

**Scholarship and Leadership
Niswonger Foundation Board Update
Thursday, August 18, 2022**

2022 Summer Leadership Institute

The focus of the Summer Leadership Institute was an examination of the meaning and significance of being a U.S. Citizen, and of patriotism. The book *THEM: Why we hate each other and how to heal*, by U.S. Senator Ben Sasse was the catalyst for the discussion and activities. The Scholars also read and examined the *Constitution of the United States* and the *Declaration of Independence* in preparation for the guest speakers.

Guest speakers included: Dr. Phil Roe, Former US. Congressman; Representative Rebecca Alexander; Mayor Joe Grandy; Brandon Gibson, Tennessee Chief Operating Officer for Governor Bill Lee; Ashley Tuell, American Legion National Oratory Contest Runner-Up; Alexander Whitaker, President of King University; Frank Frankie, Navy SEAL Commander; and our own, David Golden. Marilyn duBrisk provided elocution training and activities.

We are especially grateful for Mr. Niswonger arranging a visit with Vice President Mike Pence.

Scholars Travel/Training Experiences

All Scholar travel experiences resumed this year including the Bahamas, New York City and Normandy. The Outdoor Challenge was successfully completed.

Scholar Academics

- The following Scholars obtained a 4.0 gpa for the Spring 2022 Semester: Derek Driskill (Carson Newman University, sophomore); Mabel Olson (Tennessee Technological University, sophomore); Rithvik Vutukuri (Tulane University, senior);
- All Scholars exceeded our program's academic requirements.

Scholar Summer Internships

- Trent Dickerson (University of Tennessee, senior) – FedEx
- Derek Driskill (Carson Newman University, junior) – Ogle Family Enterprises, Pigeon Forge
- Aisling Hagan (University of Tennessee-Knoxville, senior) – Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Tennessee
- Samuel Hensley (East Tennessee State University – junior) Coalition of Kids
- Macy Noe (Vanderbilt University, junior) – Berry Global
- Mabel Olson (Tennessee Technological University- junior) – Bright Ridge Utilities
- John Turner (University of Tennessee-Knoxville, senior) – Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Recent Scholar and Alumni Scholar Updates

- Please see attached update.

NISWONGER SCHOLAR NEWS



Derek Driskill (Carson-Newman University, Junior) traveled abroad to Israel with a group of Tusculum College students and president Dr. Hummel at the beginning of summer.



Alexis Harvey (2022 Graduate of Tennessee Tech University) was married to Austin Wilson on July 23rd.

ALUMNI SCHOLAR UPDATES



Dr. Mary Kate Baker (Class of 2007) accepted a position as Scientific Review Officer with the Health Services & Systems Branch of the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health. She resigned from her position as associate professor at ETSU.



Matt and Lauren Bible (Class of 2011) finalized their third adoption of a daughter, Amelia Sue. Amelia was born pre-maturely weighing only 1 pound. She is growing and getting stronger every day.



Christopher Brown (Class of 2010) is now the Defensive Coordinator for the Baylor School in Chattanooga.



Dr. Thomas Cully (Class of 2010) moved to Brookston, Indiana with his family and began a new position as farm manager and professor of practice for the Purdue University Animal Sciences Department. He and his wife, Olivia, welcomed their fifth child, Miriam on July 1.



Christian Dalton (Class of 2020) has accepted a position as 4-H Agent at the County Extension Office in Greene County.



Nick Darnell (Class of 2006) was named principal at East Ridge Middle School in Hamblen County.



Adriana Penalba Fillmore (Class of 2010) and her husband Dustin welcomed to their family a daughter, Eva, in March. Eva was born with a rare form of Spina Bifida. She has had surgery and after two months in the hospital, she is now home and doing great!



Dr. Morgan Hammer Krapf (Class of 2006) is now the section chief of Gynecology at Virtua Mt. Holly in New Jersey.



Dr. Kristen Alora Ricker (Class of 2018) graduated from East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine in May with her medical degree (M.D.). She received the Internal Medicine Award. She began her residency in Internal Medicine at Carilion Clinic – Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, in Roanoke, Virginia.



Matthew Sheppard (Class of 2018) entered the Phd program for Engineering & Science Education at Clemson University.



Dr. Lillie Seal Taffer (Class of 2015) received her Ed. D. from Capella University. She was elected Secretary of the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA). She was chosen to participate in the Tennessee Education Association's 2022 Emerging Leaders School.



Elizabeth Batson Tetrick (Class of 2006) is serving as president elect for the Habitat Board in Johnson City.



Morgan Thomas (Class of 2019) was awarded the Dr. Brian Odie Memorial scholarship at East Tennessee State University's Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. To qualify for this award, the College of Pharmacy Scholarship and Awards Committee have to agree that the student has a lot of personality and characteristic traits that were very similar to those of Dr. Odie. It is also based on the students' high academic achievement and demonstration of leadership and service to the pharmacy profession. Morgan has one more year of pharmacy school before she begins her residency.