

NEWSLETTER

The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy

Volume 4 Issue 3 | March/April 2023 | Erin Renfro & Tenley Sablatzky



The TUMA Crochet Club Members, Dr. Dennis Daniels and Mrs. Quyen Huynh pose with their 50 crocheted baby hats before donating them to the Waller County Pregnancy Center.

Announcements

Happy Spring, UMA students and faculty! We have made it to the end of the Spring semester and with that the last newsletter of the 2022-2023 school year. Congratulations to all those graduating in a few weeks' time. Good luck on your finals!

~ UMA Historian
Erin Renfro

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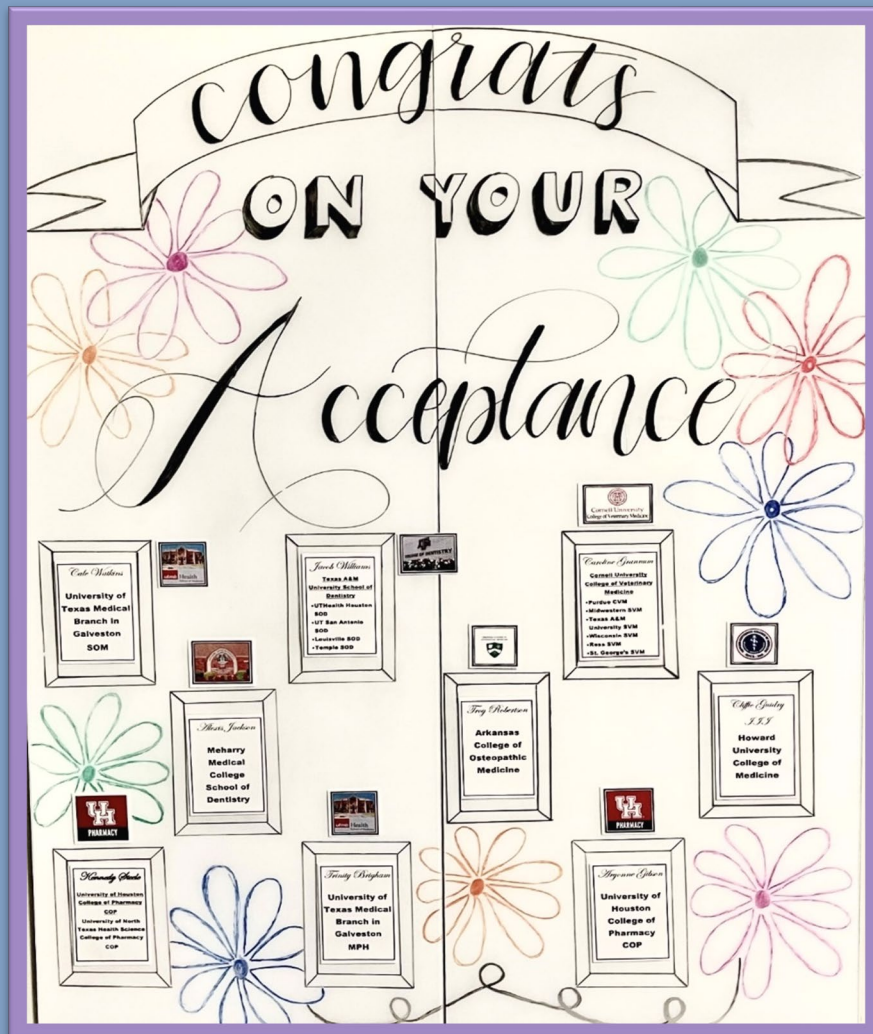
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Class of 2023 Graduation



9 TUMA students and recent alums have been accepted to professional schools for the Fall 2023 term. Congratulations to Cale Watkins, Jacob Williams, Caroline Grannum, Alexis Jackson, Troy Robertson, Cliffie Guidry III, Kennedy Steele, Trinity Brigham, and Aryanne Gibson!



TUMA alum, Dr. Brian Anyanwu (DDS) visits the TUMA.



TUMA Senior Upper-Class Affair Luncheon celebrating the students graduating in Spring 2023.



UMA Alumni, Dr. Devin Yates (PharmD) and, Dr. Ashleigh Yates (O. D.) visit the TUMA with their daughter.

Faculty Spotlight

This month we highlight the newest member of the TUMA Team, world-renowned physicist, Dr. Dumitru Iacobas.

Dr. Iacobas holds a PhD in Physics-Biophysics from the University of Bucharest in Romania. He was able to immigrate to the USA in 2001 by receiving an O1 visa - "Individuals with Extraordinary Ability and Achievements"- sponsored by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (The Bronx, NY). He then became a naturalized US citizen in 2011. For the next few years he held a number of faculty positions, 37 years of which were spent at medical schools. Since 2018, he has been a Research Professor at PVAMU and authored many textbooks for medical students. In addition, he holds 3 patents in electrophysiology and has authored over 200 peer-reviewed biomedical publications.



Dr Iacobas: "I would like to be a mentor for TUMA students. I look forward to advising them on the physics section of the MCAT and helping to coordinate their research projects in genomics, neuroscience and pathophysiology."

Prior Faculty Appointments: 1981-1990: he worked as an Instructor of Biophysics and Human Physiology at C Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Bucharest, Romania); 1990-2001: Assistant/Associate Professor of Biophysics, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics at Ovidius University Medical School (Constanta, Romania); 2001-2013: Visiting Associate Professor/Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Neurogenomics and Biometry at A. Einstein College of Medicine (Bronx, NY); 2013-2017: Associate Professor of Pathology and Systems Biology at New York Medical College (Valhalla, NY)

Selected Publications: Cellular Biophysics, Electrophysiology of the Cell Membrane, Ideas and Methods in the Physics of Living, Medical Biostatistics, Molecular Biophysics, Pharmacology of the Nervous System.

2023 PVAMU Research and Innovation Event

April 10th – 14th, Prairie View A&M University hosted their annual Research and Innovation week which featured work from our own Dr. Naznin Sultana and Emily Irikannu. They presented their current research developing a new Tissue Engineering system with a controlled mechanism of action to promote tissue regeneration and solve common rejection issues.



Emily Irikannu and Dr. Naznin Sultana represent the TUMA during PVAMU's Research and Innovation week. Also pictured: Mrs. Quyen Huynh.

[Click here to read more of Dr. Sultana's research](#)

Student Research with Dr. Sultana



Students Keeland Harville, Erin LaFleur, Kenton Moore, Katie Johnson, and Anisa Cole working in the UMA's Biosafety Level-2 lab.

Personal Statement Workshop



On Saturday, April 22nd, the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy hosted a Personal Statement Writing Workshop with Dr. Judianne Kellaway, Associate Dean of Admissions at the University of Texas, Long School of Medicine. Dr. Kellaway spoke about how to craft a

successful personal statement for medical school, as well as how to avoid some of the common mistakes made in application essays.

Practice MCAT/DAT



On April 15th, TUMA hosted the last practice MCAT/DAT exam of the Spring 2023

semester.

Crochet Club



Geri Jenkins and Jessica Henderson pose with donations to the Waller County Pregnancy Center



The Crochet Club made 50 baby hats during the Spring 2023 semester and donated them to the Waller County Pregnancy Center. The center representatives expressed their gratitude and their hope that, in the future, the Crochet Club will be able to donate twice a semester.



The Suture Lab came back this semester with a bang! Members learned and practiced real surgical suturing techniques using Medical Creation Suturing Kits.



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Community Emergency Response (CERT)



UMA Students Kiersten Atkinson, Anisa Cole, Jessica Henderson and Shantal Taylor complete their fire suppression training and earn their CERT certifications.

On March 8th, 2023, 4 UMA students visited the Prairie View Fire Station where they completed their Fire Suppression training, the last part of their Community Emergency Response training. Congratulations to Kiersten Atkinson, Anisa Cole, Jessica Henderson, and Shantal Taylor!

Upcoming Events

March, April Birthdays

MARCH

JUSTYCE REDEAU	3/7
SIAH GREEN	3/9
JORDAN SHAW	3/19
JADA MENDOZA	3/23
JACOB WILLIAMS	3/30

APRIL

ANISA COLE	4/9
AINSLEY JOHNSON	4/15
TAYLOR BREWER	4/22

MAY

ERYKA APPIAH-AMANING	5/13
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SUMMER

CALE WATKINS	6/7
GENESIS JAMES	6/11
SHANTAL TAYLOR	6/13
ANTHONY CURTIS	6/18
JANE AMBE	6/25
ZHARIA SPENCER	6/28
A'RI ARTIS	7/9
EDOM KIDANE	7/15
KAYLA LAWYER-FILOMENO	7/29
KATIE JOHNSON	7/31
TAVERLYN SHEPARD	7/31
DARUIS CALDWELL	8/4
MARIATA BA	8/10
CAROLINE GRANNUM	8/10

Upcoming Events

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FINAL EXAMS	5/3 – 5/10
COMMENCEMENT	5/13

Call for Volunteers!

THE TUMA WILL BE HOSTING ITS ANNUAL SUMMER COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM JUNE 27-30, AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR TUMA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH THE EVENT.

ANY UMA STUDENT WHO WILL BE ON CAMPUS DURING THE SUMMER AND IS INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE CONTACT MS. SABLATZKY, TNSABLATZKY@PVAMU.EDU

GOOD LUCK
in your
EXAMS
knock 'em out with your
GENIUS!