



August 2021

## ARE WE READY?

Ready or not - It's back to school time! I hope you all had a restful summer break and are happy for a *little* more normalcy this school year.

At this time, we are excitedly planning for a relatively normal schedule for the Gene Machine and Helix Express! Have you gotten your visit requests in? We are planning the schedule now, so don't delay! We have a new electronic way for you to submit your information to make it easier for you and for us!

[Click here to submit your request!](#)

We *are* ready, and with some changes this summer, I would love to introduce our new instructors, Olivia and Marie, who will be joining Dillon and me on our trips:



### **Olivia Nail**

Olivia graduated from UGA with a degree in genetics. She was also a student on the Gene Machine while in high school!



### **Marie Smith**

Marie is a Furman graduate in biology with a Masters in Applied Health Research and Evaluation from Clemson.

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## WHAT A FUN SUMMER!



We had a fantastic **Teachers' Course and Workshop** this year! There were 20 teachers from across North and South Carolina, and we met *in-person*! The focus was on the genetics of the immune system, but talks were broad in scope and included disorders of the immune system (ex: allergies, autoimmune disorders); ethnic differences in the immune response; COVID and its natural state, and whether it is possible to boost your immune system. Workshop labs supported these major themes and our teachers were great 'students'!

It was a full house of 24 students in the **High School Genetics Summer Camp** in July! As with the teachers, our students were from all regions of our state and one student came from Georgia. They did a wonderful job in the lab, were engaged, inquisitive, and very talented. Such a pleasure to have worked with them. They have bright futures ahead, and they represented you well.



Looking forward to seeing you soon, and I wish you a great and safe beginning to the year!

*Leta*

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