

W.E.S.S. News

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Spring 2018

Special points of interest

- Awards and Recognitions
- Scholars added to Presidents List
- Fourth Graduating Class

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From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

The Eagle STEM Scholars Program promotes the success of students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in biomedical science, bioengineering, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, math, and computer science and environmental science. Fifty two students were Eagle STEM Scholars across the Fall 2017 (rising sophomore) to Fall 2014 cohorts. Spring 2018 graduates included 10 of the 11 Fall 2014 cohort and 1 from the Fall 2013 cohort. Six of the 11 who graduated

were accepted into graduate programs at UC-San Francisco, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Winthrop. Three plan to work in industry, and two plan to take a gap year for studies leading to acceptance to

graduate programs. The one scholar from the Fall 2014 cohort who did not graduate in the spring plans to do so December 2018. Through Spring 2018, the Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, and Fall 2017 cohorts achieved group-average cumulative GPAs of 3.41, 3.44, 3.45, and 3.39, respectively. Thirty-nine scholars were on the President's or Dean's List for at least one semester. Twelve of these students achieved this status both semesters. In addition, 28 scholars are en-



Rachel Law

See **DIRECTOR** page 2

Eagle Stem Scholars Fourth Graduating Class - What Are They Saying?



Douglas Johnson - "During my four years at Winthrop, being apart of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program was a blessing that I appreciate everyday. From the fun activities to providing help with networking and getting to meet many peers who take a similar path as me, I do not regret joining the program at all and believe it would benefit everyone as they transition from high school to college. Their amount of care is not limited to only helping with the first year transition. It also include thoughtful letters of recommendation, reference to opportuni-

ties in the area, advice with how to do better in classes/extracurricular activities and much, much more. With all of the experience they have accumulated throughout the years, they have done their best at helping myself and my peers with deciding the best path to take on our journey to our chosen career paths. College can get really hectic, but having the guidance of people who really care makes all the difference in the world and I cannot thank them enough for that." ■

See **GRADUATING CLASS** page 2

Hawkins Receives Outstanding “Undergraduate Analytical Chemistry Award”

Dakota Hawkins, an Eagle STEM Scholar who was a Spring 2018 Winthrop graduate, was awarded the “Undergraduate Analytical Chemistry Award”. This award was given by the American Chemical Society Division of Analytical Chemistry. It was presented by the Division to encourage his interest in analytical chemistry and to recognize his aptitude for a career in this field. The award consists of an honorary membership in the Division, award plaque, and subscription to the Division’s journal, “Analytical Chemistry”. Winthrop award winners are chosen by the ACS delegated department analytical faculty, Dr. Pat Owens and Dr. Cliff Calloway and are recognized on the department award plaque. Congratulations to Dakota!■



GRADUATING CLASS ... Continued from front



Zchimon Herndon - “ Coming to Winthrop as a freshman, I had multiple ways to make friends within the Eagle STEM program from the beginning. There was always a social where members of different cohorts come together to socialize and catch up after stressful semesters. My favorite event the STEM program hosts is the White Elephant Christmas parties each year because the atmosphere is always inviting and there is tons of food and deserts. In regard to academics, the Office Staff were always supportive, provided resources when times got rough such as free printing and suggesting tutors, and they always encouraged us to keep going. The Eagle STEM program is also a supporter of the community and so each cohort gets the chance to host the community service project of their choice, which again provides us with chances to mingle and make more friends. With the endless care for the participants, I enjoyed every year in the program because I always knew they would help in any way they could and I greatly appreciate it. To future and current participants of the Eagle STEM program, take advantage of the help they provide for you because it’ll make your college experience a little less stressful.”■



Autumn Leggins - “My four years as an Eagle STEM Scholar have been amazing. There are so many aspects of my college career that would not have been possible had it not been for the Eagle STEM Scholars Program. I would not have gotten into research nor would I have joined any extra curricular opportunities if it had not been for Ms. Rachel Law’s guidance and benevolence.”■

DIRECTOR .. Continued from front

rolled in Winthrop’s Honors Program. Twenty scholars accepted undergraduate research opportunities or internships for summer 2018: fourteen will participate in Winthrop’s SURE Program; 1 is at Augusta University; 3 are at regional Hospitals: 1 is at a pharmacy, and 1 is at a veterinary hospital. The incoming Fall 2018 Cohort was recruited and will be the eighth cohort and the fourth to experience a summer bridge program. The summer program will give Eagle STEM scholars an early college experience and the start of building their learning community.■

Vinson, Lawson, Bonner, Daniels, and Roger Added to President's List for Spring 2018

Five Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2018 semester. The two juniors who achieved this milestone were Augustine Vinson and Jordan Lawson. One sophomore student achieving this milestone was Jessika Bonner. Two freshmen achieving this milestone were Arryana Daniels and Andrea Roger.

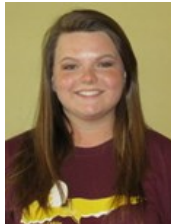
Augustine Vinson is a chemistry major with a focus on becoming a veterinarian. Her minor is Spanish. Jordan Lawson is a computer science major. He is a member of TRIO and the Honors program. Jessika Bonner is a biology major with a pre-veterinary focus. Arryana Daniels is a biology major. She is also on the women's soccer team at Winthrop. Andrea Rogers is a biology major. We congratulate Vinson, Lawson, Bonner, Daniels, and Roger on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



Augustine Vinson



Jordan Lawson



Jessika Bonner



Arryana Daniels



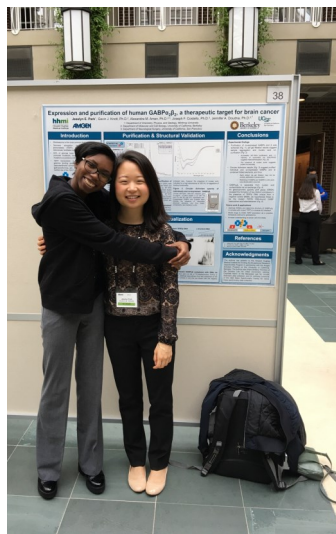
Andrea Roger

GRADUATING CLASS ... Continued from front



Jesslyn Park - "The Eagle STEM Scholars Program played a pivotal role influencing my career path by exposing me to various opportunities to involve myself in research and the Winthrop community. As a freshman, Eagle STEM connected me with upperclassmen and faculty (such as Dr. Jason Hurlbert, Dr. Cliff Harris, and Dr. Pat Owens, amongst others) invested in 1st-gen/URM student success, and this catalyzed my early participation in biochemistry research. Upon developing research skills from working with Dr. Hurlbert, I was able to attend summer programs at various institutions including Winthrop (Ronald E. McNair Scholars), UW-Madison (NSF-REU), and UC Berkley (HHMI ExROP/Amgen Scholars). Such experiences ultimately allowed me to now pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry at UCSF. The Eagle STEM Scholars Program is an invaluable resource that has in turn prompted my passion for science education outreach and mentorship. I am immensely grateful and hope other students are encouraged to proactively make the most of various developmental opportunities made possible through Winthrop." ■

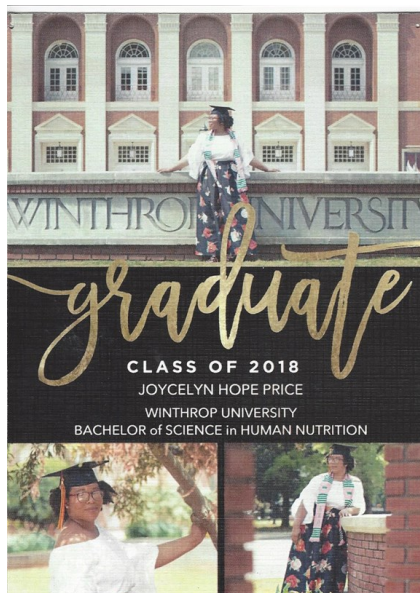
Leggins and Park had a Great Experience at the HHMI ExROP Conference in California.



Class of 2018 - Congratulations!



Autumn Leggins



Joycelyn Price



Douglas Johnson



Madeline Diaz

Not Pictured

- Dakota Hawkins
- Jesslyn Park
- Lauren Ramsey
- William Schrieber
- Andrew Davis
- Zchimon Herrndon

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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 Ph.D. 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.