

NEWSLETTER

The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy



The PREM Class of 2023-2024 Visits the DeBakey Cell Lab at the Houston Health Museum During Summer Orientation

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Editor's Welcome

Hello, to all TUMA students and staff! I hope you've all had a good start to the semester. I am happy to be your Historian for the 2023-2024 school year. Please enjoy the newsletter that we have created for you. Highlighted are student summer experiences, extracurriculars, and upcoming birthdays and events.

Enjoy!

-Kenton Moore, Historian

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TUMA Students' Summer Experiences



Britney Chukwu, TUMA Senior, poses in front of the Johns Hopkins University sign.

Britney Chukwu, a TUMA Senior, spent her summer interning at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she shadowed surgeons, planned and executed lab experiments, and participated in professional development and networking events. Her research contributions with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine will be published in the coming year.



LEFT: Anisa Cole, TUMA Sophomore, poses in front of Stanford University School of Medicine; RIGHT: Anisa Cole's Internship Spotlight from the Canary CREST program.

Anisa Cole, a TUMA Sophomore, participated in the Canary CREST research program at Stanford University School of Medicine. "My research topic was the optimization of a process in which cell aggregates are created with the force of electromagnets. The goal was to find a method and conditions to form a higher quantity of useful aggregates that could be used for drug testing/toxicity screening. During my summer, I also had the opportunity to become a visiting observer at the Stanford Emergency Department. I shadowed two doctors, one in the Pediatric Emergency room and another in the Adult Emergency room. This experience allowed me to have a better understanding of the profession and caused me to think more about the reasons why I want to become a doctor."



Keeland Harville, TUMA Sophomore, poses in front of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center sign.

Keeland Harville, a TUMA Sophomore, had the privilege to participate in the Pre-health Scholars program at UTHSC (Tennessee). “This was an amazing experience that exposed me to multiple aspects of healthcare. I was able to shadow multiple healthcare professionals and observe their daily routine. Overall, the program consisted of volunteering, shadowing, attending seminars, and researching public health. My biggest takeaways from this program were exceptional public health research, and a connection with my top choice of medical school.”



Areyana Stigler, TUMA Junior, poses with a mentor at the University of Texas Southwestern and presents her PCORI research project.

Areyana Stigler, a TUMA Junior, participated in a PCORI Grant project through the Healthcare Scholars Summer Internship at the University of Texas Southwestern. “The main objective of our project was to provide patient education regarding post-partum care and the crucial signs that indicate the need for immediate hospital intervention. I gained insights into the intricate process of creating informative patient education videos, and the extensive research required to ensure their effectiveness. Having the opportunity to witness the multifaceted nature of Obstetrics expanded my perspective; I learned about the vital contributions of doctors, nurses, sonographers, and many others! This was especially evident in cases involving high-risk situations, where comprehensive teamwork was essential to charting a patient's overall well-being. This internship provided me with an exceptionally valuable and enlightening experience. I had the chance to learn about obstetrics from various vantage points, spanning from uncomplicated cases to intricate scenarios. One crucial lesson I took away was the significance of ensuring patients' comprehension of their healthcare choices: an informed patient tends to experience greater peace of mind.”

Simone Lenoir, a TUMA Junior, was a project intern in the Dere Lab at Baylor College of Medicine. “The Dere Lab specializes in kidney cancer as well as which pathways cause it. I grew and treated my own human kidney cells and human embryonic kidney cells. I conducted my own research experiment, where my goal was to use a potential anti-cancer drug (also known as an inhibitor of a cancerous enzyme) and test which drug concentration would most effectively inhibit the cancerous enzyme Aurora Kinase A in order to treat cancer without any major Kidney cell death.”

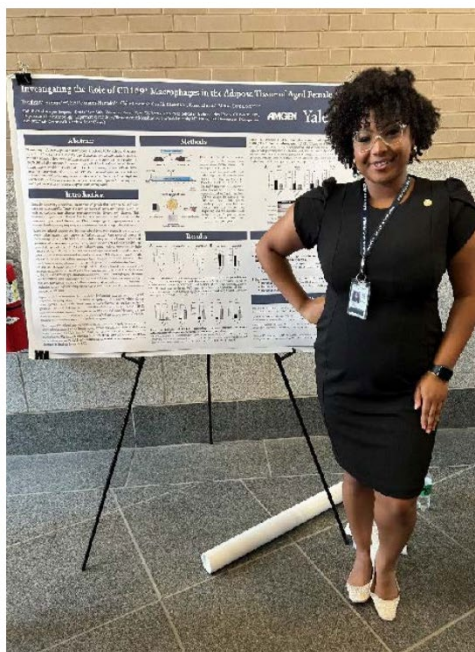


Simone Lenoir, TUMA Junior, during her internship at Baylor College of Medicine.



Erin Renfro, TUMA Junior and Vice-President, presents her research project and poses with a mentor at the University of Texas Southwestern.

Erin Renfro, TUMA Junior and Vice-President, took part in the Healthcare Scholars Internship Program University of Texas Southwestern. “Through this program, I partnered with the Department of Public Affairs, where our main focuses were community engagement and outreach. I was able to attend many events, including a middle school Career fair and the Dallas Mavericks GEM Girl's Summer Basketball Camp, with Public Affairs as a support for the UTSW staff presenting at the events. I was also able to work on projects such as the Science Cafe, which is an online web information series highlighting research in healthcare; I, with the help of a team member, created a social media proposal for promoting this series. After my internship, I was also able to shadow at a General Dentist's office for 2 weeks. I worked with Dr. Kera Collier at her private practice, Indigo Dentistry, and was able to observe and learn about various procedures such as applying fillings, replacing crowns and extracting teeth. I also learned more about what dental assistants and dental hygienists do, as well as what a good team of dental professionals can accomplish.”



Taverlyn Shepard, a TUMA Senior, took part in the BioMed Amgen Scholars Program at Yale University. “The program provided me with intensive research and didactic experience at Yale University! I collaborated on a research project, where I gained hands-on training in research techniques, data acquisition, and analysis. My research, studying age-related inflammation within adipose tissue of female age mice, is expected to be published in the coming year!”

Taverlyn Shepard, TUMA Senior, poses at Yale University SOM and presents her research project.

Eryka Appiah-Amaning, TUMA Junior and President, was a lab intern in the SMART program at the Baylor College of Medicine. “I had the opportunity to do research with baby pigs at the Children's Nutrition Research Center. Our goal was to find an effective way to increase protein synthesis in premature babies to improve their birth weight. I was also named a finalist in our elevator pitch competition!”



*TOP: Eryka Appiah-Amaning, TUMA Junior and President, poses in front of Baylor COM sign;
BOTTOM: Eryka's Elevator Pitch Certificate.*

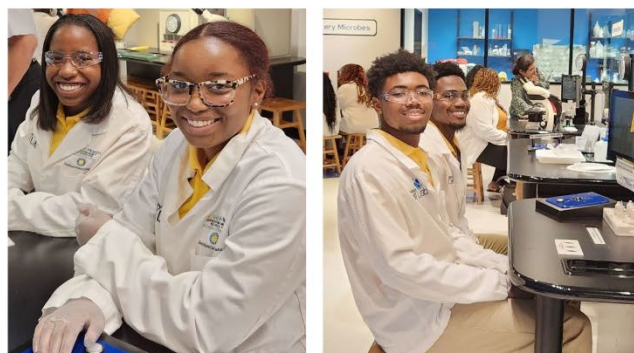


Trinity James, TUMA Junior, poses with other interns at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Trinity James, a TUMA Junior, participated in the Kadoorie Cardiovascular Internship at Houston Methodist Hospital. “I spent 10 weeks shadowing different specialties of Cardiology, including Transplant, Vascular Surgery, Thoracic Surgery and more! I am grateful to have had the chance to learn from very skilled and talented surgeons. The highlights from the program were learning knot-tying, scrubbing in on surgeries, and holding a human heart.”

PREM 2023

13 newly admitted TUMA scholars joined the faculty and staff at the Intercontinental Hotel in Houston, Texas, for the TUMA Pre-Matriculation Orientation (PREM) August 15-18, 2023. The students met several TUMA alumni and current students, learned about the TUMA from the faculty and staff, and participated in several group enrichment activities.



New TUMA Scholars visit the DeBakey Cell Lab at the Houston Health Museum during PREM 2023.



PREM Speakers left-to-right: Dr. Dennis Daniels, Kinza Rizwan, Aryonne Gibson, Kayla Marsh, Mrs. Quyen Huynh, Dr. Naznin Sultana, Ms. Kathleen Straker, and Mrs. Sherylle Fuller.

PREM Speakers left-to-right: Kayla Marsh, Aryonne Gibson, Dr. Dennis Daniels, Lance McCoy, Charles Anugwom, Gabrielle Broussard, Riya Rooney, Jada Washinton, Paige Wilson, and Taverlyn Shepard.

GET-PHIT Summer Bootcamp

In May 2023, TUMA faculty and students participated in PVAMU's first Summer Bootcamp on health informatics. The two-week experience offered a combination of lectures and hands-on exercises in the first week and collaborative research projects in the second week. Dr. Dennis E. Daniels gave a presentation on epidemiology, and Dr. Fontus and Dr. Sultana taught two courses on Public Health Informatics. Among 33 student participants, 24 students were from PVAMU and 10 from TUMA. In the group project presentations, Mariata Ba and Kendel Thomas' team were awarded first place and Keeland Harville's team was awarded second place.

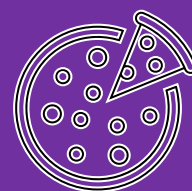


LEFT: Dr. Fontus and Dr. Sultana pose with other presenters at the GET-PHIT Bootcamp. RIGHT: TUMA Students Keeland Harville, Kendel Thomas, and Mariata Ba and their teams pose with their certificates.

Sign-up for Library Research Lunch-&-Learn Sessions

Thursday October 5th 12-1PM: Developing Research Questions & Search Strategies

- How to construct a good research question.
- Why search strategies are important.
- How to create a search strategy.



Tuesday October 24th 12-1PM: Navigating Databases

- What are Database & Journals?
- How do databases work?
- Choosing the Right Databases/Journals for your research.



Wednesday November 15th 12-1PM: Understanding Grey/Gray Literature

- What grey/gray literature is and when to use it.
- How to find grey/gray literature.

Lunch will be provided. Sign-up is limited to 10 students per session, first come first serve.
Sign-up in the TUMA or by emailing Ms. Sablatzky, tnsablatzky@pvamu.edu.

Crochet & Suturing Club

The TUMA Crochet & Suturing Club held their first meeting of the semester on September 8th, 2023. The Club will continue every Friday throughout the Fall semester. For 2023-2024 academic year, Jessica Henderson will serve as the Club President and Kenton Moore as the Club Vice-President.



TUMA Students practicing their crocheting during the first Crochet & Suturing Club meeting.



TUMA Students practicing their crocheting during the first Crochet & Suturing Club meeting.

Medical School Visit

Twenty-six TUMA scholars traveled to Conroe, Texas, to visit and tour Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine on 09/21/2023.



TUMA students visit Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.



TUMA students visit Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Upcoming Birthdays

Kiersten Atkinson	Sept. 3
Ms. Tenley Sablatzky	Sept. 12
Louisa Idah-Oze	Sept. 23
Sana Ali	Sept. 24
Dr. Naznin Sultana	Sept. 26
Mrs. Quyen Huynh	Sept. 26
Keeland Harville	Sept. 27

Upcoming Events

