Becoming a Master Student

It is sometimes called the “Woodshed Mentality.” Quite often, it is the fear of being thought of as smart, intelligent and wise that perceives our rejection of the master student philosophy. It is what Buddha must have sought when he disappeared into the forest. It is the ability to sequester. The affinity to meditate and gain control of oneself, the ability to sustain a practice for a protracted period of time. It is the bean counting exercises taught at Montessori Schools. It is the self-centered nirvana waiting for you after long and grueling practices to master a musical instrument.

When you finally get to understand just who you are and you begin to fall in love with yourself you experience the euphoria that comes from managing and controlling your adrenalin to help you master content and engage in processing information and utilizing both your analytical and synthesis skills. You begin to forsake your addiction to electronic stimulus and find knowing it within yourself. You will recognize the need to control your own mind and not to become victim to electronic external voices as processors.

It is not the sole responsibility of educational institutions to prepare you to get a job. It is the responsibility of each individual student to identify those things that will make them better persons, improve their ability to think, provide opportunities to improve their skills, and facilitate opportunities to continue their studies beyond the baccalaureate. Engage in research that meet their interest, facilitate their contact with potential employers. The most important of these purposes is making the student a better person, and improving his or her skills. These attributes make it possible for you to be of service anywhere in the world.

It is essential to maintain a world-centered view and become a citizen of the world first. Advocate for sustainability, decry genocide, discourse the imbalance in capital accumulation, criticize the trafficking of people-21st century slavery, abhor the proliferation of the drug industry, be aware of the growth of anarchy, be conscious of technology’s capability to destroy the will to learn, and argue against political gerrymandering and the marginalization of people. Recognize the significance and importance of the existence of a supreme being, and maintain a spiritual life. You are to be commended for exercising control of yourselves and demonstrating that work and intellectual commitment are key component parts of your academic success and to becoming the master student.

Ronald B. McFadden
Congratulations to EAP’s Academic Achievers (GPA’s of 3.5 or higher)

- Gabrielle Agaoglu
- Amiraah Anderson
- Syretta Asberry
- Keith Bessler
- Seena Beztchi
- Ashley Caradine
- Dajan Chase
- Samphanh Chindavanh
- Weng Choy
- Aiden Collins
- Kaitlyn Collins
- Myracle Cross
- Tacara DeBerry
- Minh Dong
- Elexus Franklin
- Justice Halfacre
- Jonathan Hill
- Karishma Jardosh
- Mardochee Jean
- Austin Jenkins
- Ethan Jones
- Ethan Kearns
- Damon Lawson
- Sydney Ledisinger
- Monica Lee
- Gabriela Little
- Shirley Ludington
- April Manns
- Shaun McComas
- Briana McIntyre
- Maria Mejia
- Rockie Miniard, Jr
- Lanse Ngo
- Joshua Oliver
- Anjali Patel
- Kashyap Patel
- Vipsa Patel
- Krishna Patel
- Samirbhai Patel
- Hiral Patel
- Priya Patel
- Victoria Potts
- Brittany Puryear
- Melisa Quarles
- Brittany Requena
- Esthela Rios
- Bernard Rodgers
- Daniela Salazar
- Olivia Seay
- Keny Segura
- Aniri Shah
- Amelia Sherfield
- Natalie Shinault
- Trang Truong
- Hazel Vazirani
- Natalie Walker
- Phylicia Washington
- Mikiyah Webb
- Adriana Webb
- Nkechika Williams

EAP Students Seized the Opportunity to Study Abroad

Mario Goss

“During my collegiate career, I have had the opportunity to travel abroad to exhibit my education in diverse settings, which would include board meetings, student panels, conferences, and workshops. As a multicultural student, I have participated in a study abroad experience in Cape Town, South Africa and more recently, I traveled to the capital of China’s eastern Jiangsu province, Nanjing. My interest and understanding of the benefits of study and travel abroad was peaked during my attendance at Study Abroad workshops offered by EAP. The information shared during these sessions further convinced me that studying abroad would underscore my interest and long term goal of becoming a global volunteer scholar. EAP was a source of encouragement during my application process for these endeavors through their willingness to make themselves available for counsel, and by providing financial assistance that helped me to finance these rich opportunities.”

Melissa Quarles

“During the Spring 2015 semester, I participated in the Semester at Sea study abroad program. This experience afforded me the opportunity to take classes for college credit while sailing around the world. The journey spanned over four months, which included travel multiple countries across Asia and Africa including Japan, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Myanmar, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Namibia, Morocco, and England. I was also able to travel to Europe during the summer of 2015. My fellow voyagers came from colleges and universities across the US and included over 80 international students. This was truly an invaluable and unforgettable experience.”
“During the summer of 2015, a group of fellow UT students and I along with five professors traveled to Thailand for two weeks to conduct research on the food safety and security Thailand’s agricultural country. We were exposed to their culture through visiting temples and palaces, and trying custom dishes. While traveling through the country, we saw some impoverished villages that had little or no technology. Encounters with people from villages yielded that they had great pride and faith in their new King and his vision for the future Thailand. I had a great time exploring this distant land that I had only read about in textbooks. I have fond memories of the sights and sounds of Thailand, and given the opportunity, I would jump at the chance to travel abroad again.”

Six other EAP students, Na’sha Austin, Ashley Caradine, Paulette Johnson, Toni Flake, Natie Walker, and Trang Truong also traveled abroad.

**Natalie Shinault Won 2015 Tennessee Association of Special Programs Scholarship**

The Educational Advancement Program wishes to recognize Natalie Shinault in winning the 2015 Tennessee Association of Special Programs Scholarship. In Natalie’s first year at the University of Tennessee, she emphasized the mantra of TRIO. Arriving at the University of Tennessee with twenty-seven dual enrollment hours, Natalie immediately became involved in several University service organizations, while maintaining a strong GPA. So congratulations to Natalie, keep up the hard work!

**EAP Welcomes Newest Staff Member**

Originally from Stone Mountain, GA, Ms. Alexandra Abraham comes to the Educational Advancement Program as a new Graduate Research Assistant. Alexandra is pursuing an M.S. in Kinesiology with a concentration in sport psychology. She hopes to work with athletes and/or the military in the future on performance enhancement through mental strategies. She played college basketball at Western Carolina University where she also received a B.S. in psychology and a B.S. in recreational therapy. She previously interned at the Sheperd Center in Atlanta, GA, mentored at the Thornton Center, and is currently an assistant coach for a women’s varsity basketball team at the Webb School of Knoxville.

**EAP 2016 Summer Research Institute Recruitment**

This is just a friendly reminder that the time is upon you to apply for the Summer Research Institute (SRI) for summer 2016. Applications are due on **March 10th** so you have just about a month to get them completed and turned in. Give yourself plenty of time to get it done! Below is the link to the specific EAP/SRI page with the pdf of the application.

[http://eap.utk.edu/program/summer-research-institute/](http://eap.utk.edu/program/summer-research-institute/)

The EAP promotes the acquisition of graduate degrees by sponsoring an undergraduate research institute. Modeled after the Ronald McNair Program, the institute features a faculty-guided research internship and the creation of the initial stages of a research paper.

Instruction in Library Systems and Services, Research Methods, and Technical Writing is provided. Participants are supported with a stipend and are provided opportunities to present research at professional undergraduate research conferences.
EAP Collaborates with Commission for Blacks in the Trailblazer Series

EAP is co-sponsoring the Trailblazer series with Commission for Blacks. The Trailblazer series are dedicated to recognizing and honoring the accomplishments of African Americans affiliated with the University of Tennessee that are trailblazers in their disciplines or within the fields of diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

As one event of the series, Cynthia Griggs Fleming will speak on March 3, 5:15-6:30pm in the College of Communication and Information Scripps Lab.

Cynthia Griggs Fleming made a career as a member of the pioneering generation of black women historians at historically white colleges and universities. In 1977, Fleming became the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. in history from Duke University. In 1982, she joined UT’s history faculty as one of the first two black women faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. Fleming retired in 2014 after 32 years of service at UT.

EAP Cultural Events in Spring 2016

Titus Andronicus Play Critiqued by Daniela Salazar, February 24th, 2016

“The Titus Andronicus play by Shakespeare was an event that I was really interested in going to. I love Shakespeare, and this is a play I had not seen on stage yet. Titus Andronicus is a play mostly centered on the idea of revenge. The play is set up to where the character Titus Andronicus (played by Kurt Rhoads) just arrived back home from war, where a lot of people were lost including most of his sons.

As the play goes on the audience meets the remaining sons of Titus and his only daughter, Lavinia (played by Lindsey Nance). The remaining children of Titus are the focus of Tamora’s revenge. Some time passes and eventually Titus finds out that his sons were not the ones that murdered Bassianus, but that Tamora did it. He also finds out who raped and hurt his daughter. Titus and the remaining members of his family then hatch out a plan to seek revenge on Tamora, the Emperor, and her sons.

In the end Titus sees right through Tamora’s act and he goes to Rome and has a sit down dinner with Tamora and the Emperor. During the last scenes, the audience finds out what Titus’s last act of revenge is on those who harmed his family.

I loved the play overall, and thought that the presentation of it was great. I was glad at the amount of blood and crudeness that was produced, which gives a fair portrayal to Shakespeare’s play. The only critique I had about the play is that there weren’t as many UT students in the play.” (Daniela Salazar, Anthropology Major)

A Lesson Before Dying Critiqued by Elexus Franklin, March 3rd, 2016

“A Lesson Before Dying” is a play by Romulus Linney that is based on the novel published in 1993 and written by Earnest J. Gaines. The play takes place in a small, fictional town called Bayonne, Louisiana in 1948 during the Jim Crow era. During this era, many segregation laws were in place that made life easier for white people and harder for black people. In the story, a young boy named Jefferson is wrongfully convicted for the murder of a white man at a store and is sentenced to death. In an attempt to get Jefferson to die as a man with honor, Jefferson’s godmother, Miss Emma, asks a schoolteacher named Grant Wiggins to teach Jefferson how to be a man. This play stresses the importance of responsibility. Jefferson takes responsibility as a man and faces his fate. Grant takes responsibility as a teacher and faces his fear and challenge of remaining in his community and being an aide to his counterparts. It is taught that escaping responsibility does not make a person strong. Facing those fears head on do. For me, the performance was great but sad. I cried at the end when Jefferson was prosecuted. Even though he was a brave man when he died, it still saddened me that he was persecuted for something he did not do. Sometimes people are dealt a bad hand of cards in life and instead of complaining about them, you just have to play them right. Often, situations cannot be changed; however, the way people choose to deal with those situations can be. While watching, I also noted a lot of those racist related ideologies in the play are still prevalent today. I knew this before, but seeing it acted out in a play that takes place in the Jim Crow era about 60 years ago was astounding. It signifies the lack of progression in the United States.” (Elexus Franklin, Biology Major)

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s South Pacific

From the haunting “Bali Ha’i” to the exquisite “Some Enchanted Evening,” this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic features some of the most beautiful music ever composed for the theatre. The Pulitzer Prize and 10-time Tony Award winner is set on a tropical island during World War II and tells the romantic tale of how the happiness of two couples is threatened by the realities of war and prejudice.

RSVP Deadline: April 13th
EAP Attendance Date: April 27th at 7:30P in the Clarence Brown Theatre
Registration to Vote in Presidential Election

Are you registered to “Vote”? Are you registered, but you don’t “Vote”? Your voice matters! With the election of the next President of the United States and other government officials hanging in the balance, put democracy in action and participate in the political process.

Your vote makes a difference!
(for information on Registering to Vote, click on)

http://vote.usa.gov/

UT Advocacy Website

UT Advocacy is a growing grassroots network of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Tennessee. Advocates believe in the University’s value to all Tennesseans and share that message with elected officials.

(for more information, visit URL below)
http://advocacy.tennessee.edu

Sexual Assault Policy Website

The University of Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture are committed to creating and maintaining a learning, living, and working environment free from all forms of sexual misconduct and relationship violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. If you are a survivor of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone.

This website is for

- Students, faculty, and staff who are survivors of sexual misconduct and relationship violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
- Students, faculty, and staff who need to know about university policies, procedures, resources, and reporting options in order to help others who are survivors of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking
- Faculty and staff who need to know about their obligations to report and respond to incidents of sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking

The Sexual Assault Policy website is http://sexualassault.utk.edu

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The Educational Advancement Program (Student Support Services) is a federally funded TRiO program that is designed to provide support services for students with demonstrated academic need who are also first-generation college students, from low-income families, or who have physical or learning disabilities.

The EAP assists entering students deficient in the basic skills and academic preparation necessary for successful university work.