

NEWSLETTER

Est. 2004 Prairie View A&M University



Mission Statement

The Texas Undergraduate Medical Academy’s mission is consistent with the overall mission of Prairie View A&M University and the Texas A&M University System. The UMA is dedicated to teaching, research, service, and professional development excellence. The UMA integrates leadership development, pre-medical science education, and compassion for the community.

Historian’s Message

UMA Family,

It is a privilege, as Historian, to share this latest issue of the UMA newsletter.

Each page captures the dedication, resilience, and passion that define the UMA community as we continue our journey towards professional school. From impactful events to memorable moments, this issue reflects the spirit and excellence that each of you brings to the organization.

Thank you for being a part of what makes the UMA so special. Here’s to building on our momentum and continuing to grow together this semester!

~Jamia Boutte

In This Issue

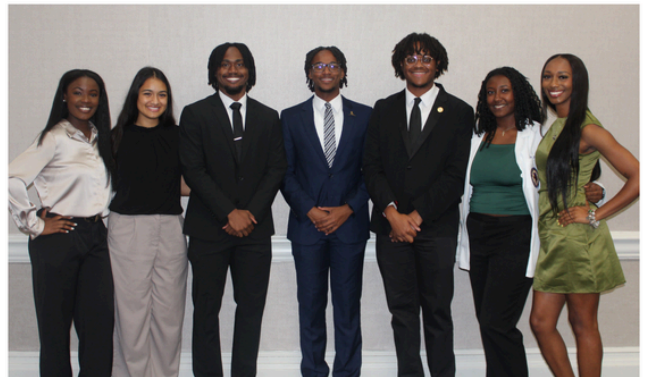
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Whitecoat 2025-2026



The UMA proudly inducted its newest class during the 2025 White Coat Ceremony on November 1, 2025, marking the beginning of their journey into medicine and their commitment to excellence, service, and leadership. Dr. Dennis E. Daniels designated the 2025-2026 UMA Scholars as the Sardis Class in reference to the Sardis gemstone. Sardis is a rare and highly valued gemstone that often symbolizes courage, protection, and victory.

LEFT to RIGHT: The Sardis Class of 2025-2026, the 2025-2026 Jasper Scholars, Women of the UMA, the 2024-2025 Jasper Scholars, the Men of the UMA, and the 2025-2026 UMA E-Board.





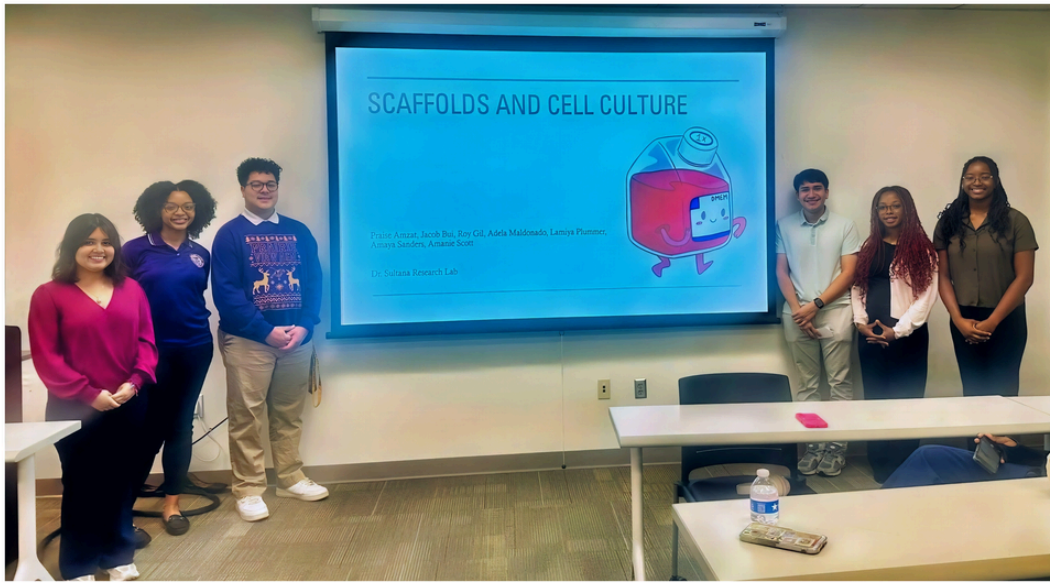
The UMA faculty, staff, students, and guests enjoy the 2025-2026 White Coat Ceremony on November 1, 2025.

Medical School Visits



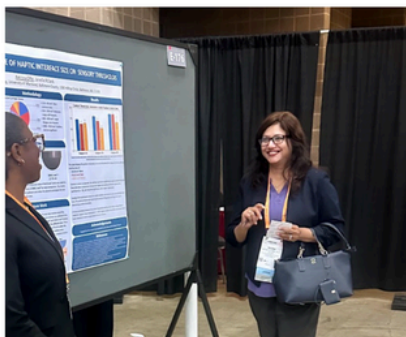
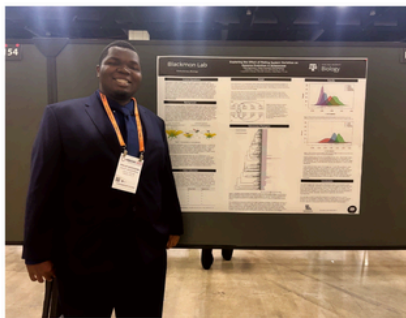
UMA scholars explored future opportunities through visits to UT Health and Texas A&M, gaining insight into medical education, campus life, and pathways to success in healthcare.

Research Activities



UMA scholars showcased outstanding teamwork and innovation during a recent group presentation. Dr. Sultana shared that the Jasper scholars and senior researchers delivered their findings professionally, highlighting the strength of collaborative research within the UMA.

Dr. Sultana represented UMA at ABRCMS 2025 as a Judge Travel Award recipient, mentoring and evaluating student research across disciplines. From reviewing abstracts and e-posters to judging over 20 presentations, her impact helped uplift the next generation of scientists while promoting diversity in biomedical research.

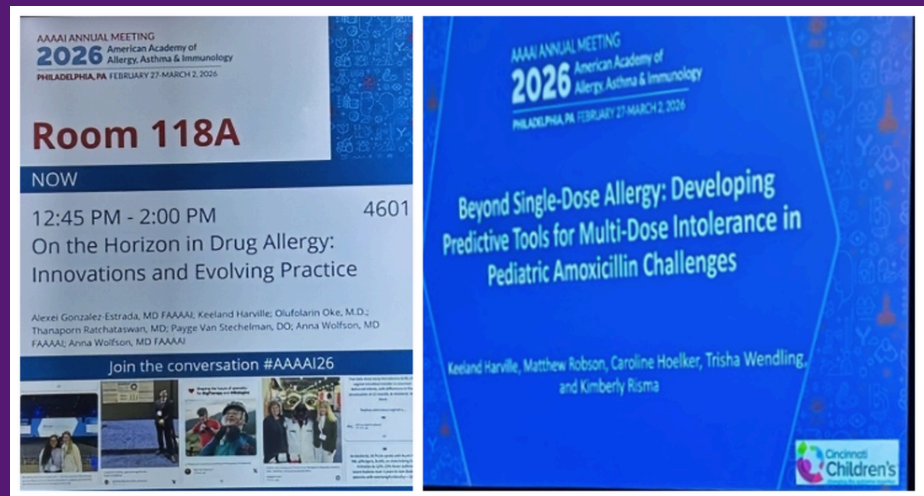


UMA sophomore Philip Ugochukwu presented his research on chromosome evolution within Solanaceae at ABRCMS. Reflecting on the experience, he shared that the conference exposed him to numerous graduate and medical programs and offered insight into navigating STEM as a minority. He looks forward to returning next year! Kaileen Weaver also represented UMA at ABRCMS, contributing to the UMA's strong presence in research and academic excellence.

Student Research Spotlight



The UMA's own Keeland Harville, UMA Senior & 2025-2026 President, recently had the opportunity to present his research at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's Annual Conference from February 27th through March 2nd, 2026. His presentation highlighted the research he conducted over the past two summers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.



AAAAI ANNUAL MEETING
2026 American Academy of
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
PHILADELPHIA, PA FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 2, 2026

Advancing Precision Medicine from Discovery to Patient Care

"I am excited to share my experience at The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's Annual Conference. I was privileged to give an oral presentation on the novel findings regarding Penicillin multidose intolerance. Over my two summers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, I contributed to three abstracts accepted for this convention. As a primary author, I was the only undergraduate student to attend and give an oral presentation at this medical conference. This conference was helpful as I gained insight into advances in clinical practice, groundbreaking research discoveries, and timely mentorship for medical school. As a result of my attendance, I am excited to continue to contribute to scientific discovery and clinical practice as I study medicine."

~ Keeland Harville, UMA Senior & 2025-2026 President

Alumni Visits



Over the last several months, the UMA welcomed back several distinguished alumni who continue to impact the healthcare and education fields. LEFT-to-RIGHT: Troy Robertson (UMA Opal Class of 2017), Lorenzo Jackson Jr. (UMA Gold Class of 2005), Melena Celestin (UMA Opal Class of 2017), Jaylin Lewis (UMA Endurance Class of 2020), Dr. Yarytza Rivera, DVM (UMA Beryl Class of 2012), and Dr. Corey Shy, MD (UMA Iron Class of 2010).

Bikes & Trikes Donations



Spreading joy this holiday season, UMA members participated in the Bikes & Trikes event, donating bicycles to children in the community and making the season brighter for families in need.

Pre-Health Sciences Conference



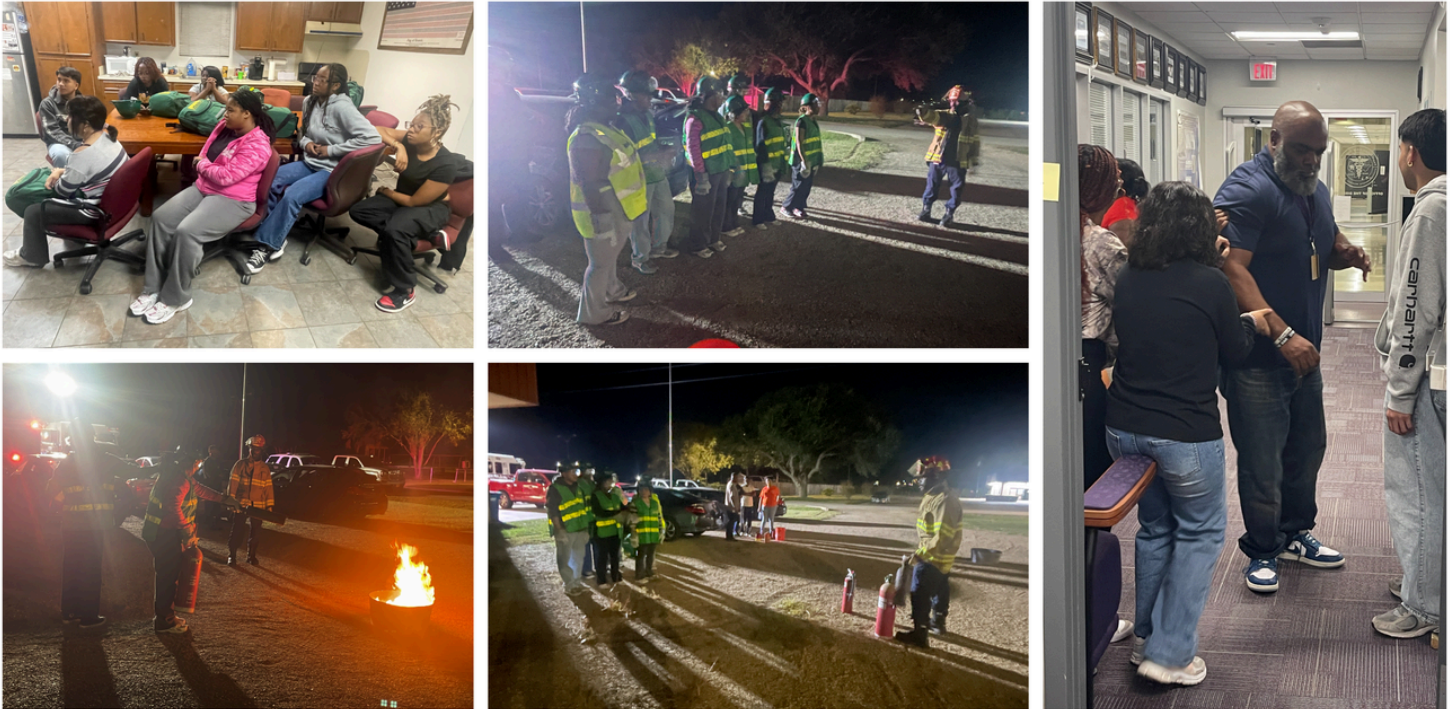
On February 28, 2026, the UMA hosted its annual Pre-Health Sciences Conference for high school students to learn about professional opportunities in health and medicine. The UMA was joined by Dr. Juan Bustamante from Texas A&M College of Pharmacy, Mrs. Vernie Daniels, RPh from the NASA-Johnson Space Science Center, and UMA Alumni, Dr. Alexandria Talley, DDS (UMA Class of 2013).

Senior Day on the Hill & Pantherland



The UMA participated in two recent campus recruitment events. During the Fall semester, on October 8, 2025, Mr. Joel Swisher and Jazmin Bolden, represented the UMA during Senior Day on the Hill. During the Spring 2026 semester, on February 21, 2026, UMA Scholars, Mr. Jeremy Kiesler, and Mr. Swisher promoted the UMA during the PVAMU Pantherland activities.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



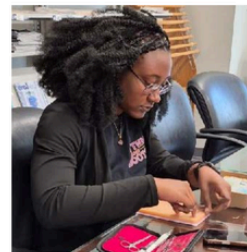
Seven UMA Scholars—Praise Amzat, Roy Gil, Adela Maldonado, LaMiya Plummer, Amaya Sanders, and Jaycie Youngblood—completed their CERT certification, First Aid/CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and Wildlife First Aid Response certifications.



Nine UMA Scholars—Kristen Ashley, McKinzie Butler, Shelby Davis, Kaci Harris, Alesha Maxwell, Chelsea Mensah, Elizabeth Peña, Amanie Scott, and Cyrai Young—learned life-saving skills during the Spring 2026 semester during their First Aid/CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and CERT training.

Crochet & Suturing Club

On November 18, 2025, the UMA Crochet & Suturing Club donated 64 handmade baby hats to the Waller County Pregnancy Center.



During the Spring 2026 semester, the UMA Crochet & Suturing Club practiced their suturing skills in an activity led by the Crochet & Suturing Club President, Kenton Moore.

Practice MCAT/DAT Exam



Students took a major step in their professional journeys by participating in a full-length MCAT/DAT practice exam, building confidence, and preparing for the challenges of standardized medical and dental school entrance exams.



The UMA faculty and staff came together to celebrate the season, recognizing a semester of hard work, mentorship, and continued dedication to student success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

02 — Mini Grand Round with Thomas F. Frist, Jr., College of Medicine at Belmont University

06 — College of Medicine Day with the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center

9-10 — Professional School Visits - University of the Incarnate Word (Medical) and UT Health San Antonio (Medical & Dental)

14 — Final Day to Withdraw from Course(s) with an Academic Record ("W")

18 — Practice MCAT/DAT Exam

27 — Community Service Hours Due

28 — Last Class Day

30 — Final Exams

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

~ Malcolm X

May

01-05 — Final Exams

9 — Commencement