

NEWSLETTER

The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy



The newly coated Mercury class poses with Dr. Dennis Daniels at the 2023-2024 White Coat Ceremony.

Volume 5, Issue 2 | December 2023 & January 2024 | Kenton Moore & Tenley Sablatzky

Editor's Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome back to PVAMU for the spring semester! I hope everyone has had a wonderful start to the new year, Please enjoy this edition of the Undergraduate Medical Academy's Newsletter, compiled and edited for you by Ms. Sablatzky and I. In it you will find student activities, UMA events, and upcoming events. I hope that you enjoy!

-Kenton Moore, 2023-2024 UMA Historian

What's Inside This Issue?

White Coat Ceremony	PG 2-3
Mini Grand Rounds	PG 4
Student Research	PG 4
Research Lecture Series	PG 5
Practice MCAT/DAT Exam	PG 5
Alumni Spotlight	PG 6
Q&A with UMA Alum Dr. South	PG 7
Holiday Celebration	PG 7
Community Service Events	PG 8
Birthdays & Upcoming Events	PG 9

White Coat Ceremony

The UMA Mercury Class pose with Dr. Dennis Daniels during the White Coat Ceremony.
From left-to-right: Anisa Cole, Debra Davis, Zoey Davis, Pearl Gerald-Emesih, Keeland Harville, Erin LaFleur, Rubyleane Linton, Kacey Menyoli, Kenton Moore, Leila Powell, Esther Samuel, Kayla Vital, Cyrai Young.



The 2023-2024 Jasper Scholar Class was recognized during the White Coat ceremony. Jasper Scholars pose with Dr. Daniels and Mrs. Huynh (from left-to-right): Kristen Ashley, Alexay Bullard, Caleb Owens, Elizabeth Pena, Kailynn Weaver.



2022-2023 Jasper Scholars pose with Mrs. Huynh after receiving their White Coats. From left-to-right: Kenton Moore, Anisa Cole, Cyrai Young, Erin LaFleur, Keeland Harville, and Mrs. Quyen Huynh.



UMA Faculty, Staff, and students present during the 2023-2024 White Coat Ceremony. From left-to-right: Dr. Dumitru Iacobas, Ms. Kathleen Straker, Mrs. Paula Campbell, Mrs. Quyen Huynh, Mrs. Sherylle Fuller, Dr. Naznin Sultana, Mr. Jeremy Kiesler, Mr. Joel Swisher; Eryka Appaiah-Amaning, Simone Lenoir, Justyce Redeau; Dr. Dennis Daniels, Mr. Linton (Rubyleane Linton's father); Jessica Henderson; Dr. Gail Brekke.

Mini Grand Rounds

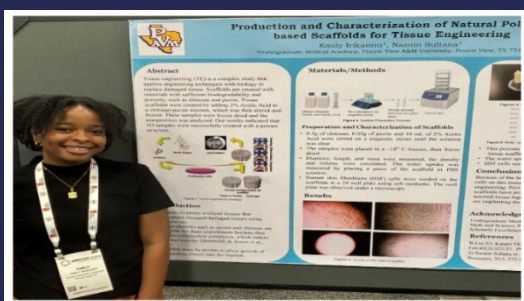


Representatives from Houston Methodist Hospital, Ms. Nazia Imrose and Ms. Kamali Archer, visited the TUMA for a Mini Grand Round on November 15th, 2023.



Representatives from Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, Dr. Kenya Steele, Ashley Schwartz, Tamara Davis, and Angelique Basquine visited the UMA for a Mini Grand Round on February 7th, 2024. Dr. Steele began the session by speaking about UH Family College of Medicine, applying to medical school, and UH's SOAR program. Angelique Basquine, a UH medical student and UMA Alum (class of 2020), discussed her medical school journey and how UMA students can best prepare themselves. UMA Scholars enjoyed the provided lunch while engaging with the invited speakers.

Student Research



UMA Senior, Emily Irikannu, presented her research at The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) in Phoenix, Arizona.

UMA Research Series



The UMA Research Lecture Series kicks off for the Spring 2024 semester with a series of three lectures by Dr. Naznin Sultana. The first lecture, "Strategies for Regenerating Missing Organs," was held on February 2nd, 2024. Dr. Max Fontus will be presenting his research later in the spring semester.

Upcoming Research Series Events

February 16th: "Biocompatibility and Clinical Assessment of Biomaterials"

March 1st: "Tissue Engineering: Applications and Ethical Issues"

Practice MCAT/DAT



UMA Students during the practice MCAT/DAT November 11th, 2023.

The UMA will be hosting its next practice MCAT/DAT on February 17th, 2024. Sign-up with Mrs. Huynh.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Sanique South, PhD

Dr. Sanique South graduated from Prairie View A&M University and Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy in 2011 with a double major in Biology and Nutrition, and a minor in Chemistry. Dr. South went on to Texas Woman's University where she earned a master's in health education in 2013 and a PhD in Nutrition in 2020. Her doctoral training focused on understanding the anti-inflammatory properties of whole blueberries in osteoarthritis. Her research and training led to numerous travel awards, grants, and scholarships, including being nominated as a finalist in the American Society for Nutrition's (ASN) Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Competition at ASN's Scientific Sessions Annual Meeting in 2016.

After completing her PhD, Dr. South began post-doctoral research with Dr. Tim Griffin at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Her research was aimed at establishing a novel approach for using Imaging Mass Cytometry to analyze the mouse synovial joint and

optimizing the knee environment for intra-articular osteoarthritis therapies. In 2022, she received the New Investigator Recognition Award from the Orthopaedic Research Society for her work with Dr. Griffin.

Since 2022, Dr. South has been expanding her translational experience, and postdoctoral training with Dr. Nick Willett at the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Impact at the University of Oregon. Her research involves the development of new regenerative medicine approaches to treat osteoarthritis and to establish a predictive model to identify therapeutic potential of human mesenchymal stromal cell donors for optimized clinical translation of cell therapy treatment for osteoarthritis.



Q&A with Dr. South

Q. How did you decide on your chosen career path? Did you consider others prior?

Initially, I was interested in pursuing a MD/PhD, but while engaging in research during my undergraduate studies, my passion for research grew and I decided to pursue a research career. I have a passion for research, and I am committed to impacting the world positively through my discoveries.

Q: What was the best or most helpful thing about being part of the UMA?

The community and support the UMA provided was very beneficial throughout my academic journey. The UMA provided opportunities for professional development through networking and summer internship programs. My first internship program with Dr. Brett Mitchell at Texas A&M University was amazing and I had to opportunity to return the following year to continue my project with his lab. This resulted in two co-authored manuscripts with his lab and lifelong mentorship. In addition, as an international student with out-of-state tuition, the financial support through scholarships helped me to complete my studies at PVAMU and pursue my research career.

Q: What's one piece of advice you can give to current students in the process of applying to professional schools?

During your undergraduate program, there are not many opportunities to gain significant employment or research experience. I suggest taking advantage of the available summer internship programs, which will help in your professional development and enhance your application to professional schools. When attending conferences be purposeful about networking. Before applying, research the programs, and gather information from a variety of programs then narrow your choices. Focus on programs that align with your personal and professional goals. In addition, never limit yourself: apply broadly and be flexible.

Holiday Celebration



UMA faculty and staff celebrated the holidays with a special luncheon hosted by Mrs. Vernie Daniels on December 8th, 2023.

Community Service & Holiday Giving



On Saturday, November 18th, 2023, six UMA Scholars traveled to the Houston Food Bank to help make Backpack Buddy bags filled with food for children in need. Along with the help of numerous other volunteers from across the Houston area, they packaged a total of 5,760 meals!



Mrs. Paula Campbell welcomed her first granddaughter in November 2023. In celebration, the UMA Crochet Club presented her with their cutest crochet baby hats.

Pictured: Crochet Club president Jessica Henderson and Mrs. Paula Campbell.



UMA President, Eryka Appaiah-Amaning, UMA Vice President, Erin Renfro, Mrs. Sherylle Fuller, Dr. Dennis Daniels presented gifts for Bikes and Trikes 2023.

Upcoming Birthdays

Leila Powell	6-Dec
Jacob Boyd	25-Dec
Alexay Bullard	5-Jan
Calah Burros	14-Jan
Caleb Owens	18-Jan
Trinity James	23-Jan
Kai Como	26-Jan
Amarys Royal	31-Jan

Upcoming Events

