

The Student Supporter



Special Honors Edition

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May/June 2007

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 12** – Commencement
- May 14** – Interim Classes begin
- May 15** – Last day to register or add an Interim course
- May 15** – Last day to drop an Interim course without a grade of “W”
- May 25** – Last day to drop an Interim course with a grade of “W”
- June 1** – Interim Classes end
- June 4** – Late registration/add/drop – first half and second half sessions
- June 5** – Summer classes begin
- June 6** – Last day to register or add a course for first session or full summer session
- June 6** – Last day to drop a course without a grade of “W”
- June 22** – Last day to drop a course with a grade of “W”

SSS STUDENTS NAMED TO BLACKBURN INSTITUTE

In developing a network of leaders at UA, the Blackburn Institute provides opportunities to explore issues and identify strategic actions that will improve the quality of life for all of Alabama’s citizens. Begun in 1995, the Institute was created by the Division of Student Affairs at The University of Alabama, and named in honor of Dr. John L. Blackburn who served as dean of men and was instrumental in the peaceful integration of the campus during the turbulent mid-60s.

This spring, two SSS students were named as Fellows to the Institute: Robert L. Harris III, a sophomore, majoring in political science and history, and Justin Zimmerman, a sophomore, majoring in philosophy and political science.

Congratulations to Robert and Justin upon being selected as part of this important group of young men and women.

“My vision is to develop a community of ethical leaders who collaboratively accomplish good and noble ends. A good community is comprised of more than one generation; embraces transcending values that esteem each citizen; and creates a sense of oneness where individuals set aside personal gain, benefit, or goal for the sake of the group”

- Dr. John L. Blackburn

Q & A WITH FORMER SSS STUDENT, KENNETH SLEETS

We recently had the pleasure of talking with one of our former participants, Kenneth Sleets. Kenneth is originally from Frankville, Alabama, where he attended Washington County High School. He entered The University of Alabama in the fall of 1999 and completed his undergraduate degree in health care management in 2003. He then worked in the University’s Human Resources Department as a payroll assistant for a year, and enrolled in graduate school where he completed a masters degree in social work in May of 2006. In August of 2006 he began working for the Tuscaloosa County Department of Human Resources in foster care.

What inspired you to choose this line of work?

I come from a long line of foster care parents. My grandmother was a foster care parent. My mother was a foster parent. So it’s always been something that was in our family. That kind of sparked my interest and I have a passion for working with kids in troubled situations so that kind of led me into this field.



Did our graduate school prep program help prepare you for graduate school?

It mostly showed me what I would be walking into. It gave me a good idea of what to expect in graduate school and what I should be doing to get the most out of my graduate school experience. It was a definite benefit.

You worked as an SSS peer mentor. Did that experience prepare you for your current line of work?

As a peer mentor I was working with kids like myself who were going through college life and needed some advice. That's pretty much what I do in my current line of work. I do a lot of mentoring. I do a lot of social work things like meeting their needs, mentoring and talking and encouraging and counseling. I think that experience definitely helped prepare me for my profession.

If you could start your undergraduate career over, is there anything that you would do differently?

I probably wouldn't have gone into the (undergraduate) major that I chose because I did wind up going into a completely separate field, but it's something that I can always fall on. It diversified me. Having a business background and a social work background helped make me a well-rounded person.

What advice would you give to current undergraduate students?

When it's time to decide on a major, go with your own feelings about what you could see yourself doing in the future. Don't be pressured by what your friends say you should do. Don't be pressured by what parents say you should do. In the end it's going to be you in that field or in that job—be led by your own heart.

What advice would you give to current graduate students?

Enjoy graduate school as much as you can. Definitely use it to get all the knowledge you can about the field you're going into although it may not seem like you're learning anything applicable while you are in the classroom. But everything that you learn, you are more than likely going to use in your field. I'm using everything that I learned in graduate school in my field.

What are your future plans?

I'm going to continue to work in my current place of employment. Eventually I would like to go into private practice doing individual therapy—family therapy and child therapy. That's long-term.

Do you think you might pursue the Ph.D. at some point?

I definitely want to do that. I'm looking at counseling.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

If there are any undergraduate students who feel lost and feel like they need someone in their corner, I would definitely encourage them to consider the Student Support Services program.

SSS Students Attend Health Professions Seminar at UAB



UAB Health Careers Trip (from L to R Anthony Winston, Kim Parker, Monique Horn, Valencia Robertson, Jamia Moore, Amellia Cannon, Ebonie Jackson, Perren Banks)

What started out as a one-time visit has turned into what seems to be an annual event for students interested in Health Careers. Following last year's success, six SSS participants traveled to The University of Alabama at Birmingham in March to participate in a Health Professions Seminar hosted by SSS Alumna, Valencia Robertson. These students had the great opportunity to sit and chat with Dr. Janene Sims, OD, PhD and assistant professor at UAB. Dr. Sims led a panel discussion answering a variety of questions, ranging from the importance of job shadowing to entrance requirements. Second-year Medical, Dental, Optometry and Physical Therapy students were also on hand to share their experiences and give advice to the prospective students.

Counselors Chris Lee and Anthony Winston are working hard to make sure SSS participants are on top of things as it relates to the very sensitive timeline and requirements for Medical School admission. SSS participants are encouraged to speak with their SSS counselor, and to schedule an appointment with Mr. Chris Hutt to discuss their program specifics. Mr. Hutt's office is located in Clark Hall—200, and he can be reached at 348-5902.



SSS Students Recognized During Honors Week

During Honors Week 2007, the following SSS students were recognized for their personal, professional, and academic achievements:

Tiffany N. Bailey	Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization
Perren T. Banks	Gamma Beta Phi National Honorary
Randy Beavers	Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization Computer-Based Honors Program Fellowship University Honors Program Department of Economics Freshman Achievement Award
Kari-Lyn Bjorn	Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization
D'Ariel D. Boykin	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher Alpha Lambda Delta National Freshman Honor Society Gamma Beta Phi National Honorary University Honors Program
Ashley R. Brand	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Stephen B. Brooks	Department of Management Information Systems Certificate of Merit Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Karis L. Browder	Black Scholars Freshman Award for 3.5 or Higher International Honors Program University Honors Program
Kwajalin N. Brown	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Alesha A. Cannon	Dean's List for at Least Two Semesters During 2006 Black Scholars Sophomore Award for 3.5 or Higher Alpha Lambda Delta National Freshman Honor Society University Honors Program
Amellia C. Cannon	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Tennille C. Daniels	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Laterriern C. Davis	Black Scholars Freshman Award for 3.5 or Higher
Jennifer Files	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Ciara M. Fitts	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Charquetha Gaddis	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Joy C. Garnett	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Katrice D. Gilder	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Sarah Halliday	Department of Human Development and Family Studies Roy Evans PCMA Scholarship Phi Eta Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society Carl A. Elliott Society
Brian Hamilton	Black Scholars Sophomore Award for 3.5 or Higher
Robert L. Harris	Vice President, The Other Club WILL-Women Involved in Learning and Leading
Shanna Hayes	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Whitney L. Jones	University Honors Program
John Leverton	Dean's List for at Least Two Semesters During 2006
Lynnette M. Moats	Black Scholars Freshman Award for 3.5 or Higher
Jamia D. Moore	Department of Computer Science Upsilon Pi Epsilon Undergraduate Award
Christopher Nelson	Black Scholars Award for Sophomore Academic Excellence
Milton T. Nettles	Black Scholars Sophomore Award for 3.5 or Higher University Honors Program
Kimberly D. Parker	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Andrea S. Passwater	University Honors Program
Stephanie A. Perkins	Black Scholars Junior Award for 3.5 or Higher Cardinal Key National Honor Society National Society of Collegiate Scholars
Brandi J. Peterson	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Latrisa M. Pugh	Gamma Beta Phi National Honorary
Andrea S. Robertson	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher Carl A. Elliott Society
Johnny R. Rice	Dean's List for at Least Two Semesters During 2006 Black Scholars Sophomore Award for 3.5 or Higher Alpha Lambda Delta National Freshman Honor Society Phi Eta Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society University Honors Program
Latonya P. Washington	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Antoinette S. Williams	Alpha Lambda Delta National Freshman Honor Society University Honors Program
Lawrence J. Wilson	Black Scholars Senior Award for 3.5 or Higher
Justin M. Zimmerman	Black Scholars Sophomore Award for 3.5 or Higher Phi Eta Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society University Honors Program

2007 SSS HONORS CONVOCATION

Students, family, and friends joined together on the night of April 19 on the Grand Gallery of Smith Hall to celebrate the accomplishments of SSS students during the 2006/2007 academic year. Dr. Orlando Taylor, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School of Howard University, Washington, DC, was the keynote speaker for this event.

Partnering with the McNair Scholars Program for their annual recognition ceremony, Student Support Services welcomed Dr. Taylor to the UA campus, and enjoyed an outstanding evening highlighting the accomplishments of our students.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Exemplary Participation Award – Randy Beavers
 Most Motivated Student – Nicole Brown
 Most Improved Student – Randy Fincher
 Most Optimistic Student – Herbert Brown
 Developing Scholar Award – Milton Nettles

OUTSTANDING CUMULATIVE GPA AWARDS

Tiffany Bailey	Lindsey Davis	Robert Harris, III	Ellis Ponder
Ebony Bates	Heather Dean	Whitney Jones	Andrea Robertson
Randy Beavers	Corey Dean	John Leverton	Johnny Tice
D'Ariel Boykin	Kristy Dubose	Amanda Lynd	LaTonya Washington
Ashley Brand	Iesha Ellerbe	Lynnette Moats	Belinda White
Karis Browder	Crystal Ellis	Candice Mock	Shantay Williams
Elizabeth Brown	Jennifer Files	Jamia Moore	Vanessa Williams
Alesha Cannon	Ciara Fitts	Christopher Nelson	Lawrence Wilson
Brandon Carr	Joy Garnett	Milton Nettles	Vonquesha Winn
Shandryka Cochran	Dennice George	Kimberly Parker	Micah Wright
Chrishauna Colbert	Katrice Gilder	Jacquelynn Parks	Joseph Wright
Regina Crenshaw	Terralynn Grayson	Andrea Passwater	Justin Zimmerman
Tennille Daniels	Sarah Halliday	Stephanie Perkins	
Laterriern Davis	Brian Hamilton	Brandi Peterson	

SUPERB SEMESTER GPA AWARDS

Laura Agerton	Shandryka Cochran	Shanna Hayes	Brandi Peterson
Timothy Aldridge	Chrishauna Colbert	Matt Hayward	Ellis Ponder
Marcus Anderson	Regina Crenshaw	Taneika Head	Latrisa Pugh
Tiffany Bailey	Tennille Daniels	Jennifer Houston	Kimberly Rankin
Ebony Bates	Lindsey Davis	LaTerrian Hudson	Andrea Robertson
Randy Beavers	Bobby Davis	Ebonie Jackson	Sandra Ruffin
Michael Becallo	Erica Davis	Brad Johnston	Ryan Sanders
Quovadis Berry	Laterriern Davis	John Leverton	Keeonya Smiley
Erica Blair	Heather Dean	Amber Lindsey	Ashley Smith
Ashley Brand	Kristy Dubose	Amanda Lynd	Johnny Tice
Crystal Braxton	Iesha Ellerbe	Lynnette Moats	Sherneria Warren
Karis Browder	Crystal Ellis	Candice Mock	Joshua Warren
Nicole Brown	Ciara Fitts	Jamia Moore	LaTonya Washington
Kirema Brown	Dennice George	Loventrices Nash	Veronica Wilkerson
Kenesia Cade	Katrice Gilder	Milton Nettles	Shantay Williams
Alesha Cannon	Christina Goldsby	Crystal Oliver	Tiffany Williams
Amellia Cannon	Keara Grant	Jacquelynn Parks	Vonquesha Winn
Brandon Carr	Brian Hamilton	Andrea Passwater	Micah Wright
Anna Carr	Robert Harris, III	Stephanie Perkins	Justin Zimmerman

REESHAWNA CADDELL-- STUDENT ACHIEVER FOR MAY

Reeshawna Caddell is our Achiever for the month of May. Reeshawna is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and is a 2006 graduate of Ramsay High School, where she was a member of the Debate Team, Choir, the Science Club, the Bible Club, and the Orchestra, where she played the cello. She is currently pursuing a degree in Nursing. In her spare time, she enjoys reading the Bible, biographies, fiction, and poetry. She also enjoys listening to gospel music and writing poetry. Her future plans are to attend Medical School.



During this past year, Reeshawna attended all of the SSS-sponsored cultural enrichment events and many of our workshops. Reeshawna had this to say about our cultural enrichment activities. "Had it not been for SSS I probably wouldn't have had the chance to attend, and now that I have gone, I am apt to attend more. It's important to participate in campus activities." She also had this to say about our workshops, "The workshops were very helpful, especially the financial aid workshop. I learned about more scholarships through the University."

EXEMPLARY FRESHMAN GPA –

Randy Beavers
 Iesha Ellerbe
 John Leverton
 Candice Mock

EXEMPLARY SOPHOMORE GPA –

Milton Nettles
 Jacquelynn Parks

EXEMPLARY JUNIOR GPA –

Amanda Lynd

EXEMPLARY SENIOR GPA –

Christopher Nelson

TUTOR OF THE YEAR –

Dwayne Reed

AMBER LINDSEY-- STUDENT ACHIEVER FOR JUNE

Amber Lindsey has been named Student Support Services Achiever for the month of June. A native of Birmingham, AL, Amber is a graduating senior with a major in Biology. She attributes much of her success to a determined spirit and great support. Amber is an active member of the Student Support Services Student Advisory Board, works at CVS Pharmacy and stills finds time to volunteer at the DCH Medical Center Cancer Unit. In the future, Amber plans to work in pharmaceutical sales as she applies for Pharmacy School.

