

W.E.S.S. News

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Spring 2016

Special points of interest

- Awards and Recognitions
- Scholars added to Presidents List
- Second 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. Winthrop currently has 64 Eagle STEM Scholars across the Fall 2015 (rising sophomore) to Fall 2011 cohorts. Spring 2016 graduates included a double major from the Fall 2011 cohort, 13 of the 14 Fall 2012 cohort and 1 from the Fall 2013 cohort. Eight

of the 13 Fall 2012 cohort who graduated were accepted into graduate or medical programs at Clemson, Nebraska, Notre Dame, MUSC, Pittsburgh, UCLA, USC, and UVA. One plans to work in

industry before going to pharmacy school. Four plan a gap year for studies leading to acceptance to graduate programs. The one scholar from the Fall 2012 cohort who did not graduate delayed graduation plans to accept the Boren Scholarship to study abroad for a year in Brazil. Through Spring 2016, the Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, and Fall 2015 cohorts achieved group-average cumulative GPAs of 3.51, 3.46, 3.39, and 3.35, respectively. Thirty-three scholars were on the



Rachel Law

See **DIRECTOR** page 2

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

Ashley Williams - "The Eagle STEM Scholars Program has allowed me to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities such as undergraduate research and has provided me with a support system that I could not have gotten at another institution. Being a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program at Winthrop University has only enhanced my dedication to academic excellence and has given me the tools and guidance that I needed to be able to get to where I am today. As an Eagle STEM Scholar, I have been able to make lifelong connections with faculty



Ashley Williams

and fellow students that I will cherish beyond my time here at Winthrop. I am forever grateful for the Eagle STEM Scholars Program for identifying my potential before I even began my college career and for supporting me to this day." ■

Jessica Logan - "Winthrop's Chemistry Department is one of the main reasons I came to Winthrop. The professors are so enthusiastic, incredibly knowledgeable, helpful, encouraging, and wonderful instructors. They have gone above and beyond to help their students and to en-



Jessica Logan

See **GRADUATING CLASS** page 3

Washington Receives Outstanding Research Presentation Award

Camerun Washington was awarded first place for Outstanding Research Presentation in Molecular Biology through the South Carolina Academy of Science on Saturday, April 16, 2016. This was awarded to the best presenter in each division (cellular, physics/astronomy, chemistry/biochemistry, etc.) He presented the research from his BIOL 471 work this semester. The title of his project is "Investigating X-Chromosome Non-Disjunction in *Drosophila melanogaster*". He will continue this research this summer through the McNair Scholars program under Dr. Kathryn Kohl. Congratulations Camerun!■



Camerun Washington

Aninweze Receives Boren Scholarship

Adaeze Aninweze won a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship for Study Abroad. Adaeze will be spending the next year living in Brazil learning Portuguese and taking courses in public health. While in Brazil, she will also



Adaeze Aninweze

learn more about the public health system and how it could serve as a model for developing countries. This program will pay \$20,000 towards her tuition and living expenses. She is the first Winthrop student to receive this prestigious scholarship. Congratulations Adaeze!■

Sunbelt Rentals Scholarship Awarded to Logan

On February 18, 2016, in a ceremony during the men's basketball game against Coastal Carolina, Jessica Logan was awarded the Sunbelt Rentals Scholarship for Academics and Community Service. She received \$2000 in which she used during the Spring 2016 semester. This scholarship is awarded to students based on their university standing, leadership roles, community involvement, honors and accomplishments. Congratulations Jessica!■



Jessica Logan

Hall, Thibault, Zinna Received an ACS 2016 Award

Katja Hall, Danielle Thibault, and Jessica Zinna won the Carolina-Piedmont Section of the American Chemistry Society's 2016 Outstanding Student Leadership Award. They established the on-campus Iota Kappa Iota chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. This chapter was established in order to promote the understanding and interest of chemistry and its related fields through education, philanthropy and professional advancement. This organization held webinars sponsored by the ACS, professional development events and performed several community service projects. We congratulate Hall, Thibault, and Zinna on this accomplishment!■



Katja Hall



Danielle Thibault



Jessica Zinna

DIRECTOR .. Continued from front

President's or Dean's List for at least one semester. Sixteen of these students achieved this status both semesters. In addition, 31 scholars are enrolled in Winthrop's Honors Program. Twenty-five scholars accepted undergraduate research internships for summer 2016: sixteen will participate in Winthrop's SURE Program and nine will participate at University of Minnesota, Northeastern University, Notre Dame, St. Jude Children's Hospital, UMBC, USC, VIMS, Wake Forest, and University of Wisconsin. One will intern at PCLS. Nine are McNair scholars. The incoming Fall 2016 Cohort was recruited and will be the sixth cohort and the second to experience a summer bridge program. The summer program will give Eagle STEM scholars an early college experience and the start of building their learning community.■

Cooper, Diaz, Leroy, Stahl, and Tesney Added to President's List for Spring 2016

Five Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2016 semester. The three juniors who achieved this milestone were Victoria Leroy, Leigha Stahl and Michala Tesney. One sophomore student achieving this milestone was Madeline Diaz . One freshmen achieving this milestone was Ashley Cooper.

Victoria Leroy is a biology major with a focus on pre-med. She 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. 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. Madeline Diaz is a chemistry major. Her plan is to pursue a career in pediatric oncology. Ashley Cooper is biology major with a desire to further her education by going to medical school. We congratulate Cooper, Diaz, Leroy, Stahl, and Tesney on their outstanding academic accomplishments.■



Ashley Cooper



Madeline Diaz



Victoria Leroy



Leigha Stahl



Jessica Tesney

GRADUATING CLASS .. Continued from front

sure their happiness and success. The Eagle STEM Scholars program has been so helpful and encouraging. Mrs. Law and Ms. Mary are always so supportive, and they really take care of their students. I am so lucky and thankful to have been in this program. Encouraging words for others: "You are braver than you believe, smarter than you think, and stronger than you seem." That's the corny one. Hard work really does pay off. This is the less corny one."■

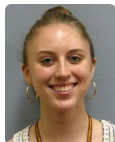
James Dean - "The Eagle STEM Scholars program is the reason I came to Winthrop University as a chemistry major. I would not have been able to otherwise afford a four-year school without taking on an excessive amount of student loans. I am really happy that I have been a part of



James Dean

Eagle STEM for the last four years. Because of the sense of community that fellow Eagle STEM scholars have developed, I've made a lot of friends within my class as a direct result of the program. I hope the STEM program continues to exist at Winthrop (and perhaps gets expanded, so others can benefit from it), as it was certainly an instrumental part of my college career."■

Kristin Ramirez - "My Winthrop experience was really diverse and I was able to participate in various community service projects, as well as undergraduate research projects. Being a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars Program meant having a support team that was always there to cheer me on and give advice when I needed



Kristin Ramirez

it. A word of encouragement: Stay focused! Even when it gets tough, don't give up and keep your end goals in mind."■

Bria Jones - "During my Winthrop experience, I was able to help charter a chemistry centered fraternity, join a community service centered sorority, conduct novel research and make lasting friendships and connections. Most of these opportunities came from the opportunities and people I met through the Eagle STEM program. I hope everyone else will be able to take advantage of all this program has to offer just as I have tried to do over the years."■



Bria Jones

Kyle Rine - "Over the past four years, I have been blessed to be able to call Winthrop home. Winthrop is a unique institution where you can be yourself and everyone is ok with that. Being a part of the Eagle STEM Scholars program has given me a tight group of friends and staff that I know has always been there and continues to be there for me. Amazing opportunities have come my way over the years thanks to Mrs. Abell and Mrs. Law. I encourage everyone to consider this program. Because of this program, I am able to call myself a proud Winthrop Eagle."■



Kyle Rine

Class of 2016 - Congratulations!



Bria Jones



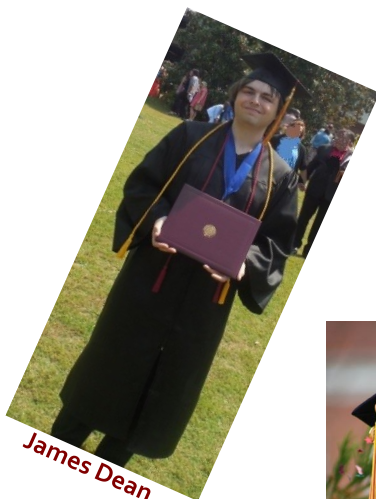
Shiannea Gathers



Kristin Ramirez



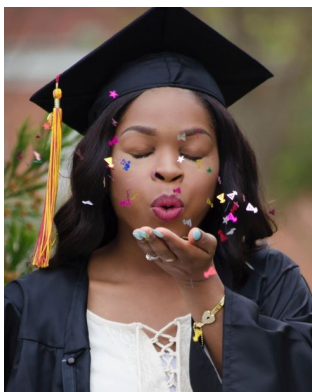
Ashley Williams



James Dean



Esseabasi Etim



Symone Smalls



Jessica Logan

Not Pictured

- Katlyn Brumley
- Katja A. Hall
- Olivia M. Manley
- Alexandria Pinnix
- Kyle A. Rine
- Danielle L. Thibault
- Jessica M. Zinna

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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.