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# Engaging Undergraduates In Research

Mr. Spencer M. Seals, M.S.

PhD candidate,

Dr. Valerie Shalin

Psychology, College of Science and Mathematics

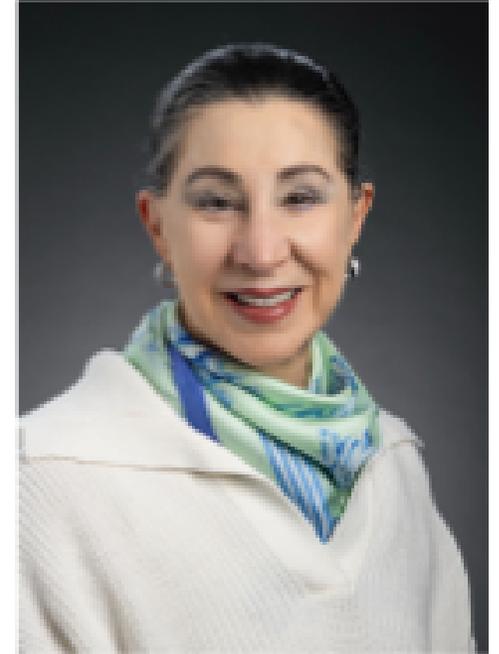
# Spencer Seals

- Workplace Cognition Lab in the Department of Psychology
- Education:
  - 4th year graduate student in HF/IO Ph.D. Program
    - 2023- M.S. Wright State University
    - 2017- B.S. Franklin University
- Research collaborations:
  - 7 years of collaboration with human effectiveness directorate at AFRL
  - Second year of 711HPW/RHWE sponsored DAGSI, “Conversational analytics for team communication”
- Research:
  - Language and reasoning in humans and machines
  - AI and modeling and analysis to understand psychological and cognitive processes



# Valerie Shalin

- Workplace Cognition Lab in the Department of Psychology
- 2024 Brage Golding. Distinguished Professor of Research
- Current Provost's Faculty Fellow promoting AI literacy
- Long history of promoting graduate and undergraduate interaction and synergy



# Competitive Advantage

- Mid-sized 4 year public universities offer an academic, research, and social community
- Graduates are more likely to be engaged at work and thriving in all areas of well being if they:
  - Had at least one professor who made them excited about learning
  - Felt professors cared about them as a person
  - Had a job or internship related to their coursework
  - Worked on a project that took a semester a semester or more

## Emphasis: Workplace Skills that Build on Classroom Experience

- Professional development
- Networking and career skills
- Critically thinking and research evaluation
- Skills for real world data analysis
- Effectively communicating research findings

# Human Visual Development and Implications for Computational Cognitive Models

- Significance:  
Developmental analysis reveals hidden skills and properties of the adult perceptual system
- Student skill development:  
Research evaluation and synthesis skills expanded outside the classroom



**Alyssa Ova**

Current student, Spring 2027  
B.S. Psychology minor in Forensics  
South Vienna, Ohio

Future plans: graduate school focused  
on forensics and clinical psychology

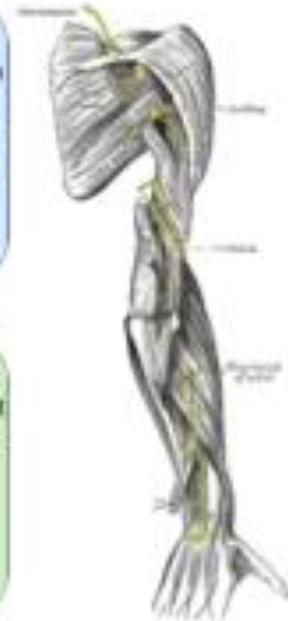
# Assessing Anatomical Term Knowledge in Trauma Surgery

🌟 3rd Place Undergraduate Poster- 2025 COSM Festival of Research

- Significance:  
Comprehensive skills testing and evaluation for military surgeons and medics in realistic practice-relevant scenarios
- Student skill development: Use of naturalistic data from real world trauma surgery scenarios

**Radial Nerve Technical Definition:** A major nerve of the upper extremity. In humans the fibers of the radial nerve originate in the lower cervical and upper thoracic spinal cord (usually C5 to T1), travel via the posterior cord of the brachial plexus, and supply motor innervation to extensor muscles of the arm and cutaneous sensory fibers to extensor regions of the arm and hand.  
Reference: <http://url.bioontology.org/ontology/MESH/D011826>

**Radial Nerve Novice Definition:** Your radial nerve is a peripheral nerve that supplies movement and sensory function to parts of your arm, forearm, wrist and hand. You have a radial nerve in each of your arms. It's called "radial" because part of it runs alongside the radius bone (and the radial artery) in your forearm.  
Reference: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/21617-radial-nerve>



**Justin Koehler**

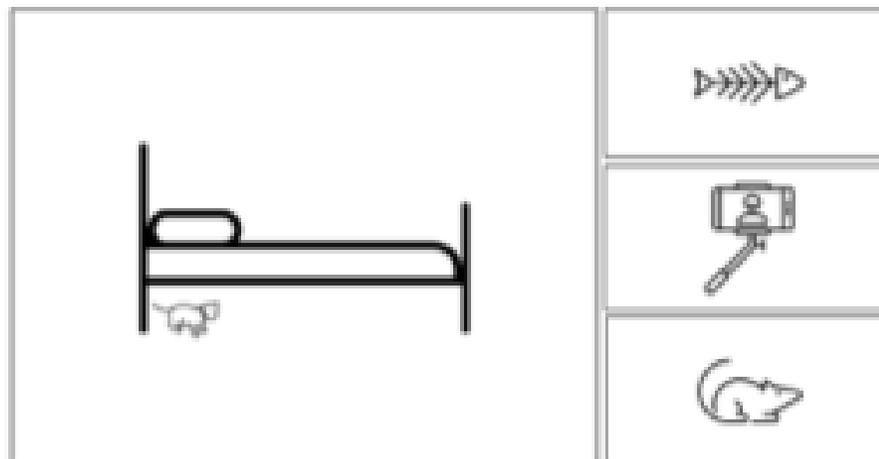
Current student, Spring 2028  
B.S. Psychology and B.S.  
Neuroscience  
Tipp City, Ohio

Future plans: medical school focus on psychiatry

# Assessing Complex Relational Reasoning Performance

★ 2nd Place Undergraduate Oral Presentation- 2025 COSM Festival of Research

- Significance: controlled methods highlight creative reasoning not evaluated in traditional approaches
- Student skill development: Complex statistical modeling techniques commonly introduced in advanced graduate courses



Man is to king as \_\_\_\_\_ is to queen.

woman

girl

prince

princess



**Sean Mangan**

Current student, Spring 2026  
B.S. Psychology/Behavioral  
Neuroscience  
Xenia, Ohio

Future plans: graduate school in  
neuroscience and animal studies

# Closing the Gap: Better Preparing Military Medics for Deployments

- ★ 3rd Place Undergraduate Oral Presentation- 2025 COSM Festival of Research
- ★ Outstanding Psychology Undergraduate Student Award- Spring 2026 Semester

- **Significance:** Identified inconsistent training implementation, refresher opportunities, and feedback
- **Student skill development:** Mixed methods and multiple data sources to inform both training research and practical policy recommendations



## Solutions

- Improving training consistency
- Increased opportunities for hands-on practice
- Increased training frequency for critical skills
- Collaboration with civilian trauma centers for training and rotations
- Adopt evidence-based evaluation metrics applied to realistic training scenarios



## Cheri Wright

Current student, Spring 2026  
B.S. Psychology

Future plans: Graduate school in  
Industrial/Organizational Psychology

# Former Students



**Kacey O'Harra**

Donor Information Specialist, Solvita  
B.S. Psychology/Behavioral  
Neuroscience



**Leeon Israel**

Software Engineer, Catalyst Health  
B.S. Computer Information Systems,  
USC



**Finlay Palmer**

Current Student  
B.S. Computer Science, USC



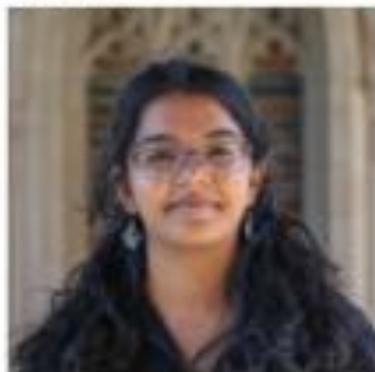
**Lauren Pham**

Current Student  
B.S. Psychology and Neuroscience



**Autumn Hickman**

Current Student  
B.S. Psychology and Neuroscience



**Saina Srivastava**

Current Student  
Mechanical Engineering and Political  
Science, Duke University

## Photos Not Available

**Noah Marlette**

B.S. Psychology- Clinical  
Concentration

**William Brown**

B.S. Psychology

**Elizabeth Regish**

Current Student  
Psychology

**Zoe Dinnison**

Psychology

**Thomas Holte**

Current Student  
Psychology

**Mikayla Hensley**

Current Student  
Psychology



**Trisity Carnes**

MA Clinical Psychology Student  
Cleveland State University

# Questions?



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# CAMPUS RECREATION UPGRADES







## Dayton Daily News: Wright State to teach area teachers how to prepare for civics classes; host student civics summer camps

February 4, 2026

[+ Share / Save](#)

[Permalink](#)

## Wright State joins selective U.S. Space Command Academic Engagement Enterprise

*Wright State students gain access to real-world space research and workforce pathways through U.S. Space Command*

By Bob Mihalek

bob.mihalek@wright.edu, 937-775-3622

February 9, 2026

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From left, Wright State's Center for Civics, Culture and Workforce Development staff members Adam Reiman, deputy director; Jason Anderson, executive director; Diane Vitas; and Mike Jacobs, deputy director.



Wright State University joins a select group of institutions nationwide in U.S. Space Command's Academic Engagement Enterprise, creating new opportunities for student involvement in space research and workforce development.

## THE BIG HOOPLA STEM CHALLENGE CHAMPIONED BY WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

MARCH 15, 2026 | DAYTON, OH

### SHOOT SOME HOOPS AND ENJOY STEM EDUTAINMENT!

Bring your family to the Annual STEM Challenge at the Wright State University Nutter Center. You'll participate in a FREE basketball 'hot shot' and education contest, fun STEM demonstrations, and much more!

The event, open to K-8 students, ties together the excitement and passion for college basketball to the power of STEM education. Regional and national partners will be on-site to engage students with hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math demonstrations, as well as two fun 45-minute shows with award-winning science entertainer Mister C and performances by Eric Energy.

### WIN PRIZES

GRAND PRIZES include iPads and WSU Scholarships\* plus Free Snacks, T-Shirts, NCAA First Four® tickets, and more!



### WHEN

Sunday, March 15, 2026  
Check-in: 11:00 am  
Event: 12:00-6:00 pm

### WHERE

WSU Nutter Center  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy  
Fairborn, OH 45324



REGISTER BY 3/13/26 [HOOPLASTEM.COM](https://hooplastem.com)



Dayton Hoopla · Follow

February 6 at 10:40 AM · 🌐

**BREAKING NEWS:** Due to overwhelming demand, the 2026 STEM Challenge, championed by **Wright State University**, will now be held at the **Wright State Nutter Center**! The move to this legendary venue will allow even more K-8 students and their families to enjoy all the incredible STEM exhibits, demonstrations, and science shows we have in store on March 15.

We weren't joking when we said this would be the biggest and best STEM Challenge yet!

Make sure you're there. Register for FREE today: <https://hooplastem.com>

#STEMEducation #TheRoadStartsHere #FirstFour





## Wright State baseball to take on Dayton Flyers at Day Air Ballpark April 15

By [Wright State Media Team](#)  
[news@wright.edu](mailto:news@wright.edu), (937) 775-3345  
February 10, 2026

[Share / Save](#)

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## WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY ARTS *gala*

April 11, 2026

Join us for ArtsGala, Dayton's premier event showcasing Wright State's most talented students in the fine and performing arts.

Tickets on sale now at [wright.edu/ArtsGala](http://wright.edu/ArtsGala)

## REGIONAL W RKFORCE *Summit*



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## **Student Update**

**Lauren Johnson & Ella Vaught**

**February 20, 2026**



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## ATHLETICS

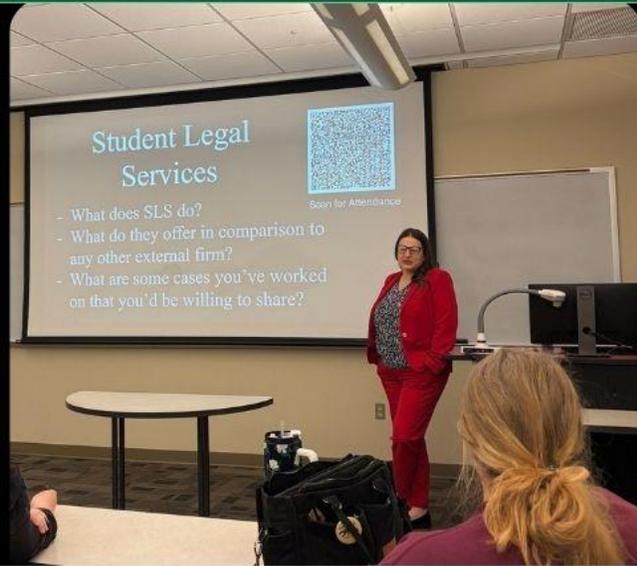


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## LAKE CAMPUS





## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



**SGA** WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY | STUDENT ADVOCACY AND WELLNESS | WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY | COUNSELING AND WELLNESS SERVICES

### HELP US FEED OUR COMMUNITY

TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- Donate online
- Drop off non-perishable food items
- Spread the word—every share helps feed another person

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

As food insecurity increases, more families in our community are struggling. Your donation helps ensure that our neighbors receive the meals and support they need.

**MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:**

- Canned fruits/vegetables, juices, soup

**DONATE THE MOST ITEMS FOR A PRIZE**



## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP



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## GREEK LIFE

**GET  
ROWDY**



**HOMECOMING 2026 (1 OF 3)**



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## HOMECOMING 2026 (2 OF 3)



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## HOMECOMING 2026 (3 OF 3)



# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS





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