

W.E.S.S. News

From the desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest:

- What are the Eagle STEM Scholars saying about the program?
- Meet the Eagle STEM Scholars!

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Welcome to the first issue of the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars (WESS) newsletter. The goal of the newsletter is to provide relevant information and updates about the program and the scholars participating in the program for parents, faculty, staff and other interested parties.

A result of the INBRE grant was the formation of the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program. The program is designed to provide support and increase the number of students from groups underrepresented in the biomedical science fields at the graduate school level. The first freshman cohort for the Winthrop Eagle

Kenisha Barber - "Being in the Eagle STEM programs has shown me the importance of people and that people are here to help. You can go outside your comfort zone and get help when you need it. I'm a shy person and not a people person. This has opened me up a little bit. Now, I'm



Rachel Law

STEM Scholars Program selected Fall 2011 are near completion of their first semester here at Winthrop University. They are well integrated into a learning community. The semester activities began with early campus move-in, residing on common floors in residence halls, and welcome events. They have attended mandatory study halls, various tutoring programs and a seminar series designed to promote a learning community and assist

with the transition from high school to college.

The seminar series allowed for dialogue with faculty, upperclassmen and outside speakers to gain their insights on requirements for academic success and to share information about their personal journeys. They also attended upper-class biology and chemistry seminars. They have been involved in community service projects and team building activities.

WESS have learned that faculty expects them to be motivated, well prepared, responsible, and participative in class. They have learned that along with the freedom of being a college

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What are the W.E.S.S. saying about the program?

not as shy as when I first come here."

Arlene Haskins - "We get to be friends with people who have the same majors and have to take the same kind of classes. We can ask each other questions and study together. And we all are going through the

same thing and have some things in common with each other."

Jabari Robinson - "It's about opportunities. ... It gives us major specific things. ... We get things for science majors."

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Meet the Eagle STEM Scholars



Kenisha Barber

My name is *Kenisha Briana Barber*. I am 18 years old, and I am the oldest of six girls. I was born and raised in Rock Hill, SC and graduated from Northwestern High School where I was a full International Baccalaureate student, a member of the marching and symphonic bands, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and Spanish Club. I am a Chemistry major here at Winthrop, and I hope to become a pediatric dentist in the future. I enjoy working with kids as well as succeeding inside and out-



Kenisha Barber

side the classroom. I enjoy math, reading, Spanish, and chemistry. Although I am a little shy, I am a hard worker who will stop at nothing to reach and accomplish all of my goals. ■

Briana Murray

My name is *Briana Murray* and I am a freshman at Winthrop University. My area of study is Biochemistry, with a Chemistry major. I attended Fort Dorchester High School in Charleston, SC., where I lived for most of my life. In high school, I played volleyball where I was team captain. I have moved around to many places because I am a military child. My goal is to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist and travel the world. ■



Briana Murray

“I am very thankful to be a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars program because it has allowed me to interact with other students that have the same major or similar majors as mine” **Humphrey**

Michelle Humphrey

My name is *Michelle Humphrey*. I am currently a freshman majoring in Biology with a concentration in Medical Technology at Winthrop University. I am choosing to pursue a career in the medical field because of a combination of my love of science and mathematics and my passion for helping others. I am very thankful to be a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars program because it has allowed me to interact with other students that have the same major or similar majors as mine, making it easier to seek help when I need it. In addition to the Eagle STEM Scholars program, I am participating in the Emerging Leaders program and the Winthrop University Honors Association (WUHA). However, I hope to become much more involved on campus during my time at Winthrop University. ■



Michelle Humphrey

Denise Peppers

My name is *Denise Peppers*. I'm a freshman at Winthrop University. I'm originally from Columbia, South Carolina where I attended all four years of high school at Ridge View High School in Northeast Columbia. While in high school I was an honors student and a member of the Varsity Women's Soccer Team. While serving on the team I was chosen as cap-

tain my senior year. I was also a part of the student athletic trainers for two years of my high school career. My major is chemistry with a concentration in forensics. With this degree I plan to attend medical school and get my doctorate degree so that I can become a forensic pathologist. I want to be a medical examiner so that I can work with the police

department and help solve cases with my autopsy results. I'm glad to be a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program, I think it's a great program that really supports its members in pursuing their college education. ■



Denise Peppers

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Sarah Wicks

I am a 2011 graduate from Clinton High School in Clinton, SC. I graduated with very high honors, earned thirty-four college credits, and was the recipient of enough scholarships to provide for my education. While in high school, I was active in Science Olympiad, Varsity Volleyball, NHS (Treasurer), Beta Club, Girl Scouts (Gold Award), CHAMPS, Girls State, and my Youth Group. As a 7 year member of Science Olympiad, I am honored to have won SC State Science Olympiads and represent SC at National Science Olympiad Competitions six times.

As a Volleyball Setter, I was honored to be the Wendy's Heisman HS winner, AAA All Region, and a Southern Piedmont All-Star. I am a student at heart and have been intrigued in science research since my cousin, Stacey, told

me about her FAU research with sea turtles hoping to find a cure for Herpes. My high school science teacher and Olympiad coach, Mr. Mack, then further fueled my passion in Biology. That is why I decided to pursue a degree in Biology with a Biomedical Research emphasis. I visited many colleges but I knew from the moment I entered Dalton Hall that Winthrop University was the next step to achieving my goals. I look forward to the challenges! ■

"I visited many colleges but I knew from the moment I entered Dalton Hall that Winthrop University was the next step to achieving my goals." Wicks



Sarah Wicks

(Darlene) Sherille Davis

I was born in Charleston, SC, but I grew up in many places because I am a military child.

I graduated from Columbus High School, in Columbus, Ga. I was a part of Beta Club, Junior Civitan, Marching Band, Latin Club and many other clubs and organizations. I chose to be a biology major because I was always interested in life science. After college, I plan on going to Medical School and becoming a Family Practice Doctor. ■



Sherille Davis

Gerrard Goines

My name is *Gerrard Goines* and I was born and reared in Irmo, SC. When I was little I loved to sing and would often do so without people asking me to. I was told that I was a kind and considerate child and I had a lot of love in my heart for a kid my age. In Elementary school I was awarded the student of distinction award once in third grade and once in fourth grade. As I grew up my passions varied, from History to English, from English to Orchestra, and back to English. When I decided to come to Winthrop, I felt like being a Medical doctor is what I wanted to do, so for the fall semester of 2011, I was a biology major who intended to go to MUSC for Med school. I am an ambitious, hard working, and dedicated person in everything I do. I am a devout Christian and a person who loves to be there for anyone who needs someone to be there for them. I think the most unique thing about me is my love for music, which is why in high school I was in the most advanced orchestra class and in Gospel Choir. ■



Gerrard Goines

Arlene Haskins



Arlene Haskins

My name is *Arlene Haskins*. I am 18 years old and my birthday is March 2 (Pisces). I was born in Panama but I've lived in Charleston my whole life. I graduated from Fort Dorchester High School. My major is Pre-Veterinary Biology. I also take swimming and I am in the Taekwondo Club. I want to minor in French. I've always known that I wanted to be a vet because I've always loved animals. In Charleston I worked at Five Guy's Burgers and Fries over summer vacation and I plan to go back and work there again over Winter Break. ■

student, they must work hard, manage their time well, and establish a balance between their academic and social lives which can be quite challenging.

Besides benchmarking the Meyerhoff program at UMBC and similar efforts at other colleges, the Winthrop University community has been generous with their support to make the WESS program a successful effort. The WESS scholars have been pleased to experience faculty who want to help them succeed which was contrary to what many had heard about going to college. WESS have gained a higher level of confidence in themselves and enhanced their decision making abilities. They have clearly made personal networks that will last and be beneficial throughout their Winthrop experience and beyond.■

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Gerrard Goines – “It has become another source of care for me. I know my professors cares but having all of you (*the WESS*), Ms. Law and Carol, it’s like another family in a sense. It give me another push towards the right direction. I know someone else cares about my school work beside my professors and me.”■

Denise Peppers - “It has given me confidence. Having all you guys, and coming to study hall 2 days a week ... I can ask you guys for help if I need it. ... it’s nice to be comfortable asking for help than asking someone you don’t know. ... It has given her more friends. It has helped her transition in college, both academically and socially.”■

Jabari Robinson

I was born on June 12, 1993 in Florence, SC to Irish J. Dickey and Kenneth J. Robinson. I was raised in Manning,



Jabari Robinson

SC, which is where I attended school. In high school, I was involved in numerous extracurricular activities. Some of the activities I participated in were Track, Air Force JROTC, FBLA, Beta Club, and Marching Band. I was an Academic Marshall my sophomore and junior year. My junior year I received junior scholar awards from Gardner-Webb University, Newberry College, and Coker College. I graduated

number seven in my class, magna cum laude. I currently attend Winthrop University and I am majoring in Biochemistry.■

Briana Murray - “It has become my little home away from home for me.” Briana says that coming into the Eagle STEM’s office makes her feel like she’s at home talking to her mom. It’s great.■

Eagle STEM Scholars Program

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The Eagle STEM Scholars Program was formed as a result of the INBRE II diversity initiative to effectively matriculate more students from diverse groups into biomedical science PhD programs. Winthrop, because of its diverse population of students, is uniquely poised to increase the number of under-represented minority, low income and first generation undergraduates in South Carolina who matriculate into Ph.D. biomedical science, bioengineering, biochemistry, biology and chemistry programs. It is taking steps to move over the next two decades towards national leadership in this area.

We’re on the Web
eaglestem.winthrop.edu