

Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal

Volume 4 *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal*

Article 50

9-12-2024

Creator Biographies

The Stimulus Team

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Recommended Citation

Team, The Stimulus (2024) "Creator Biographies," *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal*: Vol. 4, Article 50.

Available at: <https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/stimulus/vol4/iss1/50>

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STIMULUS

CREATOR
BIOGRAPHIES

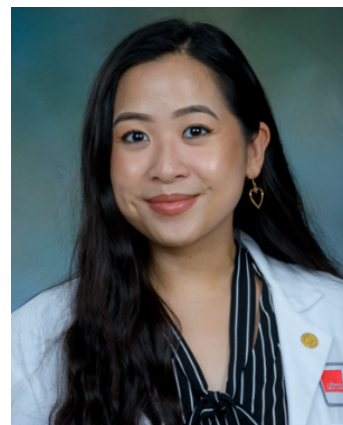


Jessica Nwankwo, the creator of “Underneath the Sycamore”, is an alumna from the University of Texas at Arlington with an Honors B.S. in Biology and B.S. in Psychology with minors in Medical Humanities & Bioethics and Clinical Psychology

Jessica Nwankwo is a UTA alumni who studied Biology and Psychology during her time there. While she has her sights set on a career in the medical field, these aspirations do not detract from her intrinsic creative nature; rather, Medical Humanities has shown her how these two passions can intersect. Art and writing are ways Jessica is able to bring life to her reflections, observations, and experiences and share these things with others.

Caroline Nguyen, the author of “Mentorship that Heals: Leading with Kindness in Medicine”, is a third-year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch John Sealy School of Medicine and an alumna from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Biochemistry.

Caroline Nguyen’s passion for medical humanities originates from her belief that before being a clinical science, medicine is a unique way to connect with others in their most vulnerable states. Her piece “Mentorship that Heals: Leading with Kindness in Medicine” was inspired by a mentor’s support for her wellness as both a student and individual during one of the most difficult moments of her medical school education thus far. As her experience was integral in reinvigorating her perseverance in her medical training, she wanted to share the importance of finding proper mentors to support you through your darkest times.



Karli Kirkendoll, the creator of “Breathe” is a Biology undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Karli Kirkendoll embarked on her academic journey at TCC before progressing to UTA, where she currently pursues a degree in biology with a pre-med focus. Originally from Oklahoma City, Karli relocated to Texas during her freshman year of high school. In her household, she grew up with her amazing, inspiring mother and younger brother in which they have a super tight bond. Karli is a young, proud Puerto Rican woman. High school was an excellent period for Karli as she actively engaged in both sports and the arts.

As a skilled soccer player, she showcased her talents on the field, while her artistic abilities in multimedia artwork garnered her several accolades. Beyond her artistic achievements, Karli loves to travel and has an adventurous spirit that led her to explore various corners of the country and the Caribbean. Eager to make a difference in healthcare, Karli is currently in the process of becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and one day become a doctor in the future. With a multifaceted background that combines academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and a passion for healthcare, Karli Kirkendoll stands strong for a future marked by contributions to both her community and the field of medicine.

Megan Mosman, the creator of “Grieving Spirits at the Empty Grave” is a University Studies senior at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Megan Mosman is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated from Tarrant County College, South Campus, in Spring 2022, with an Associate of Arts Degree. Next, she transferred to UTA to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in University Studies, with a focus on Art and Humanities. She expects to graduate in Spring 2024. Her favorite classes have been advanced painting and humanities. In 2023, Megan Mosman had a solo Art Exhibit of her paintings, entitled “Fantasy Lands,” at Gallery West at UTA. She has participated in group exhibitions in 2024 at the NASAD Exhibition, Gallery 295, at UTA and in 2023 in the On the Spectrum Exhibition, Art Corridors Gallery, at Tarrant County College SE Campus, Arlington, Texas. Also, Megan is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, UTA Chapter. For extracurricular activities, Megan enjoys visiting national parks, swimming, dancing, playing basketball, and attending summer camps.



Madison Rodriguez Fowlkes, the creator of “More than Existence” is a senior Biology major at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Madison Rodriguez Fowlkes is a pre-medicine senior at UTA, graduating in Spring of 2024 with her Bachelor of Science in Biology. Between working and classes, she enjoys traveling and exploring new places, reading, creative writing, and simply existing day to day with her little family. Madison draws inspiration from fleeting moments one might wish they could have lingered in a bit longer, as well as those that one might hope to eventually let go of. She believes every moment, whether it is a drive to the grocery store flooded with the light of the setting sun, a random weeknight take-out date, or an opportunity to make an unexpected connection, should be cherished.

Through writing, Madison believes that one can fully immerse themselves and live in emotion for a while. This is not only to move forward from them but to also revisit those moments as one continues to evolve throughout life. Madison hopes that as she evolves throughout life, she can continue to try and build connections with others through these shared emotions we often feel compelled to conceal.

Agnes Otieno, the author of “perhaps”, graduated from UTA in Spring 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

She has always been interested in writing and shortly dabbled in blogging in high school. Most of her work revolved around current events and issues that made me pause and think. As with most great ideas, her short piece on Natural Selection came to me while showering. It was a creative assignment for her ecology class, but since she was doing in the class, she had initially planned not to submit it, but it turned out better than expected. She hopes this piece prompts the reader to embrace a new perspective on survival and encourages them to reflect on how the traditional definition of Natural Selection fits in the world we live today.



Dr. Steven Gellman, the author of “Shoreline Allure”, and founder of the Medical Humanities program at UTA.

He arrived at UTA after practicing Family Medicine for over 30 years in Coppell, Texas. In addition to teaching multiple Medical Humanities courses, he enjoys assisting health professions students with career preparation and graduate program admissions. In this image, he combines his lifelong passion for photography with his spiritual home at the shoreline.

Margaret Syllah, the creator of “The feeling” and “Through a Doll’s Eyes”, is a nursing student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Margaret Syllah is a J1 nursing student at the University of Texas Arlington, striving to be either a labor and delivery nurse or a NICU nurse. She loves children with all her heart and seeks out any opportunity to work with them. Currently, she is employed as a Toddler Teacher with Lionheart Children’s Academy in Plano, fulfilling her passion, working with kids ranging from one to two years of age. She is a first-generation African and American student and the first of her family to attend college. She is the oldest of 3 siblings. She works every day to honor God and her family. She loves service work and giving her time and resources to help others. She is very hard-working and sees everything through to the end.

She graduated from Sachse High School in 2021. She took many Honors, AP, and Dual Credit classes to help set her up as best as possible. She was awarded Clinical Rotation Student of the Year and Food Science Student of the Year. She is fluent in both English and French. During her free time, she enjoys writing, drawing, listening to music, watching cartoons, and spending time with her family and friends. Margaret is a child at heart and does what she can to share carefree spirit with others.



Ami Patel, the creator of “broken hands”, is a senior undergraduate student pursuing a B.S. in Public Health at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ami Patel has formerly served as the President of the on-campus organization Mavericks Medical Humanities at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is expected to graduate in the Spring of 2024 and has plans to pursue a master’s degree in the future. Additionally, in the future she hopes to pursue a career in infectious disease or epidemiology. She created “broken hands” to provide a new perspective on the decisions we make as time passes, with an analogy of hands moving on a clock to the choices we make as time progresses. In doing so, the piece also reflects our ability to move on in spite of mistakes that have been made as the future is yet to come.

Shuang Gou, the creator of “bipolar”, is an intermediate graduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Gou was born in the Sichuan province of China. Having earned her BFA from China, she is currently pursuing her MFA as a graduate student of intermedia at UTA. Gou’s artistic journey has seen multiple works featured in various exhibitions in Texas and Chicago and has recently completed a solo exhibition in the University Center Gallery at UTA. Her artistic endeavors revolve around probing the spiritual essence of humanity within the modern world and also shows her reflections on the subtle and complicated psychological world.

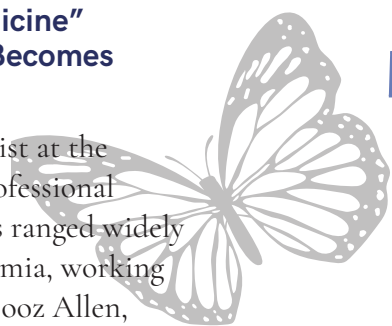
Amidst the relentless whirlwind of our fast-paced and highly commercialized society, she craves the rediscovery and reconnection to our innate nature. Through many of her paintings, Gou strives to capture the vibrancy and richness of life, addressing the challenge of finding balance in our busy modern existence and identifying sources where individuals can replenish their energy. Gou seeks to create a delicate balance between illusion and reality, allowing viewers to venture into a realm where their own interpretations and emotions come alive. Her aim is to create a profound connection with the audience, allowing them to perceive the world from a different perspective. Gou hopes her art can build up communication and understanding beyond the boundaries of languages, culture, and races and provide the audience with a different angle of viewing this world. In the words of Zen Buddhism, “communication from heart to heart, without the need for words,” resonates with her artistic mission.



Dr. Ogan Gurel, author of “Why Did Captain Miller’s Hand Tremble in the Movie Saving Private Ryan? Where Medicine influences Art & Art influences Medicine” and “Interpreting Don McLean’s “American Pie”: When the Meaningless Becomes Meaningful



Dr. Ogan Gurel serves as BioHealth Innovation Specialist at the University of Texas – Arlington and the Multi-Interprofessional Center for Health Informatics (MICHI). His career has ranged widely across medicine, scientific research, industry and academia, working at companies and institutions such as IBM, Samsung, Booz Allen, Sungkyunkwan University, DGIST, and the Solbridge International School of Business (Korea) as well as many innovative startups. Prior to surgical training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Gurel obtained an MD degree Alpha Omega Alpha from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (also doing graduate work in structural biology, earning an M.Phil degree) and received his Bachelor’s degree in Biochemical Sciences cum laude from Harvard College working with Prof. Martin Karplus (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2013).



Authoring 14 peer-reviewed scholarly papers (as well as a novel, *Waves*), presenting nearly 200 conference proceedings, and co-inventor on ten patent applications (four granted), Dr. Gurel has also given keynote addresses and other speeches at scientific and business conferences and seminars worldwide. Throughout his career, Dr. Gurel has always sought to integrate science and art, having published a novel, *Waves*, that melds science into art, and teaching the mini-MD, a comprehensive overview of medicine, that brings art into science.

Amanpreet Chahal

Amanpreet Chahal is a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in Biology with a minor in Neuroscience, on a pre-health track. Out of the many titles in her life, a Sikh holds the most importance. The word Sikh in Punjabi means to be a “learner” or a “disciple”, contributing to her belief that learning is continuous throughout one’s life. She strives to integrate the values of Sikhi to her daily life, through Kirat Karni (honest living), Vand Chakna (sharing with others), and Naam Japna (Remembering God). She also wishes to integrate these values into her future healthcare practices, leading to more inclusive, compassionate, and effective healthcare that benefits individuals and communities alike.

In her spare time, she volunteers at Texas Health Resources Arlington Memorial and with the children of her local Gurudwara. Additionally, she enjoys photography as a creative outlet, showcasing the human experience through a lens and having the ability to share that souvenir with others. This love for photography coupled with her religious and cultural background was the foundation for the piece, “Meri Mitti Meri Maa: A Celebration of Punjab’s Land.”



Joshua Cupps, the creator of “1958 Chevy Impala”, is an alumnus of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Josh is a UTA alum and a former Mavericks for Medical Humanities President. Through his time taking coursework in Medical Humanities and becoming more involved with the student organization, he has seen the beauty of the field in connecting people and ideas closer than before. His experiences with Medical Humanities has transformed his perspective of holistic medical practice and deepened his self-understanding by inspiring him to use his writing as a tool for creative expression.

Jacquelyn Argueta, Grace Postlewate, Marisela Sierra, and Rim Solomon, the creators of “Domestic Violence Survivors Health Campaign.”

Jacquelyn Argueta completed her BA in Communication Studies; achieving the distinction, cum laude from the University of Texas at Arlington, in December 2023. Jacquelyn was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, and has a passion to serve her community and make meaningful change. As a first generation college graduate, she strives to inspire others by showcasing resilience and determination. Post-grad, Jacquelyn continues to expand her skills as she transitions into a new leadership role in 2024.



Jacquelyn Argueta, Grace Postlewate, Marisela Sierra, and Rim Solomon, the creators of “Domestic Violence Survivors Health Campaign.”

Grace Postlewate is a current undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies. She is currently working as an undergraduate research assistant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives in the professional world, and is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society. Grace worked in operations as a retail manager and recently transitioned into the Human Resources department as a Generalist of a mid-size organization at the end of 2022. She oversees administration of benefits and accommodations, and assists colleagues in accessing wellness options. Grace has been recognized at her educational institution on the Dean’s list for the past four semesters, and was chosen as the first recipient of her organization’s Core Values Awards for Care. She is dedicated to advancing understandings of wellness, and aims to bridge knowledge gaps about domestic violence and sexual assault by promoting tangible solutions for health campaign effectiveness. For inquiries or further discussion, she can be reached at grace.postlewate@mavs.uta.edu.

Jacquelyn Argueta, Grace Postlewate, Marisela Sierra, and Rim Solomon, the creators of “Domestic Violence Survivors Health Campaign.”

Marisela Sierra is in her last semester at The University of Texas at Arlington, she is pursuing a BA in Communications Studies. She is also currently enrolled in a teacher certification program and is expected to begin teaching in the fall of 2024. Marisela’s passion has always been to help children. She is excited for her future as an educator and eager to make a difference in her community.





Jacquelyn Argueta, Grace Postlewate, Marisela Sierra, and Rim Solomon, the creators of “Domestic Violence Survivors Health Campaign.”

Rim Solomon is a student at the University of Texas at Arlington graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in organizational communications, with a minor in leadership in May of 2024. She has an ethnic Eritrean background but was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. Her goals include but are not limited to advocating for minority women, advocating for diverse leadership as well as continual professional development.

Rim is focused on her professional development, and in doing so is currently working on two certifications- operations management, and security management. She plans to retrieve a Project Management Professional certification after obtaining experience in the workforce post-graduation.

Raeed Chowdhry, the creator of “Gone but Not Forgotten” and “Ali from Aleppo”, is a senior undergraduate at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Raeed Chowdhry is a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington, pursuing a dual major in Biological Chemistry and Biology on the pre-med track. Raeed aspires to attend medical school and specialize in cardiology, driven by a desire to provide compassionate care to underserved populations. As a first-generation Pakistani-American, Raeed has been deeply influenced by the experiences of the immigrant and other historically neglected communities. Witnessing their unique struggles with discrimination and poor access to healthcare, Raeed was inspired to pursue a career in medicine to address these challenges.

Raeed was part of the inaugural cohort of medical interns at the Dr. Bob Mann Medical Clinic at Mission Arlington, where he assisted people from underserved and underprivileged communities to receive access to quality healthcare at no additional cost to them. Additionally, Raeed has conducted research in Organic Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, and Biochemistry, contributing to projects aimed at improving existing medications, developing novel medicines, and enhancing diagnostic techniques for improved healthcare and patient experiences. In his spare time, Raeed volunteers as an online ESL teacher at the Permian Basin Adult Literacy Center, assisting people with learning English to help them achieve their professional and personal goals. Raeed believes that his diverse experiences, ranging from medical internships to research and community service, will guide him to become a caring, well-rounded healthcare provider in the future.





Hannah McDaniel, the creator of “Kidney Histology x400” is a senior undergraduate student majoring in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

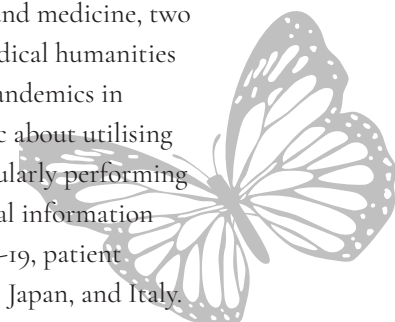
Hannah McDaniel is a senior biology student at UT Arlington. She was inspired to create “Kidney Histology x400” after she took anatomy and found that the kidneys were her favorite organ system. After seeing how many patients are affected by kidney disease, she wanted to attract attention to the continued efforts of researchers and developers in creating the artificial kidney. She plans to pursue medicine and will be applying to medical school this May. Art has always been one of her passions along with reading, and baking.

Esther Kentish, the author of “The Poetry of Dance: Vindication of former selves through our Secret Dance Lives”

Esther Kentish holds a Bachelor of Arts (2017) in English Literature and Language with a minor in Philosophy from the University of Texas at Arlington, a Master of Science (2018) in Technical Communication from North Carolina State University, and a Master of Science (2020) in Medical Humanities from King’s College London. Esther matriculated at the University of Oxford in 2020 and spent two years in the Faculty of English. Esther worked with patients in a hospital as a Mental Health Technician in the geriatric in North Carolina, United States, and is currently working in Britain on COVID-19 research. Her research focuses on scientific communication, medical humanities, poetry, life writing, autobiography, and biography.

Authoring 6 books, one of which, *The Emotional Healing Behind Words*, is a

poetic memoir featuring a critical, meta-data analysis of 47 poems written between 2009 and 2012. Esther is a member of the Royal Society of Literature and an Associate Member of the Royal Society of Medicine. TEDx speaker and published author, Esther Kentish, examines the interwoven parts and interactions between illness and narrative in projects that communicate the scientific aspects of medicine and illness through life-writing, patient narratives, and digital media. In addition, the publication of Esther’s literary work promotes de-stigmatization of illnesses while investigating their origin and cause. Esther’s study focuses on English literature and medicine, two specific subfields under Medical Humanities. Esther intends to use her research platform in medical humanities and literature to examine the impacts of mortality from diseases and illnesses, the realities of pandemics in both abstract and physical spaces, and its impact on both gender and race. Esther is enthusiastic about utilising qualitative tools such as metadata analysis and data visualisation as well as artistic tools (particularly performing arts such as spoken word poetry, music, and dance) to communicate statistical value and medical information regarding the aetiology and progression of disease. Esther is presenting her research on COVID-19, patient narratives, autobiographies, and biographies in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Italy.





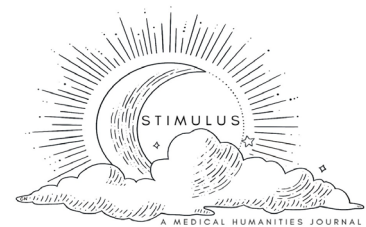
Sparshita Dey, author of “The Poetry of Dance: Vindication of Former Selves Through Our Secret Dance Lives”

Sparshita Dey is a 3rd year DPhil Candidate of Particle Physics at the University of Oxford, working predominantly on the LUX-ZEPLIN experiment, a world-leading dark matter direct detection effort. She is also involved in the HydroX experiment at Stanford, SLAC, as a visiting scholar, looking at the potential of doping dual phase xenon time projection chambers with hydrogen to improve sensitivity to low mass dark matter.

Having trained in both Hindustani classical music and the North Indian classical dance form kathak from a young age, she has always had an avid interest in the arts. She is particularly fascinated by the interplay between scales (or “raags”) and beats, which often seem to mimic the behaviour of patterns and symmetries seen in Physics. Her interest in this interplay between the arts and Physics (and Mathematics as the language connecting both) has led to an active interest in interdisciplinary projects, teaching and outreach activities, which besides music and dance, is often something she enjoys doing in her free time.

Prisha Kakliya, author of “The Paradox of Knowledge: A Personal Exploration Inspired by Descartes”

Prisha Kakliya is a first-year undergraduate student at UTA with a keen interest in medical ethics. She was inspired by René Descartes’ “Principles of Philosophy,” her favorite quote became a catalyst for self-discovery. In her piece, she confronts the realization that her knowledge was often superficial, leading her to embrace a mindset of active skepticism and continuous learning.





Anthony Nguyen, the creator of “DREAM | CHEMO BRAIN” is a junior Microbiology student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Alongside being a student, Anthony Nguyen works as a medical scribe in an emergency room setting. He is the youngest person in a family of seven, and lives with his mother, father, sister, and three dogs. Creative writing has been his hobby for several years; however, he stopped writing as frequently after starting university. To reignite his passion, he published a short story to Stimulus for people to relate with and enjoy. Other fun facts about the author are that hippos are his favorite animal, he enjoys playing video games, and he does research on insect gut microbiomes under the supervision of Dr. Ravenscraft!

Lisa Phan, the creator of “temporary forever home”

Lisa Phan, having an interest in both science and art, considers medical humanities to be a well-deserved area of her studies. She has found it valuable for her self-introspection and as a person aspiring to work in the healthcare field. Her art piece hopes to illustrate what it may feel like for someone to find themselves in a long-term care living arrangement when initially, things were supposed to be temporary. It’s hard to find comfort in a new place even for the sake of your health. She hopes her art piece shows the importance of viewing the world with empathy.



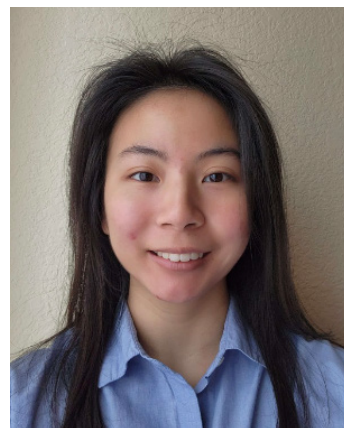
Arinze Awagu, the author of “finding hope” was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria to a catholic household with 4 siblings.



He is a medical microbiologist. He has been involved with the Mavericks for Medical Humanities since 2021. His interest in medical humanities stems from his own experiences as a patient all through his life, the significance of humanity in medicine is really important to him because regardless of whatever condition a person has, they are human first. He particularly appreciates the emphasis on the patient-centered care and how it impacts the patient's experience. He is currently pursuing his second bachelors degree as a biology major on the pre-med track and pursuing the minor in medical humanities. His piece was inspired by his personal experience with sickle cell anemia and how those experiences have led him to pursue a career as a physician, and one that can bring hope to as many patients he encounters.

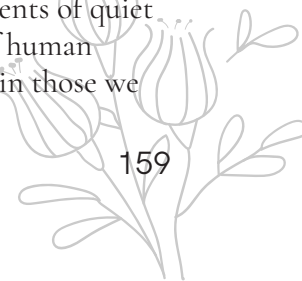
Christina Nguyen, the creator of “commentary on octopus pots” is a senior Biology major at the University of Texas at Arlington

Christina Nguyen is a pre-medicine student and Vice President for Mavericks for Medical Humanities. She is an avid adventurer who enjoys concerts and traveling in her spare time. Christina finds inspiration to write from her experiences traveling abroad, volunteering at the Mission Arlington Medical Clinic, from scribing in the emergency room, from interacting with fellow passionate peers, and from her time spent resting. She hopes to one day serve as a physician who aims to improve community health education.



Ava Trinh, the creator of “Using Humor in Healthcare” and “There’s beauty in the small things, too” is a first year undergraduate student majoring in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ava Trinh is currently a UTA freshman biology major on the pre-dental track. Ava hopes to share with others that, amidst the constant stress and rigors of academia, our ability to care for others is deeply intertwined with the capacity to care for ourselves. By taking moments to appreciate the little things all around — the laughter shared with friends, our blessings, and attention to the beauty in the mundane — students not only recharge in their own spirits but also cultivate a sense of empathy and compassion that can help shape their future interactions with patients. She believes that in these moments of quiet reflection lies the power to build deeper understanding of human experience, encouraging healing not only in ourselves but in those we are destined to serve.



Nahum Ding, the author of “Ugly is my Father”



Sejal Dulal, the creator of “Nature within You”, is a junior majoring in biology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Sejal Dulal is currently a junior majoring in Biology and she has had a passion for photography from childhood. As an introvert, she finds difficulty expressing herself through words, hence she turned to photography to speak her mind. She loves capturing moments so that even when life happens, the memories still exist. Besides taking pictures of people and life around her, she finds herself indulging in photographing nature. Serenity is different for everyone, her serenity lies in taking pictures of the sky because of its mystery, from blue to pink, even the sky expresses itself differently and she finds that fact ever so comforting. With her photography, she hopes that more people see and appreciate the beauty of the world around them. She hopes that people take solace in nature during times of hardship to find peace within themselves.

Joshua Rahmon the creator of “ Ethical Standards of International Medicine When Comparing Eastern and Western Medicinal Practices” is a dual biochemistry and psychology major on the pre-med track of study.

In the future, Rahmon plans to become an emergency medical physician, so he can provide patient care at the most critical times of their lives. He enjoys learning about the Medical Humanities as it is an often underrepresented but integral part of complete patient care. Joshua is also an active member of undergraduate research at UTA with the McFarland Research Group. His research involves synthesis and characterization of light-triggered metallodrugs for cancer therapy. When he’s not studying, he enjoys spending quality time with friends and family, traveling, and enjoying time outdoors soaking up the sun.



He hopes his work will illuminate the need for compromise in an ever-globalized society, allowing others to become educated on the pros and cons of Eastern vs Western Medicine, while maintaining respect for all viewpoints. His work is dedicated to his parents, who have provided amazing guidance, and unconditional love for the entirety of his life; and to his grandmother, who is an absolute beacon of light and strength through adversity. To God be the Glory.



Samantha Chasteen, the creator of “Light Shines Through”, is a student at the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in psychology and minoring in medical humanities.

Samantha Chasteen is a proud Texan born and raised in Arlington, Texas. She is a first-generation college student currently majoring in psychology and minoring in medical humanities at UTA. She aspires to become a physician to serve and heal those in her community. Studying medical humanities has changed the way she views and approaches the world and herself. The art in the Stimulus showed her that art has an essential role in medicine and inspired her to create a piece of art depicting the common yet often overlooked experience of grief. She hopes that the art she has shared may resonate with those who view it. Samantha’s greatest inspiration and pride is her loving family that encourages her to strive to the fullest.

Hallie Young, the creator of “A Potential Approach to Ethical Embryonic Editing: A Proposed Philosophical Framework” is a philosophy undergraduate student at the University of Texas

Hallie Young defines her time at UTA with advocacy for humanity in medicine and a staunch commitment to legal scholarship. As a Philosophy Undergraduate, Hallie hopes her work sparks substantive conversation. Through thought and genuine compassion, she believes we all may change the world—One word at a time!





Juliana Le, the creator of “Liquid Gold”, is a senior majoring in microbiology with a minor in psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Juliana Le, a senior majoring in Microbiology with a minor in Psychology, embarks on her journey as a dedicated scholar and aspiring healthcare provider. Hailing from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Juliana’s passion for medicine was ignited by her father, an esteemed orthopedic surgeon whose unwavering commitment and clear vision deeply inspired her. Juliana’s leadership shines through her roles as a teaching assistant in various labs and her current position as Student Director for the Leadership Honors Program.

Juliana also champions gender equity in healthcare through her executive position as a Public Relations Director for the Advancement of Females in Medicine organization. Beyond academia, Juliana finds solace in volunteering weekly at a cat cafe, embodying her compassion for both humans and animals. With a trifecta of certifications as a Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, and ongoing training as an Emergency Medical Technician, Juliana is committed to honing her skills in healthcare delivery. Her frontline experience has sensitized her to the pressing issue of medication affordability, particularly the soaring costs of insulin, which she explores through the lens of medical humanities in her project “Liquid Gold.” Juliana’s ultimate goal is to attend PA school and pursue a career as a Physician Assistant, where she can continue making meaningful contributions to healthcare.

Angela Silva, the creator of “Transcendence of Faith”, is an alumna from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.S.

Angela Denise Silva Cruz, a native of San Antonio who spent her formative years in Dallas, is a versatile artist and aspiring scientist. Proud of her indigenous roots, Angela draws inspiration from her Mexican heritage in her art and daily life, her passion for expression has been on an unyielding journey of self-discovery through various mediums. Her skill has been recognized with notable placements at the Texas Art Education Association’s Visual Arts Scholastic Event (TAEA VASE). Angela’s passion for the natural world led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at the University of Texas at Arlington.



Currently employed as a veterinary technician, Angela finds fulfillment in caring for animals, including her own lively bulldog. Additionally, Angela enjoys immersing herself in the worlds of literature, writing, music, and activism finding solace and inspiration in these pursuits. With her impending graduation, Angela sets her sights on further studies in veterinary medicine and wildlife conservation, driven by her love for animals and desire to make a difference. Balancing her artistic and scientific endeavors, Angela wishes to epitomize the fusion of creativity and intellect.



Mohamed Abdalati, the creator of “The Impact of COVID-19 on Undergraduate Students’ Academic Performance at the University of Texas at Arlington”, is an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington with a double major in biology and microbiology and a minor in Arabic language.

Mohamed Abdalati is a distinguished Honors undergraduate student at The University of Texas at Arlington, with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Microbiology in addition to a Minor in Arabic Language (Spring 2024). A Texas native with formative years spent in Libya, Abdalati’s return to the U.S. in 2018 marked the beginning of a standout academic trajectory that underscores his commitment to scholarly excellence. Abdalati’s undergraduate stint has been remarkable.

He secured an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship position and received funding for his research project in Microbiology. His research was presented at the ASM annual conference in Stephenville, TX (2023), where he presented his findings, reinforcing his expertise in his field. Abdalati’s Honors thesis, emblematic of his dedication, is a significant contribution to the UTA students, faculty, and the broader scientific community. His thesis, along with his recent manuscript publication acceptance, “The Impact of COVID-19 on Undergraduate Students’ Academic Performance at University of Texas at Arlington,” by Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal, attests to his potential in shaping the scientific discourse. As he aspires to medical school and a future Doctorate in Medicine, Abdalati’s journey is a testament to his academic prowess and a promise of his impact on the medical sciences.

Ekjot Birdi, the creator of “Poetographs” is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington

Ekjot Kaur Birdi hails from the serene town of Frisco, where her journey began amidst the Texas landscape. From her formative years, she exhibited a vibrant athleticism, dedicating herself to varsity track from 2017 to 2019. Currently a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington, Ekjot is pursuing Environmental Science and Philosophy, driven by her passion for understanding the interplay between humanity and nature (and their inherent inseparability). She is interested in toxicology, farmer’s rights, occupational safety and hazards, agroecology, eastern spirituality, determinism, and one love. Her research projects with wonderful UTA faculty include one covering reflexive awareness (in and outside of Tibetan Buddhism) and the intricate relationship between agriculture and the environment.

Ekjot’s diverse interests manifest in her eclectic hobbies, which range from painting and poetry to sewing and fashion design. An avid reader, her favorite book, “Don Quixote,” reflects her appreciation for literature and introspection and inspires her to *pacencia y barajar los cartos*. When not engrossed in her studies or creative endeavors, she finds solace in the serene melodies of bossa

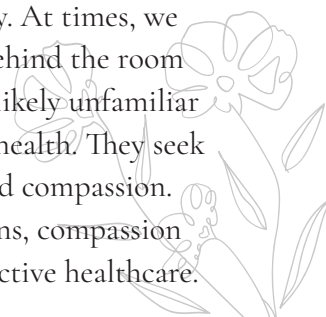


nova, and Samba. Beyond her academic endeavors, Ekjot is engaged in advocacy and community service. As a Student Research Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute and an intern at organizations like the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, she actively contributes to causes close to her heart. Her leadership roles and participation in various campus clubs, including the Philosophy Society and the Environmental Science Club, underscore her commitment to effecting positive change.



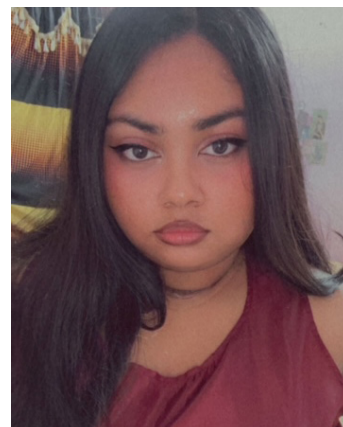
Muhammed AbdalRahman, the creator of “Through the Eyes of A Rookie” is a freshman biology major at the University of Texas at Arlington

Alongside being a student, Muhammed Tariq AbdalRahman is also a part-time emergency medical technician, and is passionate about fostering empathy within the medical field. They also enjoy going to the gym, swimming and cooking. The goal of this work was to serve as a moment of self-reflection and a window into the mindset of an “empathetic” provider. There is a risk of becoming overly focused on tasks and technical aspects within the medical journey. At times, we can lose sight of the human element, the individual behind the room number and the chart. This individual, just like us, is likely unfamiliar with medical complexities and entrusts us with their health. They seek not only guidance and support, but understanding and compassion. Through all the IVs, medications, and computer screens, compassion and human connection remain essential pillars of effective healthcare.



Ayesha Tanvee, the creator of “Visceral Symmetry”, is a microbiology student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ayesha Tanvee, an international student from Bangladesh, is currently pursuing her passion for microbiology at the University of Texas at Arlington. Drawing inspiration from her diverse cultural background, Ayesha’s artistic flair extends beyond the confines of her scientific studies. Her artwork reflects a unique perspective, inviting viewers to delve into the intricate tapestry of life’s mysteries, where each individual represents a universe of their own. Ayesha’s academic journey has been enriched by her involvement in groundbreaking research for visceral leishmaniasis with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh. Alongside her scientific pursuits, she has honed her skills in social media management, leveraging digital platforms to amplify artistic discourse and engage with broader audiences.



Despite her busy schedule, Ayesha remains deeply committed to community service and creative expression. From volunteering her time to having experience in leading a creative production team, she thrives in dynamic environments where collaboration and innovation flourish. A natural storyteller, Ayesha finds peace in sketching characters, crafting intricate paper designs, and painting. As a left-handed Virgo, Ayesha finds joy in the small pleasures of life, whether it's with some boba tea or cuddling up with her beloved cat. Her warm and compassionate nature shines through in her interactions with friends and peers, making her a cherished member of any community. Looking ahead, Ayesha plans to embark on the next chapter of her journey by pursuing medical school after graduation.



Robert Parra, author of “HIV Disparities in the United States” is a pre-PA alumnus of UT Arlington.

For several years now he has been interested in all things related to exercise, health, and medicine. However, he came to be interested in a career in health care after both his own experiences as a patient and witnessing his grandparents' struggles with strokes and cardiovascular disease and how complex these conditions can be to manage without proper guidance. Through his various experiences as an interpreter and a volunteer triage member at a couple of community-based clinics that serve low-income patients in the area he has grown to be interested in understanding various disparities in health care.

Dissecting and analyzing these disparities he feels can help increase understanding of patient behaviors and help improve health outcomes. Taking medical humanities courses has helped broaden his perspective of health care and the importance of incorporating the humanities approach into patient care. The inspiration for his submission stems from not only wishing to treat and educate vulnerable populations in the future but also wanting to understand them as a person, where they are coming from, and what environmental circumstances might affect them and influence their health care. He elected to create his piece in essay form since he feels this is the best method and approach, he can utilize to inform others about issues that he feels are salient to medicine and medical humanities.



Serena Young and Jasdeep Kaur, the creators of “Pieces of a Healthy Heart” are fourth year undergraduate students at the University of Texas at Arlington pursuing a Bachelors in Science in Biology.

Serena Young is a fourth-year UTA student pursuing her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Spanish on the pre-dental track. She was raised in the DFW area with her three other siblings and currently has two dogs. Serena is an outdoors person who loves to rollerblade and run marathons in different states. She also likes to dabble in the arts, namely film and digital photography. Her passion for science and the arts has drawn her to the field of dentistry and she hopes to one day serve the local community to address the oral health disparities in marginalized neighborhoods.



Serena Young and Jasdeep Kaur, the creators of “Pieces of a Healthy Heart” are fourth year undergraduate students at the University of Texas at Arlington pursuing a Bachelors in Science in Biology.

Born and raised in Texas, Jasdeep Kaur is a driven fourth-year student at the University of Texas at Arlington, pursuing a bachelor’s in science in Biology with a passion for medicine. Jasdeep’s sights are set on attending medical school to fulfill her dream of becoming a surgeon. Growing up in a close-knit Punjabi household as a first-generation student, her upbringing gives her a deep respect for diverse cultures and a powerful work ethic. Beyond her academic pursuits, Jasdeep finds joy in a diverse array of hobbies ranging from snowboarding through snow-covered slopes to capturing moments through her camera lens.

She thrives on adrenaline-fueled activities and enjoys traveling which allows her to immerse herself in different cultures and landscapes. Yet, amidst her pursuits, her passion is to intersect medicine and art to create an understanding and unity across borders. This project draws upon diverse medicinal practices and highlights the shared humanity within the healthcare system. With hopefully dedication, she hopes to turn passion to purpose and make a meaningful impact in the field of medicine and beyond.

Alexis Ellerbe, the author of “The Witch Inside”, is a current student at the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine, and a lifelong fiction author.

After spending the first 18 years of her life in San Antonio, Texas, she spent her undergrad years in Houston, attending Rice University and obtaining a Bachelors in Biology. While at Rice, she took courses in fiction, satire, poetry, and fairytales, and continued to improve her translation of her vivid dreams into short stories and poems. She has had the opportunity to perform some of her pieces in front of her peers, poems entitled “I am the Sun” and “Nesting Doll”.

Her aims for her short fiction works are to use humor, absurdity, or childlike wonder to take the reader on a journey through a range of hard to discuss topics. Her career ambitions include orthopedic surgery and academia, while her personal interests involve traveling the world, watching sci-fi movies, curating music playlists for every occasion, and kickboxing. She can be contacted via her email agellerb@utmb.edu, and she wishes you happy reading!



Lauren Ngo, the creator of “My Dance with Time” is a biomedical engineering student at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Along with her interest in science, she has a deep passion for art and the humanities. Although her education keeps her busy, Lauren makes an effort to balance her professional trajectory with her creative side. She enjoys various hobbies such as reading, painting, drawing, and crocheting. Lauren is the secretary of Mavericks for Medical Humanities, an organization within her university that hopes to encourage medical students to make time for the humanities.

She believes that a strong connection to creativity and emotional expression is important for medical professionals, as it allows them to better understand their patients and one another. Though her engineering background may seem to conflict with her love of the arts, Lauren believes that the two must coexist. The daughter of two immigrants from Vietnam, and a member of a large Vietnamese family, Lauren is deeply influenced by her heritage. Naturally, this heritage also impacts her artwork. During her visits to Vietnam, Lauren found inspiration in the beautiful Vietnamese art that she witnessed, and was especially drawn to the country’s traditional fashion. She makes a conscious effort to include elements of this artwork within her own creations; in doing so, she strengthens her connection to a world which she values immensely. Her submission to this journal incorporates this Vietnamese fashion into a unique take on a classic Western piece.



Ella Scott, the creator of “Writing Won’t Warp War”, is a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ella Scott has writing and PR experience being The Shorthorn’s engagement editor and working for Downtown Arlington. Her passion is informing the public through writing but also writing poetry after falling in love with the genre in a class.

