

# The Undergraduate Medical Academy

## April 2021 Newsletter

ISSUE 6 | VOLUME 2 | SAHAR FATTANI

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*“The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.” –Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### Announcements!

I hope we all did well on our midterms. We are almost done with Zoom university; only about six weeks left. We got this!! Congratulations to the Jasper Scholars and sophomores and juniors who have been coated.

“Be fearless. Have the courage to take risks. Go where there are no guarantees. Get out of your comfort zone even if it means being uncomfortable. The road less traveled is sometimes fraught with barricades, bumps, and uncharted terrain. But it is on that road where your character is truly tested And have the courage to accept that you’re not perfect: nothing is and no one is – and that’s OK.” – Katie Couric

# VOCAB PRACTICE!

## OB-STREP-ER-OUS

**ORIGIN:** Late 16th century Latin. From the words "ob" meaning "against" and the Latin word "strepere" meaning "make a noise"

**DEF:** Noisy and difficult to control

**Enzyme Inhibitors** are molecules that interact with enzymes (temporary or permanent) in some way and reduce the rate of an enzyme-catalyzed reaction or prevent enzymes to work in a normal manner.

**QUESTION:** Can you name the 3 important types of inhibitors?

## UMA 2020 White Coat Ceremony

The UMA 2020 White Coat Ceremony was on Friday, March 26, 2021, from 2pm-4pm, in the E. E. O'Banion Building (New Science), Room A101. All safety guidelines of the CDC's and the University were followed. Masks were worn throughout the ceremony (except for individual pictures). Each student was coated by Dr. Daniels and Jasper Scholars were recognized. The recording can be accessed here: <https://fb.me/e/25Ssh9DFd>



## Happy Birthdays!

April 21<sup>st</sup>:  
Aryonne Gibson



April 22<sup>nd</sup>:  
Melanie Hollis

## Upcoming Events:

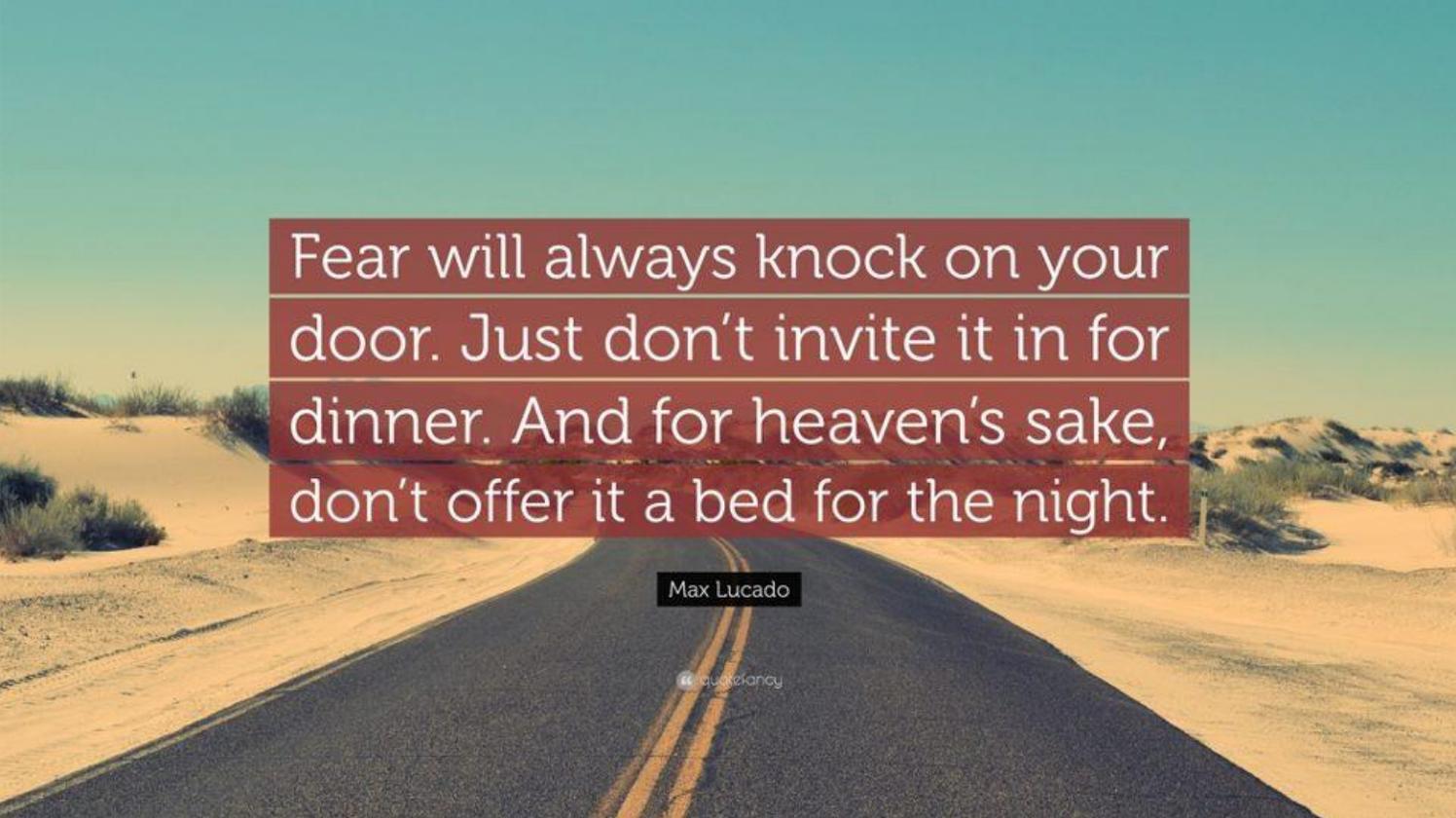
April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Good Friday (No classes)

April 7<sup>th</sup>: Medical School Visit--UTHSC-Houston College of Dentistry

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Registration begins for Summer/Fall 2021 AND Drs. Devin and Ashleigh Yates (pharmacist and optometrist) Mini Ground

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Judianne Kellaway —Virtual Personal Statement Writing Workshop

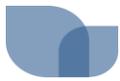
April 20<sup>th</sup>: Mini Grand Round-Dr. Maxwell Senchery (Anesthesiologist)

A photograph of a paved road with double yellow lines stretching into the distance through a desert landscape with sand dunes and sparse vegetation under a clear blue sky.

Fear will always knock on your door. Just don't invite it in for dinner. And for heaven's sake, don't offer it a bed for the night.

Max Lucado

quoteancy



# UMA Student Spotlight

## Francesca Anderson

Biology Major  
Chemistry Minor  
Graduating Senior

During my time at PVAMU, I have had the opportunity to achieve many accomplishments. I joined student-led organizations such as the Pre-dental club, Minority Association for Pre-health Students, and Sisters Improving Sisterhood. I was blessed to be a Jasper scholar in the UMA and maintained consistent status on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. One of my favorite memories was having the opportunity to be a camp counselor for the UMA summer camp. I was able to mentor and bond with students who were interested in health professional careers. After graduation, I will be attending the Post-baccalaureate program at the Texas A&M College of Dentistry; upon completion, I will automatically enter dental school there in the Fall of 2022.

PV and the UMA have impacted me tremendously. Throughout my time here, I have learned a lot about myself and have grown both intellectually and spiritually. The tutoring and advice given by the UMA played a huge role in where I am today. The constant encouragement and support is something that I will always love about the staff. Take advantage of the tutoring services as well as building relationships with the staff! The UMA is here to help you reach your goal of getting into a professional school, and will do whatever it takes to see you fulfill your dreams.



## Morgan Green

Agriculture (Concentration in Animal and Food Science)  
Agriculture with a concentration in Animal and Food Science  
Senior

My time at PVAMU has provided me with countless memorable accomplishments, service experiences, academic opportunities, and much more. One major accomplishment I am most proud of is becoming a Gilman Scholar. Studying abroad was something I have wanted to do since I started college, and with the Gilman Scholarship, I was able to see this opportunity through and travel abroad. One of the many major accomplishments I have achieved during my undergraduate years is becoming a Gilman Scholar.

Upon graduating, I will be applying for a full-time research position with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, where I will work on-site assisting a principal investigator. This will be an extension of my current research training position, which has been entirely online since I began in June of 2020. After gaining hands-on experience for one year, I plan to attend vet school and earn my DVM.

Entering PVAMU as a freshman, I had little knowledge of what a college experience was supposed to be. I realized that opportunities are dependent on the individual. After being accepted into the UMA, I learned how to make the most out of my college years to best prepare me for a future career as a veterinarian. I was surrounded by mentors who wanted nothing but the best for me and my future, and like-minded peers who held me accountable and kept me focused on succeeding in my academics, taking advantage of opportunities, and making the most out of my time as an undergraduate. Prairie View impacted me in a way that I know other universities would not have been able to do. I feel a level of comfort and am able to flourish as a student of color. I treasure this feeling of closeness with the university and the UMA.

Advice I would give to others is that college is truly what you make of it. You will see your goals and dreams come to fruition if that is where you apply yourself. After getting accepted into the UMA, I realized that it would take more than good grades to get me where I wanted to be. With the resources that are made available to all students, I realized that everyone wants students to succeed, and where there is a will, there is a way.



## UMA Alumni Corner

Dr. Jaron Swift graduated from Prairie View A&M University in 2008 with a Bachelor's in Biomedical Chemistry and Physics. During his undergrad years, Dr. Swift had innumerable research experiences. He received three NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Awards on separate occasions from 2006-2008. Not only was he awarded the PVAMU Undergraduate Medical Academy Scholarship, but he also received departmental scholarships such as the PVAMU Dept. of Physics Scholarship and the PVAMU William E. Reid Chemistry Scholarship.



After graduation, Dr. Swift was awarded a Graduate Research Assistantship at the University of South Florida, where he conducted experimental research related to the palmitoylation of the Ras protein. This protein is important in the field of cancer research, and pertains to cellular growth, survival, and differentiation. He had the opportunity to co-author an abstract entitled, "A Family of Bioactive Lipids Inhibits the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Erf2/4 Palmitoyl Acyl Transferase (PAT)." He went on to receive a Ph.D. in physical chemistry at Michigan State University, where he conducted theoretical quantum theory research that focused on the age of White Dwarf stars.

Dr. Swift earned his doctorate in Osteopathy Medicine at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a General Surgery Specialist in Southfield, MI, and board-certified in pain management by the Academy of Procedural Medicine Board (AAOPM) with training in interventional procedures. Dr. Jaron Swift, DO, works at a private practice, providing diagnosis and management for chronic pain patients suffering from a diverse range of conditions.

**Become so confident  
in who you are that no one's  
opinion, rejection, or behavior  
can rock you.**