

56th Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing March 3-7, 2025

Business, Industry and Government Career Panelists' Bios

Dr. Bill Kay received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Emory University in 2017. His dissertation was on extremal combinatorics on hypergraphs. He did a post doc at Toronto Metropolitan University (nee Ryerson) with Anthony Bonato. He then did a post doc as a data scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and converted to staff there shortly after. In 2022, he became a staff scientist (Mathematician) at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. His current research interests include information theory, discrete probability, and graph algorithms with applications to machine learning, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure.

Dr. Kevin Palmowski, PhD, has over 10 years of mathematics experience and has been designing and writing software, both as a hobbyist and professionally, for over 15 years. Dr. Palmowski joined SRC, Inc. as a Software Engineer in 2016, and is currently a member of the organization's Enterprise DevOps team. He has served as Technical Lead on multiple projects, has been formally trained as an Agile Scrum Master, and has experience leading hybrid teams composed of developers located across the United States. He is very quality-focused, and places emphasis on clean code, good documentation, and efficient development workflows, all backed by adherence to clearly defined processes and utilization of the standardized tooling that is managed by the Enterprise DevOps team. Dr. Palmowski holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. His doctoral research, advised by Dr. Leslie Hogben, used graph theory and linear algebra to develop fractional versions of minimum rank and zero forcing number.

Dr. Alex Schulte attended Iowa State University from August 2014 to May 2019. He earned his Ph.D. in Combinatorics and Graph Theory under his advisor Dr. Michael Young. His dissertation topic was on anti-van der Waerden numbers. The anti-van der Waerden number is the minimum number of colors required to force the existence of a rainbow k -term arithmetic progression on the set being colored. During the summer of 2018, Alex participated in the National Security Agency's (NSA) summer internship: the Graduate Mathematics Program. After completing his Ph.D., Alex returned to NSA full time as an applied research mathematician participating in the Mathematics Development Program. Upon completion of the program in May of 2022, he transitioned into a role as a data scientist at NSA. Alex currently lives in Maryland with his wife and son where he continues to work as an NSA data scientist.

Dr. Stephen Ippolito attended Florida Atlantic University from 2008-2015 and earned a Master's of Science degree in Mathematics and Statistics, and his Ph.D. in Dynamical Systems under his advisor Dr. Vincent Naudot in 2015. In 2016, he accepted a full-time post doc position at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Services. Since 2017, Dr. Ippolito is the Principal Data Scientist at Florida Crystals Corporation and works in the West Palm Beach area.