

W.E.S.S. News

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Fall 2016

Special points of interest

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

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From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

Twelve students were selected for the sixth Eagle STEM Cohort Fall 2016. All of the students participated in a six-week summer bridge program before starting the fall semester, as required to become an incoming freshman scholar. All of the Fall 2016 cohort are from South Carolina schools with three having graduated from the SC Governor's School of Math and Science. Ten entered the program as biology majors and two as chemistry majors.

Seniors are preparing for graduate level programs, and early invitations to interview for medical and research programs were received by some during the Fall 2016 semester. Juniors

and sophomores are applying for summer research internship opportunities. Mentoring by upperclassmen and networking continues. Mentoring by professors and access to research experience are leading to improved academic performance in a major way.



Rachel Law

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. ■

Study Abroad Experience in South America

By Julia Poppell

Landing on the airstrip in Lima a little after 1:00 AM, I had no idea what to expect. I had been out of the country before and I already knew a good bit of Spanish, but this was the first time I had ever flown to a country by myself not knowing anyone there. After being picked up by the Center for International Studies program director, Patricia, who lives in Lima, I quickly realized it was not going to be as easy as I thought. The accent was weird and difficult to understand, there was a lot of traffic, and the city was too big for me to walk more than a block without getting lost.

On my third day in Peru, I went to my university, Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, which is a small, private, Catholic university, to take my Spanish placement exam with the other exchange students and make my schedule. I had never seen so many foreigners and heard so many different languages in one room in



Meet our Program Assistant

Alesha Love became the graduate assistant for the Eagle STEM Scholar program January 2017. She graduated from Winthrop University in May 2016 with a BS in Mathematics. After graduation, Alesha went back to pursue her MAT in Secondary Mathematics, with plans to graduate May 2018. This is her fifth and final year as a member of the Track and Field Team at Winthrop University. Alesha is also a 2016 WISE Scholar. She also loves going to church, volunteering, and spending time with her friends and family.■



Meet the New Eagle STEM Scholars

Jessica Bonner

My name is Jessika Bonner. I am a freshman biology major with a pre-veterinary focus. I am from Heath Springs, S.C., and graduated from Andrew Jackson High School, where I was involved in Beta Club and many Choral groups. The Eagle STEM program has given me a great opportunity to achieve my goals of attending veterinary school and one day becoming a licensed veterinarian. I am very glad to be a part of this program and to be attending Winthrop University!■



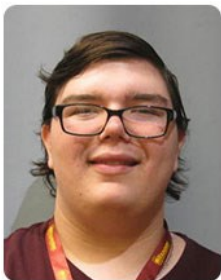
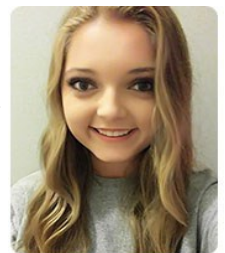
Juliana Quay

My name is Juliana Quay and I am a chemistry/pre-med major. I am from Lancaster, S.C., and I graduated from Andrew Jackson (AJ) High School in Kershaw, S.C. At AJ, I was involved in visual and performing arts, NHS, and Beta Club. I am very interested in undergraduate research and the other STEM opportunities here at Winthrop. My goal after graduation is to go to medical school and become a doctor, and focus on subjects like neurology and psychology.■



Tiffany Dwyer

My name is Tiffany Dwyer. I'm from Dillon, S.C., and I graduated from Dillon High School. I am a biology major at Winthrop and I am hoping to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist.■



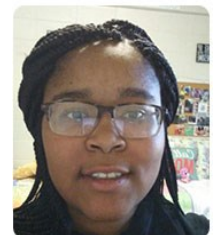
Matthew Berry



Zachary Revert

Alexis Robinson

My name is Alexis Robinson. I am from Columbia, S.C., and I graduated from Dreher High School. I am a biology major trying to decide whether or not to minor in Art.■



SCHOLARS .. Continued from page 2

Caprice Garcia

My name is Caprice Garcia and I am a biology major at Winthrop University. I was born in Memphis, TN, in 1998 and moved to Columbia, S.C. in 2004 at the start of first grade. I have lived in South Carolina and been a part of the Richland 2 school district since then. At the start of my freshmen year at Ridge View High School in Columbia, I decided to join a program at my school known as the Bio-Health Sciences Magnet. Being in this program exposed me to the wonderful opportunities that the medical field offers. Since joining that program I have declared that I want to be a part of the medical field in the future. That said, during my senior year of high school, I decided to apply to Winthrop Uni-

versity for the vast number of opportunities I know it offers and was accepted a few months later! I then joined the Eagle STEM Scholars program because of my interest in biology and the medical field knowing that it would open great doors for me and shortly after, I was accepted into the Honors Program at Winthrop University. Though I have a long way to go, I know that joining the Winthrop University student body and the Eagle STEM Scholars program were both great decisions on my journey towards success!■



Marlin McKnight



My name is Marlin McKnight. I grew up in Kingstree, SC., and graduated from the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville, SC. I chose the Eagle STEM Scholars program to assist and guide me through my college experience, ensuring that I make the most out of school as possible.■

Addyson Griffin

My name is Addyson Griffin. I graduated from Byrnes High School. I am a chemistry major. My plan is to go to graduate school to become a medicinal chemist.■



Sarah Reid

My name is Sarah Reid and I am currently 18 years old. Starting from the beginning, I was born in Atlanta, GA. I then moved to Frankfurt, Germany at the age of three and grew up there for the next seven years of my life.



My time in Germany is a big part of who I am as a person and an individual. I grew up living as a part of the German culture. I spoke the German language, attended German schools, enjoyed the food, and loved the country's vast cultural differences. This exposure, not only to the German culture, but also other countries in Europe, has allowed me to become who I am today. I have always had the ambition to learn and expand my knowledge. I recently graduated from high school in Summerville S.C. In the same month, I also graduated from Trident Technical College with Summa Cum Laude Honors and an

Associate's Degree in Science. I am currently on a pre-medical track and majoring in biology here at Winthrop University. I hope to graduate from Winthrop University and later on attend a medical school. I am primarily interested in the area of neuroscience within the medical field. So far Winthrop has truly become a second home and is a welcoming place to learn who you are and grow as an individual.■



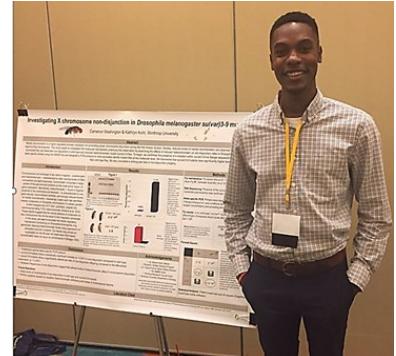
Madison Workman



Morgan Jones

Washington wins Undergraduate Research Poster Competition

Camerun Washington, an Eagle STEM and McNair Scholar, won first place in the Undergraduate Research Poster Competition at the Black Doctoral Network Conference in October 2016 for his poster titled "Investigating X Chromosome Non-disjunction in *Drosophila melanogaster* su(var)3-9 mutants". Camerun also won an award for his McNair research during the summer of 2016. Dr. Kathryn Kohl, his mentor said, "I am so grateful we have the funds to encourage promising students like Camerun to present at multiple conferences and receive this kind of recognition for great work." Camerun is a senior with a dual major in Biology and French. His primary scientific interest is genetics. ■



Collaboration Workshop

Led by Robert Johnson

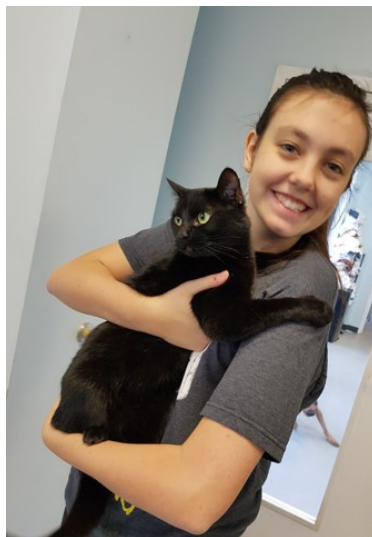
Eagle STEM Scholars participated in a workshop on *Collaborative Relationships*, which was a participatory workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to encourage students to build collaborative relationships to enhance their learning process. The workshop demonstrated the value of diversity of thought and that by working together and interacting with each other that problem solving improved. ■



Community Service - Humane Society of York County



Jessika Bonner, Tiffany Dwyer, Sarah Reid, Juliana Quay, Addyson Griffin, picking up supplies and treats.



"The people were really nice and inviting. I loved playing with the cats and I hope to go back."

~Maddie Workman



"I fell in love with a cat,
Threw away scat,
And can definitely see myself going back"

~Marlin MCKnight



"I had much more fun than I expected and it reinforced the fact that I probably will be happy with my future career goals: that's becoming a Vet."

~Marlin McKnight



"My experience at the animal shelter was amazing! I enjoyed my time there, whether it was cleaning out the "cat lounge" or the outdoor area for the dogs, or just playing with the cats."

~Alexis Robinson



"Well...I fell in love with a kitten I couldn't have and I had to clean up poo soooo...Lol, but no, seriously I had a great time!!"

~Addyson Griffin

Corley, Dwyer, Leroy, Stahl, Watson, Whitley, Made the President's List or had 4.0 GPA for Fall 2016

Six Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List or achieved a 4.0 GPA at Winthrop University for the Fall 2016 semester.

Michelle Corley, Victoria Leroy, Leigha Stahl, Emily Watson, and Margaret Whitley are the five seniors who achieved this milestone. Tiffany Dwyer, a freshmen also achieved this milestone.

Michelle Corley is a chemistry major. After graduate school, Michelle plans to work in an environment that will involve working with animals. Victoria Leroy is a biology major with a focus on pre-med. After graduating from Winthrop, her desire is to attend medical school. Victoria is also on the women's basketball team at Winthrop. Leigha Stahl is a biology major and is interested in natural medicine, botany, genetics, nutrition, and biomedical research. Emily Watson, a Forensic Chemistry major, plans to attend graduate school and then work in a government lab. Margaret Whitley is a chemistry major with a desire to attend medical school to become a physician's assistant. She also plans to attend seminary and one day be a medical missionary. Tiffany Dwyer is a biology major. After graduating from Winthrop. She plans to go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist. We congratulate Michelle, Victoria, Leigha, Emily, Margaret and Tiffany on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



Michelle Corley



Victoria Leroy



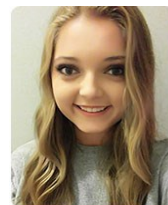
Emily Watson



Leigha Stahl



Margaret Whitley



Tiffany Dwyer

Study Abroad continued from front

my whole life. I began to regret not paying attention in French in high school. We all quickly became close though and immediately made plans to travel together to the mountains, desert, beach. Any type of environment that you could possibly imagine exists in Peru and I am definitely an outdoors person, so South America was a paradise for me.

Some of my favorite trips were the four-day Salkantay trek to Macchu Picchu, 10 days in the jungle in Pucallpa, Huaraz to see breath-taking glaciers and lagoons, and Baños, Ecuador for extreme sports. For school, to really challenge myself, I took all of my courses in Spanish, which were mostly social science and language courses. I was able to transfer those courses to finish my Spanish minor and my general education requirements. I want to go into global public health, so for me, this was a great place to be. Though really sad to see, there is a lot of malnutrition and poverty in Peru, but it's something that's really important to see early on to be effective in the field. I was funded by all of my Winthrop University and government scholarships and loans and received an additional \$2,500 from the Benjamin Gilman Study Abroad Scholarship.

Overall, this was a wonderful experience and I would definitely recommend South America for your study abroad experience! ■

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 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.