

CheKenna Ja-len Fletcher

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EDUCATION

August 2022- Present **Tennessee State University (TSU), Nashville, TN**

Degree Program: **Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences** Degree Concentration: **Food and Animal Sciences**

August 2019- August 2021 **Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN**

Degree Program: **Master's in Public Health** Degree Concentration: **Family and Community Health**

August 2015- May 2019 **Tennessee State University (TSU), Nashville, TN**

Degree Program: **Bachelor's in Agricultural Sciences** Degree Concentration: **Food Biosciences and Technology**

Graduated Magna Cum Laude GPA: 3.69

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

August 2022 - Present

Graduate Research Assistant

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Graduate Research Assistant; *Research Advisor: Dr. Ying Wu*

Research Project: "Prebiotic potential of water-soluble yellow mustard mucilage: Microbial evaluation on gut health promotion"

August 2020- August 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

Independent Research Study; *Research Advisor: Dr. Nilupa Gunaratna*

Research Project: "FORGE-Purdue: Fostering Food Security, Health, and Resilience in Graduate Education at Purdue"

August 2015 - May 2019

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

Dean's Scholars Program; *Research Advisor: Dr. Ying Wu*

Research Project: "Phytochemical profiles and antioxidant activity of different tomato cultivars grown under an organic management system"

June 2018 - August 2018

Internship, Food Science Summer Scholar Program

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Research Advisor: Dr. Gavin Sacks

Research Project: "Measuring the Effect of Forced Ageing on the Concentration of o-aminoacetophenone in Wines Fermented from Niagara Juices"

GRADUATE PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Tennessee State University Wilson County Alumni Chapter (WCAC)- Member
- NAACP- Wilson County Chapter Member | Freedom Fund Committee | Outreach Committee
- American Chemical Society (ACS) Member
- Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division (AGFD) Member for ACS
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Tennessee State University Chapter- Graduate Student Advisor & Member
- TSU Food Science Club- Social Media Chair
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
- The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi)- Life Member
- Golden Key International Honour Society- Life Member

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **C. Fletcher**, Y. Wu. *Developing synbiotic powders using water-soluble yellow mustard mucilage by freeze-drying*. **American Chemical Society Conference (ACS)**. Washington, D.C., August 2025.
- **C. Fletcher**, Y. Wu. *Prebiotic potential of water-soluble yellow mustard mucilage: Microbial evaluation on gut health promotion*. **Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD), Inc. Biennial Research Symposium**. Nashville, TN. April 2024.
- **C. Fletcher**, Y. Wu. *Effect of molecular weight, conformation, and viscosity of water-soluble yellow mustard mucilage on the proliferation of probiotic strains*. **American Chemical Society Conference (ACS)**. Denver, CO. August 2024.
- **C. Fletcher**, Y. Wu. *Prebiotic potential of water-soluble yellow mustard mucilage: Microbial evaluation on gut health promotion*. **American Chemical Society Conference (ACS)**. San Francisco, CA. August 2023.
- **C. Fletcher**, V. Sidhu, D. Nandwani, and Y. Wu. *Phytochemical profiles and antioxidant activity of different tomato cultivars under an organic management system*. **Institute of Food Technologist (IFT)**. Las Vegas, NV. June 2017.
- **C. Fletcher**, V. Sidhu, D. Nandwani, and Y. Wu. *Phytochemical profiles and antioxidant activity of different tomato cultivars under an organic management system*. **Tennessee State University - University Research Symposium**. Nashville, TN. April 2017.
- **C. Fletcher**, V. Sidhu, D. Nandwani, and Y. Wu. *Phytochemical profiles and antioxidant activity of different tomato cultivars under an organic management system*. **MANRRS 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference**. Pittsburgh, PA. March 2017.
- **C. Fletcher**, V. Sidhu, D. Nandwani, and Y. Wu. *Phytochemical profiles and antioxidant activity of different tomato cultivars under an organic management system*. **TLSAMP Conference**. Nashville, TN. February 2017.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- TSU Wilson County Alumni Scholarship Recipient (\$1500), June 2025
- Excellence in Mentorship Award- TSU MANRRS Chapter Gala, April 2025
- 3rd place- Graduate Oral Research Division I Competition
National MANRRS39 Conference, April 2025 | Memphis, TN
- 3rd place- Graduate Oral Research Division I Competition
National MANRRS38 Conference, April 2024 | Atlanta, GA
- Outstanding Mentorship Award Recipient- TSU MANRRS Chapter Gala, April 2024
- Tyson Beyond Fresh Meats (BFM) Short Course, March 2023 | Springdale, AR
- USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Future Leaders in Agriculture Program Winner, February 2023 | Arlington, VA & Washington, D.C.
- **Funding: Preparing Our Tomorrow Uniquely in STEM (POTUS) Fellowship Program, August 2022**