

W.E.S.S. News

From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest

- Study Abroad Experiences
- Meet our Program Assistant
- Meet the Eagle STEM Scholars!

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Seventeen students were selected for the fifth Eagle STEM Cohort Fall 2015. Ten of the students participated in a six-week summer bridge program before starting the fall semester. Students in the program are from South Carolina and six other states with New Jersey being the most recent addition. Academic majors for the students are biology, chemistry, math and computer science.

Seniors are preparing for graduate level programs.

Early acceptances to medical school and research programs were received by some during the Fall 2015 semester. Juniors and sophomores are seeking research internship

opportunities. Mentoring by professors and access to research experience are leading to improved academic performance in a major way. Mentoring by upper-classmen and networking continues.

Scholars are involved on campus as Peer Mentors, McNair Scholars, ASC tutors, and Ambassadors for example. They continue to achieve while giving back to the campus and area community. ■



Rachel Law

My Study Abroad Experience?

By Camerun Washington

This past semester, junior Biology and French dual major, Camerun Washington, spent his fall semester studying abroad in the small town of Sherbrooke, Québec through the National Student Exchange program. He took a total of 24 credit hours with 21 of those hours devoted to intensive French language study and the last 3 hours taking beginning Spanish taught in French! He attended *Université de Sherbrooke* and participated in their *Microprogramme de français langue seconde*, an intensive language program with courses meeting 3 hours a

day, 5 days a week focusing on speaking, writing, and listening all in French. "Sherbrooke was, I feel, the perfect place to perfect my French. The



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Meet our Program Assistant

Carol Inglis graduated from Winthrop University cum laude with an honors Chemistry degree in May 2011 and was appointed as the graduate assistant for the Eagle STEM Scholars Program. In the fall of 2011 she started pursuing a master's degree in education at Winthrop and remained the graduate assistant through December 2012. Carol graduated in May 2013 with a Masters of Arts in Teaching. After graduation, Carol worked at Rock Hill High School teaching chemistry and physical science. In June 2015, Carol returned to work for the Eagle STEM Scholars as the program assistant. ■



Carol Inglis

Meet the New Eagle STEM Scholars

Augustine Vinson

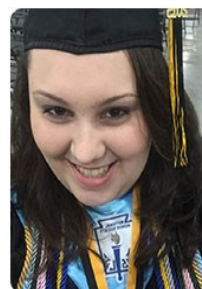
My name is Augustine Vinson, and I am a freshman here at Winthrop University. I am from Aiken, S.C. I attended Silver Bluff High School, after home-schooling for eight years. In high school, I was involved in Key Club, Beta Club, and National Honors Society. I also played on my high school's girls' soccer team. My major is currently Chemistry, and I want to become a veterinarian. I hope to also major or minor in Spanish. I would really like to travel abroad to Mexico or Puerto Rico. I like to play soccer and read. ■



Jessica Stevens

Jessica Stevens is originally from Myrtle Beach, S.C. She graduated from Socastee High School with a high school diploma, an honors diploma, and a full diploma from the International Baccalaureate Program. She was in the top twenty of her graduating class. While in high school, she participated in

various activities such as marching band, drama club, and even became the president of the French Club her sophomore year. Currently, she is studying as a chemistry and French double major and hopes to continue to the MAT 5 program in order to teach in the future. ■



Frank Tuttle

My name is Frank Tuttle and I am a biology major and very interested in graduate school. I am very interested in the research opportunities that Winthrop has to offer. I am also highly involved in the Taekwondo Club at Winthrop. I have been enjoying my time so far as a Winthrop Eagle STEM student. ■



Brittney Haney



My name is Brittney Haney and I was born in Shelby, N.C., in May of 1997. I'm from Spartanburg, S.C. I graduated in 2015 from Byrnes High School and the Spartanburg County Scholars Academy. As the result of the academy's dual enrollment program and AP course offerings I left there with 68 credit hours towards my college degree. While at Byrnes, I was involved in NHS, Beta Club, and Academic Team. I was also involved with the Scholars Academy by holding office in both their Photography Club and Literary Magazine. My academic interests include dermatological medicine, pathology, genetics, and biomedical research. I'm a freshman biology major with a minor in chemistry. After graduating, my goal is to continue on to medical school to become a dermatopathologist. ■

SCHOLARS .. Continued from page 2

Lucia Rodriguez

My name is Lucia Rodriguez. I graduated from Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Md. I'm a chemistry major and plan to complete the MAT5 program in order to get teacher certification in the subject. I also hope to get a degree in Spanish since I have taken Spanish classes since the very beginning of my education. In high school, I was captain of my school's Varsity Cheerleading team as well as a member of my school's Dance Company. I also participated in SGA as Senior Class Sec-



retary. In addition to being in Eagle STEM here at Winthrop, I am an Honors Student as well as a NSF Chem STEM Scholar. I am also a cheerleader on Winthrop's Spirit Squad. I am happy to call Winthrop my home and can't wait to see what the next four years have to offer. ■

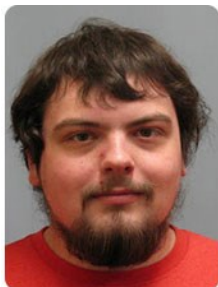
Ashley DI Falco



My name is Ashley DI Falco. I am originally from Long Island, N.Y., but moved to Beaufort, S.C. when I was 9 years old. I have ridden horses ever since I could walk. I love to run and competitively swim. I absolutely love Biology! I hope to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, and give back to the community. I love helping others and that is the main reason why I want to become a surgeon. ■

Jordan Lawson

Hello, my name is Jordan Lawson. I am a member of Eagle STEM, TRiO, and the Honors program here at Winthrop University. I participated in the Summer Bridge program and found it beyond helpful in adjusting to college life. As a computer science major, I hope to use all resources available to achieve academic excellence. ■



Tanisha Moore

My name is Tanisha Moore. I am 18 years old and currently a freshman at Winthrop University. My major is Biochemistry. I was born on April 9th, in Portsmouth, Va. When I was 4, I moved to Charleston, S.C., and have lived there my whole life until coming here to Rock Hill in the fall of 2015. I attended Goose Creek High School and while there, I was an athletic trainer for 3 years and worked with many different sports teams of the school. After graduating from Winthrop, I plan to go on to graduate school and pursue something in the medical field. ■



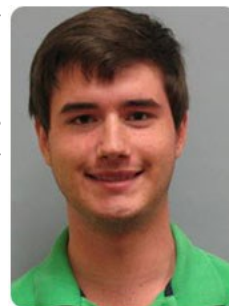
Hunter Sellers

Hey, my name is Hunter Sellers. I am a freshman from Cheraw, S.C. My goal is to major in chemistry. After I graduate, my plan is to attend medical school to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. ■



Joshua Sauer

My name is Joshua Sauer and I am from the very small town of Johnsonville, S.C. I am the middle child of 3 siblings and was raised to be a hard-working individual by my grandparents. I graduated from Johnsonville High School in 2015 with high honors. I came to Winthrop because of the wonderful things I heard about the staff and the student population. In high school, I was very involved in Mock Trial, Academic Council, Student Council, Beta Club,



the AP Program and Teen Institute. I am currently a biology major with a minor in Political Science here at Winthrop. I enjoy learning about the world around me and listening to the daily news in order to better understand the country that I live in. I am very outgoing and a hard worker who loves to be around people and I will not stop until I have reached my goals. ■

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SCHOLARS .. Continued from page 3

Sydney McCall

Hello my name is Sydney McCall. I am from North Augusta, S.C., and I graduated from North Augusta High School. I spent a week in Colombia, South America the past three summers and I love it. I am majoring in math but do not know what I want to do with my degree. ■

**Ashley Cooper**

My name is Ashley Cooper and I am a freshman majoring in Biology. I'm from Greenwood, S.C., where I lived my whole life. I chose to come to Winthrop because of the diversity and wide range of people who I met here. I've always loved science and math, and I feel that the STEM program will help me reach my future goal of medical school and later, working in a hospital. I enjoy reading and I am very much looking forward to my time here at Winthrop. ■

**Sarai Ortega**

My name is Sarai Ortega, I was born in Hilton Head, S.C., and grew up in Bluffton, S.C. I graduated from Bluffton High School in the top 10 percent of my class. In high school I was involved in many clubs such as Interact where I held the secretary position for two years and National Honor Society where I held the Vice President position. I am a Biology/Spanish double major at Winthrop and hope to study abroad in Spain sometime during my four years here. After graduating from Winthrop, I plan to go to medical school and become a pediatric oncologist. ■

Antonio Santos

Hello, my name is Antonio Santos and I am a freshman majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Mathematics. I am a Floridian by heart as I lived there for a majority of my life, but now I live in Lancaster, S.C. As a freshman, I started my college career strong as I became a Fall 2015 Emerging Leader, a Lead Student Assistance for the Instructional Technology Center (ITC), a MATH 201 and CSCI 151 tutor, a 2016 Orientation Leader, and now a Winthrop STEM Scholar. My goal during college is to not only take advantage of the leadership opportunities, and any other opportunities that interest me, but to also gain the necessary skills I would need to be successful after college. My goal after graduation is to not only pursue graduate school, but to also pursue a career in the tech world. ■

**Theodora Sanoulis**

My name is Theodora Sanoulis and I am from Spartanburg, S.C. I attended James F. Byrnes High School. I was involved in multiple extracurricular activities including: National Beta Club, National Honors Society, Spanish National Honors Society, Captain of Varsity Competitive and Sideline Cheer, and Captain of Varsity Lacrosse. My passion, other than chemistry, is playing the viola. I was a part of South Carolina's Region Honors and All-State orchestras for 6 years. My major is chemistry with a concentration in Forensics. I plan to further my education through graduate school and become a cosmetic chemist. ■

**Eartha Scott**

Hello, my name is Eartha Scott but I go by Kaila, which is my middle name. I was born in Miami, Fla., on January 28, 1998. I lived in Allendale, S.C. and North Augusta, S.C. most of my life. I graduated early from Allendale - Fairfax High School in May 2015. My major is Biology and pre-medicine and I expect to graduate May 2019. My career goal since I've been in middle school is to go into the medical field, more specifically, heart related. I want to be an Interventional Cardiologist or a Cardiovascular Technologist. My life goals are to be a Cardiologist, locate to Louisiana, retire early and live the rest of my retirement days in Fiji. ■

My Experience Abroad - Costa Rica

by Alanna Brooks

During the Spring 2015 semester, I studied abroad in Costa Rica. Costa Rica is one of the most beautiful and diverse countries in the world. I am glad that I was able to not only study in Costa Rica, but was also able to learn more about the culture and enjoy the scenery. I lived in Costa Rica for four months with a host family that took very good care of me and spoke no other language but Spanish. Upon arriving to Costa Rica, I had only taken basic Spanish courses. Truthfully, I felt that my minimal understanding of the language was not satisfactory for my four month stay in the country. However, after living with my host family for four months and speaking nothing but Spanish with those in my household as well as other Costa Rican citizens, I soon began to understand more words and therefore began to speak more Spanish and hold better conversations.

While in Costa Rica, I attended a private university known as Veritas University, where I took two courses of intensive Spanish, one theology course, one course in Latin American dance, and another class in zoology. I had a lot of fun in these classes. The professors were really understanding and made sure that each student was able to have a better understanding of the class. I passed all of my classes with straight A's.

In Costa Rica, and more specifically within Veritas University and neighborhood, I was able to meet and connect with the most amazing people. There were several international students from different countries and having a chance to meet

them and befriend them was an experience I will never forget. I am a member of the Culture Club at Winthrop University and have always enjoyed learning about and speaking with people of different cultures. In Costa Rica, I was able to meet people from France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Iran, China, Britain, Italy, and many other different places, as well as students from different parts of the United States. As of today, even though my study abroad program ended months ago, I still keep in touch with my friends that I meet while I studied abroad.

While in Costa Rica, I was also able to venture outside of the city and travel all over Costa Rica and outside of the country. My friends and I traveled to both the Pacific and the Caribbean sides of Costa Rica and had a chance to see the most beautiful of beaches, the tallest mountains, the most prestigious rainforests, the broad diversity of animal and plant species, and of course the different plantations of products exported to different countries such as coffee, rice, bananas, pineapple, and chocolate. We went to Panama and stayed on an island called "Bocas Del Toro" or in English "Mouths of the Bull." I have to admit that traveling to Panama and staying on an island was perfect until the whole island ran out of water for three days. After that experience, we were ready to go back home to Costa Rica.

See **COSTA RICA** page 6



Team Building Exercises

The Eagle STEM Scholars participated in team building exercises given by Winthrop's Outdoor Education Center. They had a great time.



Gathers, Logan, Manley, Stahl, Tesney, Made the President's List or had 4.0 GPA for Fall 2015

Five Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List or achieved a 4.0 GPA at Winthrop University for the Fall 2015 semester.

Shiannea Gathers, Jessica Logan, and Olivia Manley are the three seniors who achieved this milestone. The two junior students that achieved this milestone were Leigha Stahl, and Michala Tesney.

Shiannea Gathers is a biology major minoring in chemistry. After graduation, she plans to go to medical school to become a pediatrician. Olivia Manley is a chemistry major with plans to go to pharmacy school to become a pharmacist. Jessica Logan is a chemistry major with a minor in math. She also plays soccer for the Winthrop Eagles women's team. Leigha Stahl is a biology major and is interested in natural medicine, botany, genetics, nutrition, and biomedical research. Jessica Tesney is a chemistry major with a concentration in Business Administration and a minor in biology.

We congratulate Shiannea, Jessica L., Olivia, Leigha, and Jessica T. on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



Shiannea Gathers



Jessica Logan



Olivia Manley



Leigha Stahl



Jessica Tesney

Québec...continued from front

Québécois are extremely nice, the scenery was beautiful, and it also helps that the American dollar is a bit stronger" he joked. "I would definitely recommend Québec for French majors wanting to learn French and also Montréal for science majors who want an opportunity to hear some French but also do science in a really fun city". After graduation, Camerun intends on going to graduate school to become a genetic counselor. ■

Costa Rica...continued from page 5

My experience studying abroad in a different country was extraordinary. I am so happy that I had the chance to travel to Costa Rica and explore and learn about this beautiful country. I am happy that I was able to enjoy the food, meet new people, create new bonds, travel to different places within and outside of Costa Rica, and live with an actual Costa Rican family. Most of all, I am excited that I was able to improve my Spanish speaking skills and expand my vocabulary and conversations. In truth, I was saddened that I had to leave Costa Rica but hopefully will be able to visit again and have even more great adventures. ■

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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.