Ayanna Wade is a fourth year PhD student at the University of California, Davis, in the lab of Dr. Alex Nord. Ayanna’s experience with research started as an undergraduate at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where she completed multiple projects studying human cognition at Augustana, the University of Iowa, and Stanford University. During these research experiences, Ayanna developed a deep interest in the biological underpinnings of memory and other cognitive functions. At Davis, Ayanna has applied this interest toward studying how mutations to a chromatin remodeler implicated in autism consistently impact cognition and memory. Ayanna plans to continue learning about the relationship between genes, neuronal function, and behavior during a career in science.