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## ***EDUCATION***

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

*Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy*

January 2024 - May 2026

### **Bowie State University**

*Bachelor of Science in Psychology* [Transferred]

August 2018 - December 2019

## ***RESEARCH PROJECTS***

“Observing the Superposition of Staying: The Observable Realities of Women in Physics” [Working Title] | Author: Amaya Johnson, Research Mentor: Dr. Chandra Turpen, Principal Investigator: Ms. Stephanie Williams, Graduate Student Researcher: Khusbu Dalal

“*The Superposition of Staying: How the Language of Women in Physics Embodies Dualities*” (2025) | Author: Amaya Johnson, Research Mentor: Dr. Chandra Turpen, Principal Investigator: Ms. Stephanie Williams

## ***RESEARCH EXPERIENCE***

### **Undergraduate Research | University of Maryland, College Park**

*Undergraduate Researcher | Ms. Stephanie M. Williams “Talking About Staying” Dissertation Research*

September 2025 - Present

- Conduct independent and collaborative research to support dissertation development through qualitative and theoretical analysis
- Recruit, schedule, and interview participants while ensuring ethical compliance and data integrity
- Lead semi-structured interviews to capture nuanced participant perspectives
- Analyze interview data and scholarly texts to identify and synthesize key themes, concepts, and definitions for integration into the dissertation framework

### **Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program | University of Maryland, College Park**

*Ronald E. McNair Scholar | Vice-President of McNair Student Advisory Board*

January 2025 - Present

- Serve as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar in a federally funded program that supports first-generation and underrepresented students committed to pursuing PhD degrees
- Engage in original, inquiry-based research under faculty mentorship, integrating philosophical inquiry with themes from physics education, cognitive science, identity, and consciousness studies
- Build a foundation to explore the intersection of law, ethics, and sovereignty in a PhD/JD dual degree program
- Design and present oral and poster presentations for academic conferences
- Engage during professional development workshops focused on graduate admissions, GRE preparation, financial advancement, and interdisciplinary research training
- Serve as a peer liaison and ambassador for prospective McNair scholars at UMD by advocating for underrepresented students, offering mentorship, fostering academic belonging, and actively recommending the program to peers interested in pursuing a PhD

**Undergraduate Research | University of Maryland, College Park**

*Undergraduate Research Assistant | Dr. Ronald L. Mower*

January 2025 - Present

- Contribute to qualitative research examining social injustice, embodiment, and cultural narratives within sport and physical culture
- Assist with data review, thematic analysis, and synthesis of scholarly literature at the intersection of ethics, identity, and social critique
- Support research that interrogates how structures of power shape individual experience and community expression, bridging philosophical perspectives with analysis of identity, culture, and systems of power

**McNair Summer Research Institute (SRI) | University of Maryland, College Park**

*Undergraduate Researcher*

Summer 2025

- Developed an independent, faculty-mentored research project, “Superposition of Staying...” examining how the language of women in physics reveals more about their identities and the academic culture they’re navigating
- Explored consciousness, perception, and language through a philosophical and physics-education-informed lens
- Worked with a research team from the Physics department studying how women in physics can build hope and persistence to stay in the field
- Engaged with philosophical frameworks, including narrative identity, intuitive epistemology, and metaphors from quantum mechanics (e.g., superposition)
- Trained through a rigorous research training sequence, including UNIV339: McNair Research Methods and Writing, guest lectures, and graduate school preparation classes
- Connected with interdisciplinary scholars across STEM, humanities, and social sciences to situate my work
- Tracked graduate programs and faculty that are aligned with my research interests

**Undergraduate Research | University of Maryland, College Park**

- Supported biomechanical and physiological testing and analysis of human movement in a 7,000+ sq. ft. laboratory equipped with advanced instrumentation, including 11 Kistler force platforms, 23 Vicon motion capture cameras, electromyography (EMG) sensors, movement speed and electromagnetic sensors, a Biodex dynamometer, metabolic units, and miniature 6-D force/torque sensors
- Contributed to ongoing research on (1) biomechanics and motor control of the hand and fingers, and (2) biomechanics and physiology of amputee running
- Assisted with experimental setup, motion analysis, and data processing while collaborating with graduate students and faculty across kinesiology, bioengineering, and neuroscience disciplines

## ***LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE***

### **University of Maryland, College Park**

- Vice-President - McNair Student Advisory Board (F25-S26)
- President/Co-founder - UMD Student Parent Club (F25-S26)
- Communications Officer - Society of Physics Students (F24-S25)
- Member/Advocate - Undergraduate Student Parent Advisory Council (F24-S25)

### **Bowie State University**

- Center for Financial Advancement Scholar - Center for Financial Advancement Program

## ***PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE***

### **Pod and Pride | Lanham, MD**

Founder/CEO

December 2025 - Present

- Develop the brand identity, operations, and strategies for a hybrid wellness initiative serving families seeking holistic fitness and cultivation experiences
- Conduct interdisciplinary research integrating cognitive science, neuroscience, philosophy, and kinesiology to inform the business approach and framework
- Oversee all aspects of early-stage development, including market research and program development
- Engage regularly with [student] parent networks to evaluate barriers and assess community needs
- Develop inclusive & scalable models aimed at closing gaps in support for parents, children, and families

### **True Moon Yoga | Annapolis, MD**

*Sculpt Teacher*

November 2023 - September 2025

- Promote trauma-informed, identity-affirming movement practices
- Lead inclusive, high-intensity yoga classes to cultivate strength and awareness

Amaya Johnson

- Contribute to studio operations, including but not limited to outreach, room preparation, and community outreach

**RTR Pilates | Potomac, MD**

*Pilates Instructor Trainee*

May 2024 - July 2024

- Practiced delivering safe and effective group Pilates classes in line with RTR Pilates standards
- Built rapport with clients and trainers of diverse backgrounds and skill levels
- Trained on company operations, including class setup and marketing initiatives

## ***LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS***

- Social and Behavioral Research - Basic/Refresher
- Biomedical Research - Basic/Refresher
- Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research
- NAIC Life & Accident & Health or Sickness Insurance Producer
- True Moon HIIT Fusion Training
- Rights Informed Birth Advocate
- Commissioned Notary Public – State of Maryland
- Google Project Management Professional Certification

## ***AWARDS AND HONORS***

**University of Maryland, College Park**

Judith Hager Endowed Memorial Scholarship (2025-2026 Award)

Angelo Bardasis Scholar - Scholarship recipient (Spring 25)

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

TEAM-UP Together Scholar (Fall 24)

The National Society of Success and Leadership

Tau Sigma National Honor Society

**Bowie State University**

Dean's List Fall 2019

Center for Financial Advancement Scholar

## ***PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES***

- National Society of Black Physicists
- American Physical Society
- Society of Physics Students