

# Meet our GTA's

The English and technical communication department works hard to offer programs that empower students to understand and communicate innovative ideas. The department's graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) work just as hard both in and out of the classroom to help make these programs available to all S&T students. Meet some of our GTAs and find out what makes them proud to be part of our department.



## Iveren "Ivy" Akula

Ivy earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sociology from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. Ivy has a passion for music and enjoys reading and playing chess. She is the current president of the Missouri S&T student chapter of the Society of Technical Communication (STC) as well as one of our department's two representatives to the Council of Graduate Students. Ivy is a published author and illustrator. You can find her book on Amazon: *The Chronicle of Takuruku Anyamazenga: Folktales Passed Down from Generation to Generation*. Her favorite part of being a GTA is the feeling of fulfillment that comes from helping students achieve goals that are important to them.

## Vivian Asigri

Vivian graduated from the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana, with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in French Education. This past December, she graduated from Missouri S&T with an MS in Technical Communication. Vivian enjoys table tennis and spending time with her family. Her favorite part of teaching was learning: "The more you teach, the more you learn." Now that she has graduated, she hopes to one day run a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and advocating for marginalized communities.



## Lara Edwards

Lara graduated in December from our master's degree program in technical communication, but she also has a BS in Biological Science from Missouri S&T and an MS in Evolution, Ecology & Systematics from the University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL). In addition to working as a grant writer and grant manager, Lara is a published illustrator and muralist who hopes to one day publish a graphic novel. Her favorite part of being a GTA is getting to see students master something that was once difficult for them.

## Jude Enete

Jude Enete has a BS in Geology from the University of Nigeria. His graduate studies at Missouri S&T started in geology, and a year later he became part of the ETC department. Jude's interests include singing, soccer, and UX design and research; he has also successfully launched Nestuge, a startup event management company. His favorite part of being a GTA is improving the experiences of current students by drawing from his own experiences as a student.



## Felix Nyikwagh

Felix has a passion for the performing arts, holding a BA in Theater Arts from Benue State University in Makurdi, Nigeria, as well as an MA in Theater Arts from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Felix has written and directed multiple plays and has experience as a television news reporter as well as a radio news writer and presenter. He also participated in the production of multiple films with cinematic releases in Nigeria, serving as assistant director on two such films. Notably, Felix took part in the USAID/Nigeria COVID-19 Food Security Challenge Project in 2021, serving as SME outreach and communication consultant on a team helping mitigate food security issues resulting from COVID-19. His favorite part of being a GTA is inspiring and being inspired by ETC students and faculty members. "They just reassure me that I'm in the right place at the right time."

## Portia Ofori-Benefo

As a GTA, Portia looks forward each semester to becoming a role model for S&T students. "Helping young people thrive academically and personally is an extremely rewarding experience," she said. Portia earned a BA in Communication Design from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. As a marketing developer and project lead at Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Portia demonstrated her leadership and communication skills as she designed marketing campaigns for Sunshine FM radio and saw those campaigns through from start to finish.



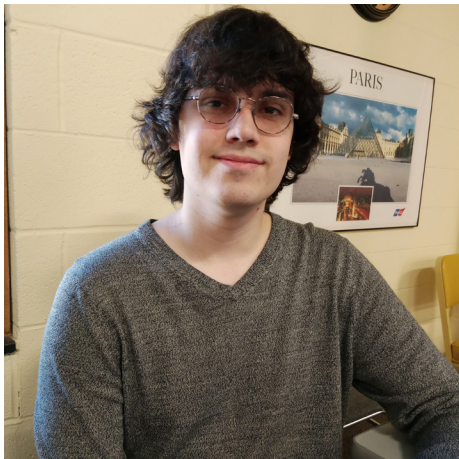
## Ernest Oteng

When Ernest isn't working as a GTA, he enjoys reading, playing chess, and watching football. He has a BS in Minerals Engineering from the University of Mines and Technology in Tarkwa, Ghana. Through his blog and other writing, Ernest strives to be a source of inspiration for his audiences. His goal is to apply his skills toward developing climate solutions and building a sustainable future. His favorite part of being a GTA is getting to learn and grow as a teacher alongside the students he helps.



### **Priscilla Owusu-Danquah**

Priscilla graduated from KNUST with a BA in Integrated Rural Arts and Industry. She and her husband, who is also a student at Missouri S&T, have four children ages 5, 9, 11, and 13. The family loves cooking – one of Portia’s favorite activities – and watching movies together. Priscilla is a people-person whose favorite parts of being a GTA are meeting new students and witnessing their writing improve as they learn and develop as writers throughout each semester.



### **William Reardon**

William earned both a BS (SU21) and MS (FS22) in Technical Communication—both from Missouri S&T. Before becoming a GTA, William presented his undergraduate research at the 2018 Midwest Modern Language Association conference and served on the staff of Southwinds. As a graduate student, he remained an active community member and a valued volunteer at local nonprofits. “I think working with students, providing feedback, and tangibly seeing their writing skills improve have been my favorite part of being a GTA.”

### **Frederick Sunkpal**

Frederick “Freddy” Sunkpal has a BS in Economics from KNUST. Through his work of promoting sustainable agricultural practices, Freddy has developed valuable project management skills and even co-founded a groundnut production and wholesale company. In his free time, he enjoys playing volleyball and doing a variety of volunteer work. His favorite part of being a GTA is knowing he is making a difference by helping others learn: “It is exciting because it is a platform for me to take a step towards the realization of my teaching philosophy.”



### **Annmarie Tyson**

Annmarie earned a BS in English and Technical Communication at Missouri S&T. Her favorite part of being a GTA is getting a new perspective on the program she completed as an undergraduate. Annmarie is an accomplished student athlete and was selected for the US Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association’s All-Midwest Region Team this past summer. She competed in high jump at the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Outdoor Track Field Championship and was awarded second place in high jump at the 2022 Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Indoor Conference Championships. Annmarie said being a student athlete has helped her maintain her focus as an undergraduate and a grad student.