

• OCTOBER 9, 2012 • SCIENCE MUSEUM OKLAHOMA • ORC •

WOMEN

in

SCIENCE

Conference

2012

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It's my turn to make history.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELISTS

8:30 A.M. INTERACTIVE PANEL SESSION

MODERATOR: AMY MCGOVERN, EVENT CO-CHAIR & OU COMPUTER SCIENTIST
TOMICA BLOCKER, ZOOLOGY STUDENT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
SHONDRA FISCHER, ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, TINKER AIR FORCE BASE
CARA PENCE, GENERAL SURGEON, STILLWATER SURGICAL ASSOCIATES
RAIANNA ARSCOTT, CHEMISTRY PHD STUDENT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
JOY SAVOIA, HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CASSI LATINO, ELECTRONIC HARDWARE DESIGNER, TOTALFLOW-ABB, INC.

9:30 A.M. INTERACTIVE PANEL SESSION

MODERATOR: AMY MCGOVERN, EVENT CO-CHAIR & OU COMPUTER SCIENTIST
GRETCHEN COLE, VETERINARIAN, OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO
LAURA BARTLEY, BOTANY PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
AMY CHILDERS, ASST. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
RAIANNA ARSCOTT, CHEMISTRY PHD STUDENT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
SARAH WU, COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPER, MSCI, INC.
MEGAN SALISBURY, GEOLOGY STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
SHANTE RIVERS, REGISTERED NURSE, MIDWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

10:30 A.M. INTERACTIVE PANEL SESSION

MODERATOR: AMY MCGOVERN, EVENT CO-CHAIR & OU COMPUTER SCIENTIST
TOMICA BLOCKER, ZOOLOGY STUDENT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
SHONDRA FISCHER, ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, TINKER AIR FORCE BASE
CARA PENCE, GENERAL SURGEON, STILLWATER SURGICAL ASSOCIATES
MILECIA MATTHEWS, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
JOY SAVOIA, HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CASSI LATINO, ELECTRONIC HARDWARE DESIGNER, TOTALFLOW-ABB, INC.

Note:

*Photos have been removed from the online version of panelists' bios due to file size limitations.
Panelists will also be available during a.m. recruitment fair sessions.*



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRPERSON
Amy McGovern, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Computer Science
University of Oklahoma

Amy McGovern started playing with computers at the age of six when her mom brought home the family's first computer and taught her how to program it. Between tinkering with BASIC and playing games with her dad, Amy decided that computers were fun, but they needed to be much smarter to help us. Amy's other passion is space, which was ignited at an early age by watching shuttle launches and space walks.

Dr. Amy McGovern is now an associate professor in computer science at the University of Oklahoma, where her main research focus is on machine learning and data mining. Her goals are to enable computers to intelligently assist us and to make a positive difference in the real world.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

RaiAnna Arscott

Chemistry Ph.D. Student

Oklahoma State University

RaiAnna Arscott graduated from Barbara Jordan High School in Houston, Texas, with highest honors at fifteen years old. She took honors and Advanced Placement courses; her career path was engineering. RaiAnna participated in a number of activities in high school, including cheerleading, National Honor Society, JROTC Honor Guard, Drama Society, ballet, and soccer to name a few. While in school, she also won first place in a C STEM Robotics competition sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Following the death of her best friend, RaiAnna decided in the second grade that she wanted to become a doctor. Upon graduation, Texas Southern University awarded her the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation scholarship and she chose to major in chemistry on a pre-med track. While at Texas Southern, RaiAnna worked as a WELCH Fellowship research assistant and performed medical chemistry research. In her junior year, RaiAnna participated in the Early Medical School Acceptance Program through the University of Texas at UTMB Hospital in Galveston, Texas. While there, RaiAnna shadowed medical doctors and medical researchers. This experience, along with her research at Texas Southern University, influenced her to shift career paths and pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry, with a focus on research. RaiAnna graduated from Texas Southern University at nineteen years old with a B.S in chemistry. Upon graduation, she was accepted into the Oklahoma State University Bridge to Doctorate Program with a Skinner Fellowship. She is presently a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Bridge to Doctorate Scholar. RaiAnna currently conducts research related to alternative energy resources with Dr. Toby Nelson.

RaiAnna is a black belt in Shotokan karate. She is the sixth of six siblings—all of whom are college graduates with master's degrees and two in doctoral studies. RaiAnna has sixteen nieces and nephews and enjoys spending time with her friends and very large family. She hopes to travel to South Africa soon to visit her brother, who is vice president of an energy company, as well as her sister-in-law and nephew. RaiAnna likes to cook, travel, read, play soccer and watch sports. She is recently engaged and planning her BIG Texas Wedding.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

**Laura Bartley, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Botany
University of Oklahoma**



Dr. Laura Bartley is an assistant professor of botany at the University of Oklahoma. The current focus of her research is to understand the genes that grasses use to build their leaves and stems, information relevant to so-called second generation biofuels that make use of the whole plant instead of just the seeds. In addition to mentoring students in research, she teaches courses on bioenergy and biotechnology.

Dr. Bartley arrived in Oklahoma in 2010 after doing postdoctoral work at the University of California at Davis. Prior to that she served for two years as a science policy fellow with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the office that regulates genetically engineered plants. Dr. Bartley earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry at Stanford University and her B.A. in biology at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. She grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and Houston, Texas.

Dr. Bartley is the mother of two boys, ages three and eight, and especially loves spending time enjoying the out-of-doors with them and her husband, Matthew Peck, who is himself a scientist and a teacher. She also likes to cook, run, bicycle and play board games.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Tomica Blocker
Zoology Graduate Student
Oklahoma State University

Tomica Blocker received her B.S in Biology at Oklahoma's only Historically Black College, Langston University. She is currently a graduate student in the department of zoology at Oklahoma State University working toward her master's degree.

Tomica's research interests include the effects of anthropogenic stressors on animals, neuroendocrinology and ethology. She is currently investigating the affiliative and aggressive behaviors exhibited by the monogamous prairie vole (*Microtus ochrogaster*).

As an undergraduate student, Tomica participated in several research internships, including a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), where she had the opportunity to travel to Bursa, Turkey, to study honeybee behavior. She also participated in several organizations including the Honor's Program, the LINC Scholarship Program, Pre-Alumni Council, and LU ambassadors.

While at OSU, she and her colleagues created the university's first Black Graduate Student Association in which she served as treasurer of the organization. In 2010, Tomica was granted the Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Tomica's love for outreach incited her to create a collaborative program between OSU and her alma mater, where she mentors minority undergraduates from the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in preparation for their graduate careers.

In her free time, Tomica enjoys cooking, swimming, reading and spending time with her family. After earning her M.S. in zoology, Tomica plans continue her academic career at OSU, where she will pursue her Ph.D. In the future, she plans to enter the academic field as a professor and scientist.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Amy Childers
Assistant Director of Communications
University of Oklahoma Recruitment Services



Amy Childers received her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism - Advertising in 2007 from the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, she was a member of various student organizations on campus. She served as secretary for the American Indian Student Association and co-chaired the Miss Indian OU Scholarship Pageant, was an active member of the Advertising Club, and played on OU's Ultimate Frisbee club team. Her favorite memories of college include the hours she spent in the JMC computer lab creating advertising campaigns for class projects.

After graduation, Amy spent a year working at an advertising agency in Dallas doing publication design for the Sam's Club Source Catalog. She loved working on publications, but knew it wasn't what she wanted to make a career out of. It took her a while to figure out exactly what she wanted to do, but after teaching herself HTML and learning how to code she knew she had found something she was truly passionate about. In her current role at the University of Oklahoma, she manages the go2.ou.edu website and is responsible for all email communication that is sent out to prospective students. Computer science was never something that Amy thought she would take an interest in or enjoy doing, but after working in the field of web design for three years she can't imagine doing anything else every day and loving it as much.

When Amy isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her friends, family and her cat Marley. Her hobbies include riding her bike, cross-stitching, playing Ultimate Frisbee, going to concerts, practicing yoga and traveling. In 2009, she celebrated her 25th birthday by taking a trip to Switzerland and Italy with her mom. Amy enjoyed everything about the European culture and would love to go back for a visit, or even to work, someday.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Gretchen Cole, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
Associate Veterinarian
Oklahoma City Zoo

Dr. Gretchen Cole grew up in Kansas City. While in high school, she enjoyed science classes and outdoor environmental projects. She spent her summers as a camp counselor at a Girl Scout camp in Missouri. She received her bachelor's degree in animal science from Kansas State University in 2000.

On her summer breaks from college she worked at the Kansas City Zoo, where she led overnight camping safaris.

Gretchen has always wanted to work with wild animals and enjoyed performing technical tasks. Being a zoo veterinarian combines both of these strengths. She also enjoys the variety of animals she works with at the zoo. In her last semester of college she participated in a study abroad program in Kenya through the School for Field Studies in which she studied wildlife management techniques, while living at the base of the mountain Kilimanjaro. She returned to Kansas State University for veterinary school and graduated in 2004. From there she did two internships, one focusing on exotic pet animals and one in zoo and wildlife animals. After that, Gretchen moved to Wisconsin to complete a three-year residency in zoo medicine at the University of Wisconsin Madison, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and the International Crane Foundation. She did a pharmacology research project on birds evaluating a medication used to treat pain and injuries.

In 2009, Gretchen moved to Indianapolis to become associate veterinarian at the Indianapolis Zoo. Then she moved to Oklahoma in 2011 to be the associate veterinarian at the Oklahoma City Zoo. She also became board certified in zoo animal medicine in 2011. Gretchen is a member of the National Veterinary Response Team, a team directed by the federal government that can be called for duty during times of disaster where animals need medical help such as after a hurricane or flood.

For fun, Gretchen likes to spend time with her friends and family. She enjoys taking time to practice yoga after work. She also enjoys travelling, cooking new foods, and spending time with her cats.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

**Shondra Fischer
Electronics Engineer
Tinker Air Force Base**



Shondra Fischer grew up in Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where she majored in computer engineering. Shondra graduated in December 2011. Her major activities in college involved playing slow pitch softball. She held multiple officer positions in OSU's chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), including treasurer, CEAT chairman and president. During her last two summers of college she interned at Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While at Sandia she worked on robotics and software projects for a satellites group.

Shondra currently works at Tinker Air Force Base for the software maintenance group. Her group designs and builds the test system that is used to test jet engines at Tinker.

In her spare time she likes to go to the lake, watch movies and attend Cross Fit classes. In the future she plans to go back to school to get her master's degree and see all the opportunities Tinker AFB has to offer.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

Cassi Latino

Electronic Hardware Designer

TOTALFLOW * ABB, Inc.

Cassi was born and raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In both junior high and high school, she was an active participant on the cross country and track team, and a member of the FFA. She also played recreational soccer and softball, and was a spring board diver. While in FFA, Cassi participated in many of the judging and speech competitions and her love for public speaking grew from there. She thoroughly enjoyed being challenged in school and took as many math and science classes as possible, taking part in concurrent enrollment courses at Oklahoma State University.

After graduating high school, Cassi attended Oklahoma State University majoring in electrical engineering. While in college she was active in many school associations. Cassi was the vice president of the Cultural Italian American Organization and the public relations director of OSU's Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) chapter. She worked her way through school as a computer tech/lab monitor, a radiation physics lab research assistant, a circuits teaching assistant, and an intern with ABB.

After completing her bachelor's degree, she signed on full time with ABB's TOTALFLOW branch in Bartlesville, Oklahoma as an electronic hardware engineer in the research and development department. She truly loves her job.

No matter how much homework she was assigned, Cassi always found time to have fun. Her hobbies include hanging out with her friends, bowling, playing softball and soccer, camping, watching movies, playing games, cooking, traveling and working out.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Milecia Matthews
Mechanical Engineering Student
Oklahoma State University



Milecia Matthews is currently a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Oklahoma State University. While at OSU, she has conducted research with the Formula SAE team. Each year the team builds a race car from the ground up. Milecia says each year she learns something new and she has a lot of fun doing it. She's enjoyed working on cars since she was young, so the project was a good fit for her. Recently Milecia has begun research on wind turbines, with the goal of finding a feasible way to use them in urban areas.

Milecia is active in the National Society of Black Engineers, where she is the academic excellence chair. She also serves as a success coach to freshmen students, where she advises students on ways that they can succeed in engineering.

When she's not running around campus, Milecia likes to travel and do things with her friends. This past spring, she was able to go to Italy for spring break. She had never travelled internationally, so it was an amazing experience for her. She also enjoys acquiring interesting skills, such as welding, which she learned while working on the SAE Formula car, and spending time with her boyfriend.



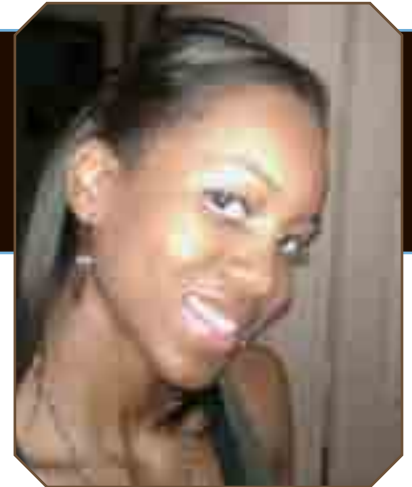
2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Cara Pence, M.D.
General Surgeon
Stillwater Surgical Associates * Stillwater Medical Center

Dr. Cara Pence grew up in Ardmore, Oklahoma and graduated from Ardmore High School. While there, she was a cheerleader and the lead in many school musicals. She then went to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah where she majored in biology with a minor in chemistry and math. She thought she was going to be a computer programmer until a professor at NSU suggested she think about being a doctor. That suggestion changed the course of her life. She started working in a doctor's office and as a hospital volunteer; she decided she loved helping people.

Cara attended the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine earning her medical degree in 2005. During her clinical rotations, she witnessed surgeons save a young life after a gunshot wound. At that time, she decided she wanted to be a surgeon. Dr. Pence did her surgical residency at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at St. John Medical Center. Upon completion of residency, she began working at Stillwater Medical Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma as a partner at Stillwater Surgical Associates. She specializes in General Surgery with an emphasis on abdominal wall reconstruction, minimally invasive surgery, and breast surgery. Dr. Pence also practices wound care and hyperbaric medicine at the Dorothy Blackwell Wound Care Clinic at Stillwater Medical Center.

While in college, Cara met her husband Jared. They have been married for 11 years. They have three children: Ethan, four, Wiley Christopher, two, and Elizabeth, one. They also have two teacup yorkies Bella and Nugget. Cara loves playing racquetball with her husband and is an avid reader. She also loves to travel. Since the age of 15, Cara has traveled to many countries on mission trips including Ukraine and Bolivia. Cara and her family attend Stillwater Church of Christ.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST
Shante Rivers, R.N.
Registered Nurse & Nurse Supervisor
Midwest Regional Medical Center & Brookhaven Ext. Care



Shante Rivers is the daughter of Mrs. Tarshia Pratt and Mr. Jeffery Rivers, and sibling of four amazing brothers Jiterence, Lawrence, Matthew, and Jordan. Shante grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School. In 2007, she enrolled at the University of Oklahoma where she received a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Nursing in 2011. Shante is currently working as a Registered Nurse (RN) at Midwest Regional Medical Center. She also works at Brookhaven Extensive Care where she serves as the Nurse Supervisor. She has interned/worked with prestigious companies and has over four years of nurse related experience.

Humbly starting at the bottom and working her way up, one of Shante's first jobs, before receiving her certification as a nurse aide or registering as a nurse, was working in the kitchen at one of the local hospitals. When she started the job, she told herself, "You have to start somewhere. If on the floor with the patients is where you want to be, why not start in the basement preparing their meals?" Somewhere deep down, she knew she was going to get there eventually. Another way she reached her goals was to never let anyone stop her. There was a counselor who told her she should go ahead and plan to be in college for five or six years, "Why not pick up a minor in psychology?" That was not what she wanted. She had a goal, she had a plan, and she stuck to it!

Because she was raised in a single parent household, her mother is one of her biggest influences. She has always been there to push her to do better and want better for herself. Some of the challenges she had to face throughout her college career were balancing school with having a social life. Education seemed to have won 90 percent of the time. If the schoolwork wasn't taken care of first, then there would be no going out later. That was one of the main things her mother instilled in her at a young age.

Shante has always has a passion for traveling, so she figured why not put the two together and go into travel nursing. It hasn't been decided yet when this will happen, since it is still early on in her career, but knowing that they are both her passions, she is sure to make it happen one way or another.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

**Megan Salisbury
Geology Graduate Student
University of Oklahoma**

Megan Salisbury was born in Arlington, Texas, where she was raised an avid Texas Rangers baseball fan. She has three younger siblings, Jack, Ethan, and Dylan, and one Australian Shepherd dog, Sadie.

At Martin High School, Megan was a setter on the volleyball team and played the viola in the symphony orchestra. She was also involved with the Latin Club, Key Club, Health Occupations Students of America, and regularly volunteered at the Tarrant County Hospital in Fort Worth.

After graduating from high school, Megan attended the University of Oklahoma where she studied environmental science. Originally wanting to be a doctor upon graduation, she found something she was even more passionate about: the earth and all the chemical, biological, and physical forces that shape it. It was during an internship with BP where she discovered her love for the geosciences. Now, Megan is a graduate student at OU, working toward a Master of Science degree in geology. She is really interested in studying past climates and how they've changed over time through geochemical evidence in the rock record.

When Megan's not studying, she enjoys biking and kayaking in Oklahoma City. She also loves to travel. Megan caught the "travel bug" after studying abroad for a semester in Scotland and has since been to France, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and Ireland. She hopes to travel to South America soon to hike Machu Picchu and see the remains of ancient civilizations.

2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

**Joy A. Savoia
Hydrologic Technician
United States Geological Survey**



Joy Savoia works for the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologic technician. Joy's job combines her love of science and water. Her knowledge in the fields of hydrology, chemistry, and biology is used to study water quality and quantity in Oklahoma. She spends a great deal of time outside in or around water, testing water samples and collecting discharge measurements. She often does several field tasks solo with the only company being snakes, armadillos, fish, turtles, and other interesting animals. Joy is rewarded by knowing that the information and testing she does is useful to many individuals and agencies, and it also provides critical data that ensures the safety of lives.

After graduating high school, Joy followed a long family tradition and joined the United States Navy. As the oldest of six children, she also joined the military to get her education paid for, since college tuition was not an option my family could afford. Joining the military provided Joy with the financial means to go to school, but she also learned important skills that allowed her to get to where she is today.

Joy spent five years on active duty as a hospital corpsman and was transferred to Oklahoma in 1994, where she served her remaining three years in the Navy. She began attending college at Ohio State University prior to her time in the Navy, but went to Oklahoma City Community College while still serving. She began her studies in biology and continued pursuing it at the University of Central Oklahoma. Joy now has earned a Bachelor of Science degree and she is currently pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Natural Science, as well as a master's degree in biology.

When not at work playing in the water, Joy loves hanging out with family and friends, attending sporting events, taking adventures, swimming, gardening, sewing, hiking, traveling, and photography.



2012 WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE PANELIST

Sarah Wu

**Senior Associate, Developer
MSCI**

Sarah Wu was born and raised in a small town in Oklahoma. After completing all the math classes her high school offered, she decided to attend OSSM in Oklahoma City; it was there she got her first taste of computer programming and “big-city livin’.” She attended college at the University of Oklahoma, where campus IT internships taught her the basics of computer hardware and technical support. This helped her to pay for school and pick up the computer skills she lacked.

Sarah graduated with a master’s degree in computer science in 2006 and has worked for MSCI (formerly RiskMetrics) since. In her various roles for the company, Sarah has enjoyed traveling to company offices around the world to develop and support secure financial systems. At home, Sarah is an avid baker and the reigning Dr. Mario champion.