Greetings and salutations.

We call it spring, but in fact it is the dead of winter. It is our most challenging part of the year. Icy cold mornings, blustery daytime temperatures, and rainy nights are visited upon us as we attempt to maintain our love for learning. All too often, we acquiesce and succumb to the temptation of tardiness, absence, and slothfulness when we recognize that it is the time for renewed emphasis on organization, consistency, regularity, investigating, probing, quantifying, and summarizing.

The fall semester was tougher than expected. Grade point averages dropped like a brick on a field of cotton. More EAP students ended the fall 2012 semester with lower GPA than the previous semester than has happened in a decade.

Now, more than ever, we have to get our house in order. Now, more than ever, we are challenged by the prospect that other people all over the world question our mettle.

They doubt our commitment to hard work and excellence. We must reach back into our reserve of tradition, and our sense of community, and reaffirm our fidelity toward a world-centered view of equality of educational opportunity, which values hard work (Kazi), and a commitment to the core of our educational excellence.

Peace,

Ronald B. McFadden
EAP Alumni are Torchbearers

Nia Sherif and Betty Hong, both graduating seniors were scheduled as 2013 Chancellor Torchbearers, the highest honor the university give to students.

BETTY HONG

Betty Hong is changing UT and the world. The senior human resource management major from Nashville channeled her passion for social and economic justice into the creation of the Taking Action for Social Change (TASC) Force in 2010. The organization raised money to buy bicycles for high school and college students in Cambodia to travel to and from school. Hong also led an initiative to fund ten months of hot supplemental meals for thirty preschool students in the Svay Att Village of Cambodia. Her personal mission is to raise awareness about problems such as genocide, poverty, and hunger affecting Third World countries. She and other TASC Force leaders have hosted programs about these issues for their peers and the Knoxville community. Hong is a gifted mentor. As a resident assistant in Massey Hall, she involved her floor in clean-up days at the Salvation Army and in making gift boxes for Samaritan’s Purse that were distributed to children in need around the world. She sets an example for servant leadership and meaningful social change at UT. Her work embodies the Torchbearer’s Volunteer Creed. Hong is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity and a graduate of UT’s inaugural class of LeaderShape, a national program that encourages students to create a vision for the perfect world.

NIA SHERIF

Nia Sherif is being honored for her “natural leadership abilities, eagerness to be involved, and nature to serve others.” She has been dedicated to helping UT and her fellow students since she first arrived on campus. As a freshman, she served as an Ignite team leader and helped new students find their niche on campus. As a UT ambassador and a member of ME4UT, she welcomed prospective students to campus, with an emphasis on recruiting students from diverse cultures and backgrounds. For the past two years, Sherif has been a resident assistant and has focused her programming on safe habits and healthy lifestyles. She served as an Alternative Fall Break leader and described the experience as “life-changing.” She is a member of the Muslim Student Association and president of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She also works with the American Cancer Society, Bridge Refugee Services, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Last fall, she organized a drive to support “Free the Girls,” a nonprofit that provides opportunities for women rescued from sex trafficking. In the words of a nominator, Sherif “displays a strong commitment to serving people and in many ways embodies what it means to be a true Volunteer.” She is a psychology and sociology major from Arlington, Tennessee.

EAP/McNair Book Award Ends

The fifth and final competition for the Educational Advancement Program and Ronald McNair Program Book Award Competition was completed at the end of the fall semester 2012. The book award provided for four $250 awards each year, for the past five years. The award competition was made possible by residual monies that were accrued from the 14 years UTK McNair conducted an annual Ronald McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program conference.

Congratulations to the winners, who are:

Diamond Rayborn, sophomore
Seena Beztchi, sophomore
Johnson Luma, junior
Loria Nelson, freshman
Shakera Bankston, sophomore
Climate Lecture

Dr. Roy Jones, Professor of Educational Leadership and Executive Director of Clemson University’s “Call Me MISTER Program” was the 2013 EAP Climate Lecture speaker on March 5 and 6, 2013. Each year the Program invites a noted educator to address students, and campus in general, on the need to improve the academic climate for first generation and low-income students. The “Call Me MISTER Program” was eloquently and passionately described by Dr. Jones, who challenged the University to create a similar effort that promotes African American males to become K-12 teachers. The “Call Me MISTER” initiative, which began at Clemson University in 2000, is now operating in all of the state of South Carolina teacher education programs. Dr. Jones joined several UTK faculty and staff (Dr. Fritz Polite, Dr. Demetrius Richmond, Mr. Fernandez West, Mr. Richard Bayer, Mr. Anton Reece) in a panel discussion focusing on the need to increase the number of Black male teachers. Dr. Jones completed the visit with a lecture to EAP students, and a follow-up lunch with key stakeholders in the teacher education field here at UTK.

Dining Etiquette Workshop

On Wednesday, February 6th the EAP program held its annual Dining Etiquette Workshop in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center. Students were treated to a plated lunch with salad, entree, and dessert as Ms. Mary Mahoney reviewed the rules and guidelines for a professional dining experience.

EAP Summer Research Program

This summer, EAP will initiate a program designed to expose undergraduates to research, promote enrollment into graduate school, and the acquisition of a graduate or doctoral degree. The Program, which will recruit students in their sophomore or junior year of study, will begin May 28, and end July 12, 2013, and will feature research internship and two graduate school preparation courses. The Program will provide a stipend, meal card allowance, and research conference attendance for participants, and will provide follow up activities in the fall and spring of 2013-2014.

EAP Student Selected as the MHIRT Contributor in Brazil

Miriam Walker, a senior majoring in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Microbiology, has been selected as an MHIRT contributor in São Paulo, Brazil for ten weeks this summer. The MHIRT program, which is funded by National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health and the Fogarty International Center, provides international research training to qualified undergraduate, graduate, and medical students who have been underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. This summer, Miriam will be working in Dr. Debora Fior Chadi’s lab at the University of São Paulo, where she will be investigating the “Behavioral, meaningful opioidergic stimulation activated kappa receptor gene expression”. Miriam is currently an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Timothy Sparer’s lab and plans on attending dental school next year.
McNair Follow-Up

During the summers from 1990-2008, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, hosted over 650 undergraduate students from more than 120 different universities as part of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, designed to engage first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students in research and to promote the acquisition of a doctoral degree.

The success of the program can be determined by examining the outcomes of the students who went through the program from 1990-2004. Recent updates for some of the most recent graduates (i.e. during the years 2005-2008) of the McNair program do not provide sufficient information, so excluding those years will provide a more accurate assessment of the program’s success.

Of the McNair scholars from 1990-2004, 97% graduated with a bachelor’s degree. 53% entered a master’s program at some point, and at least 41% of them went on to achieve the master’s degree. Furthermore, at least 6% received a professional degree, and at least 9% received a Ph.D. Many former University of Tennessee McNair scholars now hold positions at universities or in their respective fields and are making important contributions there.

Ronald E. McNair

Dr. Ronald Ervin McNair, the second African American to fly in space, was nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics. On January 28, 1986, Dr. McNair and six other astronauts died when the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff. The McNair Scholars program is named in his honor and memory.

“Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one.”
— Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., Challenger astronaut, 1950-1986

Courses Offered in Fall 2013

Math 125
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm
Instructor: Melissa Peery

Chemistry 120
Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 8:50 am
Instructor: Christiane Barnes

Chemistry Lab
Wednesday
3:35 pm - 6:35 pm

EAP will offer Math 125 and Chemistry 120 in the Fall 2013 Semester. EAP students can sign up now.

Limited seating (25 students max for each course)
Program eligibility required!

Interested students should contact Celeste Brooks, EAP Tutor Coordinator / Course Liaison, with any questions regarding EAP Course enrollment.
brooksac@utk.edu or (865)974-7900

Ms. Peery been teaching at the University of Tennessee since 1998, and is currently a Senior Lecturer and the Lower Division Chair for the Mathematics Department. She regularly teaches College Algebra, Finite Math and Basic Calculus. Since 2008, she has been teaching math courses for the EAP. Ms. Peery loves teaching and especially enjoys the EAP sections because the small classroom setting gives her the opportunity to interact with and get to know her students. She believes that with the right attitude, the right tools and the right commitment, every EAP student can be successful in math.

Profile of Instructors
“I am Christiane Barnes. I was born in Germany and grew up there. I graduated from high school and went to the University of Bonn, studying Chemistry and English to become a teacher. After I had received my undergraduate degree in Chemistry, I took part in a direct exchange scholarship, where students were sent to several universities in the United States. I was ‘sent’ to Knoxville, TN. I was accepted into the graduate program at UT in Chemistry, and got a Master’s of Science Degree after two years, graduating from UT in 1988. Upon my return to the University of Bonn, I worked in Dr. Breitmaier’s group and received my ‘Dr. rer. nat.’ (a Doctorate of Science degree) in 1991 in Organic Chemistry. I returned to Knoxville that year, and then worked as a post-doctoral research assistant for Dr. Baker through summer of 1993. At the same time I started to teach General Chemistry. I taught General Chemistry for the EAP in the Fall of 1993 and Spring of 1994. In Fall 1994 I started teaching General Chemistry in the University of Tennessee Evening School. I continued to do so until Spring 2009. In the Fall of 2009 I started teaching for the Educational Advancement Program again.” (Dr. Christina Barnes)

Tutors Needed For Fall 2013

EAP is currently recruiting tutors for Fall 2013 Semester. EAP tutor positions are considered “part-time” employment.

Pay Rate= $ 9.00 per hour for Undergraduate Tutors & $ 10.00 per hour for Graduate Tutors

Completion of an “application” is required. Contact Celeste Brooks, EAP Tutor Coordinator, at (865) 974-7900 or brooksac@utk.edu to learn about tutoring positions available.

Voices From EAP Students

“Put It to Action”

“The small town of Somerville, Tennessee, is where I was born and raised, so entering a college located in more of a city-like setting was a major change, but I believe I adapted well. Spring semester of 2013 was a test that challenged what I learned from my first semester in college. I had a basic understanding of what was going on and what needed to be done in order to succeed. I made sure that I completed any and all assignments on time, if not in advance, and I made sure to involve myself with different programs and organizations around campus. Now that I have maintained commendable grades, participated in different activities, and joined organizations, I can honestly say that I am starting to live the ultimate college experience!” (Candice Tatum)

Sarah first learned about this REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) through the Math club on campus. She then researched different REU’s available for undergraduates in Mathematics. The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is a great resource for Mathematics major when applying for REU’s, and it is where she learned about PURE Math. The application was accessible online, not to difficult to complete, and required reference letters from faculty members, a personal statement, and a transcript.

Sarah advises her fellow student to apply to as many opportunities as possible and pay close attention to deadlines. EAP salutes Sarah on this wonderful opportunity to learn, research and travel to the beautiful island of Hawaii.

The Educational Advancement Program (EAP) is a federally funded TRIO program that is designed 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.

- Offers special sections of math, biology, and chemistry.
- Offers tutorial assistance free of charge to program members.
- Provides academic coaching and counseling.

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Candice Tatum

Sarah Baumgardner