

W.E.S.S. News

Special points of interest

- Spring Break
- Scholars added to Presidents List
- First Graduating Class

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From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

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. The incoming Fall 2015 Cohort will be the first to experience a summer bridge program. This program will give STEM scholars an early college experience and the

start of building their learning community. Winthrop currently has 58 Eagle STEM Scholars across the Fall 2014 (rising sophomore) to Fall 2011 (2015 graduates) cohorts. Through Spring 2015, the Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, and Fall 2014 cohorts achieved group-average cumulative GPAs of 3.26, 3.51, 3.48, and 3.42 respectively. Nine of the 12 senior scholars graduated and 7 applied and were accepted into graduate level programs at Notre Dame, University of Florida, Duke, Vanderbilt, University of Maryland Pharmacy School, Auburn, and Virginia



Rachel Law

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Eagle Stem Scholars First Graduating Class - What Are They Saying?

A *kilah Murray* — My four years at Winthrop have literally flown by. I am glad I became a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars program. Through this program, I began participating in undergraduate research during my freshman year. I was able to meet some really great people and lifelong friends. During the first semester my cohort became extremely close. We could call on each other for help with both academic and personal issues. This program has kept me on track

with my academics and encouraged community involvement. I began volunteering at multiple places around Rock Hill and had the pleasure of being presented with the Julia H. Post award from the City of Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Division. I would not be where I am today without this program. If you are considering the program, do it! We are a close family and the program produces nothing less than successful and confident students.

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My Spring Break

by Michala Tesney

This past spring break I had the wonderful opportunity to shadow an oncology nurse, Tonia Smalls, at MUSC. It was a fantastic experience. Her unit is an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) oncology unit, so basically after people have surgery to remove cancer from the ENT region they go to her. They require high levels of care at this point. Most of the patients of this unit have skin flaps on their face or neck. A skin flap is when the surgeon takes skin from other places on the body and places it where it need to be. Skin flap care is one of Ms. Smalls' favorite part of the job. It was really awesome to see how inviting and positive the patients were and Ms. Smalls said that is why she loves her job so much. I hope to go back and shadow again soon. It truly is an amazing experience, and I recommend that anyone who is interested in medicine shadow at some point. ■



Michala Tesney

Eagle STEM Scholars Receive Special Recognition

Members of the GRADE group selection committee selected **Ian Deas** as the recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. He was chosen because of his service to Winthrop University and because they believe he will continue to give unselfishly after leaving Winthrop. Deas participated in a variety of groups and organizations including Eagle STEM Scholars Program, McNair Scholars, Boyd Hill Scope, Rolling in Rock Hill, Voter Registration Drives, Wounded Warrior Project and Winthrop Student Government where he served as Student Body President for 2014-2015. He received this award at the Student Life Awards Ceremony on April 23, 2015. ■

Briana Murray and Sarah Wicks, along with two other seniors, received the 2015 Kullberg Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. They were congratulated for a very good presentation and a productive CHEM 551–552 experience. ■

Alexander Middleton received the 2014 Andersen Award. He received this award at MathFest 2014 for presenting a paper entitled "A Nonlinear Model of Cancer Tumor Treatment with Cancer Stem Cells." Middleton is pursuing a degree in mathematics. ■

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Tech. Two plan to work in industry before applying to graduate school. Three scholars are extending their academic pursuits at Winthrop by one or two semesters. Thirty-six scholars were on the President's or Dean's List for at least one semester. Half of these students achieved this status both semesters. In addition, 26 scholars are enrolled in Winthrop's Honors Program. Thirty-two scholars accepted undergraduate research internships for summer 2015: seventeen will participate in Winthrop's SURE Program and fifteen will participate at Clemson University, University of Cincinnati, University of Pittsburgh, Northeastern University, St. Jude Children's Hospital (2), Vanderbilt University, Virginia Tech, University of Minnesota, UNC, UNCC, MUSC, USC, and Wake Forest. One will intern at PCLS. Ten are McNair scholars. Besides academics, scholars have contributed through service to the Winthrop campus and Rock Hill community. ■

Bennett, Diaz, Stahl, and Tesney Added to President's List for Spring 2015



Brionna Bennett



Madeline Diaz

Four Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2015 semester. Two sophomore students achieving this milestone were Leigha Stahl and Michala Tesney. Two freshmen achieving this milestone were Brionna Bennett and Madeline Diaz.

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. Her plan is to pursue a career in Radiology. Brionna Bennett is a biology major with a minor in psychology. Her plan is to become an obstetrician. Madeline Diaz is a chemistry major. Her plan is to pursue a career in pediatric oncology.

We congratulate Bennett, Diaz, Stahl, and Tesney on their outstanding academic accomplishments.■



Jessica Tesney



Leigha Stahl

GRADUATING CLASS .. Continued from front

Kenisha Barber — I have really enjoyed my four years at Winthrop. The school, the entire Chemistry department, faculty and staff, and the Eagle STEM program have been extremely supportive and very helpful to me all four of those years. I have been blessed with many opportunities and have had wonderful experiences and memories that will always remain close to my heart. Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in a STEM field is no easy task, but with the help and support of such a great school, and the amazing faculty/staff and fellow students of Eagle STEM, the journey was so much more enjoyable. Eagle STEM is AWESOME! Winthrop University is AWESOME! GO EAGLES!■

Ian Deas — The Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program had a profound impact on my collegiate career. The constant support of program staff and their consistent communication with my parents provided motivation for my success. The Eagle STEM office facilitated strong relationships with other STEM students and provided mentors to ensure ac-

complishment throughout my four years. I was honored to receive the invitation to become a part of this prestigious program and have gained lifelong friends, faculty support, and admission into a graduate program as a result.■

Jabari Robinson — The Eagle STEM program has been a huge part of my success at Winthrop. The staff was always present for me to talk to, and they really helped me when I was thinking of changing my major. Because of them, I made a smarter decision with my major change and did not lose my scholarship. Through the program, I was able to make friends that had similar goals as me, and we were able to help each other succeed during our undergraduate career. One piece of advice I would give to all STEM students is to do some sort of research, even if you decided to stray from the STEM field. This will give you much needed experience beyond that of a typical lab class, and can help you in the future.■

Class of 2015—Congratulations!



Kendra Bufkin



Sarah Wicks



Diamond Melendez



Denise Peppers



Kenisha Barber



Akilah Murray



Jasmine Richards



Ian Deas



Jabari Robinson

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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.