

Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Thursday, February 27, 2020
Scholarship and Leadership

Scholar Updates

Recent News

- Winter Training was held on December 19-20, 2019. The text was “*Failing Forward*” by John Maxwell. Each Scholar has accepted a “failure challenge.” They have a stated goal they most want to achieve, but they have no doubt that they will fail. They have outlined a plan with potential cause(s) of failure, what is missing in their “tool box” that could assist with success, why the goal is important to them, accepting the challenge to fail, and establishing first steps.

Academic Achievement

The following Scholars maintained a 4.0 gpa for the Fall Semester 2019:

- Sarah Douthat (University of Tennessee-Martin, sophomore, public health)
- Emily Ellison (Clemson University, junior, animal and veterinary science)
- Bo Pless (Milligan College, senior, engineering)
- Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University, sophomore, neuroscience)

The Board will be updated regarding one Scholar suspension and two Scholars placed on probation.

Service Achievement

- Our “shining stars” with community service for fall semester were Brittany Church (75 hours), Alexis Harvey (75 hours); Ty Myers (108.5); and Tanner Shivley (63 hours). A total of 987 hours of community service was completed by our Scholars during fall semester 2019.

Study Abroad

- Lorraine Hayes (Junior, Wake Forest University) is completing a semester study abroad in Florence, Italy this spring semester. The program is designed and coursework provided through Syracuse University.

New Scholars

- Our **New Scholars’ Dinner is planned for Thursday, April 30, 7:00 p.m. at the General Morgan Inn.** *Board members and spouses are encouraged to attend.*
- A press release for our New Scholars was issued in January.
- Contacts have been made with new Scholars and their families to offer assistance with college selection, scholarship applications, etc.
- Home visits are currently being scheduled.

The Board will be updated on the New Scholar situation that was brought to your attention via email.

Scholar News

Please see attached.

Summer Training

The tentative agenda for Summer Training is as follows:

Outdoor Challenge (Sophomores)	May 16-19
Challenge "Survival Picnic"	Tuesday, May 19
Bahamas (Freshmen)	May 21-24
Freshmen Orientation	Monday, May 25
Training Week	May 25-29
*Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 26
*Board Luncheon	Wednesday, May 27
Annual Day of Service	Thursday, May 28
Van Wert, Ohio Trip	June 1-4
Normandy Trip (Seniors)	June 6-15
New York City (Juniors)	August 6-9

**Board Members and Spouses especially encouraged to attend.*

Additional details regarding training week will be provided at the May Board Meeting.

Scholar Alumni Updates

- The 2019 Scholar Alumni Reunion was held on Saturday, December 21. A reception was held at the new home of the Niswonger Foundation, with dinner following at the General Morgan Inn.
- Please see attached Alumni Scholar News

NISWONGER SCHOLAR UPDATES



Levi Blazer (Belmont University, junior) is serving as Health Communications Intern for Vanderbilt's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, in Nashville.



Aisling Hagan (University of Tennessee, freshman) attended the Agriculture Future of America conference in Kansas City, in November.



Alexis Harvey (Tennessee Technological University, sophomore) represented the Society of Women Engineers annual conference recently, in Anaheim, California . She was selected as vice chairman of the environmental and sustainability committee at Tennessee Tech. She accepted the position of Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for the Engineering department.



Lorraine Hayes (Wake Forest University, junior) is participating in a study abroad program in Florence Italy through Syracuse University for her spring semester.



Kori Smith (University of Tennessee, senior) was accepted to the Cancer Biology course/observation experience at University of Tennessee Medical Center, with both research and direct patient care. She was one of ten selected out of 200 applicants.



Aubrie Strange (Samford University, sophomore) was honored with the 2020 Gulf South Summit Award for Outstanding Student Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education. She has been invited to attend the Gulf South Summit Conference in Nashville in March.



Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University, freshman) has been elected to the Undergraduate Student Government as a Senator for The School of Sciences and Engineering. He has received a grant from the Center of Engaged Learning and Teaching and a second grant from Newcomb-Tulane College to fund his independent research project over the summer titled: *Determining the role of dorsal peduncular cortex neuronal afferents to the amygdala in regulating fear intensity in mice*. He was elected to the position of Internal Vice President of the Science and Engineering Honor Society. He was elected to serve as undergraduate representative for the Pre-Medical Society. He was elected as medical school liaison for the Minority Association of Pre-med Students.

NISWONGER ALUMNI SCHOLAR NEWS



Katie Shields Arnold (Class of 2017) accepted a teaching position with Jefferson County High School, in the Agriculture program.



Dr. Jessica Epley Burchette (Class of 2006) was selected for the College-wide Faculty Teaching Award at ETSU reflecting her work over the past academic year.



Nick Darnell (Class of 2006) has accepted a position as assistant principal at West View Middle School, in Hamblen County.



Lucas Deloach (Class of 2010) accepted a new position as associate employment counsel at Upwork in Chicago, Illinois.



Dustin Howser (Class of 2017) has accepted a position as mechanical engineer with Nuclear Fuel Services, in Erwin.



Jason Light (Class of 2013) successfully completed the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination in Electrical Power. He is now a licensed professional engineer (PE), in the state of Tennessee.



Virginia Hines Pfeifer (Class of 2007) was promoted to Senior Director for Care Performance Solutions at Optum Analytics.



McKenzie Reynolds (Class of 2018) accepted a position as Staff Auditor at Blackburn, Childers & Steagall, in Johnson City.



Dillan Shults (Class of 2018) was elected as a Director for the Cocke County A & I Fair Board. He was selected to serve on the Board of Chapter Advisors for Phi Gamma Delta at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Chapter.