

W.E.S.S. News

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Fall 2017

From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest

- Study Abroad Experience
- Meet our Student Assistant
- Meet the Eagle STEM Scholars!

Inside this issue:

Japan- Leggins	1
Student Assistant- Leggins	2
Kiera Alexander	2
Sophia Stefanov	2
Jamal White	2
Arryana Daniels	2
Margaret McMillan	2
Sydney Frazier	3
Resa Allen	3
Alyssa Petty	3
Timber Olivia Talley	3
Hannah Richards	3
Evan Thibodeaux	4
Samariya Fant	4
Sigrid Dorman	4
Mya Coleman	4
Madison Merrill	4
Shelby Riley	5
Collaboration Workshop	5
Community Service	6
President's /4.0 IList	7

Sixteen students were selected for the seventh Eagle STEM Cohort Fall 2017. All of the students participated in a six-week summer bridge program before starting the fall semester, as required to become an incoming freshman Eagle STEM Scholar. Students were better prepared for the transition in the fall from high school to college as a result of their summer bridge experience. Students in the Fall 2017 cohort are residents of Delaware, New Hampshire, and South Carolina schools. They entered the program

as biology, chemistry and computer science majors.

Seniors are preparing for graduate level programs, and early invitations to interview for

graduate programs were received by some during the Fall 2017 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 making all the difference in the academic success of these students.



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. ■

My Study Abroad Experience in Japan

By Autumn Leggins

During the Fall 2017 semester, senior Biology major, Autumn Leggins studied abroad in Hirakata City, Osaka, through the Winthrop University Study Abroad Partner Program. She took 14 credit hours with 8 of those hours devoted to Japanese language and writing studies. The remainder of her hours were used on a Japanese sociology course and a Japanese fashion course. She attended Kansai Gaidai University and participated in the Asian Studies Program there. Within this program, Autumn got the chance to sign-up for the Speaking Partner Program and the Home-Visit Program—through which she practiced speaking conversational Japanese and explored various regions of the Osaka and Kyoto area with other students at the school and /or their families. Despite the busy schedule many science majors have, she would recom-



Meet our Student Assistant

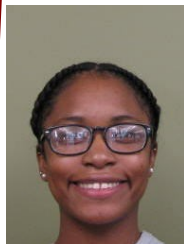
Autumn Leggins is a senior Biology major at Winthrop University and is expected to graduate in May 2018. She was appointed as the student assistant for the Eagle STEM Scholars Program in January 2018. Outside of her studies in biology, she also works in a Chemistry Department lab and is one of the chairs in the DiGiorgio Student Union (DSU). After graduation, she plans to gain more experience within a medical setting before applying to MD/PhD programs. ■



Meet the New Eagle STEM Scholars

Kiera Alexander

My name is Kiera Alexander. I am a freshman biology major. I am from Camden, S. C. and graduated from Camden High School, where I was an honor student. I was involved in



many things. I was a member of Beta Club, Dessausure Tri-HI-Y, and Upward Bound at Benedict College. I was also the secretary in B.A.D.D. (Bulldogs Against Destructive Decisions) Club and the treasurer of Bulldog Pearls. Being

in these different clubs and organizations allowed me to complete lots of community service projects and gave me opportunities to meet new people in other cities and states. ■

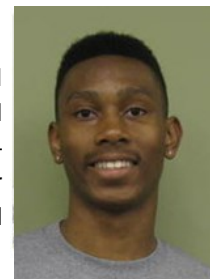
Sophia Stefanov

My name is Sophia Stefanov. I am from North Hampton, New Hampshire. I am majoring in Chemistry, with a concentration in Biochemistry. I've done a few internships including a science camp at a company called Bio-Gen working to manipulate DNA, and a semester long internship at the Antaya foundation, constructing a particle accelerator. I am currently a chemistry major, with a concentration of biochemistry. I hope to go onto medical school and study neuroscience. Particularly, I am very interested in how certain drugs affect brain function, and emotional behavior. For now I plan to keep studying hard and this summer hopefully volunteer at a local hospital and receive clinical hours. ■



Jamal White

My name is Jamal White. I graduated from Fort Mill High School. I participated in football and basketball in high school. I was a member of the National Honor Society. Currently, I am a computer science major and after college I plan to work for Microsoft and develop apps. ■



Arryana Daniels

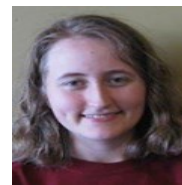
My name is Arryana Daniels. I went to high school at Padua Academy in my home state, Delaware, and earned first and second honors. I was on the principal's list and was a part of the National Honor Society.



Here at Winthrop, I major in biology and I also play on the women's soccer team. ■

Margaret McMillan

My name is Margaret McMillan and I attend Winthrop University. I am a computer science major. ■



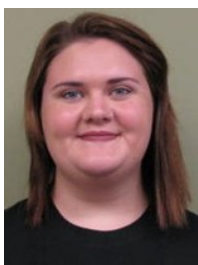
Sydney Frazier

I'm Sydney Frazier and I am from Aiken, SC. I graduated from South Aiken High School. I am a biology major at Winthrop with a pre-med concentration. I chose Winthrop because of my experience on preview day. I took a tour and met Dr. Dimaculangan and he really got me interested in the close-knit biology program. I also met Rachel Law, the STEM director, and Jordan Lewis who happened to be our peer mentor for the summer bridge program. Some perks of being a STEM Scholar are

knowing professors by name, semesters before you even have them, as well as making friends you will keep throughout the school year. The free printing doesn't hurt either. I am very grateful for this program as I now feel ready to progress through my STEM major at Winthrop.■



Resa Allen



My name is Resa Allen. I graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and was a member of National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Beta Club. I participated in Relay for Life and volunteered at a local shelter called Kare. My current major is Biology but I plan on changing to Biochemistry. After my bachelors I plan on getting my masters and my doctorate to be a pharmacologist. ■

Alyssa Petty

My name is Alyssa Petty. I am from Gaffney, SC and I graduated from Gaffney High School this past spring. While in high school, I participated in Beta Club, French Club, and in the marching band. I am currently a Chemistry major and wanting to pursue a degree in pharmacy.■



Timber Olivia Talley

My name is Olivia Talley and I am from Greenville, SC. I attended Wade Hampton High School, where I served as President ('16-'17) and Vice President ('15-'16) of the National Art Honor Society. As part of the society, I was able to combine my passion for art and service to others as we continuously found ways to strategically incorporate art into community building and empowerment. Through community service, I saw how my actions as a community service advocate made an impact on the lives of my peers, and the adults and children that I served. My biggest personal achievement is definitely being the first generation of my family to attend college. I have always strived to set an example for my little sister and am extremely honored to have the opportunity to pursue my biology degree. My dream is to become a physical therapist as it will allow me to combine my love for health science and passion for helping others.■



Hannah Richards



My name is Hannah Grace Richards. I graduated from Camden High School in Camden, SC, where I was a member of Key Club, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and yearbook. My major is Computer Science. After college, I plan to move to Tampa, Florida or Fayetteville, North Carolina to work with my mom for the military in IT. Her boss has offered me a job straight out of college!■

Scholars - Continued from page 3

Evan Thibodeaux



I graduated from Greenville High Academy as a magnet student in the law program. While I was in high school, I was the president of the recycling club at the school, the vice-president of a medical club called Upstate AHEC (Area Health Education Center), and part of Greenville Health System's sponsored GHS Health Careers Club. During the summer of my junior year, I applied to and got accepted into Medical Experience Academy (MedEx) and got to take part in a medical pipeline program at MUSC—Greenville. I was also a part of the National Honor Society.■

Samariya Fant

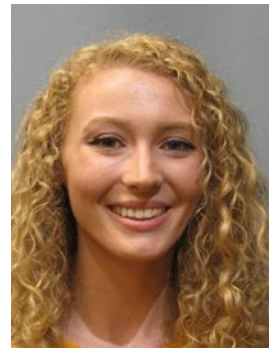


My name is Samariya but I go by the name Sam. I was born and raised in Columbia, SC where I graduated from Irmo High School with academic honors. At Irmo High, I participated in athletics, volunteering and was president of a club. I am on the basketball team at Winthrop and my major is biology.■

Sigrid Dorman

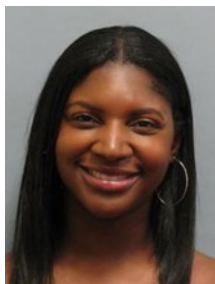


My name is Sigrid 'Ashton Mae' Dorman. I went to Aiken High School. I was the co-captain of my high school's NJROTC rifle team and the Battalion Supply Officer for my NJROTC unit. I competed at the Navy Nationals Air Rifle Championships, placing 24th in the Navy, and the All Service National Air Rifle Championships, placing 112th in the nation. I was also the concert mistress of my high school's orchestra my senior year. I am a lifeguard at my town's Family YMCA and I am an AFROTC cadet at UNC Charlotte. I am chemistry major with a concentration in forensics and I hope to go on to medical school to become a forensic pathologist.■



Madison Merrill

Mya Coleman



I attended Dutch Fork High School in Columbia, South Carolina. Throughout my years there, I was involved in the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Science Team, and the Varsity Volleyball team. I chose to be an Eagle STEM Scholar because I believe it will be a helpful experience to meet others in the STEM field and to pursue a career as a pediatrician in the future.■

Shelby Riley

My name is Shelby Riley and I am a freshmen chemistry major at Winthrop University! I am involved in the Eagle STEM Scholars program. I am a Safe Zones panelist, and I am also an Honors Program student. I graduated from Barnwell High School in 2017 as an honor graduate and I was awarded an enhanced academic diploma. While in high school, I was the president of the National Honor Society, the captain of the BHS Pep Squad, and a member of the National Beta Club. I was also named the CSRA Woman Geoscientist of the Year in 2016. Outside of school, I participated in Zen ShotoKai karate, and was named a junior instructor. I also held a tutoring position, a cashier job, and taught swimming lessons in my local community. I love Winthrop so far, and I look forward to accomplishing many of my goals while on campus. ■



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:

Oakdale Elementary STEAM Volunteering



Teen CEO Day 2017



49er Classic Drill Competition



Rodriguez, Bonner, Made the President's List or had 4.0 GPA for Fall 2017

Two Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List or achieved a 4.0 GPA at Winthrop University for the Fall 2017 semester.

Lucia Rodriguez is a junior who achieved this milestone. Jessika Bonner, a sophomore, also achieved this milestone.

Lucia Rodriguez is a chemistry major and plans to complete the MAT5 program in order to get a teacher certification in the subject. She also hopes to get a degree in Spanish. Jessika Bonner is a biology major with a pre-veterinary focus. Jessika plans to attend Veterinary school to become a licensed vet. We congratulate Lucia, and Jessika on their outstanding academic accomplishments.■



Lucia Rodriguez



Jessika Bonner

Study Abroad continued from front

mend that students take the opportunity to study abroad if they have the chance. After graduation, Autumn plans to gain more experience within a medical setting before applying to MD/PhD Programs during the Fall 2019 application cycle.■

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.