Rhea Bailey, Speech Language Pathology

Rhea is currently a Masters student in Communication Sciences and Disorders at GSU. She comes to the field after a career in IT. Rhea was motivated to make the career change by a desire to positively impact the lives of others. During the GaLEND year Rhea hopes to learn skills to be a leader in interdisciplinary settings.
Stephanie Baumann, Developmental Psychology

Stephanie is a PhD student in Developmental Psychology at GSU. She does research related to the ways children learn language through the use of gestures. During the GaLEND year Stephanie hopes to learn skills that will support her as she works to translate her research into sustainable community practice.
Teal Benevides, Occupational Therapy

Teal works as an Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Department at Augusta University in Augusta, GA. She trains Occupational therapists in her role, She is also interesting in research related to healthcare needs and service utilization for adults on the autism spectrum. During her time in GaLEND she wants to build her network so that she gains new colleagues and collaborators.
Laura Bonin, Physical Therapy

Laura is in her final year of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at GSU. She hopes to work at the intersection of her clinical training and her passion for people with disabilities to improve the lives of her patients and their families. She sees herself having a responsibility to be a clinician/leader when it comes to translating the gifts and needs of her patients in interdisciplinary settings.
Claire Dees, Family Advocacy

Claire serves as the Executive Director of Spectrum Autism Support Group in Gwinnett County. During GaLEND she hopes to build her Network and gain new skills to lead the organization in even more effective and efficient ways. She is also happy to have the opportunity to share her experience of parenting a young man with autism with young, emerging clinicians and researchers.
Jessica currently serves as a health communications fellow at CDC. She has passion for building relationships with people with disabilities as evidenced through her commitment to volunteering as a Special Olympics basketball coach. Jessica hopes to use the skills she gains in GaLEND in lead in supporting people with disabilities to make contributions at the intersection of public health and disability.
Vagillia (Jill) Jackson, Social Work

Jill is a 2nd year MSW student here at GSU. She brings with her to GaLEND a passion for youth development. Jill is grateful for the opportunities GaLEND is proving her to learn about how to support people with disabilities and their families. She hopes to find a position that will allow her to practice using the skills she has gained through the year.
Chantelle Morrison-Kouroma, Nursing

Chantelle currently works as a Nurse Navigator at Childrens’ Healthcare of Atlanta. She is also the mother of a son with autism. During her time in GaLEND she hopes to learn about resources and build relationships to better serve families.
Anne Ladd, Family Advocacy

Anne Currently serves as the Family Engagement Specialist in Division of Special Education Services and Supports at the Georgia Department of Education. She hopes to gain new tools and skills through GaLEND to be a more effective leader. She also appreciates the opportunity to share her family’s experience with emerging professionals,
Jiwon serves as an Assistant Professor of Nursing in the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing at GSU. She is also the mother of a child with a developmental disability. She is interested in building awareness in nursing education for the unique gifts and needs of children with developmental disabilities and their families.
Angela Miles, Speech Language Pathology

Angela serves as Clinical Faculty in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program in the GSU College of Education and Human Development. She is interested in developing attitudes and dispositions in clinicians that assist them in advocating for equity in organizations and systems.
Nonyé Nwosu, Developmental Psychology

Nonyé is a 4th year PhD student in the Developmental Psychology Program at GSU. She is interested in Augmentative Communication for people with autism and other developmental disabilities. She is interested in training families so that they are better able to support communication with their family members.
Yvette Pegues, Individual Advocacy

Yvette is the reigning Miss Wheelchair International. She is passionate about promoting literacy and access to needed medical equipment and supplies for people with disabilities and their families in the developing world. Yvette hopes GaLEND will provide her with opportunities to learn how to continue to use her platform to improve the lives of people with disabilities.
Jamie Pepper, Nutrition

Jamie is currently a first year masters student in the GSU Combined Program in Nutrition and Dietetics. She hopes to use her skills and experience in supporting children with disabilities in accessing food that supports healthy living. She is looking forward to the opportunities she will have to work in a expand her knowledge, skills and practice concerning the role of the dietician on an interdisciplinary team.
Susanna Miller-Raines, Social Work

Susanna is a second year student in the MSW Program at the University of Georgia. She also serves as a Community Support Specialist at CLD where her responsibilities include leadership in the statewide Inclusive Post Secondary Education Consortium. Susanna hopes her year in LEND will help her have opportunities to see how the work she does is connected to other issues in the system of care.
Ken Reed, Pastoral/ Family Advocacy

Ken is serves as a hospice chaplain and he actively works with families who have children with disabilities to plan the flourishing of their families. He hopes to use the tools and skills he gain through GaLEND to continue to strengthen families he supports.
Marvin So, Public Health

Marvin currently works in the Division of Human Development and Disability at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He hopes to bring real world perspective from advocates and families from GaLEND to his work in public health. Marvin is grateful for the ways GaLEND helps him connect to such a diverse set of leaders.
Anne Stair, School Psychology

Anne is currently pursuing her PhD in School Psychology at Georgia State University. She also spent time as a classroom teacher, so she brings a keen awareness regarding the challenges and opportunities that exist for students with disabilities in various educational settings. Anne plans to gain new tools, skills, and relationships to assist students and families in navigating the system of care in Georgia.
Molly Tucker, Social Work

Molly is a second year MSW student at the University of Georgia this year. She comes to GaLEND with experience as a classroom teacher in Macon, GA. She has an interest in working in Inclusive Post Secondary Education. She hopes GaLEND will give her opportunities to explore options for bringing together her knowledge, skills and experience in a position where she can make a positive impact in the lives of the people she supports.
Jorge Verlenden, Developmental Psychology

Jorge is spending the year in both GaLEND and the Health Leadership Policy Fellowship at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine. She hopes to do work that will contribute to the elimination of disparities in access, quality and outcomes for people with disabilities with disabilities and their families.
Kurt Vogel, Individual Advocacy

Kurt has a passion for working with computers. He is interested in doing work that will allow him to use technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities. He is currently a student in the EXCEL Program at Georgia Tech. He hopes to leave there with a position in IT that allows him to help other people.
Elizabeth Labbe-Webb, Individual Advocacy

Elizabeth grew up in a world before civil rights protections for people with disabilities. She found her passion & connections through the arts. She has led multiple arts organizations. She hopes to strengthen her network and her knowledge of the system of care through her participation in GaLEND.