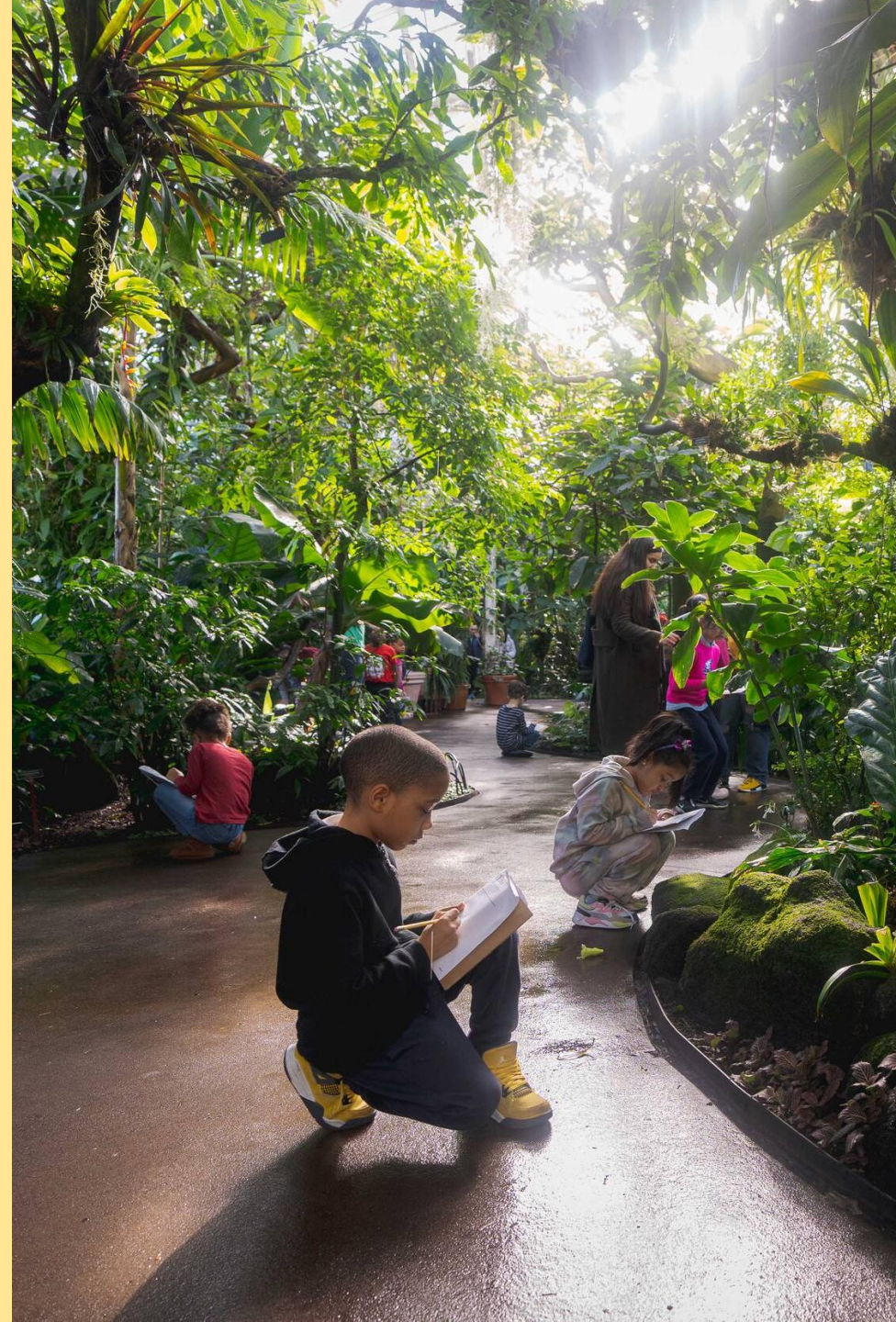


EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

April 8, 2025

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



WELCOME

Kate Solomon
Chair of the Education Committee



OPENING REMARKS

Jennifer Bernstein
CEO & The William C. Steere Sr President



VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

**James Boyer, PhD
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice
President for Education**



NEW SUMMER CAMP

- New camp geared toward PreK and Kindergarten children
- Enrollment has been steady
- Renovation allows for an additional camp in the Steere Discovery Center
- Complement to our other 1st–5th grade camps in ECAG



ECAG POP-UP SPACE

- ECAG closed November 2023
- Pop-Up space located across from the Native Plant Garden
- The location has been very popular with families
- 200K visitors have participated in the Pop-Up since ECAG's closure



NEW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

- School District 9
 - 1,800 Kindergarteners visiting twice
 - Conservatory & Edible Academy
- School District 12
 - Select schools participating in field trips, teacher training, & family engagement activities during spring



TEEN PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

- Strategic Initiative to create a Career Pathways program
- Phase 1 with ECAG Explainers and Visitor Services interns
- Consulting with intern programs at other organizations such as the Bronx Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History

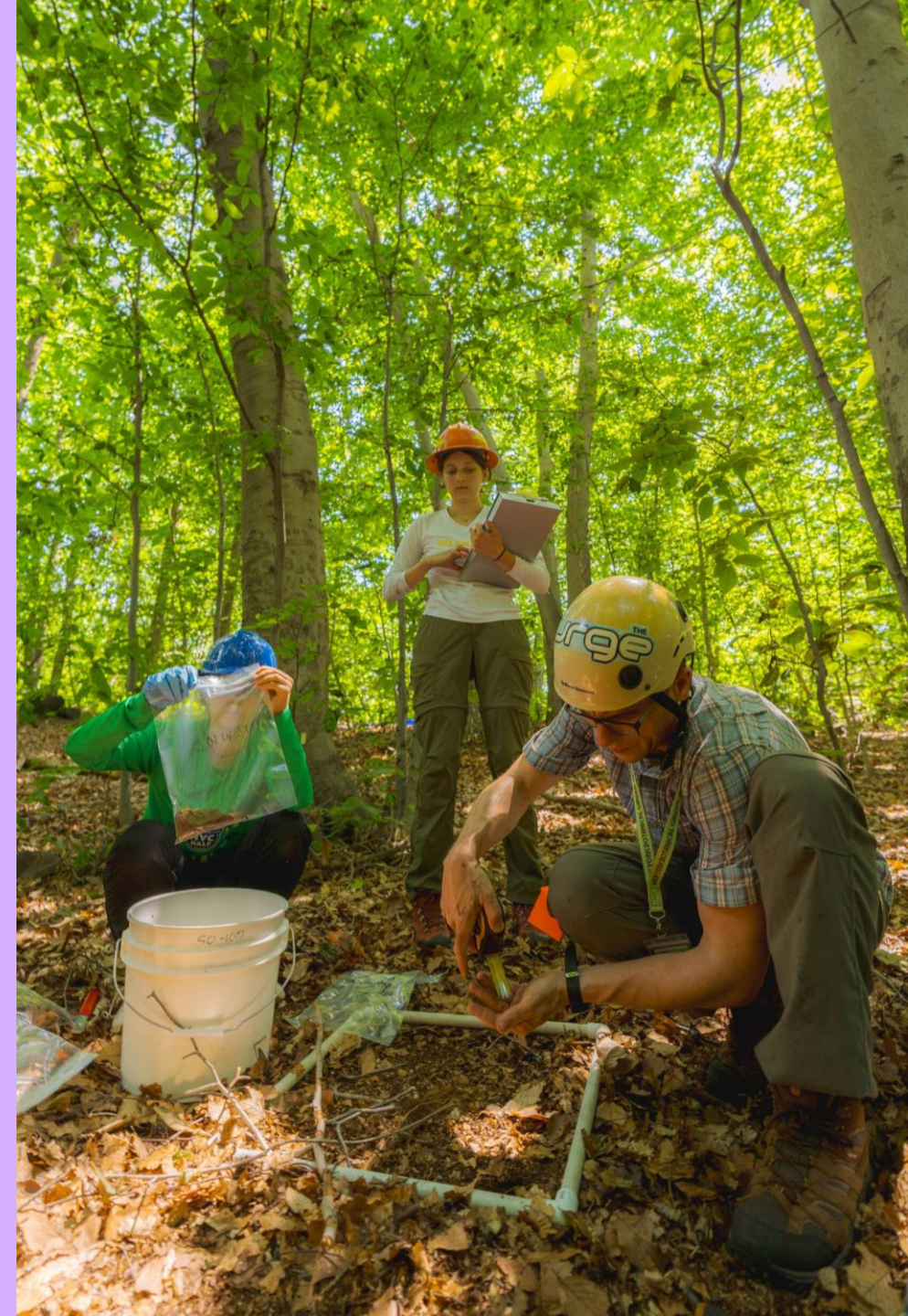


QUESTIONS?



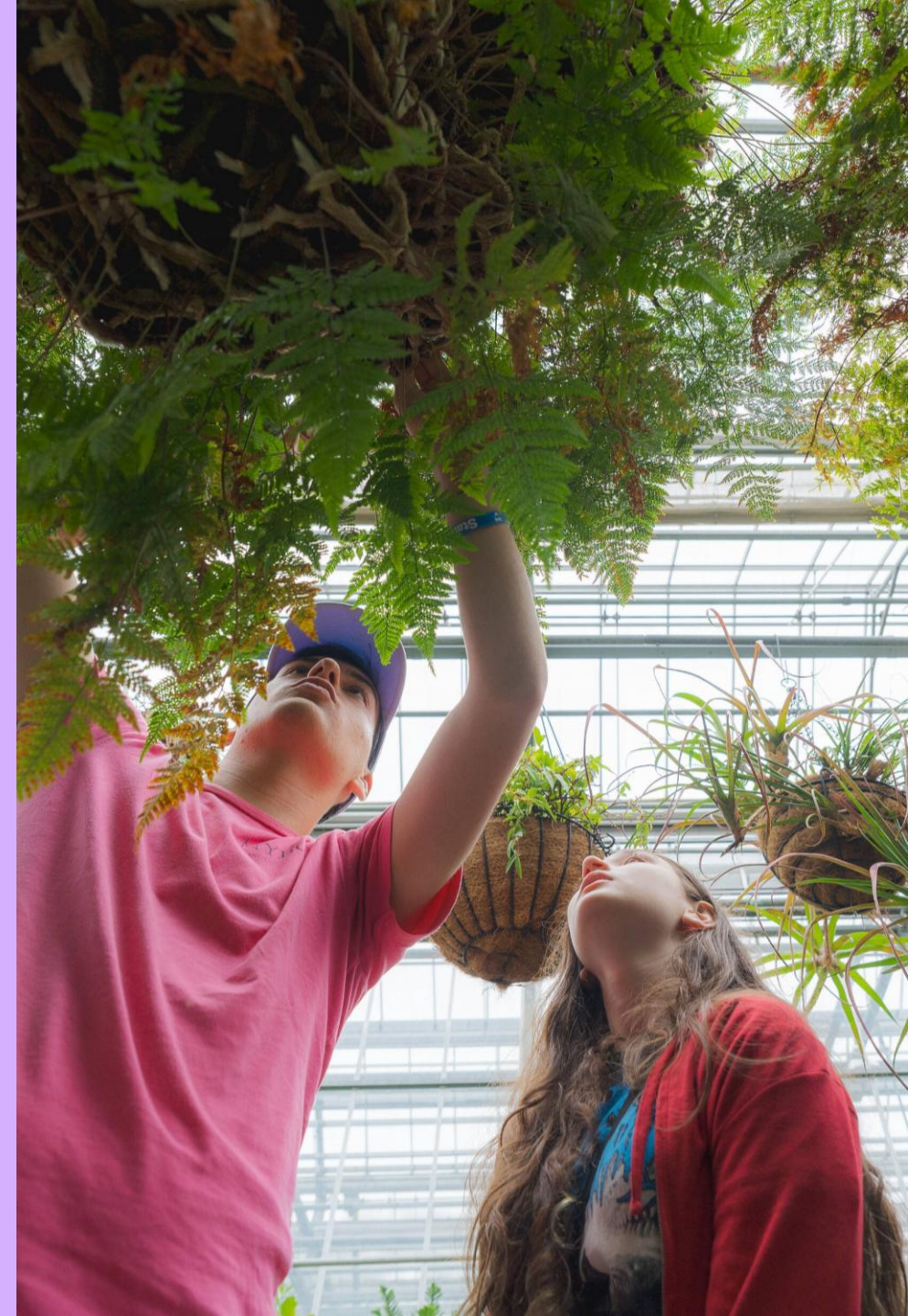
EMPOWERING FUTURE WORKS

Pattie Hulse
Associate Vice President of Children's Education



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

- Explainers
- High School and College *Internships* at Edible Academy and ECAG
- *Career Discovery Week* with GreenSchool and Science



EXPLAINERS

“I have been accepted at University of Michigan as an Education major. I wanted to say thank you for writing my recommendation letter and also everything you've done for me at ECAG. I have to say that the only reason I became interested in education was because of working at the garden, and I even applied to a specific degree program at Michigan called Learning, Equity & Problem Solving for the Public Good. This program has less of a focus on traditional teaching (since I'm not really interested in that) and I'll actually be learning about education outside of the classroom and working with orgs in the local community. I am really excited and thank you again for everything.”

Fanta Cisse, joined Fall 2023, 632 hours of service



INTERNS

- GreenSchool Internship is a paid guided experience in informal science education program development, instruction and administration for one college or post grad student
- School year and summer college internships paid through partnerships with Pace University and Mercy College at EA and ECAG as well as Foodways Fellows at EA
- High school internships during the last month of senior year through partnerships with local high schools at EA and ECAG



CAREER DISCOVERY WEEK

- *Partnership for NYC* and *NYC Public Schools* initiative to introduce public school students to career opportunities available in diverse fields in New York City.
- NYBG's GreenSchool and Science hosted tours and programs for Bronx Collaborative High School students on April 4, 2025.



Making Connections within NYBG and across NYC cultural institution through science internships

SCiNetworkNYC

a NYC Cultural Institution Partnership

American Museum
of Natural History



BROOKLYN
BOTANIC
GARDEN

NYBG



Queens
Botanical
Garden

Staten Island



Wave Hill



Wildlife
Conservation
Society

QUESTIONS?



BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

**Barbara Ambrose, PhD
Director of Laboratory Research and
Curator in Genomics**



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS GROUP SCI NETWORK PROGRAM

About Sci Network NYC

WHO WE ARE

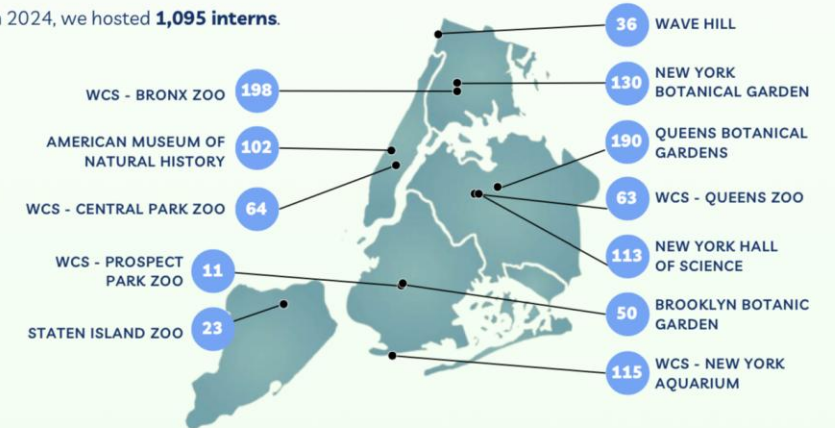
The SCI Network NYC is a consortium of eight science-based cultural institutions committed to providing high-quality STEM internships to New York City youth. We host nearly **1,100 interns** who gained experience in a variety of fields, including animal care, horticulture, science communication, teaching, and administration.

NETWORK GOALS

- Combine the strengths of our institutions to build equitable pathways for youth from historically excluded communities to pursue STEM internships.
- Provide training and support for internship supervisors to ensure high-quality career development experiences for youth.
- Leverage New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program to benefit our interns and institutions.
- Demonstrate our collective impact through evaluation, storytelling, and advocacy.

INTERNS BY INSTITUTION

In 2024, we hosted **1,095 interns**.



Acknowledgements

SCI Network NYC is generously supported by Speaker Adrienne E. Adams and the New York City Council.

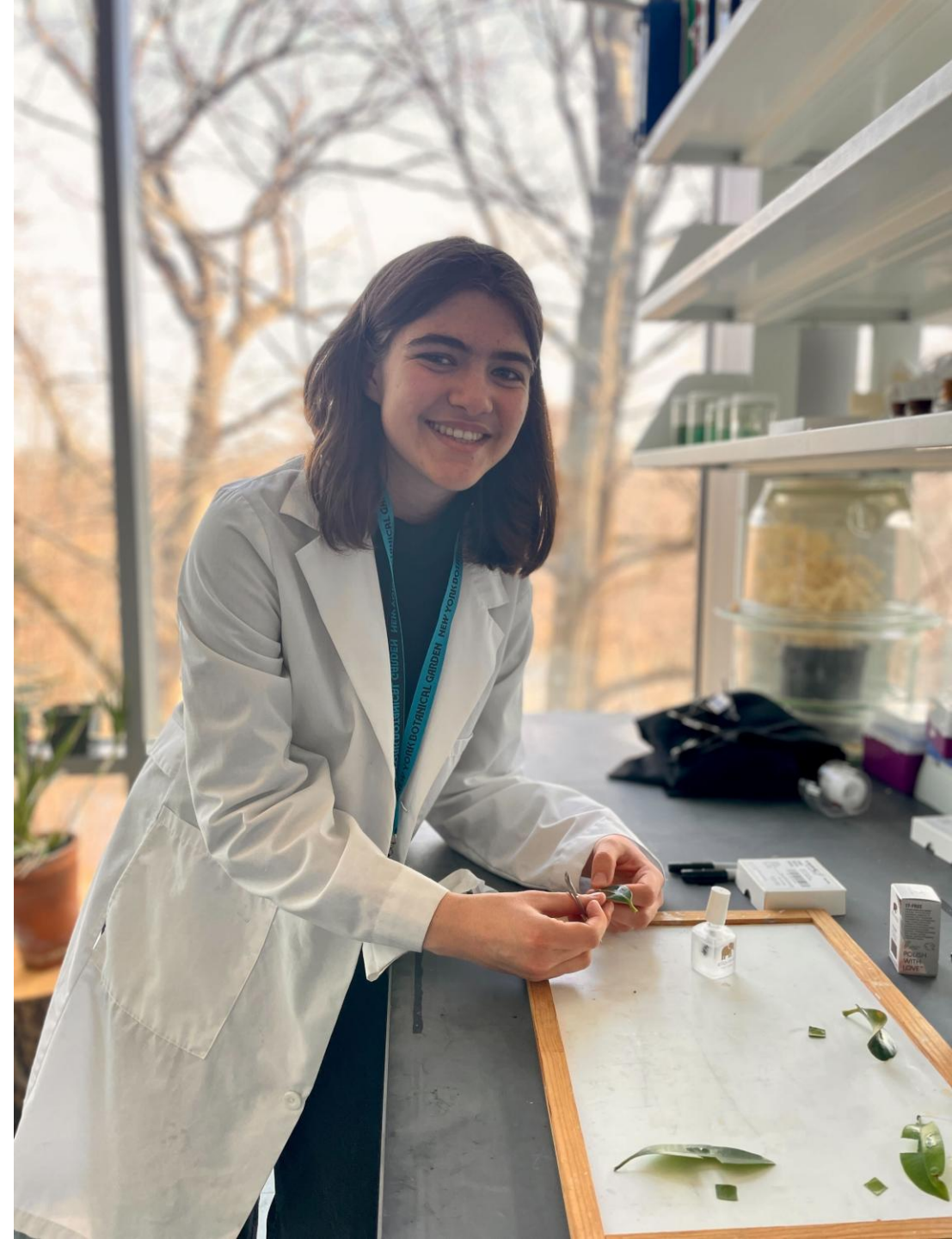


Contact

Erin Prada, Wildlife Conservation Society | eprada@wcs.org

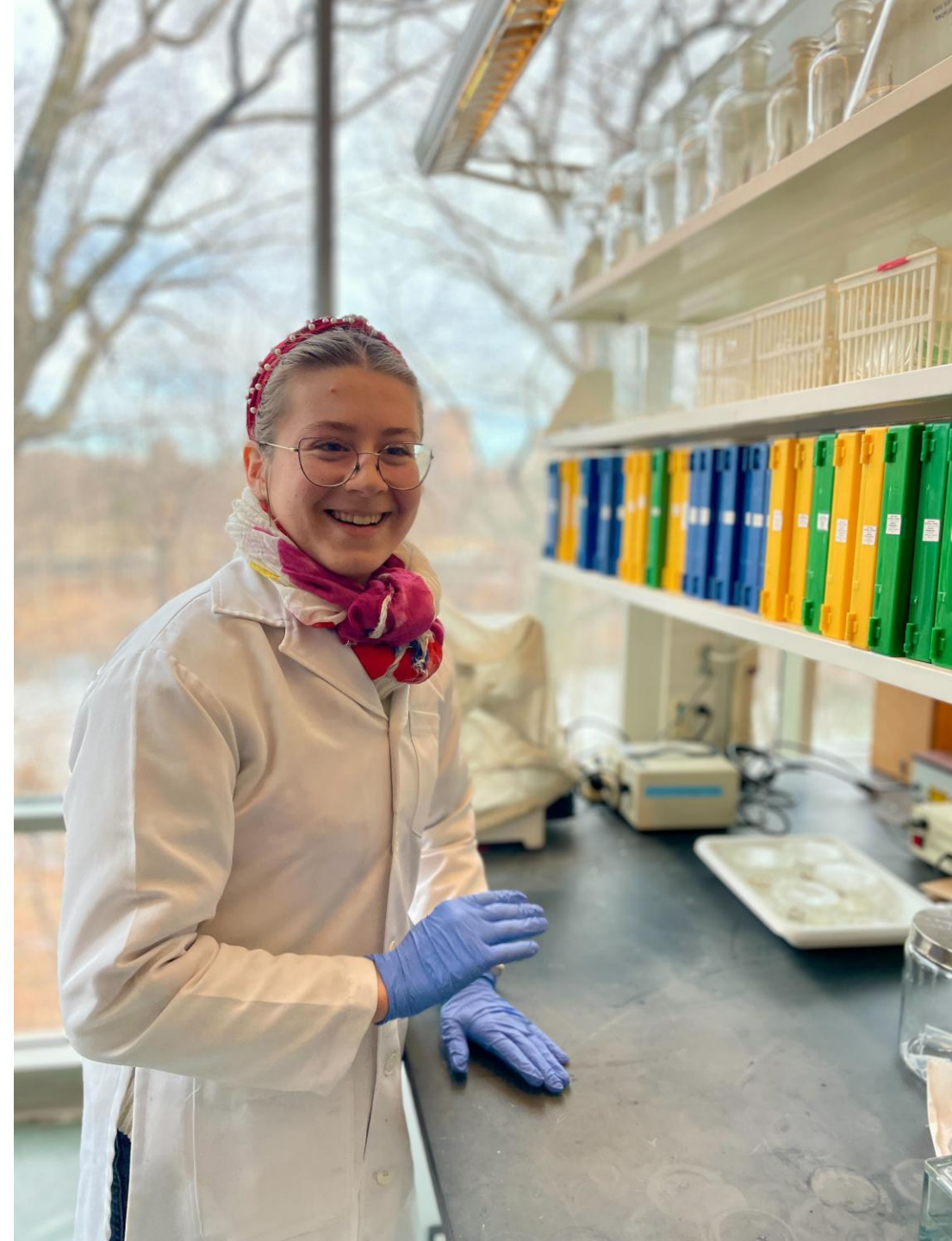
Reem Salha (Frank Sinatra High School of the Arts) preparing plant material for microscopy to investigate stomatal morphology and density in crop wild relatives of *Brassica rapa*.

Reem is working with Dr. Aleca Borsuk.



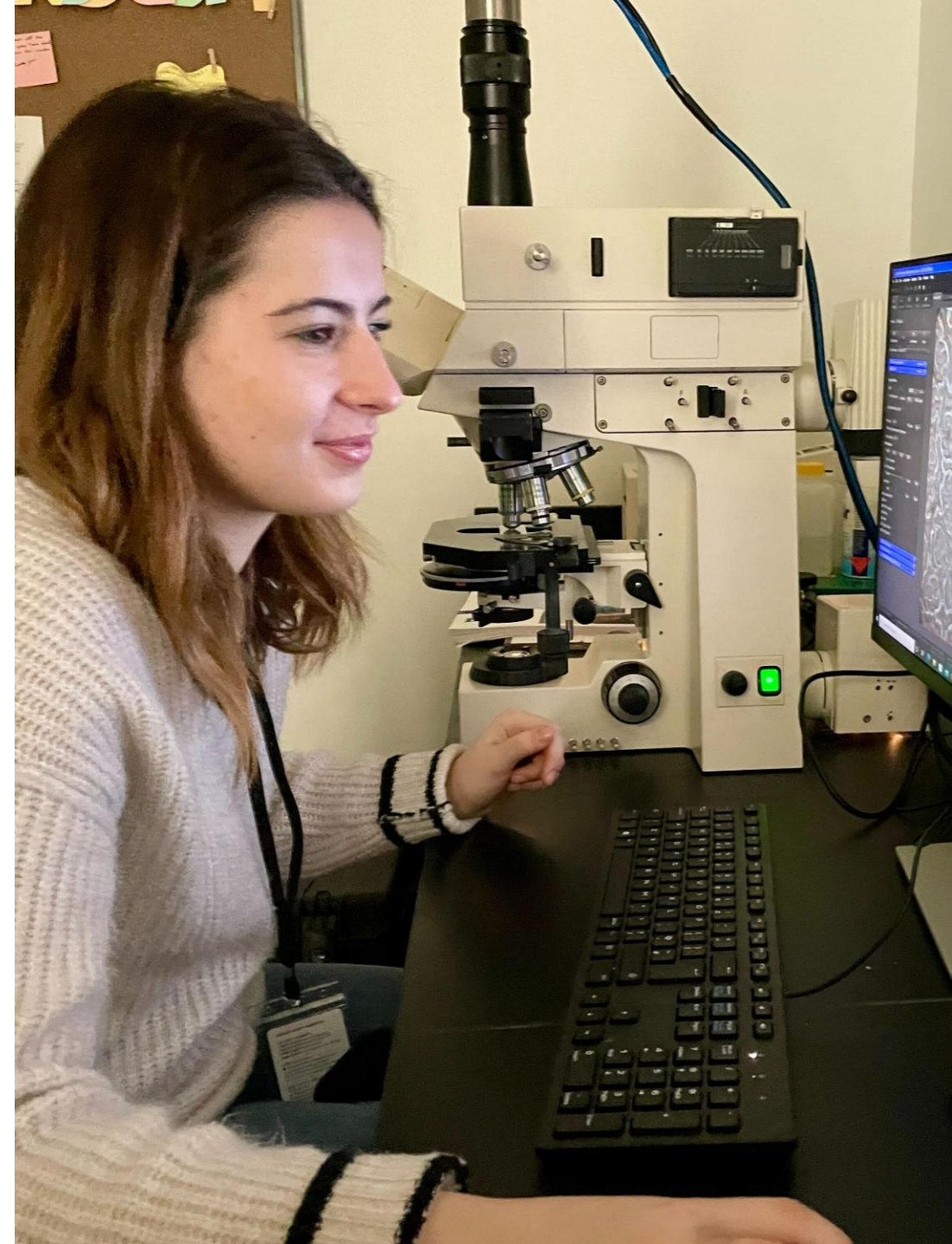
Elis Moore (Barnard) working in the structural botany lab at NYBG, characterizing changes in American beech leaf structure due to beech leaf disease.

Elis is working with Dr. Aleca Borsuk.



Julie Bichler (Barnard) using brightfield microscopy to investigate stomatal morphology and density in crop wild relatives of *Brassica rapa*.

Julie is working with Dr. Aleca Borsuk.



Ormary Alvarez (Lehman College,) Bio Major concentrating on BioData) is working in the Laboratory on seed development.

Ormary is working with Dr. Cecilia Zumajo-Cardona.

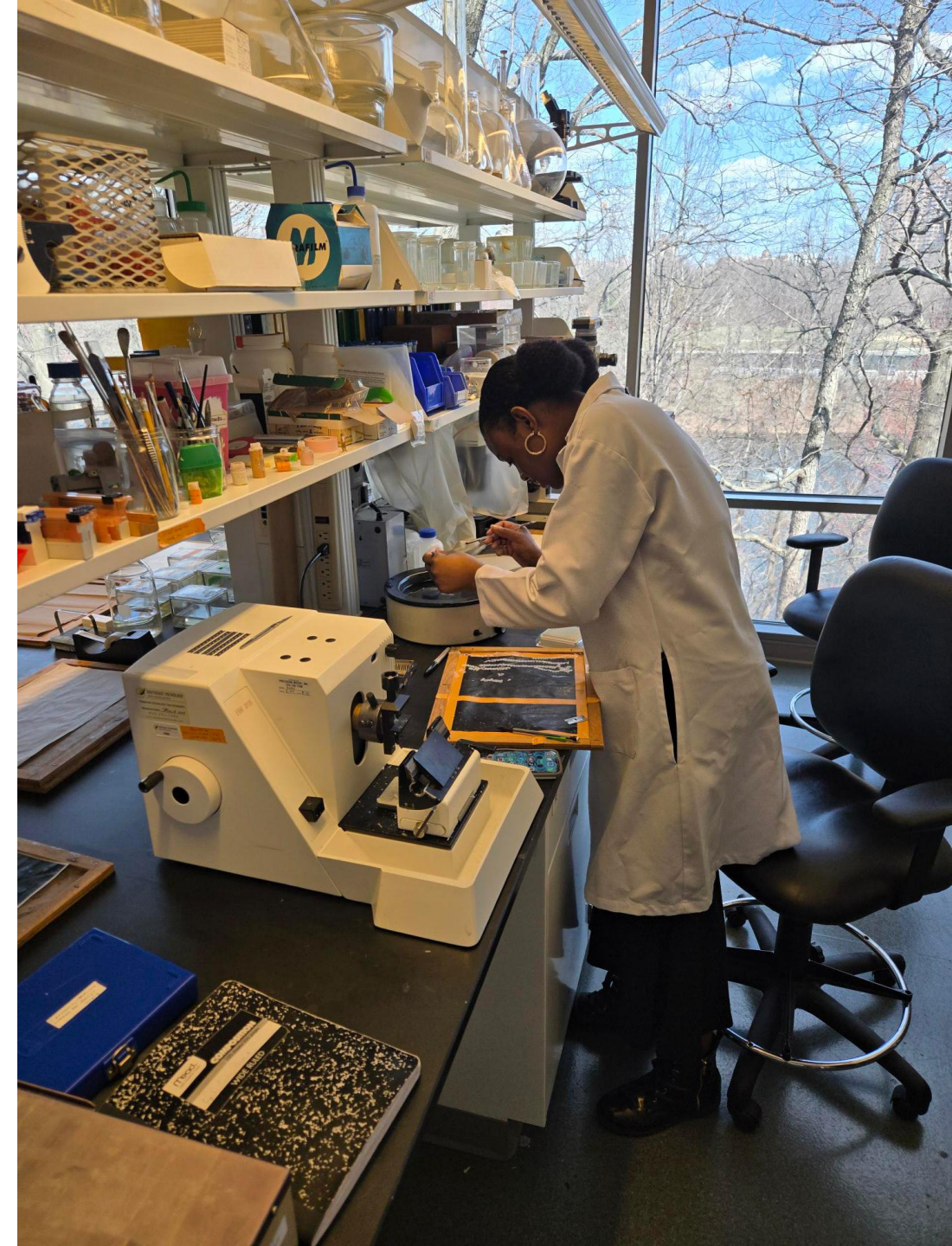
Ormary was born and raised in the Bronx and just loves plants – she plans to go to grad school to continue studying the fascinating world of plants.



Cyndy-Cynthia Ashkat (CUNY) works on Fern Cell Atlas project to document the development of reproductive structures in ferns.

Cyndy-Cynthia is working with Dr. Barbara Ambrose and Tynisha Smalls.

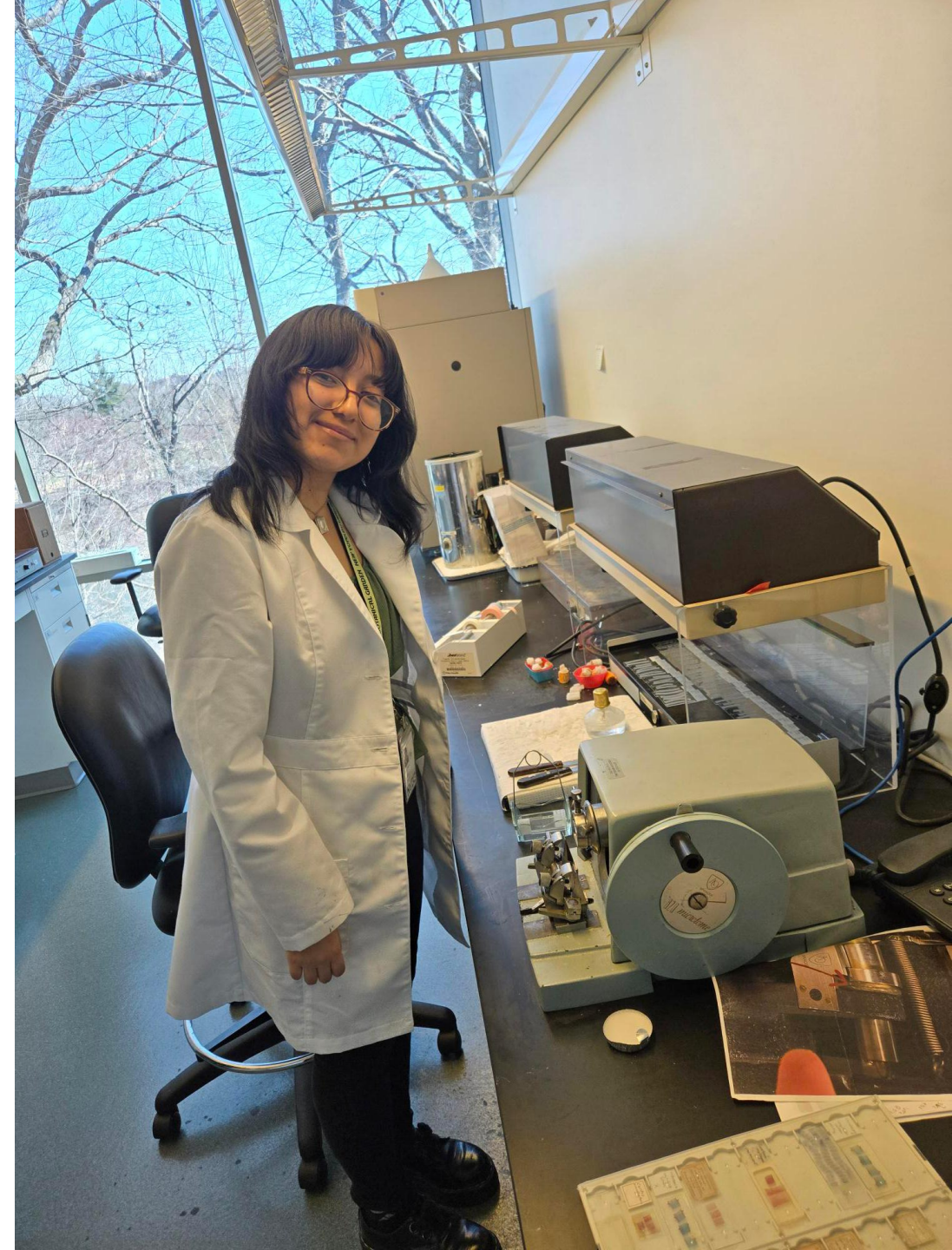
This is an NSF funded research project.



Ariel Neri (CUNY) is working on the Fern Cell Atlas documenting The development of fern reproductive structures.

Ariel is working with Dr. Barbara Ambrose and Tynisha Smalls.

This is an NSF funded project.



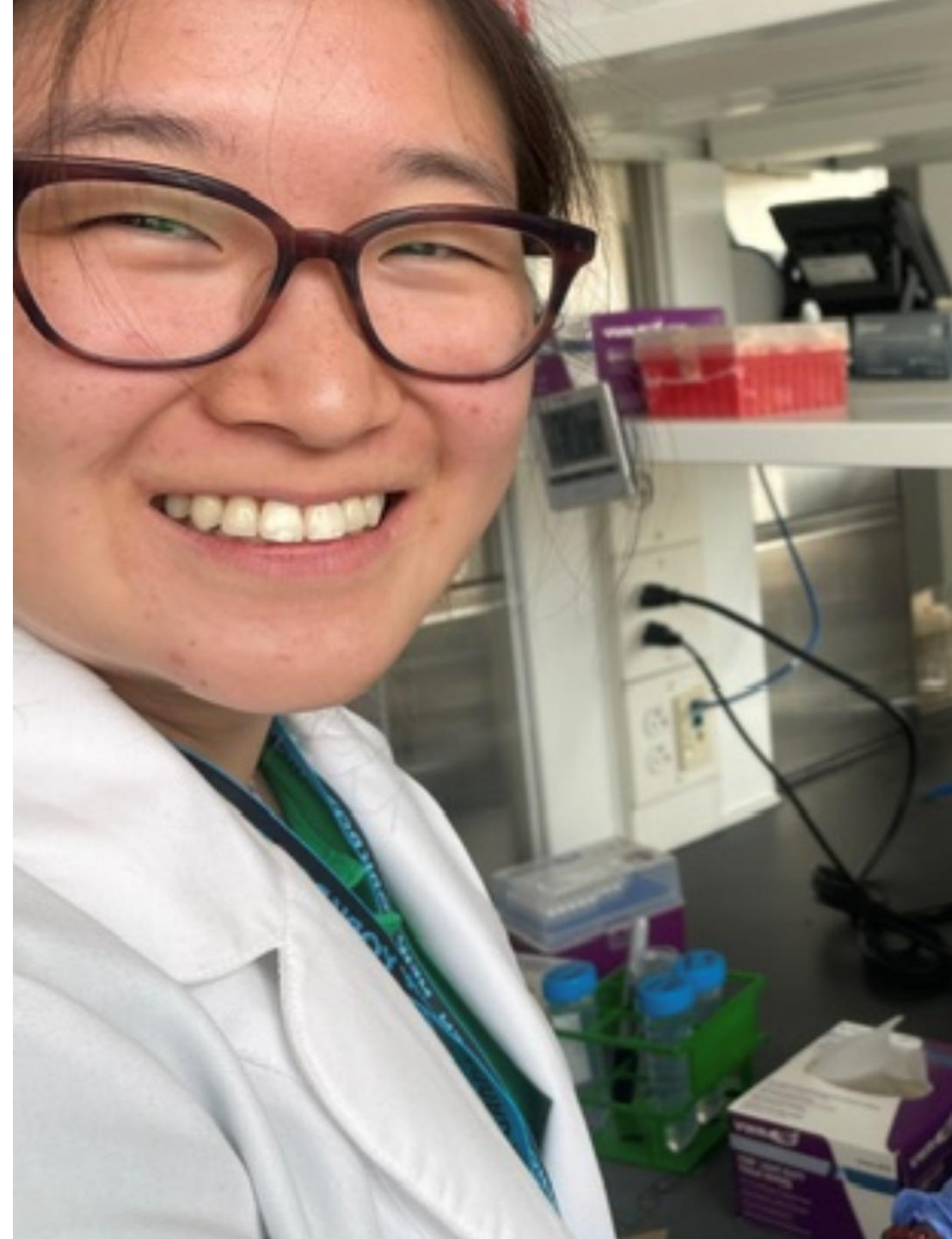
Leandre Aguilar (Hostos Lincoln Academy High School) is working on identifying plants from hyperspectral images

Leandre is working with Dr. Damon Little

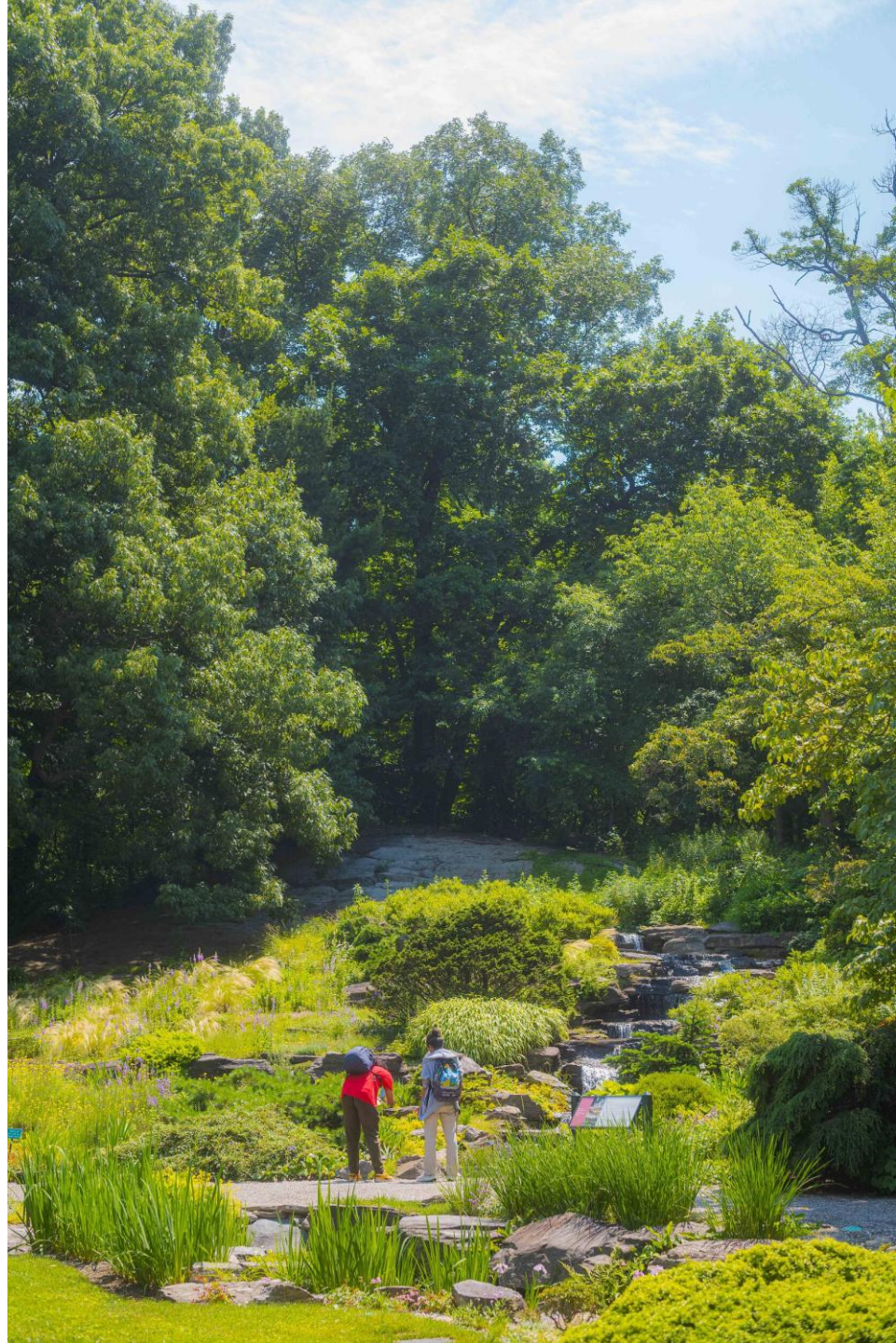


Annabel Wang (New York University)
is investigating river plant
(Podostemaceae) evolution.

Annabel is working with Dr. Ana
Maria Bedoya



QUESTIONS?



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PATHWAYS

James Boyer, PhD
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice
President for Education



QUESTIONS?



CLOSING REMARKS

Jennifer Bernstein
CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President



ADJOURNMENT

Kate Solomon
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