

W.E.S.S. News

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From the Desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest

- Awards and Recognitions
- Scholars added to Presidents List
- Third Graduating Class

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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. Fifty eight students were Eagle STEM Scholars across the Fall 2016 (rising sophomore) to Fall 2013 cohorts. Spring 2017 graduates included 16 of the 18 Fall 2013 cohort and 1 from the Fall 2014 cohort. Ten of the 17 who graduated were accepted into graduate or medical programs at Emory, Marshall, MUSC, Notre Dame, UAL, UDE, UGA, U Houston, USC Greenville, and VCU. One was accepted into Teach America. Six plan to work in industry or take a gap year for studies leading to

acceptance to graduate programs. The two scholars from the Fall 2013 cohort who did not graduate in the spring plan to do so during the summer. One was accepted to AmeriCorps. Through Spring 2017, the Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, and Fall 2016 cohorts achieved group-average cumulative GPAs of

3.46, 3.39, 3.38 and 3.04, respectively. Thirty scholars were on the President's or Dean's List for at least one semester. Thirteen of these students achieved this status both semesters. In addition, 29 scholars are enrolled in Winthrop's Honors Program. Fourteen scholars accepted undergraduate research internships for summer 2017: nine will participate in Winthrop's SURE Program and five will participate at St. Jude Children's Hospital, UMBC, UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego, and Wake Forest. The incoming Fall 2017 Cohort was recruited and will be the seventh cohort and the third 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.■



Rachel Law

Eagle Stem Scholars Third Graduating Class—What They Are Saying

Michelle Corley - "My Winthrop experience has truly been wonderful. The Eagle STEM Scholars Program has allowed me to have many opportunities I might not have been exposed to if I had not been a part of the program. The Eagle STEM Program has been not only an academic program, but also a community. It has also provided me life-long friends and a cohort that has encouraged and helped me through these quickly passing 4 years.■"



Michelle Corley

Rachel Taylor - "My Winthrop experience would have been much different without Eagle STEM. I made friendships with other science majors through this program. Our cohort adopted a sense of camaraderie since we were in many of the same classes. Without Eagle STEM, I probably would have changed my major. Mrs. Law and Mrs. Mary have been so encouraging. For me, Eagle STEM has been my chemistry family. My encouraging words for other science Rachel Taylor majors is yes, it is going to be difficult but you are not alone. You have the support of your peers and the faculty.■"



Rachel Taylor

Lewis Receives NSF-GRFP Award

Jordan Lewis, an Eagle STEM Scholar who was a Spring 2017 Winthrop graduate, was awarded the National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award. This prestigious award will support his pursuit of a Ph.D. in Population Biology at Emory University. Jordan was a very involved student at Winthrop, serving in leadership positions on campus, including Winthrop Ambassadors and his fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, mentoring underclassmen, doing research as a McNair scholar, and in the Honors Program. He is from Orangeburg, SC, the son of proud parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis. Congratulations to Jordan and his parents on this major accomplishment! ■



Dr. Harris and
Jordan Lewis

Moore's Alternative Spring Break

Tanisha Moore shared the following story on her alternative spring break. "I initially went into this trip terrified and not knowing what to expect. I just kept thinking to myself "I don't know anyone here... what have I gotten myself into?" but oh how that changed so quickly. It did not take long for me to realize that mostly everyone else felt the same as I did. Fortunately, this made the rest of the group and me become friends much faster. We traveled to our set location on Sunday afternoon because the weather delayed us. A few hours riding in the car, we finally made it to a little town settled in the Appalachian Mountains... Pulaski, Virginia! It looked as if we had teleported back a few years upon arriving in this city and it was still so beautiful and welcoming. We made it to our location and then we all rushed out of the cars.



Tanisha Moore

It instantly hit us with how cold it was there, compared to back home in South Carolina. Eventually someone came and opened the door for us and we rushed into the building for the week: The Beans and Rice Inc.! We were going to be sleeping in the basement; it was a big room because the building was an old Belk. Then, we had a big kitchen and everyone each had a cot to sleep on. We had to go down the street to the YMCA because there were no showers in the building, but that was the only downside. So, we all settled in claiming our spots and then a little bit afterwards we had our orientation, and the owner and leader of our site, Eric Bucey, came down and led it and gave us all an overview of what to expect for our week. From there we went to a church and ate dinner with two other groups that were also there for an ASB trip, one school coming from New Hampshire and the other coming from Illinois. After dinner, we settled in for the night and prepared for the next day. That first day the group split and went to two different sites. One half went and did food distribution and the other went to a place called Pulaski Grow. This location was an aquaponics business that grows vegetables and then provides them to the community, as well as providing the youth of the area with enrichment activities and lifetime skills. The next day the entire group went on an economic tour of the city. We went to a museum in the town and learned about a lot of history there. After we all piled back up into the vans and went on another tour throughout the city. Once we saw all the beautiful sights, looked at the horizon, drove through nature, it was great. After we went back and relaxed for a while, then went to a different church for dinner that night. Lastly, we settled down and had our reflection.

Day three, we went to the local DSS building and helped them. We learned about the ins and outs of what they do in the office and how they help people. From there, we dove in and went to work. We painted a bunch of rooms to help them clean up the place and

make it feel less threatening to a child already dealing with problems at home. On day four, we visited Camp Powhatan. It is the second largest Boy Scout camp in the US, having about 17,000+ acres of land. We had a small, but needed job there: we did some more painting. We painted four different bathrooms, working on the bathroom stalls and the shower walls inside the bathroom. After we left the camp, we finally were able to go to the afterschool program, since the weather decided to hold up that day. We all found ourselves a group of kids to hang out with and help with any homework. After finishing, we went back and relaxed for our final night here.

Friday morning we woke up ready to go on our last day. Our group split again, with some going to the school and others doing a food drive. I chose to go to the food drive for this day. My group and I went down to the Walmart and set up our station outside of the store. We had to make signs and had flyers, all promoting a back-packing program to help fight childhood hunger. This drive would help with being able to send kids home with some food so they would not have to wait until Monday for their next meal. I think this was my favorite project of the week. We were only there for four to five hours and we had gotten over 1600 food items and \$200+ dollars. Seeing how much we were able to gather and how much we helped in such a short time was truly a blessing and showed that there are still a lot of good people in this world. Afterwards, we went back and met up with our group, sorted out all the food and prepared it for the back-pack program and then we had our final and closing reflections. Then we piled back into the car and headed back to Winthrop after our fulfilling week full of service and fun. Lastly, I enjoyed myself so much and everything that the whole group accomplished. Even now, I still wish to do more service with my group members in the ASB location. I would recommend attending an ASB Trip if you have not done it already. It is a rewarding experience. ■

Diaz, Leroy, Stahl, and Watson Added to President's List for Spring 2017

Four Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2017 semester. The three seniors who achieved this milestone were Victoria Leroy, Leigha Stahl and Emily Watson. The one junior student achieving this milestone was Madeline Diaz .

Victoria Leroy is a biology major with a focus on pre-med. Leigha Stahl is a biology major and is interested in natural medicine, botany, genetics, nutrition, and biomedical research. Leigha was one of five students in Winthrop's Spring 2017 graduating class who received President's List status for all four years as an undergraduate. Emily Watson is a chemistry major interested in geochemistry and oceanography. Madeline Diaz is a chemistry major. Her plan is to pursue a career in pediatric oncology. We congratulate Diaz, Leroy, Stahl, and Watson on their outstanding academic accomplishments. ■



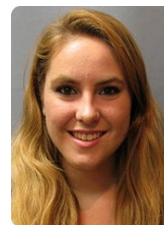
Madeline Diaz



Victoria Leroy



Leigha Stahl



Emily Watson

GRADUATING CLASS continued from front

Michala Tesney - "Winthrop has allowed me to grow not only professionally, but personally. I have truly enjoyed how the Eagle STEM program creates a family-like environment for the students. I would not be where I am today if it weren't for the Eagle STEM program and I am forever grateful for all that the program has helped me accomplish. One piece of advice I would give younger students is to pursue opportunities that you don't think you have a chance at obtaining because you will surprise yourself. ■ "



Michala Tesney

Jordan Lewis - "My Winthrop experience has been nothing but positive and I am so thankful for the opportunities that I had at the university. My time at Winthrop made me a better man, a better student, and a better person in general. I made friends and developed relationships that will last a life time, and I did my best to make Winthrop a better place while simultaneously making myself better. I honestly cannot imagine where I would be now had I chosen to go somewhere else besides Winthrop. Eagle Stem helped me with my transition to Winthrop and helped me by providing a support system for me. As someone who struggled as a freshman, I can say Eagle Stem helped me recover and gave me an outlet to talk about issues I had going on. It showed me that there were people who cared about my future. For those coming in I would say make friends early and meet the older people in Eagle Stem. Many of the Eagle Stem alumni before me helped me a lot early on, and I still talk to them now. Also realize that Ms. Law, and Dr. Harris are tremendous resources. ■ "



Jordan Lewis

Eleven Receive Honors Cords

Eleven Eagle STEM Scholars received Honors Scholar cords during the spring. Pictured are Victoria Leroy, Theresa Melendez, Emily Watson, Camerun Washington, Jordan Lewis, Michelle Corley, Leigha Stahl, and Julia Poppell. Not pictured are Autumn Leggins, Davis Plasko and Michala Tesney. ■



Class of 2017 - Congratulations



Michelle Corley



Rachel Taylor



Leigha Stahl



Davis Plasko (at Spring Research Presentation)



Jordan Lewis



Theresa Melendez (at Spring Research Presentation)



Sommer Barber



Michala Tesney

- Not Pictured**
- Alanna Brooks
 - Rayshon Ellis
 - Victoria Leroy
 - Alexander Middleton
 - Jake Roberts
 - Mikala Smith
 - Camerun Washington
 - Emily Watson
 - Margaret Whitley

Eagle STEM Scholars Program

101 Sims Science Building
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 803/323-4932
Fax: 803/323-2246
E-mail: eaglestem@winthrop.edu

We're on the Web
www.winthrop.edu/eaglestem

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.