

## 2024-25 Presidential Scholars

Madison Forcier	Makayla French	Jenna Garvey	Sarah Gill	Gaetan Jean Louis
Nia Jones	Abigail Miller	Rachel Ntor	Alexis Ochs	Victoria Stucchi

**Madison Forcier** is a Neuroscience major with a minor in human development. She has conducted research with Dr. Allison Bechard since Spring 2022, working with mouse models of addictive behaviors and neurological disorders. Madison has presented this research at GREAT Day in 2023 and 2024, and received funding for an Undergraduate Full-Time Summer Fellowship doing independent research with a mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease for the Summer of 2024. She has been the President of the Neuroscience Club since Spring 2024, is a member of TriBeta (Biology Honor Society), and has also served as secretary for Nu Rho Psi (Neuroscience Honor Society) in 2023-2024 and as Vice President for 2024-2025. She is currently a mentor for the G-STEM program and volunteers through the Admissions Office for the Knight for a Day program. Outside of academics, she is on Geneseo’s Knightline Dance Team, a student-run kickline team, and in Orchesis Dance Club. After graduation, Madison plans to either obtain her Ph.D. in Neuroscience or go into a program that allows her to practice clinically in the field.

**Makayla French** is a Biology major with a minor in Human Development. In addition to her studies, she participates in the Athletics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, of which she will be the co-student chair in the '24-'25 academic year. She was a mentor in the BioMentors Program, which she will help organize and expand in the 2024-25 academic year. She is an active member of the Red Cross Club, a member of Tri Beta the Biology Honor Society, and she will be doing microbiology research in the upcoming year with Dr. Matthew Hatkoff. She is also a team member of the Blue Wave Women's SUNYAC champion varsity swim team. During her free time, Makayla volunteers in the Athletic Training room and at other physical therapy clinics, as well as partakes in drawing and painting as a hobby.

**Jenna Garvey** is a dedicated psychology major with a minor in human development, aspiring to become an elementary school counselor after completing her master's degree in school counseling. During her time at Geneseo, Jenna has been a member of the varsity women's volleyball team and has actively participated in numerous extracurricular activities. Jenna is a committed member of Geneseo’s DEI Athletic Committee and will serve as Co-Student Chair this upcoming fall alongside Makayla French, another Presidential Scholar. She holds the position of Vice President of Morgan’s Message, a student-athlete organization focused on supporting and raising awareness about student-athlete mental health. Additionally, Jenna is the Staff Manager for the SAM (Student Athlete Mentor) Program. Her involvement extends to the Addiction Counseling and Prevention Program at Geneseo, where she plays a crucial role in spreading knowledge about addiction and promoting safe partying tips. As a Truth College Leader, Jenna is also involved in the implementation of a smoke-free grant in the Fall semester of 2024.

**Sarah Gill** is a dual Psychology and Sociomedical Sciences major. Since coming to campus, Sarah has found a passion for community service and health. During her time at Geneseo, she has been able to complete over 100 service hours, ranging from letter writing to volunteering with local nursing homes. In addition to her service, she is an intern for Geneseo SEX[Ed]. This

past semester, she was in charge of organizing and completing focus groups, where data was collected on what the student body is looking for in a program. This winter she plans to travel to Thailand to learn from medical students and professionals abroad as well as engage in a wide variety of amazing cultural experiences. When not spending time in class, Sarah can probably be found at her job at the Geneseo AOP tutoring center, a local daycare, or getting in her shadowing hours. After graduation she hopes to obtain a master's in occupational therapy with the hopes of owning her own practice.

**Gaetan Jean Louis** is a dual major in Sociology and Spanish with a minor in French. He studied abroad in Senegal with Dr. Kodjo Adabra in Summer 2022, conducted a sociolinguistic research project in partnership with the West African Research Institute, the most prestigious research institution in West Africa, was accepted to the Scholars Transforming through Research program, one of the most selective research programs for undergraduate students in the U.S., and was chosen as a Geneseo 2024 Student Ambassador, using his Eddie Lee '76 Ambassadorship for First Generation Students grant to help rebuild his high school library in Haiti. Gaetan currently serves as the Kuumba House Coordinator of Onondaga Hall, orchestrating community-building events for first-year students of color, and is a member of Phi Alpha Delta (for pre-law students), Pi Delta Phi (French Honor Society), Phi Sigma Iota (for international foreign languages), Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society), and Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society). He serves as research assistant for Dr. Olaocha Nwabara through the McNair Scholars Program and intends to become an international lawyer. Gaetan is fluent in Haitian Creole and French, as well as English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**Nia Jones** is an English major with a minor in Sociology. On campus, Nia served as a mentor and team leader under the organization HEROES (Higher Education Resources and Opportunity for Equitable Schools) from 2023-2024. As of late 2023, she is the Opinion Editor for The Lamron, responsible for writing and editing articles. Nia was a teaching assistant for English professor Dr. Beth McCoy. In summer of 2024, Nia studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal alongside Dr. Olaocha Nwabara and conducted research regarding African representation in film for the McNair Scholarship Program. In Fall 2024, Nia is taking on two internships in the Fraser Hall Library, working closely with Max Sparkman as a GREAT Day Student Editor and with Alan Witt as a Research Instruction Intern. Following her graduation from SUNY Geneseo, she hopes to continue her academic journey by achieving her MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science) degree.

**Abigail Miller** is a Biology major with a double minor in Sociology and Sustainability Studies and a microcredential in Science Communication. Abigail is also the treasurer of American Cancer Society on Campus, the chair of fundraising for Club Softball, and a Biome Program Mentor. She conducts research in Dr. Hoven's Lab, comparing how newly planted trees and pre-existing trees on SUNY Geneseo's campus provide different ecological services to the campus. She was able to present her findings at Geneseo's 18th Annual GREAT Day. Abigail is a member of TriBeta, the Biology Honor Society, and Nu Rho Psi, the Neuroscience Honor Society. She worked as a Public Health Inspector for the New York State Department of Health during the 2024 summer. During her senior year, she will work on her integrative or applied learning experience for her Science Communication microcredential. After Geneseo, Abigail hopes to pursue a master's in public health.

**Rachel Ntor** is a Psychology major with a minor in the Edgar Fellows Honors Program. She conducts research with Dr. Ganie Dehart focused on identifying and finding correlations between different forms of relational aggression in children and adolescents. She recently presented her findings with her research group at Great Day 2024 and hopes to present research at the APS convention. On campus, she is an active participant of TRIO where she participates in various workshops including those that build leadership, academic success, and unity. She has worked at Campus Auxiliary Services as a student worker since August 2022 and she strives to become a student supervisor. Rachel conducted her Summer 2024 research project with the McNair Scholars Program and her capstone project on the Psychology of Grief with Dr. Jennifer Katz. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school in hopes of becoming a clinical psychologist.

**Alexis Ochs** is a Biology major with a Human Development minor. Alexis has been a member of Dr. Suann Yang's research lab since Fall 2023 and will continue her project investigating the effects of invasive species on a mature oak-hickory forest in the 2024-25 year. She has presented at SUNY Geneseo's GREAT Day events and at the Northeast Natural History Conference. Additionally, she is the organic chemistry laboratory technician in the chemistry stockroom and a member of the biology undergraduate research committee. Alexis is a member of Tri Beta, the biological honor society, and holds an executive board position as treasurer. Outside of school, she is a member of Alpha Kappa Phi, a recipient of the Alpha Kappa Phi scholarship and a member of the National Order of Omega, the Greek life honor society. In the summer she works at Camp Wilton, a summer camp for adults with developmental disabilities and is preparing for a career in medicine.

**Victoria Stucchi** is a Sociomedical Sciences major. She is a lead intern and student ambassador for the Geneseo Sex[Ed] program and works to provide Geneseo students with inclusive education about all things relating to sexual health. Victoria has presented her research and impact on the Geneseo community during the Diversity Summit and GREAT Day. She has also collaborated with the Title IX office for multiple events including the Love Shouldn't Hurt Pledge in April. Following her graduation from SUNY Geneseo, she hopes to obtain her Master of Social Work and become a therapist specializing in domestic violence and sexual assault healing.