Mathews Almeida

Valdosta, Georgia | (229) 460-4459 | ma2387@cornell.edu

Education

Cornell University   **Anticipated Graduation May 2028**

College of Arts & Sciences, Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (Intended)

Relevant Coursework: Introduction to Bio & Cell Development, Statics & Mechanics of Solids, Biomolecular Thermodynamics, Differential Equations for Engineers, Physics II: Electromagnetism

Pre-Collegiate Summers Scholar Program: Designed to help students prepare for their first year at Cornell, participation is either required or optional, depending on the student's college. Courses typically include regular summer sessions, enrichment courses in subjects such as writing or math, and a college achievement seminar on skills like time management and stress management.

GPA: 3.338/4.30

Valdosta High School, Valdosta, GA   **Graduated May 2024**

IB Alumni

GPA: 101.115

Professional Experience

College of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Office, Ithaca, NY   **July 2025-Present**

Mailroom Attendant, Administrative Attendant

- Sort and distribute incoming mail and packages for faculty, researchers, staff, and project teams, including items requiring special handling such as hazardous materials and temperature-sensitive deliveries (refrigerated or frozen).
- Manage and resolve online ticket requests related to room reservations, equipment access, and administrative support.
- Collaborate with office staff to provide general assistance and ensure smooth daily operations across the department.
- Maintain organization, accountability, and safety in mailroom operations while supporting a high-volume academic and research environment.

Yang Lab, Ithaca, NY   **November 2024-Present**

Undergraduate Researcher

- Conducting force measurements and nanoscale imaging using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) to characterize polyelectrolyte-coated microbial cells.
- Trained in the bacteria culture room to maintain sterile technique, culture E. coli and yeast, and prepare samples for downstream analysis.
- Operate the Tecan microplate reader for automated culturing, incubation, and optical density (OD_{600}) measurements to assess cell growth and viability.
- Certified in laboratory safety protocols, including chemical handling, compressed gases, and bloodborne pathogen precautions.
- Gaining hands-on experience in experimental design, protocol optimization, and safe laboratory practices in a biosafety level 1 environment.

Longhorn Steakhouse, Valdosta, GA   **April 2022-June 2024**

Service Assistant, Service Assistant Trainer, To Go Specialist, and Food Runner

- Demonstrated exceptional leadership as the head of the service assistant team, strategically coordinating table and seat assignments during high-volume evenings to optimize efficiency and ensure optimal customer service, key for managing lab environments.
- Proficiently managed order-taking responsibilities over the phone and in person, adeptly packaging and delivering orders with a focus on accuracy and timeliness.
- Displayed strong organizational skills by efficiently managing sauces and dressings inventory, ensuring a streamlined workflow. Effectively directed team members in properly distributing food items, contributing to an enhanced overall dining experience for patrons, and transferring to maintaining lab equipment and resources.

Extracurriculars

Cornell Lion Dance, *Practice Coordinator*   **September 2024-Present**

- Participated in the organization and execution of an intercollegiate competition, including developing large-scale welcoming choreography for several hundred participants from universities in the northeast: University of Maryland, Columbia University, Northeastern University, University of Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Collaborate with fellow coordinators to lead practices and choreograph original routines for campus showcases, cultural festivals, and competitive events.
- Designing new routines and training materials to prepare incoming freshmen and club members for future showcases and intercollegiate performances.
- Develop semester-long practice agendas to enhance team cohesion, performance quality, and organization for practices.

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Cornell Kendo, *Member*   **September 2024-Present**
- Practicing the "Way of the Sword" with a focus on self-discipline, physical fitness, and mental growth.
- Engaging in structured beginner and advanced practices while contributing to a supportive peer-learning environment.
- Participating in competitive Kendo events to refine skills and foster teamwork within the club.

OADI Peer Mentor Program, *Mentee*   **September 2024-December 2024**
- Participating in the OADI Peer Mentor Program to build connections within an identity-informed community, fostering personal and academic growth.
- Engaging in regular mentor-mentee sessions to develop leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills through guided support and peer collaboration.
- Actively involved in celebrating milestones and cultivating a supportive network for underrepresented and underserved students at Cornell.

OADI Research Scholars Program, *Member*   **September 2024-May 2025**
- Participating in the OADI Research Scholars Program (ORSP) at Cornell, developing critical thinking, analytical skills, and gaining early exposure to research methodologies.
- Engaging in mentorship through the Graduate Students Mentoring Undergraduates (GSMU) program, building community with peers and faculty while receiving guidance for academic and career goals.
- Attending monthly cohort meetings to receive comprehensive research training and positioning as a competitive candidate for summer research opportunities with Cornell faculty.

Awards and Honors

- Georgia Certificate of Merit
- National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program
- National Hispanic Recognition Program
- Questbridge Finalist
- IB Diploma
- HSF Scholar 2023-2025

Skills

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Proficient), Korean (Beginner)
Technical/Digital Skills: Google Workplace, Microsoft 365, Python (Beginner)