

**Scholarship and Leadership
Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Thursday, August 8, 2019**

2019 Summer Training

- We enjoyed another successful summer of training and travels. Training focused on becoming a daring leader. The textbook was “*Dare to Lead*,” by Brene Brown. A special note of thanks to Scott and Nikki Niswonger for participating in several training activities. Our staff members, particularly Barbara Bates, were instrumental in the success of the Scholars’ summer activities.

New Scholars

- 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, Martin); Alexis Harvey (Tennessee Tech, freshman, engineering); Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane, freshman, biomedical engineering); Emily Ellison (Clemson University, sophomore, agriculture;); Bo Pless (Milligan College, junior, engineering); Morgan Thomas (Clemson, senior, chemistry); Matthew Widener (East Tennessee State University, senior, English education).
- A total of 676 hours of community service were reported for Spring Semester. Four Scholars completed 50 or more hours of service: Alexis Harvey, 60 hours (Tennessee Tech, freshman, engineering); Jasmine Martin, 50 hours, (UT-Knoxville, freshman, business communications); Brittany Church, 75 hours (Austin Peay, sophomore, biology); Ty Myers, 75 hours (UT-Chattanooga, sophomore, biology);

Recent Scholar Updates

- Please see attached update.

Other Scholar News

- The Freshmen Scholars joined Mr. Niswonger for a trip to the Bahamas in May.
- The Sophomore Scholars completed an Outdoor Leadership Challenge experience May 18-21. The focus of this experience is team building, personal strength and excellent decision-making skills in challenging situations.
- The Junior Scholars’ trip to New York City was August 1-4. The Scholars attended a Broadway play, went to the Top of the Rock, visited the most significant sites of the City on a full-day walking tour, enjoyed a dinner cruise

- around the tip of Manhattan, completed a day of service at The Arthur Project in the Bronx, and numerous unique dining experiences.
- The Senior Scholars traveled to Normandy, June 6-15. Travels included Paris, with the greatest portion of the time focused on visiting the significant sites of the D Day invasion. The Scholars also enjoyed a day at Mont St. Michel, and touring their home bases of Honfleur and Bayeux, France.

Recent Scholar Alumni News

- Please see attached update.

Program Review and Evaluation

- Nancy interviewed each Board Member as the initial steps in a strategic review of the Niswonger Scholars program. Findings from these interviews will be shared at the Board meeting.

CURRENT SCHOLAR UPDATES



Levi Blazer (Belmont University, sophomore) was selected for the Gordon E. Inman College of Health Sciences Most Outstanding Student Leadership Award.



Christian Dalton (University of Tennessee, Senior) is working as an intern for Tennessee Farmers Cooperative. He was selected as Ambassador for the Herbert College of Agriculture.



Emily Ellison (Clemson University, sophomore) was selected to serve on the Professional Greek Council, as a sorority member of Sigma Alpha.



Alexis Harvey (Tennessee Tech, Sophomore) was re-elected as Senator for the College of Engineering at Tennessee Tech. She was elected as fundraising chair for the Society of Women Engineers. She will be working as a tutor in the engineering department.



Humanity.

Lorraine Hayes (Wake Forest University, sophomore) is exploring a new business venture creating and selling specialty granola bars, called Brewnola. She has accepted membership into phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity. She accepted a student advisor position for the fall semester and was elected to the executive committee for Habitat for



Bo Pless (Milligan College, Senior) received the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Project for the Science division at the 2019 RISE Above Research Conference at Milligan.



metabolism.

Kori Smith (University of Tennessee, Senior) has been selected for an internship as College Life Intern at University of Tennessee through Fellowship Church, in Knoxville. She was accepted for a mini-semester study abroad in African Studies in Dakar, Senegal. She was accepted into a research program in Dr. Gladys Alexandre's lab studying cancer cell



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.

ALUMNI SCHOLAR UPDATES



Hope Adkins (Class of 2018) accepted a position with Carson-Newman University as Alumni Relations Coordinator.



Katie Shields Arnold (Class of 2017) has accepted a position with Jefferson County High School as a teacher in their Agriculture program.



Dr. Katie Baker (Class of 2007) received a Presidential Grant-in-Aid from ETSU to attend the 2019 Qualitative Research Summer Intensive in Chapel Hill, NC late July.



Matt and Lauren Bible (Class of 2011) welcomed their second daughter, Luella June, in March.



Tyler Boyd (Class of 2011) is a member of Young Dairy Leaders Institute Class 11. He was elected to the American Jersey Cattle Association's Board of Directors, representing Merced County, California.



Casey Frantz (Van Wert – Class of 2008) returned to her former position as a Radiologic Technologist/CT Technologist at the Allergy and Asthma Center in Indiana. She is substitute teaching at Manchester Jr./Sr. High School.



Matthew Grimm (Class of 2017) completed his nursing program at Tusculum College and is now employed with Kingsport Primary Care.



Dr. Morgan Hammer - Krapf (Class of 2006) is now a partner in her practice – Burlington County OB/Gyn. She was named Ob/Gyn patient safety officer for Virtua Memorial Hospital.



Jason Light (Class of 2013) passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination in Electrical Power, and he is now a licensed professional engineer (PE) in the state of Tennessee. He was promoted to Advanced Electrical Engineer and selected as a group leader in Plant Engineering, at Eastman.



Chelsea Goodson Long (Class of 2010) and her husband Derek welcomed their daughter Leighton Ann on June 25.



Law Loving (Class of 2012) and his wife Megan, welcomed their son, Lawrence Wayne Loving, IV (Wren) on June 11.



McKenzie Reynolds (Class of 2018) graduated from her Master's of Accountancy program at University of Tennessee. She is working on her CPA, having passed the first two sections of the exam



Lillie Seal (Class of 2015) will be teaching 11th grade English this year. She is enrolled in the Doctorate of Education with Reading and Literacy Specialization Program at Capella University.



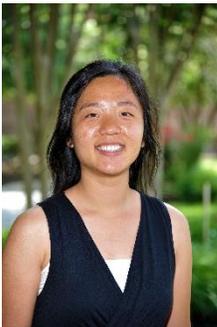
Dr. Cole Seaton (Class of 2009) completed his residency at University of Tennessee Medical Center. He has returned to Greeneville and accepted a position as Radiologist with University Radiology at Greeneville Community Hospital East.



Todd Skelton (Class of 2010) and his wife Kim welcomed their son, Andrew in November. Todd accepted the position of Chief Legal Counsel for Strategic Acquisitions Group, in Knoxville. He was appointed by Governor Bill Lee to the State Board of Accountancy.



Francisco Ochoa-Vargas (Class of 2015) completed his JD/MBA at Duke University.



Yaying Wang (Class of 2014) completed her Physician Assistant program at Duke University in May.



Zachary Ward (Class of 2019) was wed to Callie Cathey on July 27.



Matthew Widener (Class of 2019) accepted a teaching position with David Crockett High School, teaching English.



Rachel Witt (Class of 2012) received two grants from the Rust Family Foundation and Lambda Alpha Honors Society Research Grant to carry out her first year of bioarchaeological field work in Peru for her dissertation.