

W.E.S.S. News

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Fall 2019

Special points of interest

- Meet our Graduate Assistant
- Meet the Eagle STEM Scholars!

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From the Desk of Amanda Cavin, Director

Over the summer we welcome eighteen freshmen to our Summer Bridge program with majors including biology, chemistry, computer science, and math. Of the four cohorts still on campus, we have 56 scholars participating in the program. As this is my first fall with the program, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the upperclassmen. We have some amazing students in our program! Freshmen had the opportunity to attend many classes and study hall together and also worked on community service projects. They worked

and studied hard, learned to utilize the resources available to them and engaged in all our campus has to offer. The adjustments to college life was supported by an upper class men-

tor that was assigned to each student. While continuing to work hard towards their academics, sophomores and juniors engaged in campus organizations and looked at opportunities to participate in summer research. Some of them also got to work in labs here on campus. They are continuing to build their academic resumes and prepare for the next step after undergraduate work. Seniors have continued their hard work to be competitive as they apply to Masters and PhD programs. This application process and graduate school testing, alongside the academic load has kept them extremely busy. We are proud of their accomplishments!■



Amanda Cavin

CONGRATULATIONS TO EAGLE STEM'S FIRST RECRUIT

Dr. Akilah 'Briana' Murray was the first recruit into the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program. The Eagle STEM Scholar Program helped her maintain a balance between research and extracurricular activities, by creating a community of students that all strived to be well-rounded individuals. "The Eagle STEM Scholars Program did a great job enabling and motivating me to pursue higher education and I don't know where I would be without it." Dr. Murray is a biochemist who recently earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Florida in December 2019. Her research focused on designing and testing carbohydrate-based compounds and their ability to prevent tumor growth and metastasis in triple negative breast cancer. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Winthrop University and is from Charleston, SC. Currently, she is taking some time off to travel the world before starting work within the pharmaceutical industry.■



Meet our New Graduate Assistant

My name is Shea Ferguson and I am the new Graduate Assistant for the Eagle STEM Scholars Program. I received my undergraduate degree from University at Buffalo in Social Sciences. After graduating in 2015, I worked as the training Manager at Higher Logic and moved to North Carolina. In 2018, I decided to make a career change and begin postbaccalaureate classes in Biology and Chemistry. I began completing my Masters in Teaching Secondary Education with a focus in Biology this fall. I am excited to work as part of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program and I have a passion for helping students achieve their goals while also encouraging them to reach their full potential. After graduating from Winthrop, I hope to work as a High School Biology teacher. In my spare time I enjoy cooking, exploring with two dogs and spending time with my husband and family. ■



Shea Ferguson

Meet the New Eagle STEM Scholars

Jackson Barrett



My name is Jackson Barrett. My major is Biochemistry and I am from Columbia, SC and I graduated from Blythewood High School. In high school I was the vice president of the Spanish honor society and I participated in the science honor society at my school. My goal in life is to become a neuro-scientist and teach at a university. I chose Winthrop because it is a smaller school that I believe will better suit my

learning style. I have always had a love of math and science and I am thrilled to be at Winthrop and take advantage of the many undergraduate opportunities. ■

Ashley Bryan

I am Ashley Bryan and I am a freshman majoring in Chemistry. I attended Academic Magnet High School, which was ranked the #1 High school in the nation. I played varsity basketball all 4 years of high school and was named Team Captain my senior year. My proudest achievement was reaching the 1000th Points milestone in my senior year. College wise, I know I will be stable in my grades, but I am excited to push myself to play basketball on the collegiate level. ■



Laine Ciaramitaro



My name is Laine Ciaramitaro I am a Chemistry major. I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota and I graduated from Apple Valley High school. In high school I was part of my schools E3STEM program where I helped plan and advertise field trips. I also was a

part of my schools Science Olympiad team, varsity lacrosse team, and I was a TA in the special education program. My ultimate goal is to go to an MD-PhD back home in Minnesota to be able to help patients and advance medical technology. ■

Emily Camp

My name is Emily Camp and I am Chemistry and Computer Science major with a minor in Math. I was born and raised in Ninety Six, SC and I graduated from Ninety Six High School. In high school, I was captain of the Academic Team, Student Body President, and a part of the National Honor Society. I choose Winthrop because of the welcoming atmosphere as well as this program, and all the opportunities it has provided for me. In the future, I plan to earn my Ph.D. and begin my own research, but until then I will continue furthering my education here at Winthrop University. Go Eagles! ■



Brooklyn Clive



My name is Brooklyn Clive. I am majoring in Mathematics and Chemistry with a concentration in Forensic Chemistry. I am from Blacksburg, SC and graduated from Blacksburg High School. I graduated as an honors student and was a six-year member of the Blacksburg High School Marching Band. I also participated in Beta Club, Science Club, Junior Leadership Cherokee, and founded the Chess Club at my high school. I am excited for my experiences at Winthrop University but I am not sure what my career goals are at the moment. I plan on continuing on to graduate studies after graduating from Winthrop. ■

Alexandra "Ally" Gebbia



My name is Ally Gebbia and I am a Biology major from Pawley's Island, South Carolina. I graduated as an IB student from Low Country Preparatory School where I was a member of the dance team and DECA. I have five cats and have been a dancer for 16 years. I chose Winthrop because of all of the opportunities with STEM and the amazing faculty who supports their students.

My lifelong goal is to earn my Ph.D. and work in Biomedical Research. ■

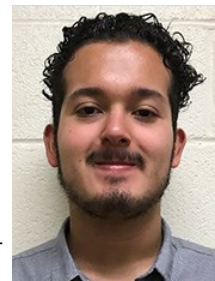
Janae Massey

My name is Janae Massey. I am from Lake Wylie, SC and I graduated from Clover High School with highest honors. I am majoring in Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry. Once completing my four years here at Winthrop, I plan on attending dental school to become a dental hygienist. I am on the Winthrop Women's Soccer team. My main accomplishments in high school include being in the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Interact Club. A fun fact about me is that I have a twin brother who attend South Carolina State University. ■



Thomas Gonzalez

My name is Thomas Gonzalez. I am from Summerville, SC and I graduated from Ashley Ridge High School. My major is Biology with a concentration in Biomedical Research. I want to go into a PhD/MD track and be a neurosurgeon. In high school I was an avid participant in Wellness Club and PR officer in SNHS. I'm currently in RSA on campus and enjoying impacting my campus and other campuses across the country. ■



Lily Gray



My name is Lily Gray and I am a freshman majoring in Computer Science. I am from Fort Mill, SC. My life goal is to be a cryptologist that works for the government. I'm in the Eagle STEM Program and Honors Program. I have played the saxophone for 7 years and was a section leader my senior year of high school. I enjoy math and logic puzzles. ■

Laela Walker



My name is Laela Walker and I am a Biology Pre-Vet major. In my free time, I practice Spanish, cook recipes, volunteer at the Humane Society,

and spend time with family and friends. After college, I either plan to go to vet school or to further my studies in wildlife conservation. With that in mind, I plan to get involved on campus to further discover my interest in animal biology. ■

Lauren Patterson



My name is Lauren Patterson. I am originally from Anderson, South Carolina and I graduated from Powdersville High School in May 2019. I was a member of the National Honors Society and HOSA Future Health Professionals. I am a biology major. I am interested in being either a veterinary pathologist or a zoologist. Along with being an Eagle STEM member, I am also a part of the Honors College and the Close Scholars. Some of my hobbies include running, baking, watching horror movies, and playing video games. ■

Scholars - Continued from page 3

Jordan Rucker

My name is Jordan Rucker and I am a biology major. I'm from Anderson SC, and I graduated from Pickens High school in Pickens SC. My goal is to go on to PA School and work in pediatrics as a Physician's Assistant. I am also a musician and artist and love to cook! I am a SEA-PHAGES researcher and am planning on joining other research opportunities at Winthrop as well. ■

Kimora Bailey

My name is Kimora Bailey and I am in the Eagle STEM Scholars program. I am originally from Somerset, New Jersey, but live in McDonough, Georgia. I graduated from Union Grove High School, with an all A average. I am majoring in Chemistry here at Winthrop University. One of my main accomplishments included being accepted into the Eagle STEM program. I represent Winthrop University as an athlete. For all my athletes out there playing a sport at the collegiate level and balancing can be difficult at times, but to answer your question it is soooo doable. ■

Molly Quetel

My name is Molly Quetel. I am from Clover, SC and I graduated from Clover High School. I became clarinet section leader in band, and secretary of French Honors Society and French Club. I am majoring in Chemistry, and plan to minor in Math. During my free time, I like to play my guitar and clarinet, but I also love to dance. After college, I aspire to be a Chemical Engineer. ■

Mina Heidari

I'm Mina Heidari and I'm from Columbia, South Carolina. I went to school at Spring Hill High School in Chapin, where I studied in the Exercise Science Academy. I'm a Biology major with a concentration in Biomedical Research because I plan on going to medical school to become a Developmental Pediatrician. I've served many leadership roles throughout high school such as Model United Nations Co-Captain, History National Honors Society President, Science National Honors Society President, National Honors Society Secretary, and Beta Club Secretary. I also love to fence and play volleyball! My biggest accomplishments include my participation in the Eagle STEM Program at Winthrop and winning the title of all three pageants I've participated in. I've had the opportunity to intern at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital in the endoscopy department but through research and experience, I learned that I truly enjoy Pediatrics and early development. ■

Eric Walters

My name is Eric Walters. I am from Anderson, SC and I graduated from Westside High School. I am a chemistry major with a concentration in Biochemistry. I plan on pursuing the MD/PhD program and ultimately specialize in radiation oncology. I am very passionate when it comes to anything related to chemistry. Aside from academics, I am a competitive powerlifter and develop strength training programs for clients. ■

Mason Mattison

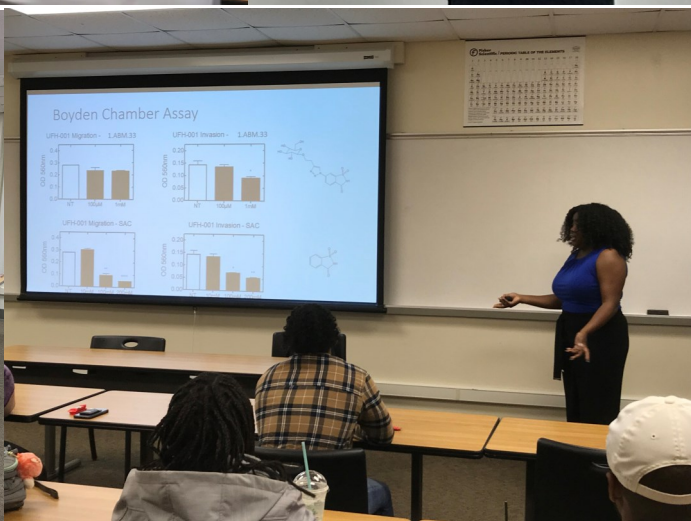
My name is Mason Mattison and I am in the 2019 Eagle Stem Cohort. I switch from majoring in Exercise Science to Chemistry during the summer bridge program. I graduated from Ware Shoals High. I was in marching band for four years playing percussion, soccer for two years, and theater my last year in high school. I want to start working in water desalination and cleaning waste water. I enjoy playing guitar, as well as, singing, cooking, writing, exercising and just learning in general. I also love working with my hands and working on projects that require me to think out of the box. My biggest accomplishments are being 3rd in my class, being accepted in the Honors Program here at Winthrop, as well as the Eagle Stem Program. My next accomplishment will be getting my Ph. D and making a change in the world one day. ■

Mackenzie 'Mack' Dupuy

My name is Mack Dupuy and I am majoring in Biology. I am from Poughkeepsie NY, but I am currently living in Powdersville SC. I graduated from Wren High School in Piedmont, SC in the top 20% of my class. I plan on doing research while attending Winthrop. My life goal is to either work for the CDC or for NASA. I love to play music and was in my high school's marching band for five years and jazz band for one year. ■

A Seminar Sharing by Dr. Briana Murray

Eagle STEM Scholars participated in a seminar with former Eagle STEM Scholar, Dr. Briana Murray. While attending University of Florida, she did research pertaining to drug development for triple negative breast cancer. She served on the executive board of the Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO) at University of Florida as the Graduate Research Impact Chair. Her responsibility was highlighting research done by diverse students across campus. ■



Eagle STEM Scholars –Community Service

IMAGINE STEAM FESTIVAL

A
Celebration of Science



Spooky Science Saturday held at the Museum of York County



Lauren, Jordan, Eric,
Mina, Mason, & Mack

Eagle STEM Scholars –Community Service

Children’s Attention Home Care Package



Emily, Ally, Molly, Laela, Janae, Jackson

Hearts for Josh



**Kimora,
Ashley,
Laine,
Brooklyn,
Thomas,
Lily**



Bonner, Garcia, Petty, Lumbert, Patterson Made the President's List or had 4.0 GPA for Fall 2019



Jessika Bonner

Five Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Fall 2019 semester.

The two seniors who achieved this milestone were Jessika Bonner and Caprice Garcia. The one junior student that achieved this milestone was Alyssa Petty. The one sophomore that achieved this milestone was Ryan Lumbert. The one freshman that achieved this milestone was Lauren Patterson.

Jessika Bonner is a biology major with a pre-veterinary focus. Jessika plans to attend veterinary school to become a licensed vet. Caprice Garcia is a chemistry/psychology major. Alyssa Petty is a chemistry major and plans on becoming a pharmacist. Lauren Patterson is a biology major. She plans on being a veterinary pathologist or a zoologist. Ryan Lumbert is a computer science major and plans to attend graduate school and obtain a Ph.D. in Cyber Security.

We congratulate Jessika, Caprice, Alyssa, Ryan, and Lauren on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



Alyssa Petty



Ryan Lumbert



Caprice Garcia



Lauren Patterson

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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.