



# Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

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

**IPBGG EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING  
NEW STUDENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2023:**



**Aduragbemi Amo**

Mr. Aduragbemi Amo is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2023, working with Dr. Jason Wallace. His work includes using genetics and bioinformatics to understand the role of beneficial endophytes with plants, how plants control these interactions, and how we can enhance them for improved crop production.

Aduragbemi received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Breeding and Seed Technology from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria (2014). He received his Master of Science degree in Crop Science from Northwest A&F University (2022).

His previous employment experience includes a position as a graduate research assistant at Northwestern A&F University, China (2018-2022); a position in growth and business development at Farm Integral Global Services (2017-2022); and a graduate assistant position at the University of Illorin, Nigeria, (2015-2016).

Let's welcome Aduragbemi to our Institute from the IPS program. His work space is located in CAGT Room 118, and his email is: [Aduragbemi.Amo@uga.edu](mailto:Aduragbemi.Amo@uga.edu).



## Angel Brooks

Ms. Angel Brooks is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Master's program for 2023, working with Dr. Ali Missaoui. Her duties include conducting field experiments and genomic analysis of switchgrass seed yield and feedstock related traits, as well as support of breeding projects.

Angel received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriscience and Environmental Systems (emphasis in Plant Breeding), with a minor in Entomology, from the University of Georgia (2022). She was in the Double Dawgs Program at UGA during her undergraduate studies.

Her previous employment experience includes a position as an undergraduate lab assistant at the University of Georgia (2021-2022); a cashier position at the University of Georgia's bookstore (2019-2022); and a teaching assistant position at Clarke County Public Schools (2019).

Please welcome Angel to our Institute. Her work space is located in Miller Plant Sciences, Rm. 4405, and her email is: [Angel.Brooks@uga.edu](mailto:Angel.Brooks@uga.edu).



## Charles (Chad) Hawkins

Mr. Chad Hawkins is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Master's program for 2023. Working with Dr. Wayne Parrott, his research will focus on regeneration/transformation protocols for Ipomoea species, and his duties entail keeping a research lab functional.

Chad received his Associate of Science degree in Agriculture from Georgia Highlands College (2020). He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Biology from the University of Georgia (2022).

His previous work experience includes two undergraduate research assistant positions at the University of Georgia (2021-2022); a farm-hand position at Mama J's produce (2020-2021); and an electrical apprenticeship at Fox Systems Inc. (2014).

Let's welcome Chad to our Institute. His workspace is located in CAGT 102, and his email address is: [charleshawkins@uga.edu](mailto:charleshawkins@uga.edu).



## Katie Toomey

Ms. Katie Toomey is a Research Assistant in the IPBGG Ph.D. program for 2023, working with Dr. Wayne Parrott. Her research focuses on projects related to transformation and gene editing in poplar and muscadine.

Toomey received her Bachelor of Science degree in Bioenvironmental Sciences from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas (2022).

Her previous employment experience includes a position as a Research Fellow at the University of Georgia's Crop Genetics & Genomics REEU where she worked in the van der Knaap laboratory to finemap a chlorophyll content locus in tomatoes. Additionally, she worked as an Undergraduate Researcher in the Kolomiets lab at Texas A&M University's Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology where she was awarded the title, "Undergraduate Research Scholar."

Let's welcome Katie to our Institute from the IPS program. Her work space is located in CAGT Room 102, and her email is: [katie.toomey@uga.edu](mailto:katie.toomey@uga.edu).