

# NEWSLETTER

## The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy



*UMA Scholars pose with Ms. Kathleen Straker during the 2024 Pre-Health Conference.*

Volume 5, Issue 3 | February 18 – April 15, 2024 | Kenton Moore & Tenley Sablatzky

### Editor's Welcome

Hello, UMA students, faculty, and staff! This edition of the newsletter is jam-packed with student spotlights, research activities, community service events, and more! With the semester coming to an end, I want to wish everyone the best of luck on your upcoming exams. I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Study hard and finish the Spring 2024 semester strong!

**Kenton Moore**  
**2023-2024 UMA Historian**

### What's Inside This Issue?

Summer Internships	PG 2-3
Medical School Acceptances	PG 3
Student Experiences	PG 4
Pre-Health Conference	PG 5
Mini Grand Round	PG 6
Research Lecture Series	PG 6
Student Spotlight	PG 7
Research Activities	PG 7
Pantherland	PG 8
Houston Trailriders	PG 8
Texas A&M Veterinary School	PG 9
Alumni Visit	PG 9
Practice MCAT/DAT Exam	PG 9-10
CERT & CPR Training	PG 11
Waller Senior Center Donations	PG 12
Waller Pregnancy Center Donations	PG 12
Crochet & Suturing Club	PG 13
Painting with a Twist	PG 13
Solar Eclipse Celebration	PG 13
Birthdays & Upcoming Events	PG 14



## Summer Internships

Congratulations to the UMA Scholars who have been accepted to Summer internships around the world!



**Anisa Cole**

Sophomore & 2022 Jasper Scholar

Harvard/MIT Equitable Access to Research (HEART) MD-PhD Summer Program within the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP)

The Yale SURF program

Stanford Cardiovascular Institute Summer Research Program

Houston Methodist Summer Undergraduate Research Internship

CURE Program  
Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center



**Keeland Harville**

Sophomore &  
2022 Jasper Scholar

Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Medical Center SURF Program

University of Iowa Summer  
Undergraduate Cancer Research  
Program

Houston Methodist Fields  
Rosenberg Surgical Fellowship



**Shantal Taylor**

Junior

Baylor College of Medicine Summer  
Undergraduate Research Training  
(SMART) Program

Emory University Summer Opportunity  
for Academic Research (SOAR) Program

University of Iowa Summer  
Undergraduate Cancer Research  
Program



**Erin LaFleur**

Sophomore &  
2022 Jasper Scholar

Johns Hopkins  
Undergraduate Summer  
Training & Research  
(USTAR) Program

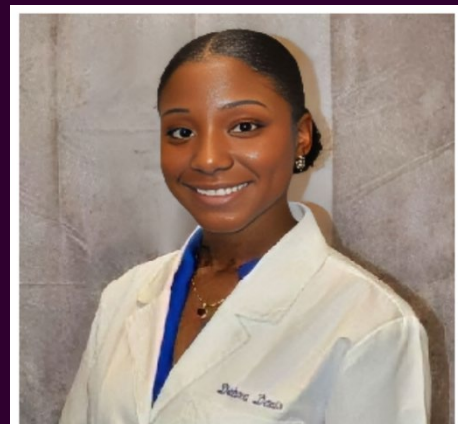


**Kenton Moore**

Sophomore, UMA Historian &  
2022 Jasper Scholar

Johns Hopkins Undergraduate  
Summer Training & Research  
(USTAR) Program

Conrad Leadership Program at  
UNT Dallas



**Debra Davis**

Junior

US/France International  
Research Experiences for  
Undergraduates (REU)  
12-week program based  
in France





**Eryka Appiah-Amaning**

UMA President, Junior &  
2021 Jasper Scholar

University of Iowa  
Summer Undergraduate  
Cancer Research  
Program



**Sana Ali**

Junior &  
2021 Jasper Scholar

Texas Joint Admission  
Medical Program  
(JAMP)

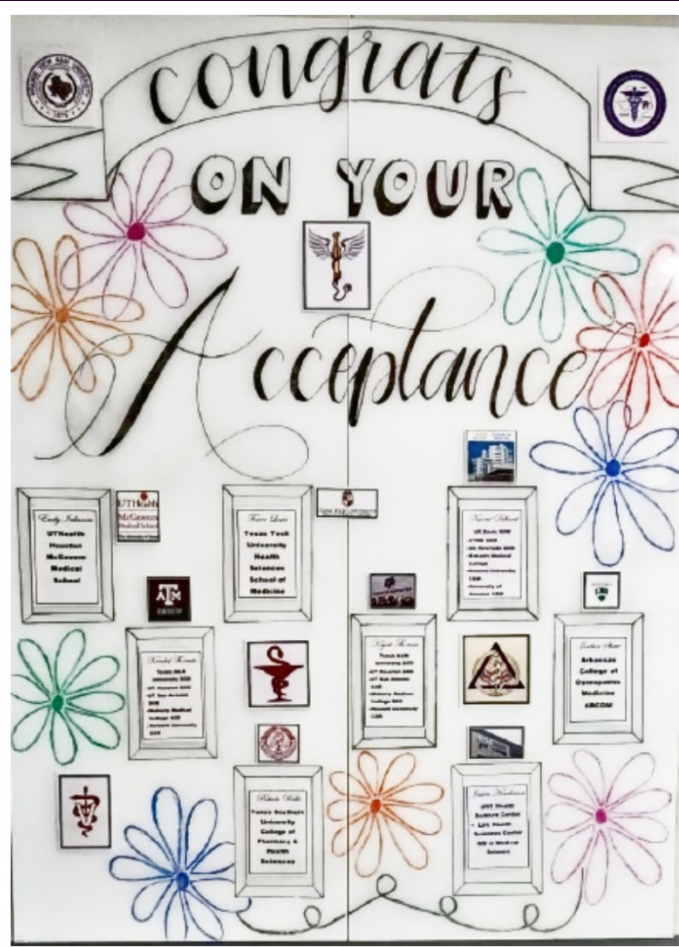


**Kayla Vital**

Sophomore

University of Iowa  
Summer Undergraduate  
Cancer Research  
Program

## Medical School Acceptances



Congratulations to the UMA Scholars & Alums who have already received acceptance letters to professional schools for Fall 2024!

Naomi Dillard will be attending the University of California-Davis School of Medicine, and was also accepted to Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, University of Houston College of Medicine & UTMB School of Medicine.

Emily Irikannu will be attending McGovern Medical School at the UTHealth Houston.

Jessica Henderson will be attending the University of Texas Health Science Center, and was also accepted at Louisiana State University's MS in Medical Science program.

Favor Lewis will be attending Texas Tech University School of Medicine.

Jordan Shaw will be attending Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Kendel Thomas will be attending Texas A&M School of Dentistry, and was also accepted to Howard University COD, Meharry Medical College SOD, University of Texas-Houston SOD, & University of Texas-San Antonio SOD.

Kiyah Thomas will be attending Texas A&M School of Dentistry, and was also accepted at Howard University COD, Meharry Medical College SOD, University of Texas-Houston SOD, & University of Texas-San Antonio SOD.

Bekalu Walle will be attending Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences.

## Student Experiences – Anisa Cole



“Recognizing my potential at the end of high school, I aimed for a 4.0 GPA in college, a goal that came to fruition due to the support of the UMA's faculty. From registering for classes to honing leadership skills, the UMA has guided me towards my premed aspirations. My advisor, Mrs. Huynh, instilled discipline, aiding me in creating a comprehensive portfolio for future endeavors. This has led to acceptances into many prestigious internships such as SHPEP, SUPER at UT Austin, and CREST at Stanford Medicine. During Stanford's CREST program, I utilized skills I learned in the UMA's laboratory under Dr. Sultana and became proficient in cell culture. Early professional development facilitated my early acceptance into Texas A&M School of Medicine. I secured internships at esteemed institutions like Yale SURF, Harvard Medical School HEART-SHURP, and more, thanks to the groundwork laid by the UMA. These accomplishments surpass the expectations of my high school self, reflecting the transformative impact of early professional development.”

## Student Experiences – Keeland Harville

“As a senior in high school, I had many offers from different institutions. Prairie View A&M University, however, had something that no other school had: The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy. I accepted my scholarship to PVAMU, and I was happy to get acceptance to the UMA as a Jasper Scholar in 2022. As a Jasper Scholar, Mrs. Huynh closely facilitated my professional growth and academic performance. Furthermore, I was given the opportunity to attend Study Skills with Ms. Straker to develop learning strategies needed for med school. Outside of the academics, the UMA has provided a plethora of opportunities such as visiting professional schools, crochet club, suturing labs, volunteering, and networking.”



## Student Experiences – Haile Allen



“As a student of the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy (UMA), I have experienced unparalleled academic growth nurtured by a community of dedicated faculty members who provide endless support and guidance. Through rigorous coursework and hands-on experiences, the UMA has equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in medical school. The UMA's commitment to service-learning projects, such as working closely with our local Pregnancy Prevention Center to donate crocheted baby hats and volunteering with a Senior Living Facility, has instilled in me a profound sense of responsibility towards our community. One of the most transformative experiences during my time at UMA was the opportunity to assist Dr. Iacobas in groundbreaking genomics research. This collaboration not only broadened my understanding of the field but also resulted in my first publication, marking a significant milestone in my academic journey. As a student of the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy, I am grateful for the invaluable opportunities for growth, the unwavering support of the faculty, and the chance to contribute meaningfully to both academia and society.”



## Pre-Health Conference

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the UMA hosted the annual Pre-Health Conference for high school students interested in pursuing a career in medicine. During the conference, participants heard from some of the UMA's faculty, current students, and alumni about the challenges and opportunities of pre-medical education.

**TOP:** UMA faculty and staff pose with alumni speakers, Aryonne Gibson, Dr. Kasie Okonkwo, and Dr. Jessica Camarillo

**MIDDLE:** UMA Scholars answer questions during their panel.

**BOTTOM:** UMA Scholars volunteering their time during the Pre-Health conference.



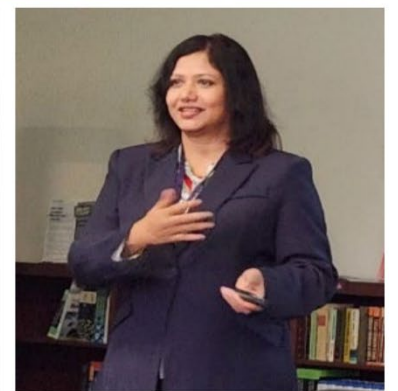


## Mini Grand Round



*UMA Alumna, Dr. Ashley Way visited the UMA from the University of Iowa on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for a Mini Grand Round. Dr. Way spoke to current students about college life, medical school, and mental health.*

## Research Lecture Series



*The UMA Research Lecture Series continued during the Spring 2024 semester with sessions from Dr. Naznin Sultana and Dr. Max Fontus. The final Research Lecture of the semester, presented by Dr. Fontus, will take place Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12PM.*



## Research Activities



Jasper Scholars had the opportunity this semester to participate in Cell Culture training with Dr. Naznin Sultana in the UMA's BL2 certified research laboratory.



Mariata Ba, UMA Senior, recently had the opportunity to shadow Dr. Christopher Douglas, CEO at River Oaks Hospital.

The UMA was well-represented at PVAMU's Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR) on April 2, 2024.

Pictured below, from left-to-right: Dr. Naznin Sultana, Anisa Cole, Zoey Davis, Kate Johnson, Dr. Magueth Rajun, Kenton Moore, Camryn Murray, Ehiguese Obiomon, Erin LaFleur, & Cyrai Young.





## Pantherland



Mr. Jeremy Kiesler, Katie Johnson, & Ms. Sherylle Fuller hosted the UMA's Pantherland booth and spoke to prospective students about the opportunities available through the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy.

## Houston Trailriders – Sherylle Fuller



### Short film celebrates Black women in cowboy culture

By Cary Darling  
STAFF WRITER

Another edition of Rodeo Houston is now in the past and Women's History Month comes to a close in another two weeks. But what both events celebrate will continue to survive long after March is a memory. Case in point is the new short film from Houston filmmaker Isaac Yowman, "Rides & Hides: Honoring Black Excellence," a four-minute celebration of Black cowboys and, more specifically, Black women in the Western scene. It dropped last week on Yowman's Instagram



The women of the Prairie View Trail Ride Association are featured in the film "Rides & Hides."

Courtesy Isaac Yowman



Houston filmmaker, Issac Yowman's newest production "**Rides and Hides: Honoring Black Excellence**" showcases Black women in cowboy culture. The documentary features the UMA's own Mrs. Sherylle Fuller with the Houston Trailriders. The documentary was also recently featured in **an article by Cary Darling for the Houston Chronicle.**



## Veterinary School Trip & Alumni Visit



Two UMA Scholars, Zoey Davis and Rubyleane Linton, accompanied by Mr. Swisher and Mr. Kiesler, had the opportunity to visit and tour Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences on February 23rd, 2024.



Alums, Tanner Adams & Dr. Floyd Williams, DVM, returned to the UMA to visit during the Spring semester. Adams will complete his DDS in May 2024 from Missouri School of Dentistry. Dr. Williams plans to start his veterinary residency soon.

## Practice MCAT/DAT Exam



UMA Scholars taking the Practice MCAT/DAT exam hosted by the UMA on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



## Practice MCAT/DAT Exams



UMA Scholars taking the Practice MCAT/DAT exam hosted by the UMA on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.



UMA Scholars taking the Practice MCAT/DAT exam hosted by the UMA on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



## Community Emergency Response Training



UMA Scholars, Debra Davis and Esther Samuel, had the opportunity to learn first aid, splinting, and CPR during the Spring semester. Learning these skills, and others during the semester, will earn them their American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED and their FEMA Community Emergency Response Team(CERT) certifications.



Accompanied by Dr. Gail Brekke, UMA Scholars, Debra Davis and Esther Samuel traveled to the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Station to take part in Fire Suppression training as the final step towards earning their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certifications.



## Waller Senior Center



On Sunday, February 11, 2024, a group of eleven UMA Scholars volunteered at the Spring Cypress Senior Living Retirement Home. They helped the residents make beautiful tissue paper flowers, organized an ice cream social event, and conducted a few games of a Valentine's Day themed bingo.

## Waller Senior Center



The UMA Crochet Club visited the Waller Pregnancy Center on April 15, 2024. The group donated 60 crochet baby hats. Afterwards, the group had dinner at Joe's Italian Restaurant in Hempstead, Texas.



## Crochet & Suturing Club



The UMA Crochet & Suturing Club practiced their suturing skills during the Spring 2024 semester.

## Painting with a Twist



UMA Scholars got together during the Spring 2024 semester for a fun afternoon of painting.

## Solar Eclipse 2024



The UMA celebrated the Solar Eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



## Spring Birthdays

Jessica Henderson	8-Feb
Erin LaFleur	9-Feb
Kristen Ashley	17-Feb
Kendel Thomas	17-Feb
Kiyah Thomas	17-Feb
Ehiguese Obiomon	24-Feb
Amina Rose	27-Feb
Justyce Redeau	7-Mar
Siah Green	9-Mar
Jada Mendoza	23-Mar
Esther Samuel	23-Mar
Pearl Gerald-Emesih	2-Apr
Anisa Cole	9-Apr
Taylor Brewer	22-Apr
Eryka Appiah-Amaning	13-May

## Upcoming Events

April 19

12-1 PM: UMA Research Lecture Series with Dr. Max Fontus



April 29

Community Service Hours DUE



April 30 - May 8

Final Exams



May 11

Commencement Ceremony