams, and now as a Technical Program and Project Manager, I use all those experiences and skills to connect business needs with technical solutions and help teams deliver results."



Fea Morgan-Curtis

Associate Program Coordinator at
Vanderbilt University School of
Medicine

Graduate
Research
Assistant

Has published
research based
on medical
implants and
MRI machines

Class of 2021
Bachelors in
Physics and Audio
Engineering
Technology

NEXT EXIT
Associate Program
Coordinator at VUSM

Current Role: "I work to help coordinate a first-year longitudinal medical school course that takes students through the different parts of the physical exam and patient encounters. I monitor outpatient clinic and simulation schedules. I spend a lot of time working on quality improvement initiatives to help improve our protocols and structures."

Journey to Career: "I worked as a graduate research assistant for two years after graduating from Belmont, but did not end up graduating. I then started my current job!"



Nicolò Dini

PA in Internal Medicine

Worked as a PT
aide and
shadowed PAs
and physicians

Graduated
from PA
school

Class of 2021
B.S. in Biology
and Chemistry

NEXT EXIT

PA in Internal Medicine at
Vanderbilt University

Current Role: "I manage and treat hospitalized patients under the supervision of my attending physician."

Journey to Career: "During my college days, while being a student athlete, I worked as a PT aide and shadowed several PAs/physicians. Then went to PA school a few weeks after graduating from college."

Grace Freeman

Clinical Research Associate



Class of 2020
B.S. in
Psychology with a
minor in Data
Science

Entered Clinical
Research – Vaccine
Work

Earned a
Master's in
Clinical
Research

NEXT EXIT

Clinical Research Associate
at Syneos Health

Current Role: "Clinical Research Associate (CRA). As a CRA, I manage clinical trials to ensure patient safety, data integrity, and adherence to regulations, performing site visits, reviewing study documents, and resolving data queries to assess the safety and effectiveness of medications, devices, or treatments."

Journey to Career: "I graduated during COVID (summer 2020), got a job in clinical research doing vaccines, worked my way up over the past five years that I've worked in clinical research to now be monitoring."



Farris Turner

Temporary Licensed Marriage & Family
Therapist

Interned at
an anti-
trafficking
organization

Master's in
Marriage & Family
Therapy (University
of Alabama)

Creating a safe
and
supportive
space of
reflection and
growth

Class of 2022
B.S. in Psychology
& Global
Leadership
Studies

FINAL EXIT

Marriage and Family
Therapist at Nashville
Therapy Group

Current Role: "As a Marriage and Family Therapist at Nashville Therapy Group, I work with kids, teens, adults, and families to help them navigate challenges and improve their relationships. My job is about creating a safe, supportive space where people can reflect, grow, and discover their unique strengths."

Her Journey: "After graduating from Belmont, I took an internship at an anti-trafficking organization in South Africa. During this time, I saw the impact the therapists had on staff in the lives of our residents, and I decided to get my Master's in Marriage & Family Therapy. I completed degree at the University of Alabama and my current job at Nashville Therapy Group has been my first job after receiving my degree."



Olivia Woods

Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Worked as a
Registered
Behavior
Technician

Hands on
experience
working with
clients in
clinics, homes,
and schools

Board Certified
Assitant Behavior
Analyst to
certified Beahvior
Analyst

Class of 2019
B.S. in Psychology
Minor in
Education

FINAL EXIT
Board Certified Behavior
Analyst

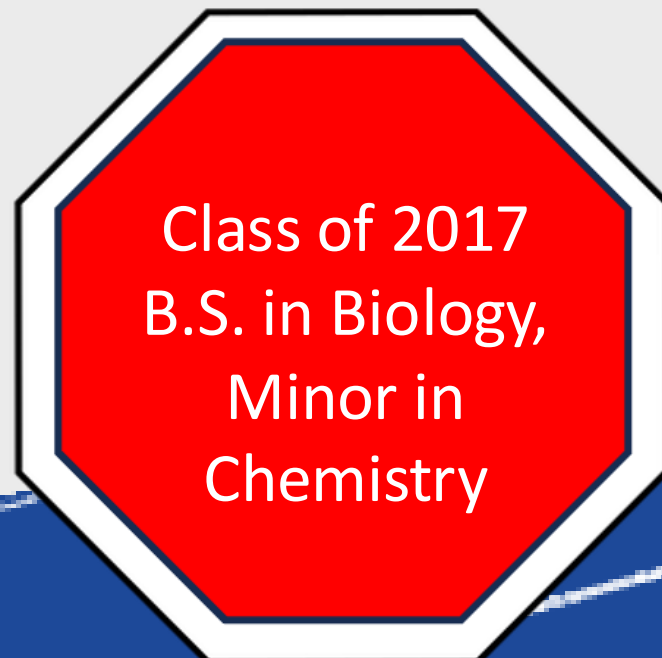
Current Role: "A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) is a professional who designs and implements behavior intervention plans based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to support individuals with behavioral, developmental, or learning challenges. They conduct assessments, analyze data, and supervise behavior technicians to ensure effective treatment outcomes. BCBAs often work in settings such as schools, clinics, or homes, collaborating with families and other professionals to promote meaningful behavior change."

Her Journey: "I began my career in the field of behavior analysis as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), gaining hands-on experience for two years and working with clients in clinic, home, and school settings. I then advanced to a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) role before pursuing my certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). During this time, I completed my fieldwork hours across diverse settings, which helped prepare me to sit for and pass the BCBA certification exam."



Austin DeMaagd

Internal Medicine Physician and Officer in Charge of Ft. Campbell, KY Internal Medicine Clinic



Current Role: "I participated in the Army HPSP Program, completing Medical School at UTHSC in Memphis, TN, and Internal Medicine Residency in Augusta, GA at Fort Gordon. I just finished a Chief Resident year and now work as an Internal Medicine Physician at Fort Campbell, KY where I take care of a variety of patients including active duty soldiers, their family members, and military retirees. I also help manage the clinic, which involves quality improvement, optimization of day to day procedures, and advocating for the clinic personnel."

His Journey: "I was accepted to UTHSC off the wait list a few weeks before classes started. I leaned heavily on tutoring resources and group study to advance through medical school, overcoming challenges of needing to adjust and persevere. I was not sure which medical specialty was the best fit until later in medical school, and needed to gain first hand experience to decide Internal Medicine."



Jessica Jones

Second-Year Medical Student

Previously
worked in
home health

Worked in vaccine
research at
Queen's University

Class of 2024
B.S. in
Biochemistry &
Molecular
Biology

FINAL EXIT

Practicing Physician

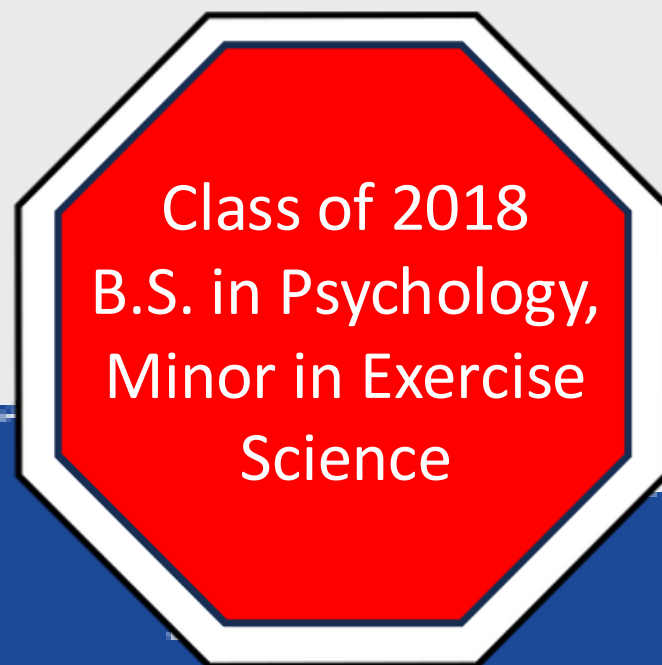
Current Role: "I am a second year medical student at the Frist College of Medicine. I'm learning in the classroom and clinical environments about disease, treatment, and whole-person care."

Her Journey: "I previously worked in home health and recently spent 2 months at Queen's University Belfast working in vaccine research."



Hunter Foltz

Occupational Therapist OTR/L



Current Role: "I evaluate children from birth to age 21 for fine motor development, visual motor development, sensory processing and modulation differences, executive functioning skills, and more to determine impact on activities of daily living (ADLs), rest and sleep, education, play, leisure, and social participation. I work closely with patient caregivers and the interdisciplinary team to develop and implement individualized treatment plans, maintaining professional/technical competencies and proficiencies for job responsibilities and upholds federal/state licensure and ethical expectations."

His Journey: "I was a certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA/L) and transitioned to an Occupational Therapist (OTR/L). I attended to Nashville State Community College to better understand Occupational Therapy hoping to pursue OTR/L by gaining more experience."



Brandi Duke

Clinical Research Specialist / Masters in
Biomedical Data Science student

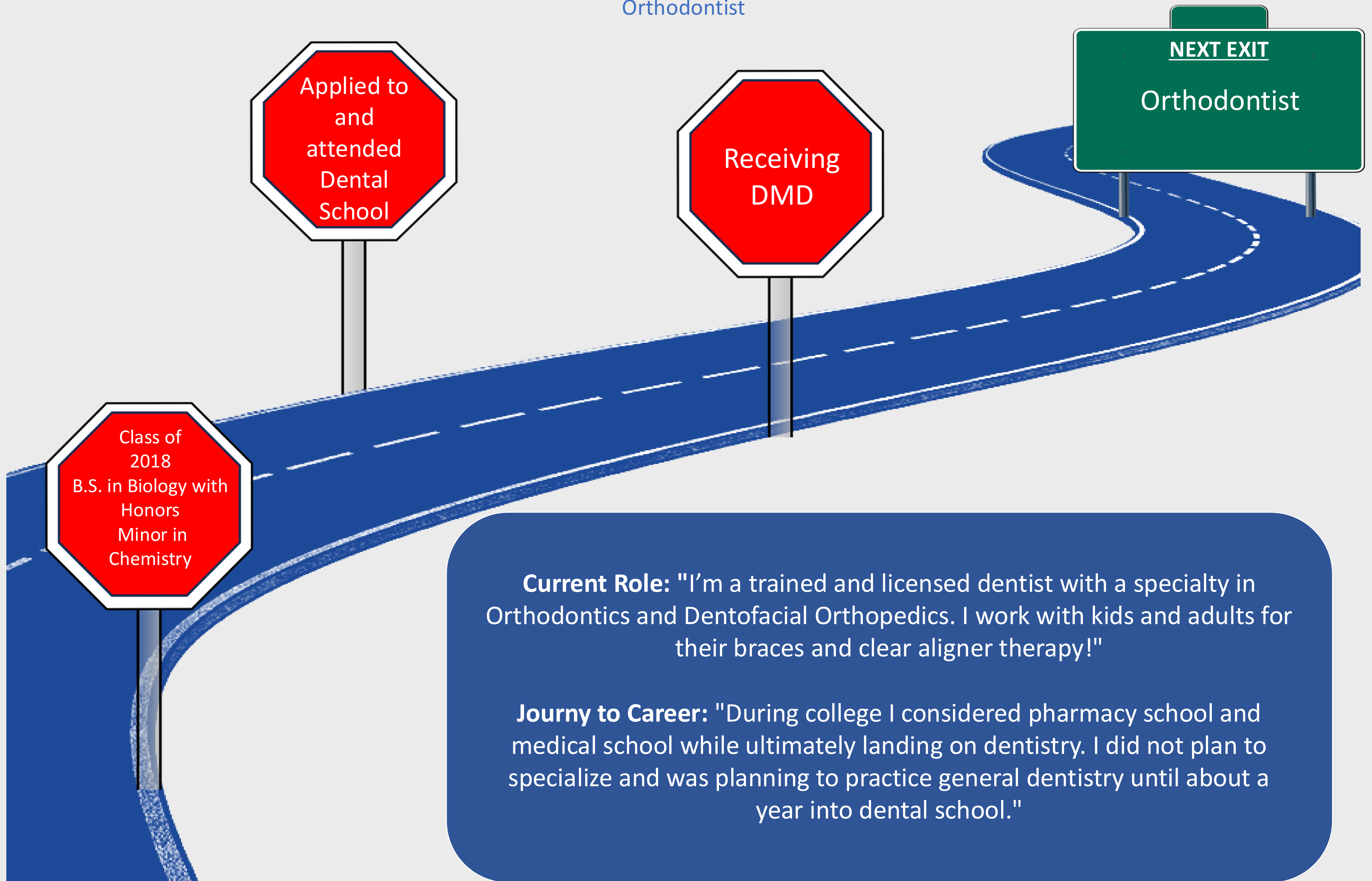


Current Role: "As a Clinical Research Specialist at Medtronic Diabetes, I manage clinical trials and oversee clinical research sites throughout the execution of Medtronic sponsored clinical studies focused on the creation and expansion of continuous glucose monitors and automated insulin delivery pumps."

Journey to Career: "After graduation, I worked in Medical Sales for a few years. In 2020, when the pandemic hit, I shifted to the Clinical Research industry and worked in various roles at Pfizer, quickly climbing the ranks due to the industry demands at the time."

Priyanka Kumar

Orthodontist



Christina Wu

Medical Assistant applying to PA school



Working as a
Patient Care
Tech

Working in an
Outpatient
Dermatology
Office

NEXT EXIT

PA School

Class of
2024
B.S. in Biology
Minor in Chemistry
and Business
Administration

Current Role: "Prepare and set up patients for their office visits, assist with medical procedures and scribe for provider during the visit."

Journey to Career: "During my gap year, I transitioned from working in an inpatient setting as a patient care tech to working at an outpatient dermatology office. This gave me a different perspective with patient care experiences. In the meantime, I have had to navigate the PA school application cycle and am currently interviewing at a few "

Kyiha Friebe1

Veterinary Assistant



Worked as a
Kennel Tech
for 8 months

Transitioned
to another
clinic

NEXT EXIT

Veterinary Assistant

Class of
2024
B.S. in Biology
Minor in Chemistry

Current Role: "I am responsible for admitting patients and supporting the veterinarian in whatever they need for treatment! My day can include anything from giving vaccines to monitoring patients under anesthesia."

Journey to Career: "When I was at Belmont I was going with the intention of going off to vet school. Towards the end the more I realized how much I wanted to get in a clinic and learn rather than continuing school. I started working as a kennel tech for about 8 months and then got hired as a vet assistant at another clinic at the beginning of 2025 and have been working here ever since!"

Josh Powell

Director, Software Development



Working as a
consultant for
non-profits

Getting into
software
development for
finance and
banking

Class of
2012
B.S. in
Mathematics
and Computer
Science

NEXT EXIT

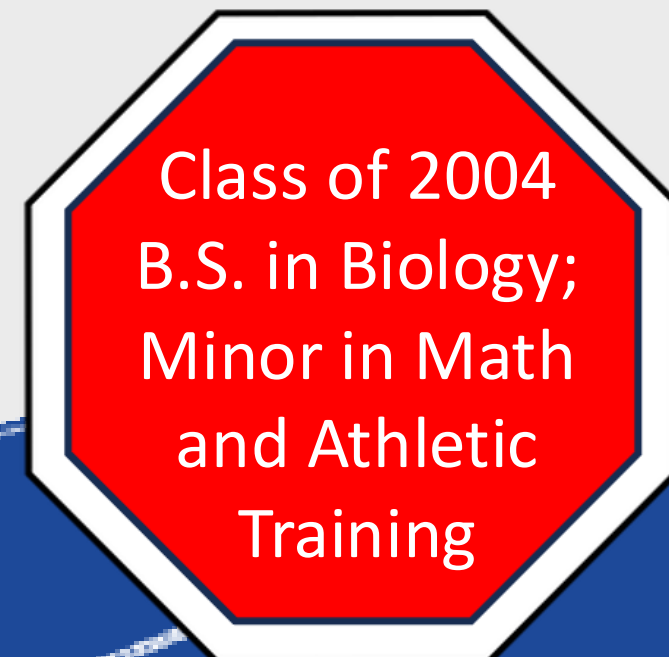
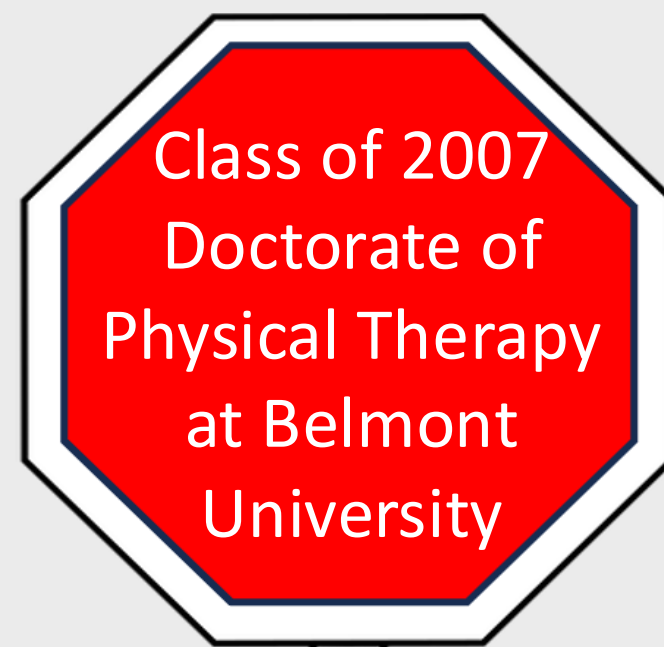
Director, Software and
Development

Current Role: I manage the software development staff at my company, as well as provide technical leadership and expertise to the business. I have to know what the right technical solutions are for various business needs, and how to guild my team in implementing those solutions. My job is part Leader, part Business Analysist, part Architect, and part Engineer.

Journey to Career: I was a software developer for almost 15 years. During that time I worked in several different fields as a consultant ranging from non-profits, to manufacturing, and healthcare. I recently got in to the world of finance and banking where I transitioned to a leadership role as a Director of Software Development.

Kristen Story

Rehab Supervisor



Journey to Career: "After completing my undergraduate degree, I went straight into the graduate program for physical therapy at Belmont University. I was able to secure a job immediately following completion of my DPT program."

Current Role: Evaluate and assess hospitalized patients for functional deficits and disabilities, while participating in interdisciplinary discharge planning. Daily scheduling, throughput and supervision of the day to day operations of the rehab department."

Haleema Shamsuddin

4th Year MD Student



Middle School and
High School
Science Teacher

Medical School,
Publish Children's
Books and Serve in
Leadership Roles

NEXT EXIT

Practicing Physician

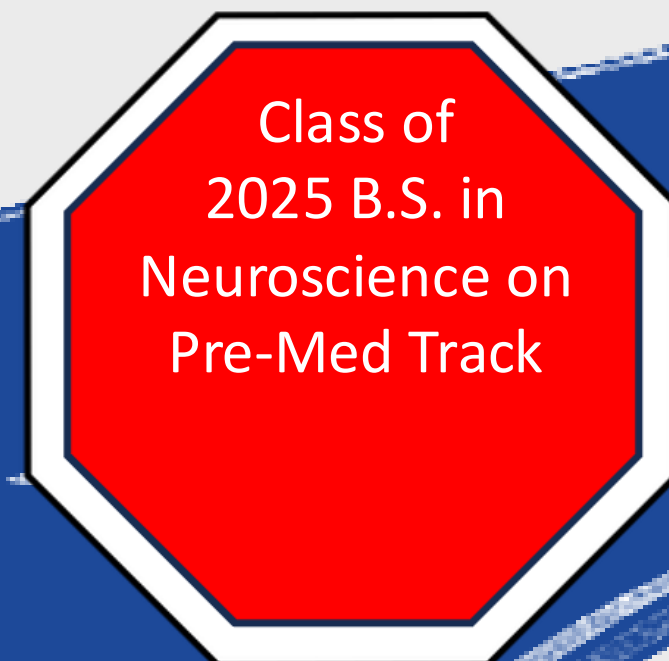
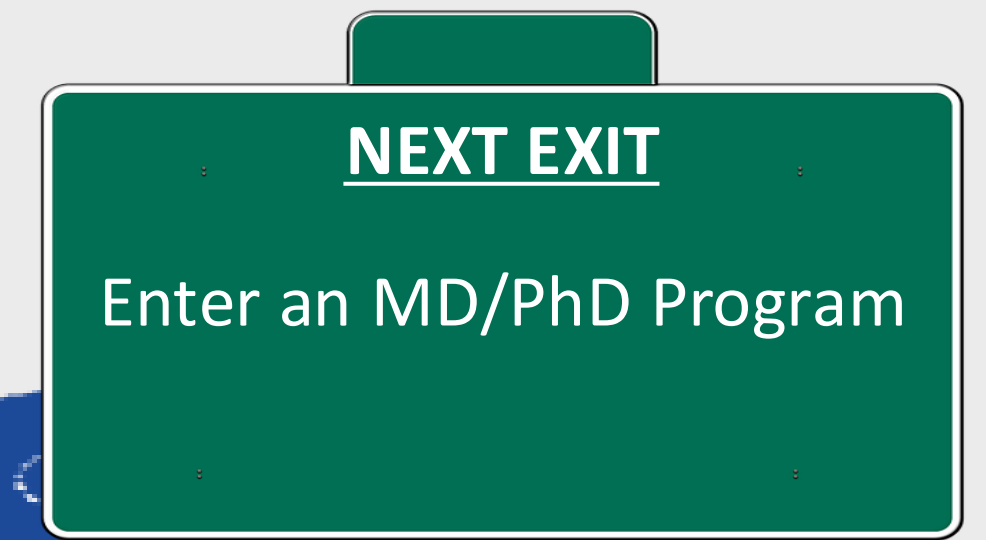
Class of
2021 B.S. in
Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology;
Honors Program

Journey to Career: "After earning my degree at Belmont, I taught middle and high school science for a year, where I was honored as Teacher of the Year. I then entered medical school, where I developed a strong interest in radiology through both clinical rotations and research experiences at Vanderbilt and St. Jude. Along the way, I have also published children's books on chronic illness and served in multiple leadership roles including the Admissions Committee member and president of the Center for International & Area Outreach."

Current Role: "As a fourth-year medical student at UTHSC College of Medicine, I rotate through various clinical specialties, working closely with physicians to provide patient care and refine my clinical reasoning skills. My responsibilities include patient interviews, physical exams, interpreting labs and imaging, and presenting assessments and plans on rounds."

Karly Kammann

Microbiology Research Assistant



Journey to Career: "My long term goal is getting my MD/PhD from an MSTP program. I will be taking two gaps years to enhance my research experience. I did research over the summer at UPenn and during the school year at Vanderbilt which is how I met the connections leading me to my current lab. I will be submitting my application in May of 2026!"

Current Role: "I am a research assistant (RA) at Vanderbilt University where I work in a Microbiology/Immunology lab. I work with other RAs to upkeep the lab while also working on two research projects!"



Tristan Murray

Nurse Practitioner

Accelerated BSN
Program at the
University of
Tennessee

Master's Degree to
become a Family
Nurse Practitioner

Currently:
Family Nurse
Practitioner

Class of
2012 B.S. in Biology
with an Education
Minor

Journey to Career: "I changed my major several times in undergraduate and decided my senior year of college that I wanted to do nursing. I was accepted to the accelerated BSN program at the university of Tennessee where only 24 students were accepted to the program. I then worked for several years as a nurse before going back for my masters which allowed me to work as a family nurse practitioner."

Current Role: "Provide care in the primary setting for patients across their lifespan. I have worked in pediatrics as well as with geriatric patients."



Bailey Rose

Field Sales Account Manager

Analytical
Chemist Intern

Graduate
Research
Assistant at
Vanderbilt
University

Earned a PhD in
Analytical
Chemistry at
Vanderbilt
University

Class of
2017 B.S. in
Chemistry with a
minor in
mathematics

NEXT EXIT:

Field Sales Account
Manager

Journey to Career: "After finishing my PhD, I knew I wanted to take a break from lab work. I applied for my current job because I wanted to learn more about the business side of science. Sales was certainly not advertised as a career path for a PhD scientist, but I find it to be a great fit for many of the skills I gained in my graduate work!"

Current Role: "I sell analytical instrumentation to labs in my local territory. My customers include pharmaceutical labs, food and beverage manufacturers, regulatory labs, and universities."

Sandra Tomas

2nd-Year Medical Student

Master's in
Molecular
Bioengineering

Medical School

NEXT EXIT

Practicing Physician

Class of 2020
B.S. in
Biochemistry
and Molecular
Biology

Current Role: Sandra is currently a 2nd Year Medical Student.

Journey to her Career: Sandra completed her B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Belmont before she went on to earn her Master's in Molecular Bioengineering and ultimately began medical school.

Joselito Ramirez

Materials Research Science
Engineer

FINAL EXIT
Research Science
Engineer Sourcing
Polymeric Materials

Moved to
Tulsa, and
received a job
at a small
company

Leveraged
connections to
gain current
position
creating filtration
products

Class of 2018
B.S. in
Chemistry,
minor in Math

Current Role: "I source and characterize different polymeric materials to be made into nonwovens. These eventually become filtration products."

His Journey: "After graduation I moved to Tulsa, OK for a job at a small company. I was then able to leverage the connections I made which led me to taking my current position."



Kyra Thomas

Research Assistant

Interned in
Goldenring
Lab at
Vanderbilt
University

Graduated
undergrad and
started working full-
time, studying apical
membrane recycling
of proteins.

Class of 2024
B.S. in
Biochemistry
and Molecular
Biology

FINAL EXIT
Research Assistant
at Vanderbilt
University

Current Role: "I work in a lab running experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and just general lab upkeep. I work on the trafficking side of my lab, so we look at things like apical membrane recycling and specifically on proteins involved in that process like myosin 5 b and rab11a."

Her Journey: "I was an intern in this lab during my senior undergraduate year and transitioned to full time once I graduated."



Amanda Bell

Product Owner



Current Role: "Responsible for managing the product backlog and serving as a key member of the Agile team. This role involves setting, prioritizing, and evaluating the work generated by the delivery team while ensuring alignment with stakeholder visions. The PO communicates the product strategy and vision, facilitates user story development, and manages product delivery, all while collaborating with various stakeholders to maintain a coordinated product roadmap.

Her Journey: "Internship at Jackson through Belmont, offered full-time position as Software Developer at Jackson. Spent 9 years as a Software Developer before transitioning to a Product Owner.



Ronae Briley

Associate Application Engineer

Class of 2022
B.S. in
Computer
Science and
Journalism

Interned at
Cat
Financial
Summer
2022

Received a full-
time position for
the IT
Foundation
Program

Graduated
from IT
Foundation
Program

FINAL EXIT
Associate Application
Engineer at Caterpillar
Financial as part of the
Custom Solutions Team

Current Role: "I am a part of the Custom Solutions team. I am responsible for supporting our citizen developers as they use Microsoft Power Platforms to build and deliver applications. I build resources, host monthly meetings, and assist users as they need assistance with the Power Platforms creations."

Her Journey: "I interned at Cat Financial during the summer of 2022. I then applied full time at the end of the summer. I received a full time position for the IT Foundation program, that hires recent graduates and rotates them to various IT teams. I have since graduated from the program and am an Associate Applications Engineer."



Patrick Haller

Senior BI Developer



Current Role: "I design, develop, and maintain the university data warehouse. My work includes building interactive dashboards and visualizations, integrating data across disparate systems, and helping to implement software. Writing complex SQL for both reporting and ETL processes, and architect data pipelines using a variety of integration tools to ensure efficient and reliable data flow."

His Journey: "I started as a student worker here at Belmont in a simplified version of my current position and was hired on full time once I graduated."



Jordan Murray

Breast Radiologist

Class of 2012
B.S. in Biology,
minor in
Chemistry

Master's in
Biomedical
Professions

Doctor of
Osteopathic
Medicine

FINAL EXIT
Breast Radiologist at
Vanderbilt University

Current Role: "Radiologist sub-specialized in Breast imaging focused on early detection which performs screening and diagnostic examinations as well as biopsy procedures"

His Journey: "Originally I thought I wanted to be a dentist, so I obtained a Master's Degree right after my time at Belmont. During that time, I took medical gross anatomy and realized I wanted to be a physician. I found Radiology through medical school rotations."