



Yale College STARS2 Class of 2024



William An



Hometown: Tampa, Florida

Major: MCDB and English

Residential College: Branford

William (he/him) studies phage evolution and dynamics in the Paul Turner Lab with the ultimate goal of informing phage therapeutics for antibiotic-resistant infections. Right now, he is investigating the effect of competitor bacterial species on the evolution of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* virulence and resistance to phage H6. Outside of the lab, he is involved with theatre, the *Yale Lit Mag*, and Dwight Hall.

Fun Fact: William loves poetry and is currently working on a manuscript—he hopes to write several books in the future!

Lydia Tarekegn

Hometown: Puyallup, WA

Major: Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Residential College: Branford



Lydia is a member of the Davis Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry. In the Davis Lab, she conducts research on fold-switching proteins, which are able reconfigure their secondary structure in response to external stimuli. The goal of her project is to develop an assay that can be used to identify members of the NusG superfamily of transcription factors that can switch folds. After graduation, Lydia plans to earn a PhD in Pharmacology and pursue a career in drug discovery. Outside of research, she volunteers with Yale Demos and participates in Yale Student Academic Competitions. Some of her hobbies include reading and playing piano.

Fun fact: Lydia has had several species of pets over the years- fish, frogs, crabs, birds, guinea pigs, and a cat.

Matt Midy



Hometown: Stamford, CT

Major: Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Residential College: Trumbull

Matt is an MB&B major with a Chemical Biology concentration and an interest in pursuing an S&DS certificate. His work in the Breaker Lab focuses on engineering synthetic riboswitches from natural riboswitch scaffolds, with potential applications in gene therapy. He aims to attend graduate school for chemical biology and eventually become a researcher focusing on the development of therapeutics. Outside the lab, you may also see him working at the front desk in the CIPE office. For fun, Matt enjoys playing basketball, ultimate frisbee, and listening to music.

Fun fact: Although Matt was born during a blizzard, he is not a big fan of the snow.

Andy Tang



Hometown: Albuquerque, NM

Major: MCDB and East Asian Studies

Residential College: Grace Hopper

Andy (he/him) is an MCDB and East Asian Studies (Japan route) major working in the Muzumdar Lab on the comparison of TP53 alleles in pancreatic cancer using mouse models. On campus, he works as a Matriculate advising fellow, providing college application guidance, and is a part of the Yale Equestrian Team. He enjoys reading Japanese and Korean comics, drawing, and learning new languages.

Fun fact: Andy can speak 3 languages (English, Vietnamese, Japanese) and is learning Korean and Polish.

Mikayla Labissiere



Hometown: Danbury, CT

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Residential College: Benjamin Franklin

Mikayla Labissiere is from Danbury, CT and is a current junior. She is currently studying biomedical engineering with the intent of pursuing a BS/MS degree. She works in the Saltzman Laboratory where she focuses on drug delivery models and their applications in cells. After Yale, she intends to attend graduate or med school with a focus in drug delivery. Outside of academics, she loves singing, writing, cooking and baking.

Fun fact: Mikayla really liked the Canterbury tales so much that she learned the first sixteen lines of prologue in middle english.

Jackson Roberts



Hometown: Pass Christian, MS

Major: E&EB

Residential College: Morse

Jackson (he/him) is from Pass Christian, MS and majoring in ecology and evolutionary biology with a concentration in organismal biology. He works in the Reinke Laboratory where he focuses on studying the molecular mechanisms of PiRNA synthesis. After graduating from Yale, he plans to attend graduate school for genetics or medical school for urology. Outside of academics, he enjoys painting, music, and taking care of his many plants.

Fun fact: Jackson loves the singer Lady Gaga so much that he got a tattoo inspired by her.

Noemi Guerra



Hometown: Garland, TX

Major: MCDB

Residential College: Branford

Noemi (she/her) is majoring in MCDB and concentrating in Global Health Studies. Her interests lie at the intersection of medicine and public health. Noemi is currently working on malaria vaccine research at the School of Public Health, is an active advising fellow for Matriculate, interprets for the HAVEN free clinic, and is in the public health branch of YPI. Outside of academics, she loves music, dancing, and connecting with friends.

Fun fact: Noemi has a slight obsession with skincare...as evidenced by her daily use of 5 different moisturizers.

Austin Theroux



Hometown: Cranston, RI

Major: Applied Mathematics

Residential College: Pauli Murray

Austin is majoring in applied mathematics with a concentration in mathematical biology. They work in the Paul Turner and Thierry Emonet labs studying bacteria-phage and other viral evolutionary dynamics. They are also a member of the Martha Muñoz lab husbanding salamanders for evolutionary physiology experiments. After Yale, they plan to pursue a doctorate in systems/quantitative biology. Outside of academics, they enjoy swimming, writing poetry, and learning languages (currently learning Tagalog!).

Fun fact: I once sat on President George H.W. Bush's lap.

Dina Garmroudi



Hometown: Clarksburg, MD

Major: MCDB/HSBM

Residential College: Grace Hopper

Dina Garmroudi (she/he, GH'24) is from Clarksburg, MD, and is double majoring in MCDB/HSBM with a concentration in Global Health Studies. She is currently researching how gut microbiota can impact host behavior in *C. elegans* with the O'Donnell lab. Dina is fascinated by the intersection between the gut microbiome, how it is shaped by nutrition, and how it is further implicated in chronic diseases. After graduating, she hopes to attend medical school. At Yale, she volunteers as an EMT, works with the Yale Undergraduate Prison Project, competes with moot court, and is a community health educator. In her free time, she loves going on runs, journaling, and spending time in nature!

Fun fact: She is a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do/Martial Arts.

Akua Agyemang



Hometown: North Ridgeville, Ohio

Major: Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry; History of Science, Medicine and Public Health

Residential College: Pauli Murray

Akua is a transfer student from Lorain County Community College who matriculated to Yale in 2021. She is double-majoring in MB&B and HSHM. Akua is in the Miranker Lab studying the structural differences in isoforms of alpha-synuclein, the causative agent of Parkinson's Disease. Akua wants to pursue a PhD or MD/PhD to work in drug discovery and development. Akua volunteers with HAVEN Free Clinic, serves on the Student Health Advisory Board, and works as a Head Transfer Peer Advisor. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, watching TV, and baking.

Fun fact: Akua and her brother's have the same middle name (handed down from their father), but Akua is the only one with a hyphen because her Dad filled out her birth certificate form.

Eric Stevens



Hometown: Salt Lake, UT

Major: MCDB

Residential College: Franklin

Eric is a current Junior majoring in MCDB. His previous work in the Sheltzer Lab focused on identifying putative oncogenes that drive recurrent aneuploidies. Currently, Eric's STARS project is focusing on phenotypic characterization of engineered aneuploid cancer cell lines. Eric hopes to attend medical school after graduating. He previously volunteered as an interpreter for the Haven Free Clinic and currently shadows liver and kidney transplant surgeons. Outside of school, he enjoys cooking, music, painting, swimming, biking, and hiking.

Fun fact: Eric spent his summers growing up in Mexico with his family.

Allison Cairns



STARS II Graduate Coordinator

Allison is from Santa Ana, CA and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Physics at Portland State University (OR). She is a third-year PhD student in Applied Physics and Physical Engineering Biology. She works in The Clark Lab (neuroscience) studying vision in drosophila. She uses two-photon microscopy and does behavior experiments. After Yale, she plans to become a professor so she can inspire others to join STEM fields and consider interdisciplinary research. She has a passion for teaching and research.

Fun Fact: Even though Allison's entire family eats meat, she was born a super stubborn baby that wouldn't eat meat and has been vegetarian ever since.

Marina Carlson



STARS II Graduate Coordinator

Marina is from Manteca, CA and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry at CSU Fresno. She came to Yale for her PhD and is currently a fourth year student in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program. She loves working with Zebrafish in the lab studying the role of high-confidence Autism risk genes in neurodevelopment. After Yale, she plans to teach at a small university where she can continue mentoring students interested in STEM, and potentially write or edit for the academic press in scientific journals such as Cell and Nature.

Fun Fact: Marina has been to Japan twice and even touched a live dolphin while she was there!

Cathy Carolina Garcia



STARS II Graduate Coordinator

Born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, CA, Cathy is a 5th-year PhD candidate in the Genetics Department and the Yale Cancer Biology Institute. She is interested in studying how obesity increases the risk of cancer. As a member of the Muzumdar lab, Cathy studies how obesity promotes pancreatic cancer progression through an endocrine-exocrine signaling axis. She aspires to enter academia and support URM students along their journey in STEM.

Fun fact: when not in lab, you can find Cathy with her two furbabies. She has a 12-year-old tuxedo cat, Nene, and a 1.5-year-old Pomsy, Bumi.

Lauren Mazurowski

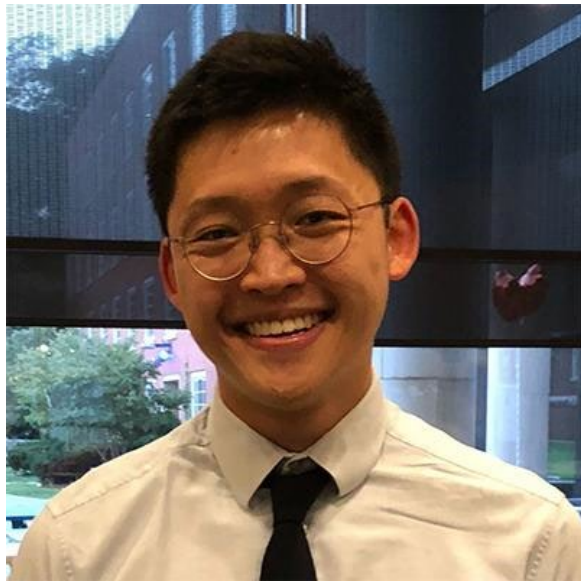


STARS II Graduate Coordinator

Lauren is a second-year PhD student and NSF GRF in the Elimelech research group, interested in ensuring water and energy security for growing populations, and currently working on elucidating ion-selective membrane processes. A born and raised northern Nevadan, Lauren attributes her early passion for water treatment to recreating near the beautiful Lake Tahoe basin. She has many interests post-PhD, and would like to continue mentorship for young scientists in a national lab or academic setting.

Fun fact: Lauren loves board games, and has been making her own Settlers of Catan (arctic theme) board! Let's play!

Sangwon Yun



STARS II Graduate Coordinator

Sangwon was born in South Korea, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and completed his bachelors in biology at Duke. He is a 6th year MD-PhD student in Genetics. He works in the Greco Lab studying epithelial oncogenic tolerance and chromatin reorganization during cell identity transition using two-photon microscopy and in utero lentiviral injection. After Yale, he plans to pursue residency training in general surgery.

Fun Fact: Sangwon has played the saxophone since elementary school. In college, he played with the university jazz ensemble and Gerald Clayton.