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April 1, 2015

EAP Celebrates 35 Years at UTK

The 2014-2015 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Higher Education Act. This quintessential piece of legislation, which was signed by then President Lyndon Baines Johnson at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, on November 8, 1965, gave birth to Upward Bound (65), and then Educational Talent Search (66), and then Student Support Services (68) to form the initial core programs of the TRiO movement. Enacted almost immediately after the Voting Rights Act of 1964, the Higher Education Act provided the investment needed to prime the higher educational pump and stimulate African American, Hispanic American, and Native American college enrollment. It marked the beginning of the college open door policy and became the symbolic representation of the "Great Society."

The University of Tennessee successfully competed for a Special Services grant in 1978-79, and was initially administered by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The program was subsequently administratively moved to the College of Arts and Sciences, then to the Office of the Provost, and most recently (2012) to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity.

In an effort to celebrate and commemorate the history and accomplishments of the program, 100 students, staff, supporters, and alumni of the Educational Advancement and Ronald McNair programs gathered together to pay homage to the programs' accomplishments. A keynote address was made by Mr. Bob Booker, local historian with remarks from Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Rickey Hall, Dr. Robert Belle, of the Southern Regional Education Board, and Associate Vice Provost, Dr. John Zomchick. Selected students provided historical vignettes, and an EAP band lead by Marcel Holman provided soft music.

Ronald B. McFadden



Congratulations to EAP Graduates

We witnessed several highly active EAP participants graduate from the University of Tennessee of the Summer 2014.

- **Cheyenne Flair** completed her studies in Food Science and Technology and is enrolled in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky.
- **Preston Harris** received his Bachelor of Science (BS.) degree in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology (BCMB) and is currently in the School of Dentistry at the Meharry Medical College.
- **Paul Zanoni** graduated from College of Nursing and will begin graduate school here at UTK in the fall of 2015. He is currently a Registered Nurse (Resident) at Vanderbilt University Psychiatric Hospital.
- **Rayricus Matthews**, Agriculture Leadership Education and Communication major will be pursuing a masters in Sustainable Development this fall at the Graduate SIT Institute in Washington, DC.

The following is a listing of the current and former EAP participants who graduated from UTK in 2014.



James Adams	Demarcus Finnell	Treva Miller	Miriam Walker
Phillip Adams	Requel Gilmore	Rudi Monyjang	Jalessa Winters
Ryane Adeniran	LaKiera Grimes	Kaadia Montgomery	Paul Zanoni
Kimberly Burley	Preston Harris Jr.	Jordan Payne	Ashita Zaveri
Nora Bushnag	Alyce Hart	Christopher Porter	Priyanka Zaveri
Cheyenne Flair	Jasmine Holmes	Sean Ruff	Hongbin Zhang
Lorri Cross	Richard Jones	Hajie Sesay	Sarah Zimmerman
Kendra Duncan	Shana Ward	Jessica Simmons	
Christopher Easterling	Raven Lewis	Porsha Smith	
	Jamecia Love	Akta Thakkar	
	Rayricus Matthews	Tamara Thomas	

EAP Students Shine at the 2015 Chancellor's Honors Awards

Four EAP seniors were among this year's award recipients at the 2015 Chancellor's Awards Banquets. Our EAP staff and students would like to congratulate seniors, Jack Kang, Laquesha Wison, Kamille Cheatham and Kierra Richmond.



Jack Kang, senior in microbiology is a recipient of the 2015 Chancellors Citation Award for Extraordinary Achievement. Congratulations Jack!



Laquesha Wilson, senior in sociology and interdisciplinary studies, is a recipient of the Chancellor's Citation award for Extraordinary Community Service. She is also a member of the Summer LEAD Institute Action Committee, the student group recipient of the 2015 Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award. Congratulations Laquesha!



Kamille Cheatham, graduating senior in Kinesiology, is a member of the Summer LEAD Institute Action Committee, the student group recipient of the 2015 Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award. Congratulations Kamille!

Gabriela Little Wins Conference Poster Award



Gabriela Little is pursuing a BS in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology and minoring in Psychology at UTK. She was selected as the exemplary scholar for the 2014 EAP Summer Research Institute. She joined Dr. Barry Bruce's lab during the summer of 2014 and works with Ph.D. candidate Richard Simmerman to recombinantly produce, purify, and determine the structures of POTRA Domains of Toc75 from pea plants. Gabriela attended the 24th Western Photosynthesis Conference in Pacific Grove, California with the Bruce lab and was awarded for the presentation of her poster, "Production, Purification, and X-ray Crystallography of the POTRA Domains of PsToc75. She also received the Tennessee Plant Research Center Travel Fellowship, and it supported her to attend this conference.

"A few days before I was headed home for the summer in 2014, I was encouraged by Tam'ra Kay Francis, a Graduate Assistant with EAP, to participate in the EAP 2014 Undergraduate Summer Research Institute. I discovered Dr. Bruce's exceedingly supportive attitude of undergraduate research and immediately felt welcomed by all the members of the Bruce Lab.

I have cultivated important laboratory and research skills from my research involvement as well as networking experience from conferences including the SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference, the Undergraduate Research/Graduate School Retreat, and the 24th Western Photosynthesis Conference.

My initial plans after undergraduate school consisted of medical school, but after participating in the Research Institute and working in the Bruce Lab for almost two semesters, I have developed a growing interest in research. Now, I am highly considering attending graduate school to explore other science-related research areas and obtain a Ph.D. I am extremely appreciative of the opportunities provided by both Dr. Bruce and the EAP staff and I look forward to seeing what other programs and activities I will complete in the future." ---Gabriela Little

Jack Kang and Alesha Nolen receive Courage to Climb Awards



For the 2014-15 academic year, two EAP students, Alesha Nolen and Jack Kang, were selected as the Courage to Climb Award recipients for the months of December and February. As a commitment to celebrating and supporting UT's outstanding students, the Division of Student Life recognizes students who show promise in the areas of research, community service, promotion of civility and inclusion, leadership development, and/or campus involvement.

Jack is a senior Microbiology major from Memphis, TN. Jack, a Chancellor's Honors recipient, has been involved in many aspects of campus life serving as VP for the Student Dental Association, a Welcome Week Leader and a biology/chemistry tutor with the Student Success Center. Academically, Jack has conducted research with Dr. Su in the Microbiology Department on the Life Cycles of the Parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii* and plans to complete his Honors Thesis using this research. Jack also had the opportunity to attend the 20th Annual SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference in Atlanta, GA where he gave an oral presentation. During his tenure at UT, Jack was selected to attend a highly competitive summer dental program at UT Memphis.



Alesha comes to us from Memphis and is currently a senior majoring in Kinesiology. She has taken full advantage of the opportunities for involvement during her time at UT. She currently serves as the Vice President of the collegiate chapter of NAACP, VP for the African Student Association, serves as the campus coordinator for Teach for America and is a mentor for first year students through the Multicultural Mentoring Program. Ms. Nolen, a participant of the 2014 Summer Research Institute, presented her research on the genetics of the fruit fly and their resistance to insecticides at the 21st Annual SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference in Atlanta, GA. After graduation, Alesha hopes to attend medical school or work for Teach for America.

Josephine Barnor Receives TASP Merit Scholarship

Josephine Barnor, a senior majoring in Accounting with a collateral in International Business, won the 2014 TASP Merit Scholarship. She plans on attending graduate school to enhance her knowledge in the field of accounting after graduation.

“As a student born and raised outside the United States, The University of Tennessee’s Educational Advancement Program (EAP) has helped me tremendously to be a successful college student. Currently, I am the Vice President of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) and also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity and the Minority Enhancement for The University of Tennessee (ME4UT) recruitment team under admissions. With the help of EAP, I’ve been able to learn how to balance my coursework and involvement on campus. Winning the TASP Merit Scholarship has been a blessing and I am very grateful for the opportunities Dr. McFadden has provided for me these past four years.” --- Josephine Barnor



EAP Students Present at Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURECA)

EAP students, Gabriela Little, Cynthia Nkem, Rachel Mottern, and Maria Mejia, present at the University of Tennessee’s 19th annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURECA) from April 13 to 15, 2015. Held each spring, EURECA celebrates original and creative works completed by undergraduate students as the highlight of Research Week events and celebrations.



Maria won 2nd place among the participants in College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

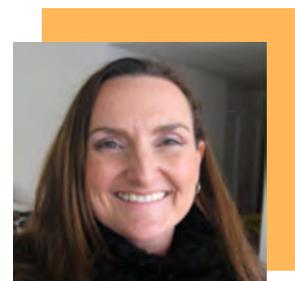
Name	Title
Gabriela Little	Production, Purification, and X-Ray Crystallography of the POTRA Domains
Cynthia Nkem	Dynamics and Organization of Ter macrodomain in Escherichia coli
Rachel Mottern	Understanding difficulties in student learning through examination of study strategies and motivational problems in college students with self-reported attention and learning problems
Maria Mejia	A study of infant feeding beliefs and behaviors among a sample of Southwestern Chinese mother-infant dyads

EAP Tutor Spotlight: Shelley Hanes Soars as NASA Research Intern

Shelley Hanes began her tenure as an EAP Tutor during the Fall 2013 semester, assisting EAP students with general Chemistry 120 – 130. As a senior majoring in Bio-Medical Engineering, Shelley has had undergraduate research experiences with the US Dept. of Agriculture in Kansas City, MO, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, TN and at the University of Tennessee in the Dept. of Material Science & Engineering under the direction of Dr. David Mandrus.

During the summer of 2014, Shelley participated in The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Internship program in Cleveland, OH. Shelley worked with Dr. Haiquan Guo of the Ohio Aerospace Institute, assisting her with her research on “Synthesis and Characterization of Polymer Aerogels”. She was able to ultimately showcase the research with fellow Interns at the 11th Annual Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Research Symposium on July 31, 2014, hosted by Kent State University.

Shelley exhibits a true passion for learning and she translates this energy when working with EAP students. For her commitment and dedication as an EAP Tutor, we salute and applaud Shelley and wish her well on her educational and professional journey.



EAP Welcomes Newest Staff Member



Mr. Derrick Shepard joined the EAP staff in August 2014 as the new Counselor. Originally from Birmingham, AL, Derrick previously worked in the Office of Disability Services in the Division of Student Life. Derrick brings over five years experience working at the University of Tennessee in support of student's academic endeavors.

When asked why he decided on applying for the Counselor position, Derrick responded by saying, "it was a wonderful opportunity that allowed me to assist UT students in a different capacity while using a different skillset from my masters program." Derrick obtained his Master of Arts in Educational Psychology and Counselor Education from Tennessee Technological University. Let us all welcome Derrick to his new position and feel free to stop by his office located at 309 Greve Hall.

Dining Etiquette Workshop

On Tuesday, March 31st, the EAP program held its annual Dining Etiquette Workshop in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center. Students were treated to lunch with salad, entrée, and dessert as Ms. Mary Mahoney of UT Career Services reviewed the etiquette guidelines during a professional dining experience.



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.

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