

W.E.S.S. News

From the desk of Rachel Law, Director

Special points of interest:

- Meet our new graduate assistant
- Eagle STEM Scholars in the News

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2013Fall Cohort

Seventeen students have been selected to date to enter Winthrop University in the 2013Fall Cohort as Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars.

2012Fall Cohort

Fourteen students successfully completed their freshman year at Winthrop. During the spring semester some students participated in mandatory study hall. Bria Jones participated as a university athlete. Danielle Thibault and Jessica Zinna traveled abroad during spring break. Three participated in Greek life on campus.

Through Spring2013, freshman scholars continued to perform well academically with two, Jessica Logan and



Rachel Law

Ashley Williams, making the President's List. Four scholars, Lauren Lintz, Olivia Manley, Danielle Thibault, and Jessica Zinna were selected for the 2013Summer WISE program. Olivia Manley was also selected for a summer math internship. Others are participating in summer research, jobs or school.

2011Fall Cohort

Ten scholars were participants in the Eagle STEM

Scholars Program as spring 2013 began. During the academic year all students served as mentors for the incoming freshman scholars. Five functioned as monitors for mandatory study hall and two tutored for the Chemistry Department and the Academic Success Center. Three worked in the labs during the academic year. Ian Deas, was elected as vice president for the Student Council of Leaders. Three were selected as Winthrop Ambassadors, Briana Murray, Jasmine Richards and Jabari Robinson. Kendra Bufkin and Denise Peppers participated in university and club sports, respectively. Briana Murray, Jasmine Richards, and Sarah Wicks participated in alter-

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Eagle Stem Scholars gets involved in Community Service

The Eagle STEM Scholars Program is designed to develop a learning community for scholars. Besides academics, community service is an integral part of the program helping a cohort to establish relationships with peers and the community. Community service gives students an opportunity to give back and feel a sense of accomplishment.

Ian Deas, Briana Murray, Denise Peppers,

Jasmine Richards, and Sarah Wicks had the opportunity to give of their time and talents by volunteering at Boyd Hill Recreation Center S.C.O.P.E. (Students Challenging Others to Pursue Excellence) Program.

Jasmine Richards said, "Boyd Hill for me has been an eye opening experience as well as an outlet. Before becoming a tutor for the Boyd Hill Center (S.C.O.P.E.), I was hesitant to work with children, now I can say I am excited every Tuesday and Thursday to see, hear, and interact with them."

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Meet our new Graduate Assistant

Amy Moore graduated from Winthrop University in May of 2013 and began the Masters of Arts in Teaching for chemistry in June of 2013. She plans to obtain her Masters and then teach high school chemistry for a few years before pursuing her Ph.D. in chemistry education. As an undergraduate student she was named a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and a WISE Scholar both of which helped her to seek out her passion for chemistry education. Through McNair she pursued, with her research mentor Dr. Nicholas E. Grosseohme, a research project that focused redesigning the Chemistry 104 class into an online class using the students' perspective. From there she also conducted research with Dr. Aaron M. Hartel to redesign an organic lab experience using students' prior knowledge to engage them in the lab experience more effectively. Currently, she is very excited to be working for the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program. She is also an adjunct faculty at York Technical College where she is teaching a general chemistry lab. She is hoping all of her experiences as a student at Winthrop, undergraduate and graduate, will prepare her to be a better educator and help to inspire more students in chemistry, specifically, but also other STEM fields.



Amy Moore

Eagle STEM Scholars In the News

Ian Deas Named Vice President of CSL

The Council of Student Leaders (CSL) currently acts as the student government organization of Winthrop University. Currently, one of Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars' very own



students ran for the Vice President position and won. Ian Deas is a junior Biology major with a minor in Chemistry from Charleston, South Carolina. Ian Deas, along with his running mate Chris Aubrie, won the election with 51% of the votes in a three ticket race. The Aubrie and Deas campaign campaigned for two weeks, even creating a website to accept feedback from students.

Ian says "The election process was long and very involved. I could not have won without the large support from Eagle STEM" said Ian Deas. Deas will take office in July and looks forward to working closely with university officials to accomplish the goals he has set for the student body.

Logan and Williams added to President's list for Spring 2013

During the Spring 2013 semester, two Eagle STEM Scholars did exceptionally well. Jessica Logan and Ashley Williams earned a 4.0 grade-point average and were both added to the President's List at Winthrop University. **Logan** is a Chemistry major with a minor in Math. She is currently playing soccer for the Winthrop Eagles Women's team. **Williams** is a Chemistry major with a concentration in Biochemistry and plans to minor in Spanish. She is currently taking part in the Winthrop University Vision of Prayze Gospel Choir and Plain Jane, an organization focused on the empowerment of all women. We congratulate Logan and Williams for their outstanding academic accomplishments.



Jessica Logan



Ashley Williams

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Boyd Hill Recreation Center
Deas, Murray, Peppers, Richards,
Wicks in action



Briana Murray said, "I volunteer at the Boyd Hill Recreation Center where I am the Lead Tutor of an amazing program called S.C.O.P.E. (Students Challenging Others to Pursue Excellence) which is run by college students. The program targets young children from underprivileged homes that do not have as many opportunities as most children. The S.C.O.P.E. program gives the students a safe environment to go after school where they can do homework and participate in fun activities such as Water Day and an Easter Egg Hunt. All activities done through the program are planned by the tutors. This program is very beneficial to the children because they are able to learn so much in a fun and productive way. Some activities are made to allow students to think about their future and to set goals for themselves. From my experience of tutoring at the Boyd Hill Recreation Center I have learned that children succeed with attention, motivation and support. If the children feel like others care about their future then they will strive to better themselves. I enjoy volunteering at Boyd Hill Recreation Center because it makes me happy to know I am making a difference in the lives of young children. I would rec-

ommend other students get involved so they too could find enjoyment in helping others and aiding the youth."

Denise Peppers said, "I helped set up a water day for the children, passed out snacks and offered assistance to students during homework time. The benefits I got from working with the student organizers and the students at Boyd Hill are that I was able to help younger children with homework and was able to interact with them on a social level. They are very creative kids and I think that from the Homework Center the children are given a good environment to do their homework. If they have problems with homework assignments, the volunteers are there to assist them. I would definitely recommend this volunteer service to other students. If you like to help others and work well with younger children this is a good program to be in. It helps the community and more importantly the younger students in the community."

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DIRECTOR .. from front

native spring break working with the financially disadvantaged. Throughout the academic year Ian Deas, Denise Pepper, Briana Murray, Jasmine Richards, and Sarah Wicks participated in community service by tutoring disadvantaged children. Four scholars also participate in Greek life on campus.

Through Spring 2013, these sophomores continued to do well academically. Their summer plans included research internships at Winthrop and Notre Dame, job internships with an ophthalmologist and a veterinarian, and attendance at summer school.

Program Staff



Mary Abell, Rachel Law, Carol Inglis

Congratulations to Carol Inglis, the program's first Graduate Assistant, for completing her Masters of Arts in Teaching for chemistry. Carol plans to teach in the Rock Hill School District. Emily Amenson, Graduate Assistant, worked with students during the spring semester routinely monitoring academic performance. Congratulations are also in order for Emily who left the program to attend Notre Dame as a graduate student. We welcome Amy Moore who is pursuing her Masters of Arts in Teaching for chemistry as the new Graduate Assistant for the program.



Emily Amenson

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Adaeze Aninweze, James Dean, Lauren Lintz, Jessica Logan, and Ashley Williams volunteered to assist with the Blood Drive.

Ashley Williams said, "Participating in volunteer work is an enriching experience that is very beneficial to both the community and the volunteer. It serves as a form of connection that students are able to make between themselves and their community, and shows the passion that students may have towards making their community better in any way, such as tutoring students or participating in awareness events. Getting involved in volunteer work serves as a type of extracurricular activity that I can enjoy. It helps me feel more in tune with the needs in my community as well as allows me to take time away from my studies without feeling guilty, because I am doing something that will not only benefit myself, but the people around me as well. While participating in the blood drive, I was able to extend a hand to the Rock Hill community by helping them to inform others on donating blood and invite people to do so. I would encourage others to participate in

volunteer work, because volunteering makes both the volunteer and the community feel better and look better, such as in the case of picking up trash along roads. I believe that everyone should get involved in volunteer work to not only have the enriching experience, but to do something selfless and get away from everyday life. In order to persuade people to get involved in volunteer work, I would say "Nothing good comes from doing nothing, so you should get involved in your community to bring some good to life!"



Lintz, Logan, Williams, and Aninweze brainstorming ideas for a blood drive

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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 PhD 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.