

W.E.S.S. News

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Spring 2019

From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest

- Director Rachel Law Stepping Down
- Scholars added to Presidents List
- Fifth Graduating Class

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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-five students were Eagle STEM Scholars across the Fall 2018 (rising sophomore) to Fall 2015 cohorts. Spring 2019 graduates included all 12 of the Fall 2015 cohort. Eight of the 12 who graduated were accepted into graduate programs at USC-Columbia School of Medicine, UGA, UMiami, Augusta, NC State, Auburn, UF, and UMD. Four plan to work in industry, and two of whom plan to take a gap year for studies leading to acceptance to graduate programs. Through Spring 2019, the Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, and Fall 2018 cohorts



Rachel Law

achieved group-averaging cumulative GPAs of 3.47, 3.48, 3.38, and 3.25, respectively. Twenty-three scholars were on the President's or Dean's List for at least one semester. Fourteen of these students achieved this status both semesters. In addition, 31 scholars are enrolled in Winthrop's Honors Program. For summer 2019, undergraduate students have research opportunities or internships. Eleven are at Winthrop; five at MIT, Iowa, MI State, Purdue, and UNC-Charlotte; and three at Greenville Medical Hospital a

vetinary hospital, and a pharmacy. The incoming Fall 2019 Cohort was recruited and will be the ninth cohort and the fifth 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. Effectively 7/1/19, Amanda Cavin begins as Director of the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program as I step down from the position after eight and a half years. It has been a privilege to work with so many talented students, their parents, faculty, and staff. Special recognition goes to program and other staff including Dr. Cliff Harris, Mrs. Mary Abell, Mrs. Carol Ingliis, Mrs. Willie Aiken, and Mrs. Velbert Ervin and founding Advisory Board members, Dr. Pat Owens, Dr. Takita Sumter, Dr. Kathie Snyder, Dr. Cliff Harris, and Dr. Kristi Westover and added members, Dr. Michael Whitney, Dr. David Meeler, and Dr. Julian Smith. I wish the best to all in the future and sincerely thank all who have been a part of this journey.

What are the Eagle STEM Scholars Saying About Ms. Law?

“Thank you so much for everything! You’ve been a mentor, an advisor, and a teacher to me. I’ll never forget you because you really got me through so much here at Winthrop! I’ll miss you!” Kiera

“I just want to thank you for all the work that went in directing the Eagle STEM program. You went above and beyond to help me and the other students in my year graduate! Best of luck as you move on to the next opportunity!” James

“Thank you so much for all you have done for me over the years. I truly believe I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for you and Eagle STEM. I appreciate you so much—thank you for feeding us, all of the recommendations you written, and all of the encouragement and opportunities you offer.” Juliana

“Thank you Ms. Law for everything! You are really appreciated and will be missed! Thank you for everything you’ve done for me and every opportunity that you given to me. Best wishes with future endeavors!” Sam

“I wanted to reach out to you and say thank you for all you have done for me and other students before you left. You were one of the first faculty members I really got plugged in with after I started at Winthrop and your advice in my first two semesters really aided my transition into Winthrop from tech school. Your willingness to sit down and answer my questions and give me advice really pushed me to the next level academically and helped me to further connections with other faculty mentors at Winthrop.” Sean

“My wife and I want to send along our best wishes to you as you leave your position of Director of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program at Winthrop University. The personal notes that you sent us while our son was enrolled at Winthrop were both comforting and reassuring. Thank you for your help in educating our son. Michael & Kim (Parents)

“I wanted to personally thank you for **you**. For all the work and dedication you’ve applied to the Eagle STEM program and to us. You’ve already made a positive influence in our lives and we will always acknowledge that.” Carlos

“I am very thankful for all that you did while I was at Winthrop Ms. Law! You were so kind and encouraging and I am so glad I had you there to talk to about everything! I don’t think I would have made it through the program without you!” Lauren

“Thank you for all that you have done for me over the last four years. If I had not been involved in the STEM program, I would not have thought to pursue undergraduate research. It is because of you that I am going to graduate school.” Sydney

“I want to thank you for everything that you have done for me and each of the cohorts. The Eagle STEM program has defined my decision to attend and stay at Winthrop. There has never been a time when you weren’t more than willing to lend a hand for any reason. Your impact goes beyond ways that I can mention, and for that I am forever grateful for you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.” Marlin

“Thank you so much for all of your support throughout my time at Winthrop. You were one of the first to see my potential and encourage me to aim high even as I doubted myself. I am so incredibly grateful for your role in building my confidence, as well as serving as a role model as an accomplished woman in science. Thank you again for everything you have done to push and inspire me.” Jesslyn

Scholars ...Continued from Page 2

“I want to thank you so much for writing a recommendation letter on my behalf, especially with such short notice. I really appreciate how great you have been for the past three years, and I am so lucky to have gotten the opportunity to be an Eagle STEM Scholar and to have gotten to know you. Your help and support has been invaluable, and everything you’ve done for me is more than I could have ever asked for. You are also one of the few people that I know who is always looking for a way to help someone. I just really appreciate all that you have done for your students. We are lucky to have you.” Jessica

“Many thanks to you. In every accomplishment, I have made so far, one factor continues to remain the same. You have spoken on my behalf and always very well of me. I am very happy our paths crossed: since 2012 and forever. The Eagle STEM program helped me grow and mature into the person I am today. The values you created instilled an attitude that keeps students accountable, showcase their strengths, and most importantly confidence. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I would be very happy to assist you in anyway I can. Just can’t thank you enough!” Adaeze

“Thank you for choosing me to be one of your Eagle STEM Scholars! The Eagle STEM program has been integral to my success and enriched my time at Winthrop tremendously. Without it, I wouldn’t have met such amazing people in my cohort and the previous or subsequent years. Thank you for always being there for me to talk to and know that I am not alone. I always appreciate seeing your friendly face and talking with you about your adventures in different countries. Also thank you for all the time you let me stay late to finish assignments and print more than my fair share! I’ll miss you!” Leigha

“I would like to thank you for all the hard work that you have put into helping me achieve my goals. You have been amazing at facilitating my transition from home to college— you made Winthrop feel like my home, and for that, I am grateful. Thank you for writing me nine recommendations letters, I know it was hard for you to find any good qualities in me. But more importantly, I would like to thank you for putting up with me and my eccentric ways. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers.” Brionna

“ I have been so very fortunate to have met and worked with you since day one at Winthrop! I am so proud to have been part of and Eagle STEM Scholars cohort, which would not be as successful if it did not have you behind it. I look up to you as a mentor, a supporter, and a professional as you have been very successful in your life and career. I have loved hearing about your many experiences, travels, and family! Without your encouragement and support throughout the past four years, I would not have had the same Winthrop experience and would not be attending the University of Virginia in the fall. My Eagle STEM and study abroad experiences have opened my eyes to what I can do as an individual, as a student, and as a professional. I am so very grateful for everything you do for your students each and every day. I wanted to let you know how much you are appreciated! I wish you the best, and I look forward to staying in touch! Thanks for everything.” Danielle

Eagle STEM Scholars Fifth Graduating Class - What Are They Doing?



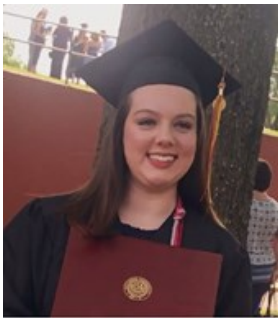
Hunter Sellers
PhD Cardiovascular Medicine
Augusta



Augustine Vinson
PhD Biochemistry
UF



Frank (Rex) Tuttle
MS Kinesiology
Auburn



Sydney McCall
PhD Bioinformatics
UGA



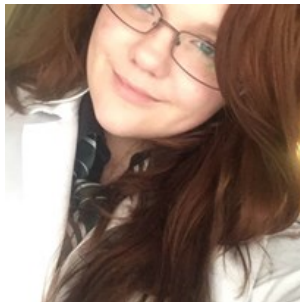
Lucia Rodriguez
PhD Biochemistry
UMD



Ashley Cooper
OB/GYN Medical
University of SC



Jessica Stevens
PhD Math
NC State



Brittney Ramsey
Post Bac, Temple
MS Skin Biology & Dermatological Science
University of Miami

Not Pictured:



Tanisha Moore
Theodora Sanoulis
Jordan Lawson
Antonio Santos

Vinson, Bonner, Quay, Alexander, and Talley Added to President's List for Spring 2019



Augustine Vinson

Five Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2019 semester. The one senior who achieved this milestone was Augustine Vinson. The two juniors who achieved this milestone were Jessika Bonner and Juliana Quay. Two sophomore students achieving this milestone were Kiera Alexander and Timber Talley.

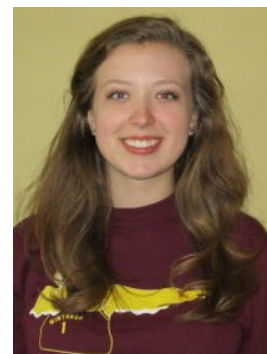


Timber Talley



Jessika Bonner

Augustine Vinson is a chemistry major with a focus on becoming a veterinarian. Her minor is Spanish. Jessika Bonner is a biology major with a pre-veterinary focus. Juliana Quay is a chemistry / pre-med major with a focus on neurology and psychology. Kiera Alexander is a human nutrition major. Timber Talley is a biology major with a physical therapist focus. We congratulate Vinson, Bonner, Quay, Alexander and Talley on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



Juliana Quay



Kiera Alexander

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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.

We're on the Web
www.winthrop.edu/eaglestem