

NEWSLETTER

The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy



UMA Scholars Volunteer at the Spring Cypress Senior Center.

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Editor's Welcome

Hello, to all TUMA students and staff! I hope the semester has been going wonderfully for you all. Please enjoy as you read through the October edition of the UMA newsletter that we created for you. Highlighted are UMA alumni and new faces, student activities, and upcoming birthdays and events.

Enjoy!

-Kenton Moore, Historian

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Mr. & Miss UMA 2023



Mr & Miss UMA 2023: Keeland Harville & Jessica Henderson

Mr. & Miss UMA 2023: Keeland Harville & Jessica Henderson during their coronation at PVAMU's Homecoming.

Welcome to the UMA, Mr. Jeremy Kiesler!



Mr. Jeremy Kiesler is the new program coordinator for the UMA at Prairie View A&M University. Prior to joining the UMA, Mr. Kiesler taught biology and coached men's soccer at Spring Woods High School for 9 years. He taught high school Biology for one year in his home state of Indiana before moving to Houston in August of 2014. Mr. Kiesler holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology Education from Indiana University in Bloomington and is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Biological Sciences through Clemson University.

"During my decade of experience as a science educator, I have directed the biology department as a team lead, taught academic and Pre-AP biology courses as an extended impact teacher, mentored first-year and student teachers, piloted College Boards's Pre-AP Biology program, and served as an assistant men's soccer coach. Additionally, during my time as an undergraduate student at Indiana University, I tutored student-athletes and served as a teaching assistant for Molecular Biology. My success as an educator earned me the distinguished honor of being named Spring Woods High School's Teacher of the Year during the 2021-2022 school year."

"In my current role as Program Coordinator, I am excited to continue my journey in education and make a positive impact on the aspiring medical professionals in the Undergraduate Medical Academy. My passion for science education and dedication to student success drives me every day, and I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead!"

UMA Alumn Spotlight: Dr. Victor Taylor II



Dr. Victor Taylor II, a PVAMU and UMA alum, went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC). In June 2014, Dr. Taylor taught a postdoctoral program at Wake Forest University in North Carolina while researching meniscus generation. Dr. Taylor is currently an Assistant Professor at George Washington University in Washington D.C. where he teaches anatomy to undergraduate, medical, and physician assistant students. We conducted a Q&A with Dr. Taylor to get his reflections on his time with the UMA, and his current career path.

Dr. Victor Taylor II, PHD, UMA Alum

Q&A With Dr. Taylor

How did you decide on your chosen career path? Did you consider others prior? I was initially a master's student at UNTHSC and was considering going to medical school. I learned anatomy and decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science and Structural Anatomy after becoming fascinated with the human body.

What was the best or most helpful thing about being part of the UMA? The exposure to the healthcare field through providing an opportunity to participate in summer programs, along with collaborating and learning with other students that had similar goals.

What's one piece of advice you can give to current students in the process of applying to professional schools? Take advantage of everything the UMA has to offer. It will go a long way. Do not take summer breaks. Summer is the perfect time to build your resume to make you more competitive. Create an individual development plan. Develop a 1, 5, and 10-year plan for where you see your future goals. Gather information to know what you need to do to reach your goal. Have multiple plans and keep your options open. Be ready for what life throws at you. So many medical students change their career goals when they start. Put yourself in a good position in case you want to change directions from your initial plan.

UMA Research Lecture Series



The UMA's Research Lecture Series kicked off the fall semester with three lectures by the UMA's own, Dr. Dumitru Iacobas.

2023 Biology Symposium



Several UMA Scholars participated in PVAMU's 2023 Biology Symposium. Ms. Taverlyn Shepard, UMA Senior, placed second in the research poster competition. LEFT to RIGHT: Camryn Murray, Anisa Cole, Britany Chukwu, Ehiguese Obiomon, Shantal Taylor, Siah Green, Taylor Brewer, and Taverlyn Shepard.

Student Research



Jasper Scholars working with Dr. Sultana in the UMA's BSL-2 lab. LEFT to RIGHT: Kristen Ashley, Elizabeth Pena, Alexay Bullard, Caleb Owens, and Kailynn Weaver.

Library Lunch & Learns



Anisa Cole & Ms. Sablatzky during the second Lunch & Learn session.

The UMA offered two library lunch and learns during the fall semester. The final lunch and learn of the semester, “Understanding Gray/Gray Literature” will be held November 15, from 12-1PM. Students may sign-up in the UMA or by emailing Ms. Sablatzky.

Discover Medicine Conference at UTMB



UMA scholars visit UTMB to attend the Discover Medicine Conference.

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, 23 UMA Scholars, accompanied by Mr. Swisher and Mr. Kiesler, attended the "Discover Medicine" Conference at UTMB in Galveston, Texas. At the conference, UMA scholars experienced dynamic speaker presentations, admissions advice, a fun medical school lecture, Problem-Based Learning simulation, interactive workshops, giveaways, and networking opportunities. Inspired by this enriching experience, our UMA scholars are more motivated than ever to pursue their passion for medicine and make a meaningful impact in the field!

UMA Recruitment



Mr. Joel Swisher (UMA Admissions Counselor II) and Ms. Eryka Appiah-Amaning (UMA Student Body President) attended the Pre-Vet Club meeting on September 26, 2023. Twenty Pre-Vet students are interested in learning more about the Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy. Mr. Swisher also spoke with 30 interested students at the Women in STEM meeting on October 3, 2023.

Practice MCAT/DAT



UMA Scholars during the practice MCAT/DAT on October 7, 2023.

St. Jude Walk



Jacob Boyd (red), Keeland Harville (white), Erin Lafleur (black) and Kenton Moore (purple) at St. Jude Walk/Run

On Saturday, September 30th, four TUMA Scholars Jacob Boyd, Keeland Harville, Erin Lafleur, and Kenton Moore, volunteered at the St. Jude Walk/Run event in Houston, TX.

CERT



Top: LEFT to RIGHT: Amarys Royal, Paige Wilson, Alexis Richardson, Erin Renfro, Leila Powell, Dr. Brekke, Mikyah Blackshire, and Mr. Jeremy Kiesler.

UMA Scholars participating in Community Emergency Response Training had the opportunity to learn how to take a manual blood pressure, and practiced as splinting, bandaging, and using tourniquets.

Crochet Club



In
Spring
2023,
Crochet
Club
will
alternate
every
other
Friday
with
Suturing
Club!

UMA Scholars participating in Crochet Club.



UMA Scholars packing candy bags for Homecoming 2023.

Trunk or Treat Donations



UMA Scholars package candy donations for the Trunk or Treat event.

To prepare for the PV Fire Station Trunk or Treat, UMA Scholars came together to purchase candy and individually package them into festive candy bags for the kids.

Spring Cypress Senior Center



UMA Scholars visit the Spring Cypress Senior Center.

On Saturday 10/22/23, eleven UMA Scholars visited the residents at Spring Cypress Senior Living. UMA Scholars had a blast gathering to bring a few hours of fun to the residents of Spring Cypress Senior Living by bringing sweet festive Halloween cupcakes, playing a spooky game of bingo, and making edible monster dirt cups using Oreos, pudding, and Halloween sprinkles.

Upcoming Birthdays

Debra Davis	1-Oct
Mikaylah Blackshire	12-Oct
Geri Jenkins	12-Oct
Cyrai Young	22-Oct
Erin Jackson	25-Oct
Simone Lenoir	28-Oct
Kailynn Weaver	30-Oct

Upcoming Events

