

**Scholarship and Leadership
Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Thursday, August 13, 2020**

2020 Summer Leadership Institute

- Initially, thought was given to postponing the Scholars Summer Leadership Institute, given current health and safety concerns. A complete program redesign provided an opportunity for a modified experience, engaging the Scholars through small groups and online instruction. The Scholars experienced a stellar line-up of speakers through the use of Zoom technology. All Scholar associated travel had to be postponed this summer.

A special note of thanks to Scott and Nikki Niswonger for participating in several activities. Our staff members, particularly Barbara Bates, were instrumental in the success of the Scholars' Summer Institute.

New Scholars

- Zoom meetings have been effectively utilized to stay in contact with our new Scholars. All Scholars, including our recent graduates joined the new Scholars for an “onboarding” and opportunity to get to know each other.
- Funding for technology and/or specific personal needs has/have been provided to each new Scholar.
- Mentors have been in touch with their protégées to offer guidance and support.
- Nancy and Barbara have had one or more personal calls/contacts with each new Scholar.

Scholar Academics and Service

- The following Scholars obtained a 4.0 gpa for the Spring Semester: Sarah Douthat (University of Tennessee); Emily Ellison (Clemson University); Jasmine Martin (University of Tennessee – Knoxville); Bo Pless (Milligan University); Aubrie Strange (Samford University); Kori Smith (University of Tennessee – Knoxville); and Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University);
- A total of 542 hours of community service were reported for Spring Semester. This is an impressive number, considering the challenges of COVID closures of volunteer opportunities. Ty Myers (University of Tennessee- Chattanooga) had an impressive 72 hours of service to the Young Life program.

Recent Scholar Alumni Updates

- Please see attached update.

Recent Scholar News

- Please see attached update.

ALUMNI SCHOLAR NEWS



Will Brummett (Class of 2013) accepted a position as program manager for Co-Curricular Service in the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement in Public Service at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Taylor Grindstaff (Class of 2012) received a grant from the Tennessee Department of Education to pursue a Master's in Administration at Austin Peay State University.



Dr. Elizabeth Loy (Class of 2009) earned a Doctor of Medicine degree (M.D.) in May. She was matched to her Internal Medicine residency placement at the University of Colorado, in Boulder, Colorado. She is considering critical care and rural medicine as her specialization.



Sean McCullough (Class of 2011) accepted a position with Conagra Brands as a Consumer Insights Manager, in Chicago, Illinois.



Dr. Ivory Shelton (Class of 2016) was awarded the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) at Wake Forest University (virtually), in May. She was matched to her pediatric residency placement at the Vanderbilt Pediatric Residency program in Nashville. She began her duties as a PGY-1 Resident Physician on July 1. She was nominated by her peers in the Wake Forest SOM Class of 2020 and received the Wake Forest Medical Alumni Association Student Excellence Award. She was voted by the pediatric faculty of Wake Forest Brenner Children’s Hospital to receive the “Michael Lawless Pediatric Merit Award,” an award given to the senior student who demonstrates the characteristics and highest qualities of a practicing pediatrician: compassion, empathy, and leadership in pediatric care.



Alex Smyth (Class of 2015) was named Teacher of the Year at West Greene High School, where he teaches Mathematics. He graduated with his M.S. in Mathematics from Emporia State University in May.



Todd Skelton (Class of 2010) has accepted a temporary position with state government as legal counsel for Governor Lee’s COVID-19 Unified Command and Economic Recovery Group. Todd recently joined the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Knoxville.



Madeline Standbridge (Class of 2018) is returning to Northeast Tennessee from her work in Pittsburgh, PA. She was accepted to the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. She began classes in July.



Dr. Christopher Steadman (Class of 2015) was awarded the Doctor of Medicine degree at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine, in May. He was matched to his anesthesiology residency placement at University Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.



Kayla West (Class of 2013) has accepted a position as the Tennessee Recovery Navigator Nurse Practitioner for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in Nashville.



Rachel Witt (Class of 2012) received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant in the amount of \$20,000, which will allow her to continue her dissertation research in Peru and finish her data collection and analysis. She will be able to conduct a second field season at her site, where she and her team continue to document examples of human sacrifice carried out 500 years ago by the Chimu Empire on the North coast of Peru



Richard Vradenburgh (Class of 2016) has accepted a position at the Commonwealth Governor's School at Stafford High School in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He will be teaching Mathematics.

NISWONGER SCHOLAR UPDATES



Trent Dickerson (University of Tennessee, sophomore) is working in a co-op with the FedEx Supply Chain in Memphis, this summer, spring of 2021 and fall of 2021.



Emily Ellison (Clemson University, senior) was accepted as an early admission to the doctoral program in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She left her undergraduate studies at Clemson, after her junior year. Following completion of the first year of veterinary school, she will receive her undergraduate degree, enroute to the completion of the Doctorate in Veterinary Science.



Alexis Harvey (Tennessee Technology University, junior) was elected Executive Secretary for the Student Government Association. She was elected as President of the Society of Women Engineers. She is the student representative on the Academic Misconduct Committee, Task Force for Academic Affairs, and University Curriculum Committee. She is a new member of Phi Kappa Phi. Alexis is completing her second summer internship at Nuclear Fuel Services, in Erwin.



Lorraine Hayes (Wake Forest University, senior) was elected vice president of the Wake Forest Habitat for Humanity Chapter. She has been selected to serve as an Intercultural Ambassador at Wake Forest. She has been accepted into the Mortar Board Honors Society and was elected as president. She is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce for the Panhellenic Council.



Jasmine Martin (University of Tennessee, junior) was selected as Assistant Director of Communications for the Student Basic Needs Coalition (SBNC) at the University of Tennessee. She achieved the Dean's List in her fall semester.



Tanner Shivley (Carson-Newman University, alumnus) received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. The highest honor presented to a student by Carson-Newman.



Kori Smith (University of Tennessee, alumna) was accepted to a 10-month ministry and leadership training program with Thrive Residency, Knoxville. The position involves Kori living in a house with 11 residents, working full time in a ministry position, taking graduate level seminary and non-profit administration courses. Kori's undergraduate research is being published under the department head of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular biology for Nitrogen Fixation and Flagellar Rotation of *Azospirillum Brasiliense*.



John Turner (University of Tennessee, sophomore) earned a spot in the Heath Integrated Business and Engineering Program through an application and interview process. Upon graduation, this experience will appear on his degree as a concentration/Minor. He was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship, per year, to participate in this program.