CSTEP STUDENT RECOGNITION DINNER

Recognizing our 2016 Graduates, Students of the Year, Research Interns, Service Learning Cohort, Ambassadors, & Faculty Mentors

Friday, May 6th at 4:00PM
Harriman Hall, UB South Campus
Buffalo, NY
THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Arthur O. Eve
Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

Congratulates the
CSTEP Graduating Class of
2016!

“Celebrating Communities of Excellence: Humanity, Justice, Environment, Innovation, and Health”

Cora P. Maloney College
Educational Opportunity Program
University at Buffalo
208 Norton Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260
716-645-3072 (office)
716-645-3075 (fax)
www.eop.buffalo.edu
PROGRAM ORDER
“TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS EXPECTED”

WELCOME
Shanna Crump-Owens
Director, Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)

OPENING REMARKS
Dr. Andrew M. Stott
Dean of Undergraduate Education

MOMENT OF SILENCE

BUFFET DINNER

SLIDE SHOW

STUDENT SPEAKERS
Shawn Gibson
Akunne Kanu
Muhammad Khan
Jacob Milling

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:

CSTEP AMBASSADORS/COMMUNITY SERVICE

CAMPUS HEALTH EDUCATOR (CHE) - SERVICE LEARNING/Unyts

RESEARCH INTERNS AND MENTORS

STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Oluwatosin Oniyide

GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
Shawn Gibson
Jacob Milling
Timothy Semon

CSTEP EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016

CLOSING REMARKS
Shanna Crump-Owens
Director, Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
CSTEP STAFF
2015-2016

DIRECTOR
Shanna Crump-Owens

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Patricia “Tia” Greer

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS
Ruth Cadet (Spring)
  Michael Marrero (Spring)
  Khadijat Olagoke
  Anaiss Rijo
  Nelson Rivera

STUDENT ASSISTANTS
Dominique Hickson (Fall)
  Edwin Kankam
  Folake Olaleye

CSTEP SCHOLAR PLEDGE
We connect the vision embedded in the Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program to a world in transition. We commit to be a learning community, dedicated to empowering and transforming our lives and the lives of others. This vision provides the motivation and energy for bringing about a world that welcomes commonalities and appreciates the wealth of diversity found among the difference cultures in our community. Using our collective knowledge and experience as future STEM or licensed professionals, we seek to advance social justice and protect human rights by valuing and nurturing the expansion of learning, intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, and community service.
DIRECTORS’ MESSAGE

Congratulations to our Class of 2016, Research Interns, Campus Health Educators (CHE), CSTEP Ambassadors, CSTEP Excellence Scholar Recipients, Research Mentors, and Student Awardees. This event recognizes your accomplishments and contributions to the community, both on and off campus. It also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our role of supporting and preparing talented underrepresented students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as well as the licensed professions. In 1987, the New York State Legislature created the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) to address the status of underrepresented New York State students in the licensed professions and STEM careers. Since then, grant funding for CSTEP has been incorporated into the annual budget of the State Education Department.

CSTEP fosters a sense of community and achievement by supporting the holistic development of well rounded individuals for professional careers, graduate education, community engagement, and lifelong achievement. Each year, CSTEP students participate in paid research internships, graduate school preparation, service learning, community service, tutoring, and targeted programming as central program activities.

CSTEP is a vital asset at the University of Buffalo to meet the challenges of supporting, encouraging, and preparing underrepresented students in STEM fields and the licensed professions. Our alumni are making major contributions in their communities; practicing in the licensed professions of medicine, engineering, dentistry, social work, accountancy, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, law and nursing.

A culture of excellence must permeate all of our actions. To the class of 2016, I challenge you to pass the torch and encourage others – particularly those still in the pipeline to follow your steps by sharing your experiences, resources, talents, and skills. Your experiences contribute immensely to our collective pursuit of increasing professionals in STEM and the licensed professions, if we can capture your successes.

Our staff is proud of your achievements. We look back with pride at our efforts to support and encourage over 2,400 students at the University at Buffalo to complete their undergraduate studies, pursue graduate studies and obtain professional licensure. Our successes are remarkable when the large scope of our program and small size of our staff is considered. We serve students who are pursuing STEM, as well as the 47 professions licensed by the State of New York. Our program serves 421 students and our graduating class of 2016 consists of 125 candidates for graduation. Your accomplishments help illuminate the necessity of CSTEP.

During the past 29 years, CSTEP has made major strides, and there is still much work to be done. We realize our student and program success could not take place without the collective collaborations with numerous individuals – particularly our faculty research mentors, and staff in the University at Buffalo community, campus collaborators and community partner, Unyts. We are thankful for your support.

We remind you of our theme of “To whom much is given, much is expected.” Recognize that you have a great responsibility to give back, to lead with your resources education, time, and talents. Find your niche to serve and give back. Please keep in touch.

SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS
CSTEP Director

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Arthur O. Eve (Democrat-Buffalo) was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1966. During his first term in 1967, Assemblyman Eve spearheaded an effort that led to an initial $500,000 in funding to establish the SEEK/Educational Opportunity Program within the State University of New York System.

With regard to education, Deputy Speaker Eve initiated legislative projects which are designed to assist economically disadvantaged minority students reach their educational objectives. Included in these programs are the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), the Regents Professional Opportunity Scholarships and Health care Professional Opportunity Scholarships.

In 1986, he sponsored statewide hearings to focus attention on the minority dropout rate, which resulted in the commissioning of the report, Dropping Out of School in New York State: The Invisible People of Color, which was prepared by the African American Institute. This was the first time that African-American, Latino, Native-American and Asian educators, as well as, community leaders came together to offer an analysis and solutions to this problem.

During his career of public service, many believe that Deputy Speaker Eve has done more to initiate opportunities for minorities and the economically disadvantaged in the field of educational opportunity, undergraduate and graduate education, medical degrees, and care than any other state legislator in the nation.

Deputy Speaker Eve is a graduate of West Virginia State University; a life member of the NAACP; founder and former Chairman of the Board of the Northern Region Black Political Caucus whose purpose is to promote political education and participation in the African-American community; and former Chairman of the New York State Chapter of the National Rainbow Coalition. He is the recipient of numerous awards and citations from an array of local, state and national organizations.

Mr. Eve is now retired and lives in Buffalo, New York with his wife, the former Constance Bowles. They have five children: Arthur Jr., “CHAMP”, father of six children; Leccia, Eric, and the twins: Malcolm and Martin.
SERVING STUDENTS TOGETHER
NEW YORK STATE AND CSTEP

A PROUD STATEWIDE HISTORY

For the last 29 years, the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) has been at the forefront of efforts to help underrepresented students succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields and the licensed professions. CSTEP was established as a legislative response to recommendations in an Action Paper commissioned by the New York State Board of Regents in 1986. This paper addressed the problem of the lack of diversity in the STEM workforce and revealed the severe consequences underrepresentation of minority groups in STEM fields and licensed professions at the state and national levels.

CSTEP demonstrates New York State’s commitment to the elimination of barriers which impede educational development and access to STEM careers and the licensed professions for underrepresented students. The program provides academic enrichment activities ranging from individual and small group tutoring via the Academic Resource Center (ARC) Tutorial Lab to paid internship and research experiences, graduate school preparation, mentoring, workshops, and scholarships for standardized exam preparation as well as cultural and social events. Statewide, CSTEP has had over 21,000 students graduate from the program with approximately 6,000 students served each year and has grown from 23 to 46 programs.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROFESSION

To help students obtain information about STEM careers and the licensed professions, a variety of activities take place within CSTEP to provide mentoring and shadowing activities for students. There are also opportunities placing students into research labs with faculty research mentors to provide them with hands-on experiences. Professionals, faculty and CSTEP alumni facilitate workshops, become mentors, and often act as the introductory means of professional networking for students by hosting field trips to corporate and research sites. By providing advisement, workshops, and seminars, CSTEP exposes students to the tools necessary for success both inside and outside of the academic environment.

PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

CSTEP has shown an ability to grow and evolve for 29 years by putting the needs of students first. CSTEP has learned to survive, thrive, and evolve through times of fiscal crisis. Since the program is dependent on yearly state funding, students and staff learned how to advocate for the programs in times of fiscal crises and has grown through both periods of prosperity and recession. In February, students from CSTEP statewide successfully advocated against the proposed state budget cuts that would have reduced funding to the existing 46 CSTEP Programs. During the past decade the UB CSTEP Program has tripled in size and increased the scope of the program to include summer research and service learning components. As a result, additional funding was awarded based on the positive accomplishments of the programs.

As a flexible, dynamic and innovative program, it is necessary for CSTEP to build strong collaborations with other federal, state and campus programs. Plans are being developed to strengthen existing relationships with the McNair Program, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), SUNY Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (SUNY AMP), and the Science Technology Enrichment Program (STEP). With a strong base of support from students, professionals, host campuses and alumni, CSTEP can continue to flourish by focusing on replenishing one of New York State’s most precious resources: our future professionals.
MENTORING

CSTEP Programs view mentoring in the broadest context; using relationships among students and with faculty and staff to provide comprehensive services to students that build their skills, improve their performance and lead to individual and program success. Programs are given the opportunity to implement components in the ways that suit campus needs and use resources most effectively. As a result of statewide and regional meetings, research conferences and a professional organization, there are rich opportunities to share successes and look at barriers. Therefore, programs are constantly changing and improving.

Mentoring activities are important to building a sense of community. Mentors provide positive role models, and equip students with research skills, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. Mentoring relationships are critical precursors to graduate study, and encouraging student persistence in rigorous STEM majors.

To help students attain realistic information about STEM careers and the licensed professions, a variety of activities take place that provide career mentoring. Also, the CSTEP Advisory Board has established job shadowing activities for pipeline students.

PEER MENTORING

CSTEP Programs recognize the power and effectiveness of students receiving services from students like themselves who are with them or ahead of them in the career pipeline. Therefore, opportunities have been built into the programs for peer mentoring experiences. Relationships between students CSTEP are key to program success and peer mentoring relationships are fostered via informal get-togethers where students can get advice and support. CSTEP works closely with professional organizations such as National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) to provide leadership training and cosponsor conferences attended by CSTEP students.

GRADUATE TO UNDERGRADUATE INTERACTION

The interaction between graduate and undergraduate students has increased due to a stronger emphasis on graduate education within the CSTEP Program. Graduate students serve as research lab mentors, and provide workshops regarding the graduate school application process and research skills. Graduate students are also presenting colloquia about their research to the undergraduate students. For 10 years, CSTEP hosted a Statewide Minority Graduate School Awareness Conference. The statewide conference theme was “Beyond the Bachelor’s Degree”. The conference hosted 300 students from over 25 colleges and 55 Graduate representatives from colleges and universities in the Northeast. This conference was co-sponsored by 2 NSF programs, SUNY LSAMP and SUNY AGEP, and other CADS Programs.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CSTEP staff continually looks for ways to improve the program and see professional development as critical to program success. Together, NYS and CSTEP have formed a strong professional organization, the Association of Program Administrators of CSTEP and STEP (APACS), which plays a pivotal role in program advocacy efforts and professional development. APACS works with NYSED personnel to sponsors meetings and trainings for staff during the CSTEP Student Research Conference.

Programs are grouped into 10 geographic regions that also provide training and advocacy functions. The CSTEP Technology Conference takes place to bring program professionals up to date on technological trends. Other key conferences for professional development include the Pre-Professional Career Conference which brings the latest information on the status of underrepresented students in STEM disciplines and the Best Practices Conference which provides CSTEP professionals with the platform to share new developments, ideas, and information.

RESEARCH & INTERNSHIPS

The integration of research and coursework has become increasingly important as research experiences have been shown to increase student success, help students choose a STEM or licensed profession, and aid in decisions to attend to graduate school. Since 1993, the program has sponsored a Statewide Student Research Conference for formal presentations of student research which features a research poster competition.

For the past 9 years, CSTEP has hosted a Summer Research Program. The summer component is an intensive 8.5-week program to enhance the competitiveness of talented students pursuing the allied health professions and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The program strengthens participants’ research skills and exposes them to the rigors of graduate study. Students are matched with faculty to conduct research. In addition to research, students participate in a research methods seminar, workshops, community service, and fieldtrips. The capstone of the summer program is the Annual Research Symposium in which interns present their research to their peers and the University community.

LONG TERM SIGNIFICANCE

In the 29 years of the CSTEP, there have been significant accomplishments made by students and the program. Measurable accomplishments, both qualitative and quantitative, have occurred in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOMPLISHMENT</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Serve underrepresented students in STEM and the licensed professions</td>
<td>Program enrollment by ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Increased academic performance</td>
<td>Grade point averages</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. STEM coursework</td>
<td>Undergraduate STEM majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Enhanced pathways to next level of study</td>
<td>GRE preparation, enrollment in graduate and professional school</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Integration of research and education</td>
<td>Research and internship placements, presentations at research conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Career information</td>
<td>Internships, shadowing activities and mentoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Institutional change</td>
<td>Increase in recruitment</td>
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CSTEP offers valuable tools - advisement, tutoring, paid research internships, scholarships, specialized courses and travel to conferences and workshops, which empower students to become successful in their chosen profession. Our alumni have made major contributions in both their careers and communities. Many of these same graduates report that CSTEP played a key role in helping to develop the confidence and skills necessary to navigate through their college years and into the profession of their dreams.

UB CSTEP offers the following programs and services for our students:

*Paid Research Internships*

CSTEP funds students to get the experience they need to succeed. The CSTEP Research Internship Program provides an opportunity for students to gain career and hands-on research experiences in their chosen field of study. Students complete research relevant to their career interests, which helps them make informed career and graduate school choices. Our interns work with faculty and other off-campus research mentors.

*Tutoring*

CSTEP students have access to the CPMC Academic Resource Center (ARC) Tutorial Lab which offers tutoring in courses identified as consistent challenges for students, including anatomy, biology, calculus, chemistry, pharmacology, physiology, physics, and engineering.

*Funding Opportunities for Conferences*

CSTEP covers travel expenses for selected academic, career, and graduate school conferences and enrichment programs. These opportunities boost students’ leadership skills, while building their resumes.

*Scholarships for Graduate School Preparation*

CSTEP awards scholarships to students for Kaplan Review Courses, which provide preparation for standardized graduate entrance exams, including the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, and PCAT exams.

*Summer Research Internship Program*

The CSTEP Summer Research Fellowship Program is an 8.5-week program designed to enhance the competitiveness of underrepresented students pursuing the allied health and STEM professions. In addition to their research experience, students participate in a research methods course, seminars, and fieldtrips. At the end of the program, students present their research to peers and faculty at the CSTEP Research Symposium & Luncheon.

*Student of Excellence Scholarship*

Awarded to one active CSTEP continuing student and one graduating senior attending graduate school at UB. The CSTEP Student of Excellence Scholarship is given to those who exemplify academic distinction by demonstrating a commitment towards scholarly excellence and community service. This competitive scholarship is supported by donations given by alumni, staff, and generous supporters of the CSTEP program.
Graduate School Fee Waiver

CSTEP students can have their graduate school application fee waived when applying to select graduate school programs. This gives each of our students the confidence to apply to multiple graduate schools, greatly reducing the cost of applying. In addition, fee waivers play a vital role by increasing the diversity and competitiveness of applicant pools to STEM and graduate programs leading to the licensed professions.

Support from the CSTEP Network of Staff, Students, and Alumni

We offer academic, career, and personal counseling to assist students in overcoming difficult situations, finding solutions, and establishing their priorities. The CSTEP newsletter, website, and Student Recognition Dinner recognize the achievements of our students and help build the camaraderie that our students have come to rely on.

Monthly Events, Workshops, and Enrichment Activities

Students who attend our monthly meetings gain invaluable advice as they have the opportunity to learn from other students’ experiences and receive professional advice from alumni and guest speakers. Below is a list of several of this year’s workshops and enrichment activities:

- CSTEP Welcome Back BBQ
- CSTEP’s Guide to Professionalism
- CSTEP Shadow Day
- Maximize Your Potential!
- Rx for Success Seminar (Pharmacy School)
- CSTEP’s Day of Service
- Effective Study Skills
- Time Management
- Graduate School Panel
- Panel of Professionals
- End of Semester Reception
- Rx for Success Seminar (Medical School)
- Statewide Student Conference
- Student Recognition Dinner
- Student Research Luncheon
- Summer Research Program

Examples of CSTEP Careers

Architect • Audiologist • Biologist • Dietitian • Certified Public Accountant • Chemist • Chiropractor • Computer Scientist • Dentist • Geologist • Engineer • Lawyer • Mathematician Medical Doctor • Nurse Practitioner • Occupational Therapist • Occupational Therapy Assistant • Optometrist • Pharmacist • Physical Therapist • Physicist • Podiatrist • Psychologist • Physician Assistant • Registered Nurse • Respiratory Therapist • Social Worker • Speech-Language Pathologist • Veterinarian
CSTEP addresses the shortages of underrepresented students both in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and the licensed professions. Resources available to CSTEP students include: paid research with faculty, internships, graduate school preparation, scholarships for standardized test preparation, academic and career advisement, tutorial services, monthly seminars, travel to professional conferences, and a support network to assist promising students in achieving their academic and professional goals.

During our previous grant cycle, CSTEP received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). This award, administered by the National Science Foundation, recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students and increasing the participation of minorities and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Awardees serve as exemplars to their colleagues in the national effort to develop the nation’s human resources in the STEM professions.

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

- More than 90% of UB CSTEP students have entered into the CSTEP targeted professions or attended graduate school after obtaining their bachelor’s degree.

- More than half of all CSTEP Students possess overall GPA’s above 3.0.

- Last year, UB CSTEP exceeded our program enrollment goal of 305 by 25%! Our current enrollment is 386 students.

- Since the program’s inception, UB CSTEP has awarded over 150 CSTEP/Kaplan scholarships to students in preparation for standardized graduate school exams (PCAT, MCAT, GMAT, LSAT, and GRE).

- This year, CSTEP and CURCA sponsored 16 students, staff, and alumni, including 8 students who presented their research at the 24th Annual CSTEP Statewide Conference: Journey’s Beyond Excellence in Lake George, NY.

- This year, 30 CSTEP students were placed in funded research internships and completed over 7,000 hours.

- This year, there are 125 students in CSTEP’s graduating class. Congratulations, Class of 2016!
THE FOLLOWING SET OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND GOALS WERE USED TO DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF CSTEP PROJECTS AND STUDENTS STATEWIDE:

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<tr>
<th>PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES</th>
<th>UB CSTEP PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Percentage of CSTEP students matriculated in programs leading directly to professional licensure.</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Percentage of CSTEP graduates matriculating in graduate/professional schools and employed in CSTEP careers.</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Percentage of CSTEP graduates applying for professional licensure.</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Percentage of CSTEP students enrolled in nursing and engineering programs.</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Average number of CSTEP students participating in research and/or internship opportunities.</td>
<td>45 students</td>
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*Based on figures from the previous grant cycle.*
Research & Internship Opportunities

Paid research and internships are an integral part of CSTEP that introduces undergraduate students to the culture of research, provide insight related to their major and expose students to the rigors of graduate study. The CSTEP Research Internship Program exposes selected students to research and career opportunities in their major. CSTEP works with students to identify faculty research mentors or internship supervisors.

Academic Year Research/Internship Program

During the academic year, interns work for 12 weeks per semester under the guidance of a research mentor or internship supervisor. Students are assigned a research project for up to 10 hours per week, at the discretion of the research or internship supervisor. Students are awarded a research stipend from CSTEP during their research or internship experience.

Summer Research Program

The CSTEP Summer Research Program is an intense 8.5-week program designed to enhance the competitiveness of talented underrepresented students pursuing STEM and the allied health professions. The program strengthens participants’ research skills and exposes them to the rigors of graduate study. Students are matched with faculty to conduct research for 30 hours per week. In addition to gaining research experience, students participate in a research methods course, seminars, and field trips. As a capstone, at the end of the program, students present their research to their peers, faculty, and the University community during our Annual Research Symposium. The summer program takes place from the end of May through the middle of July. Applications are due in March of each year.
CSTEP offers a variety of **Community Service** activities including the following:

**Habitat for Humanity**
CSTEP students team up with Habitat for Humanity Buffalo, a non-profit charitable organization seeking to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing within the U.S. and abroad. Through volunteer labor and donations, Habitat for Humanity Buffalo has been able to build and rehabilitate over 225 homes for families who have difficulty obtaining a home through other means. To qualify for a home, a family must provide at least “500 hours of sweat equity.” Qualified families purchase Habitat homes with a zero-interest mortgage, enabling them to own their home.

**CSTEP Shadow Day**
CSTEP students serve as mentors to high school students enrolled in the Science Technology Entry Program (STEP). STEP students shadow their CSTEP mentors by attending classes with them and gaining a glimpse of what college classes are like.

**The CSTEP Annual Day of Service**
CSTEP students visit local high schools in the Buffalo Public School System. CSTEP students participate in panels where they share their collegiate experiences with the high school students. This serves as a vehicle to give students from targeted high schools “college knowledge” while also introducing them to STEM fields and the licensed professions.
2016 CSTEP Day of Service at Internation Prep Academy

On Wednesday, March 30th, 2016, CSTEP hosted its annual “Day of Service” at International Prep Academy High School in the City of Buffalo. The Day of Service is an empowering day for both the volunteers and the high school students. Many high school students are unsure about the process of applying to college or what professions are available for them to pursue. For this reason, CSTEP created our Day of Service an event where CSTEP students, faculty and other campus organizations visit high school students and address student’s questions about college life, academics and career choices.

At this year’s Day of Service, 19 CSTEP students volunteered and were teamed into groups of 3-4 students. Each group was provided with a high school student ambassador who assisted our volunteers throughout the day. CSTEP volunteers spoke to at least three different high school class sessions from 9:30am to 1:30pm, totaling about 21 information sessions that day.

During the sessions, the volunteers discussed preparation for college, advice on the transition from high school to college, and the significance of pursuing a career in the STEM fields or licensed professions. All of the volunteers were amazed by the engagement and questions posed by many of the high school students throughout our stay.

The CSTEP Day of Service is an opportunity for volunteers to give back to the Buffalo community, ensuring that our youth is presented with important information about college life, the rigors of college level academics and possible career choices.
Community Health Educator (CHE) - Service Learning Project

This 2016 spring semester, 26 students participated in our 3-credit hour Campus Health Educator (CHE) Service Learning course. In partnership with Unyts, CSTEP students engaged in service learning by completing meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich their learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Service learning enhances students’ ownership of their educational experience while simultaneously addressing a need in the community.

The mission of CHE is to create awareness, increase knowledge, and educate campus peers and the Buffalo community regarding the need for blood and organ donation. There are over 120,000 people waiting for an organ in the United States and approximately 22 people die daily waiting for an organ transplant. Currently, only 24% of New York residents age 18 and over are enrolled in the NYS Donate Life Registry, compared to the national average of 51%. Each year, CHE students at UB educate their peers on campus regarding the importance of organ and blood donation with hopes of increasing the number of organ donor registrants and blood donors.

One week prior to the beginning of the spring semester, students attended a week-long orientation and training session to identify, understand, and apply key concepts related to organ donation including: the demographic aspects of healthcare, the burden of disease and scarcity in organ donation amongst minority populations, and the impact of certain health conditions on individuals and communities leading to organ transplants.

In addition, students attended class on the first and last Fridays of each month during the semester where they received training from several faculty members, Unyts staff members, and health professionals. Throughout the semester, CHE students conducted presentations to inform members of the UB community regarding the importance of organ donation while addressing some of the stereotypes, myths, and assumptions associated with it.

As a capstone event, at the end of the semester, CHE students collaborated with Unyts to facilitate blood and organ-donor registry drives at the Student Union. The drives were immensely successful as our students registered 102 members to the organ donor registry.

As participants of CHE, CSTEP students actively help address a critical health issue and improve their perceptions toward social responsibility and community connectedness, while developing leadership and work-related skills as they apply what is learned to real world problems.
This 2016 spring semester, 15 students, staff, and alumni from the University at Buffalo, CSTEP Program, participated in the 23rd Annual CSTEP Statewide Conference entitled “Journeys Beyond Excellence”, held on April 8-10, 2016 at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George, NY. Approximately 600 CSTEP students and staff from 40 colleges and universities across New York State were present. This three-day conference exposed students to a variety of motivational, academic and career-related workshops, dynamic and engaging speakers, and a graduate and opportunities fair. In addition, the research poster competition served as the conference centerpiece.

During the conference, close to 200 students competed in the Research Poster Competition and Oral Presentations in natural sciences, physical sciences, technology, social sciences and human services categories demonstrating research conducted via the CSTEP Research Program. Our poster presenters included: Zakiya Rhodie in Biochemistry, Folake Olaleye in Biology, Judite Ayeh and Shawn Gibson in Cell, Molecular & Immunology, Valeria Prieto in Engineering, Kwame Boakye-Yiadom in Medicine, Health & Wellness, Oluwatosin Oniyide in Microbiology, and Jennifer Donato in the Psychology, Social Services, & Public Health category. Our UB CSTEP winners included Valeria Prieto and Jennifer Donato taking Honorable Mention (2nd Place) in their respective categories, and Judite Ayeh took home top honors with a 1st Place win in her research category. All presenters received a medal for their participation in the research competition. The competition was judged by faculty from colleges and universities across the state and industry professionals.

The conference ended with an exciting and insightful keynote address by Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi, Associate Professor of Physics and Space Sciences at Florida Institute of Technology and Chief Science Officer at Discovery/Science Channel. Dr. Oluseyi’s research has focused on the development of instrumentation for space-based astronomical observation including optics, detectors, and electronics, and on the analysis of terrestrial and astronomical plasmas including semiconductor manufacturing plasmas, solar/stellar atmospheres and supernovae. Dr. Oluseyi stressed the importance of young people never letting their identities trick them into thinking their futures could not be bright. He stated, “The only limitations you set for yourself are the goals you set.” Dr. Oluseyi views his professional mission as: 1) advancing humanity’s understanding of the universe through scientific inquiry; 2) passing on the detailed knowledge of this process and its results to the public and the next generation of scientists and scholars; and 3) service to humanity and country.

CSTEP students present faculty-mentored research at Sagamore Resort
I will always remember being able to drop by the CSTEP office and just talk to the administrators and students about anything. Most times it was not school related. It let me know that the support I received wasn’t because it was their “job”, but because we were friends and were genuinely there to help and support each other.

Jahmil Campbell, Class of 2007
Electrical Engineering

Participating in the CSTEP conferences in the Spring were great opportunities to network and meet students from UB CSTEP as well as CSTEP chapters from around New York. Having the opportunity to present a poster that focused on an Industrial Engineering project at the conference was not only a great experience but was a way to prepare for the type of presentations I’ve done in the engineering world in grad school and professionally.

Ronald Dukes, Class of 2000
Industrial Engineering

Attending the CSTEP Conference in 2009 was a very enriching experience for me to learn of all the options available to me post-graduation and to see so many brilliant minorities presenting their research that they worked hard on. On the bus ride to the Sagamore Conference resort, I had made up a song for the pep rally that was highly anticipated.

Veronica Golden, MSW, Class of 2011
Social Work

Participating in the Brush-up Buffalo as summer research intern was tremendous opportunity. It was great to help out a family by painting their house. The best part was to see them happy and appreciative of our efforts.

Steven Jean Julien, Class of 2009
Electrical Engineering

I remember specifically, when I was in my 3rd year and I started studying for the MCAT. That was the first time I was introduced to CSTEP. There I was in the office, tears streaming down my face telling the staff I don’t think I would be able to make into medical school. They said that nothing is impossible and that I will get into medical school as long as I believe. They even gave me some examples of people they knew who had struggles but were able to get into medical school. I cannot say thank you enough, for that I am truly grateful.

Dr. Olayemi Ola, Class of 2006
Biological Sciences & Psychology
WHY STUDY ABROAD? Study abroad may be one of the most high-impact activities for a college student. Here are the top 10 reasons why you should study abroad:

1. **SEE THE WORLD.** By studying abroad, you will experience a brand new country with incredible new outlooks, customs and activities.

2. **EDUCATION.** By enrolling in a study abroad program, you’ll have the chance to see a side of your major that you may not have been exposed to at home.

3. **EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES.** Many students who choose to study abroad are leaving their home for the first time. When they arrive in their new host country, they are fascinated by the distinct cultural perspectives and have a better understanding and appreciation for the nation’s people and history.

4. **HONE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS.** Studying abroad grants you the opportunity to completely immerse yourself in a new language, and there is no better way to learn than to dive right in.

5. **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.** When you finish your study abroad program and return home, you will return with a new perspective on culture, language skills, a great education, and a willingness to learn. Needless to say, all of these are very attractive to future employers.

   “More and more employers are realizing the extraordinary benefits of study abroad, and are seeking out graduates who have had study abroad experiences. Key jobs skills such as adaptability, global understanding and tolerance, leadership, and independence are directly fostered by learning and living abroad.”

6. **FIND NEW INTERESTS.** Studying in a different country offers many new activities and interests that you may never have discovered if you’d stayed at home such as: hiking, cooking, theatre, or various other new activities.

7. **MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS.** One of the biggest benefits of studying abroad is the opportunity to meet new lifelong friends from different backgrounds. While studying abroad, you will attend school and live with students from your host country. This gives you the opportunity to really get to know and create lasting relationships with your fellow students.

8. **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.** There is nothing quite like being on your own in a foreign country. Being in a new place by yourself can be overwhelming at times, and it tests your ability to adapt to diverse situations, solve problems, and become independent.

9. **GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS.** Like future employers, graduate school admissions committees look very highly on study abroad experiences. Graduate schools regularly look for candidates who will bring a unique aspect to their university, study abroad cab be it!

10. **LIFE EXPERIENCE.** Why study abroad? It’s a great opportunity to travel the world with no commitments but to study and learn about new cultures. Studying abroad is an experience unlike any other!
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

CSTEP IS HITTING THE ROAD! 12-day trip, 1/10-1/22

WINTER SESSION 2017

...join us for a Service Trip to TANZANIA

DURING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSE, YOU WILL...

- Visit community development projects, clinics, and schools
- Engage with local villagers, community leaders, and educators
- Go on a guided safari through the famed Serengeti Game Preserve

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

3cr. Study Abroad (UE 496) - Faculty-led service learning - Navigate the Mara Region - Experience another culture

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Must be a currently enrolled CSTEP student - Passport

DEPOSIT DUE BY WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28, 2016

In conjunction with the Buffalo Tanzania Education Project (BTEP), Dr. Mara Huber, and Dr. Dan Nyaronga

“Students Helping Students”

CSTEP partnership with BTEP to see

Explore community development through 4 key areas:

EDUCATION, HEALTH, ECONOMICS, & INFRASTRUCTURE

For information, please visit us in:
222 Norton Hall • 716-645-2234 • cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep
Study Abroad website: buffalotanzania.wordpress.com
THANK YOU CSTEP AMBASSADORS!

CSTEP would like to thank all of our Ambassadors who exemplified the CSTEP motto of "To whom much is given, much is expected."

A special thank you to the following students for their volunteerism in CSTEP community service events:

**STEP/CSTEP SHADOW DAY**
Haissam Adam  
Ali Al-Qaraghuli  
Natasha Amedee  
Brittini Anderson  
Christina Aponte  
Parveen Attai  
Karina Balbuena  
Munnesa Bani  
Maryamihan Caluma  
Sebastian Cano  
Ashley Charles  
Mohamed L. Diaby  
Karen Heredia  
Charitie Hill  
Blessing Hunsu

Nyonsuawlue Kollue  
Emily Li  
Kaytlan Locicero  
Aaron Nimako  
Grace Oji  
Oluwatosin Oniyide  
Amber Palmer  
Valeria Prieto  
Sheyanne Santiago  
Adeline Sarpong  
Temitayo Sodeke  
Jahmilia St. Claire  
Valerie Tapia  
Sennam Tsivor

**CSTEP COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR**
Ali Al-Qaraghuli  
Christina Aponte  
Maryamihan Caluma  
Zachary Chung  
Jennifer Donato  
Anna Haung  
Charitie Hill  
Blessing Hunsu  
Irum Jaffri  
Starr Johnson  
Jalisa Kelly  
Emily Li  
Kaytlan Locicero  
Shabir Musteshan  
Jillian Naylor  
Folake Olaleye  
Oluwatosin Oniyide  
Ashley Patterson  
Terika Pereira  
Adam Rander  
Adeline Sarpong  
Ashley Solomon  
Jahmilia St. Calire  
Sennam Tsivor  
Kortnie Williams  
Kailey Zhu

* Team Leader

**CSTEP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**
Christina Aponte  
Beatrix Bacolod  
Danielle Bassaragh  
Beatrice Bacolod  
Kenny Berrouet  
Mohamed L. Diaby  
Melissa Dolan  
Pricilla Esadah  
Jhanna Flora  
Rogerio Garnes  
Shawn Gibson  
Yasmin Hussain  
Jahi James  
Courtney Jones  
Akunne Kanu  
Tenzin Kelsang

Ashat Keshiro  
Oliver LaPoint  
Elizabeth Le  
Man Lian  
Victoria Lucci  
Erica Ned  
Nicole Nguyen  
Lenny Nivar  
Folake Olaleye  
Valeria Prieto  
Juan Robles  
Hamlet Spencer  
Nicholas Szal  
Abel Taye  
Juanna Wong  
Shu Min Yu

**CSTEP DAY OF SERVICE**
Christina Aponte  
Kevin Carpio  
Shawn Gibson  
Andrea Gonzalez  
Abdul Kaba  
Jalisa Kelly  
Maya Kirkby  
Jacob Milling  
Abdul Molin  
Crystal Naylor

Peter Okorozo  
Chiwaza Osta  
Oluwatosin Oniyide  
Terika Pereira  
Rasheen Powell  
Adeline Sarpong  
Timothy Semon  
Ashley Solomon  
Abel Taye
Students of Excellence Scholarship Award recipients exemplify CSTEP’s motto of “To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Expected” within their academics and community. This award is supported by alumni, staff, and supporters of the CSTEP program who believe in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of our students.
This award is designed to acknowledge students who have shown dedication and support to the CSTEP program and gone above and beyond program expectations. All of the recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to CSTEP’s mission.

Congratulations to all of our recipients!

Vanmany Phichith - Senior of the Year - 2000
Keba Robers - Senior of the Year - 2000

Dredre Wimbley - Senior of the Year - 2001
Sonji Roberson - Senior of the Year - 2001

Olivia Bradley - Senior of the Year - 2002
Kelli Everett - Senior of the Year - 2002

Yolayna Scottborch - Senior of the Year - 2003
Folarin Erogbogbo - Senior of the Year - 2004

Joel Urena - Senior of the Year - 2007
Mary Akuamoah-Boateng - Senior of the Year - 2007
Sara Forde - Senior of the Year - 2007
Moses Vaughan - Student of the Year - 2007

Christine Kine - Student of the Year - 2008
Michael Williams - Student of the Year - 2008
Ngozi Agbasionwe - Student of the Year - 2008
Kofi Asenso-Mensah - Student of the Year - 2008

Reshona George - Student of the Year - 2009
David Louis - Student of the Year - 2009
Brianna Clark - Student of the Year - 2009
Frank Acheampong - Student of the Year - 2009
Iok Seong Wong - Student of the Year - 2009

Christopher D. Williams - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2010
Brianna Clark - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2010
Marda Hailu - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2010
Ron Heichman - Student of the Year - 2010

Jasmine May - Student of the Year - 2011
Priscilla Adjei-Bafour - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2011
Sefilat Ajishafe - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2011
Jonathan P. Rivera - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2011
Ian S. Duncan - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2011

Hector Coco - Student of the Year - 2012
Shanney Lacey - Student of the Year - 2012
Chiamaka Agbasionwe - Student of the Year - 2012
Jasmine May - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2012

Price Obot - Student of the Year - 2013
Theresa Yera - Student of the Year - 2013
Ronald Desrouilleres - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2013
Yun Zheng - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2013

Christ-Ange Katche - Student of the Year - 2014
Summar Amin - Student of the Year - 2014
Sharece Blake - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2014
James Lopez - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2014
Alexandria Trujillo - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2014

Kevin A. Carpio - Student of the Year - 2015
Akunne Kanu - Student of the Year - 2015
Michael Singletary - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2015
Barinaepkee Banuna - Graduating Senior of the Year - 2015
The CSTEP Advisory Board (CSTEP AB), the alumni affiliate of the University at Buffalo Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, seeks to further develop and enhance the CSTEP program by creating a continued sense of community and a culture of giving among alumni that directly benefits CSTEP students, alumni and the entire UB community.

**CSTEP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

- President: Mary Akuamoah-Boateng, MS
- Vice President: Dr. Kevin Burke
- Membership Chair: Jasmine Spencer
- Finance Chair: Iyeesha Cook, BSIE
- Secretary: Yolayna Scottborgh
- Historians: Dr. John Staley

**MEETINGS**

All meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm.

**JOIN OUR COMMITTEES:**

- Social Out-Reach & Events: Chair, Olivia West
- Scholarships & Sponsorship: Chair, Morris Green
- Marketing: Co-Chairs, Ronald Dukes and Gerald Richardson
- Social Media: Chair, Vernetta Marquis
- Shadowing/Mentoring: Chair, Dr. Folarin Erogbogbo

**CSTEP ADVISORY BOARD MISSION STATEMENT**

The CSTEP Advisory Board (CSTEP AB) promotes the interests of CSTEP as a program committed to promoting learning and development through research, scholarship, and service among talented underrepresented students pursuing STEM and the licensed professions. CSTEP AB works to create an environment, in which UB CSTEP graduates and current students become and stay connected to the UB CSTEP Program.

CSTEP AB serves in an advisory capacity and has no fiduciary responsibility to CSTEP. The Advisory Board serves as the umbrella organization for CSTEP alumni to strengthen and grow the UB CSTEP community by meeting the following goals:

- Acting as ambassadors for CSTEP by assisting with mentoring, developing and positively influencing the next generation of STEM and licensed professionals.
- Creating a culture of giving among alumni that directly benefits CSTEP students and alumni by supporting CSTEP financially and by encouraging others to do so.
- Working with the CSTEP Program to facilitate ongoing access to knowledge, development and opportunities.
- Connecting current students and alumni in meaningful ways that create lifelong engagement, a continued sense of community and commitment to the CSTEP Program.

Anyone interested in being a member of the CSTEP AB should contact Shanna Crump-Owens at sicrump@buffalo.edu.
Adetunji Idris Adesina

HOMETOWN: Queens, NY
MAJOR: Civil Engineering
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Ketter Hall
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Teng Wu
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor
DEPARTMENT: Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering

SUMMER PROJECT: Climate Change and its Influence on Tropical Cyclones

ABSTRACT: Violent winds caused by cyclones are a form of natural disaster that pose immense hazard to mankind. In this study, climate change and its influence on the intensity and occurrence of hurricanes originating from the North Atlantic Ocean is observed. Climate change will be dependent on anomalies in Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL), Sea Surface Temperature (SST), and specific humidity over the oceans; whereas the intensity of a hurricane will be defined by its central pressure and its maximum sustained wind. It was discovered that an increase in GMSL, SST, and oceanic humidity correlates positively with the occurrence and intensity of North Atlantic hurricanes.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To become part of a larger organization that promotes better living standards in developing communities.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “If what feels right hasn’t been working, it’s time to try something wrong.”

Christina Aponte

HOMETOWN: Rochester, NY
MAJOR: Pre-Dental/Biomedical Sciences
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Biomedical Research Building
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Houbo Jiang
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor
DEPARTMENT: Physiology and Biophysics

SUMMER PROJECT: Generation of Regionally Specified Dopaminergic Neural Cells from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells

ABSTRACT: Parkinson’s disease is a neurodegenerative disease involving the malfunctioning and death of dopaminergic (DA) neurons. Due to the depletion of the neurons producing dopamine, there is a lack of the neurotransmitters responsible for communicating the signals necessary for movement and coordination. We found that differentiating induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) to DA neurons then transplanting the DA neurons to the rat brain may enable highly efficient epigenetic reprogramming. After 3-4 months, we will extract the brain, mount it on a sequence of slides, and observe their differentiation. We have yet to produce consistent results, but we will continue to repeat experimentation and review mechanics of the protocol.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a Doctorate of Dentistry and to work as a General Dentist in the United States military.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “We don’t always have the power, but we never say never.”
Judite Ayeh

**HOMETOWN:** Bronx, NY  
**MAJOR:** Pre-Med/Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Microbiology and Immunology  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. John C. Panepinto  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Associate Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Microbiology and Immunology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Role of rmt5 in Cryptococcus neoformans Titan Cell Production

**ABSTRACT:** The pathogenic fungus Cryptococcus neoformans is found in soil, and it is emerging in patients with compromised immunity. In response to the mammalian lung, C. neoformans forms enlarged cells called titan cells. Titan cells are unable to be engulfed by macrophages and serve as a reservoir during infection and latency. PRMT5, a protein arginine methyltransferase, catalyzes the addition of methyl groups on arginine residues in target proteins. A C. neoformans mutant rmt5Δ, lacking RMT5 gene, is reduced in virulence and produces misshaped titan cells. In mammalian cells, PMRT5 modulates the Erk MAP Kinase pathway. We hypothesize that Rmt5 regulates titan cell formation through modulation of MAP Kinase signaling in C. neoformans.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain an MD and become a general Pediatric Physician.  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “You are not defined by your past; you are prepared by your past.”

Kwame Boakye-Yiadom

**HOMETOWN:** West Hempstead, NY  
**MAJOR:** Pre-Pharmacy/Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Natural Science Complex  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Hilliard Kutscher  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Assistant Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Chemistry

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Formulation of Biodegradable Nanoparticles for the Treatment of Tuberculosis

**ABSTRACT:** Tuberculosis is a prominent global health concern. New treatments are needed to overcome problems associated with drug resistance, treatment length, and patient compliance. Nanoparticles can reduce side effects associated with systemic drug distribution and improve intracellular drug concentration. Rifampin loaded poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) nanoparticles were synthesized by a water-oil-water emulsion technique. Unfortunately, these nanoparticles suffer from low encapsulating efficiency and rapid release. We will study the effect of changing the rifampin:PLGA ratio and surfactant concentration on size, release rate, and encapsulation efficiency. This research aims to further our understanding of the most effective way to fabricate rifampin loaded PLGA nanoparticles.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To attend UB School of Pharmacy and become a licensed Pharmacist.  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” - Mark Twain
Kelly Boamah

**HOMETOWN:** Newburgh, NY  
**MAJOR:** Pharmacology and Toxicology  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Rajendram Rajnarayanan, Ph.D  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacology and Toxicology  

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Towards Novel Muscular Dystrophy Therapeutics Targeting Estrogen Receptor Related Receptor

**ABSTRACT:** Muscular Dystrophy (MD) is a rare disease that causes muscle breakdown and eventually death. Progression of this disease is noticeable when observing locomotive ability, as it is greatly reduced. We chose Drosophila melanogaster (fruit fly) as a model because we have preliminary data of tamoxifen’s effects on MD flies through Estrogen Receptor Related Receptor (ERR). Tamoxifen is shown to increase the muscle strength of dystrophic mice, mdx, as well as flies. By mixing tamoxifen into the feed of the flies and letting them feed, we are expecting to see stronger flies. We are exploring the role of tamoxifen targeting ERR for MD in order to reduce the effects of MD.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** Attending D’Youville College School of Pharmacy to obtain a PharmD and become a clinical pharmacist, eventually starting my own pharmacy.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “For every writer there is a pen, a quill and a journal in which to create adventures. For every artist there is a palette of colors beyond and a board on which to illustrate.” - Excerpt from “The Journal” by Kelly Boamah

Joaquin Canay

**HOMETOWN:** Buenos Aires, ARG  
**MAJOR:** Biotechnology  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Margarita Dubocovich  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacology and Toxicology  

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Role of the 3.5 light/3.5 dark cycle in inducing rhythmic activity in suprachiasmatic nucleus lesioned mice

**ABSTRACT:** The SupraChiasmatic Nucleus (SCN), the master circadian clock, orchestrates synchrony among central and peripheral circadian oscillators. Manipulation of SCN outputs results in arrhythmic locomotor activity. In mice methamphetamine and food are able to reconstitute rhythmicity under constant conditions in previously arrhythmic animals, when a running wheel is provided. Preliminary data from our lab suggest a 3.5 hour light/3.5 hour dark cycle is able to produce rhythms similar to acute methamphetamine in SCN lesioned mice. The goal of the current study is to further examine this rhythmicity and examine the potential brain areas involved, including the dorsomedial hypothalamus and habenula.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To go to graduate school and be able to participate in impactful scientific research.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “Rules are made to be broken, to live each day as your last.”
Mohamed Diaby

HOMETOWN: New York, NY  
MAJOR: Civil Engineering; Mathematics  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Structural Engineering  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Jongmin Shim  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering  

SUMMER PROJECT: Extremely High-Stiffness Structures Using Negative Stiffness Component  
ABSTRACT: Negative stiffness refers to a situation in which a reaction force occurs in the same direction as imposed deformation. It is recently reported that negative stiffness components can be employed to design composite structures possessing extremely high stiffness. This research investigates the reported theory using finite element simulations. The approach is to construct a finite element model with a curved vertical column, which possesses a negative stiffness transition upon horizontal loading. The buckled vertical column having a negative stiffness will be connected to a horizontal beam having a positive stiffness to form a composite structure. The numerical force-displacement relation of the composite structure will be obtained to demonstrate the use of negative stiffness.  

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To attend graduate school and obtained a master of engineering in Structural Engineering.  
WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Impossible is nothing”; and, “I’m the greatest. I said that even before I knew I was.” - Muhammad Al

Jennifer Donato

HOMETOWN: Buffalo, NY  
MAJOR: Pre-Med/Biotechnology  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Alice Ceacareanu  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Pharmacy  

SUMMER PROJECT: Exploring the Relationship Between Diabetes-Associated Comorbidities and Gastrointestinal Cancer  
ABSTRACT: Diabetes mellitus (DM) has numerous metabolic, cardiovascular, and inflammation-driven comorbidities. Increased risk of gastrointestinal tumor development correlates with poor disease management. Analysis of 257 medical records of eligible adult DM patients diagnosed with gastrointestinal cancer found high incidence of cardiovascular diseases, obesity, and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Additionally, cancer outcomes were improved when patients used Metformin to treat DM. Comorbidities are being separated based upon their inflammatory or cardiovascular origins and totaled for each patient to disclose the cause of GERD. I hypothesize that GERD is cardiovascular-associated. After determining the origin of these conditions, improving disease management in order to decrease cancer incidence becomes the focus.  

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a Doctorate of Medicine and become a pediatrician.  
WORDS TO LIVE BY: “The difference in winning and losing is most often...not quitting.” - Walt Disney
Mark Estudillo

HOMETOWN: New York, NY
MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Department of Mechanical Engineering
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Jihyung Yoo
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor
DEPARTMENT: Mechanical Engineering

SUMMER PROJECT: Thermometry using Optical Frequency Domain Reflectometry

ABSTRACT: The current thermometry today only detects temperature at one point. Using the Optical Frequency Domain Reflectometry (OFDR), detecting temperature throughout an area at a low-cost will be possible. The set-up consists of a laser, optical fibers and detectors. These particular fibers have a core of pure glass that will help send the light rays from the laser more efficiently. The laser sends pulses of different wavelengths through the optical fiber then, as they are split into two paths, they go through the device under test (DUT) and the local oscillator (LO). After this, some of the wavelengths are reflected and some are scattered back to the detector. From this we are able to detect the specific wavelengths at specific points from the DUT. Depending from the distance in which they scattered back from we are able to analyze it and compute the temperature of that specific point. Consequently, we are able to detect temperature throughout the whole optical fiber.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a PhD in Mechanical Engineering

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” - St. Francis of Assisi

Shawn Gibson

HOMETOWN: Queens, NY
MAJOR: Pre-Med/Biological Sciences
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Department of Biological Sciences
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Laura Rusche
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Associate Professor
DEPARTMENT: Biological Sciences

SUMMER PROJECT (TITLE): Rif2 Protein, Product of Subfunctionalization or Neofunctionalization

ABSTRACT: Rif2 protein in Saccharomyces cerevisiae protects telomere ends. Rif2 attaches to Rap1, which binds directly to telomeres to inhibit telomere lengthening. Sequencing studies shown that Rif2 proteins descended from replication Orc4 proteins. However, can a telomere protein evolve from a replication protein? We believe that Rif2 is a product of subfunctionalization, meaning that the duplicated Orc4 resulted in two genes, each retaining information from the original function. To test this theory, chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was assessed in the duplicated Kluyveromyces lactis species. Our results show that Orc4 doesn’t associate with telomeres, therefore indicating that Rif2 is a product of neofunctionalization.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a graduate degree in Biological Sciences and, subsequently, a Medical Doctor degree, become a Pediatrician and mentor the younger generation.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Have faith, be humble and never let them break you down.”
Hoda Moussa

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY  
**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** School of Dental Medicine  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Rosemary Dziak, Ph.D  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Oral Biology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Release Characteristics of Doxycycline and Minocycline from Nano-calcium Sulfate and NanoGen: Effect on Human Osteoblastic Cells

**ABSTRACT:** A slow release of antibiotics from calcium sulfate materials, by delivery as a scaffold, can control infections during procedures for bone reconstruction. We are comparing the release characteristics of two antibiotics, doxycycline and minocycline, from two different calcium sulfate (CS) materials, nano-calcium sulfate (nCS) and NanoGen. nCS is fabricated in our lab and NanoGen is FDA clinically approved. We made pellets of both materials, with known amounts of each antibiotic, to study the release over a 2-4 week period using a spectrophotometer. In addition, we will compare the effects of both CS materials on human osteoblastic cell cultures by standard viability (MTT) assay. We expect the antibiotics to induce cell proliferation, without altering their normal functional activity.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To attend dental school and obtain my D.D.S degree.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “Circumstances may cause interruptions and delays, but never lose sight of your goal. Prepare yourself in every way you can by increasing your knowledge and adding to your experience, so that you can make the most of opportunity when it occurs.” - Mario Andretti

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Samuel Odulaja

**HOMETOWN:** Hicksville, NY  
**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Center for Engineering Design and Applied Simulation  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Kenneth W. English  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Deputy Director  
**DEPARTMENT:** School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Sociotechnical issues of 3D Printing in the Classroom

**ABSTRACT:** Children enjoy disassembling and assembling objects, so in a way children are natural-born engineers. However when a child is asked, “What they want to be in the future?” being an engineer isn’t a common answer. This research is part of an investigation into increasing interest in engineering through effective integration of 3D printing in schools. The approach starts with building a 3D printer. Using that experience, a strategy will be developed for teachers to teach and use 3D printing in the classroom. The research team will then meet with elementary school teachers to assess the strategy.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineer and become a design engineer for a car company or work for a 3D printing company, and then obtain my Masters in Mechanical Engineer.

**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “Keep your nose out the sky, keep your heart to God, and keep your face to the risin’ sun.” - Kanye West
Peter Okorozo

HOMETOWN: Laurelton, New York  
MAJOR: Pharmaceutical Sciences  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Center of Excellence in Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Robert Straubinger  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Pharmaceutical Sciences  

SUMMER PROJECT: Effect of Hedgehog Signaling Inhibitor (LDE225) on Gli-1 Expression in Stromal Cells of Pancreatic Cancer

ABSTRACT: Many cellular signaling are activated in pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC) or pancreatic cancer. Sonic Hedgehog (SHH) signaling is one of them. Previous studies found that SHH signaling might be a good target to improve therapeutic efficacy. To suppress the signaling, many drug candidates were developed to suppress or inhibit the activity of an important component in the signaling pathway, which is Smoothened (SMO). LDE-225 is a SMO inhibitor. Smoothened controls the Gli-1 expression, which controls pancreatic cancer cells. However, it is not known if Gli-1 develops a tolerance for LDE-225, which would show an increase in Gli-1 expression when LDE-225 is administered.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: Obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), an MBA, and become a philanthropist.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Be fearful when other people are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful.” - Warren Buffett

Folake Olaleye

HOMETOWN: Queens, NY  
MAJOR: Biological Sciences  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Department of Biological Sciences Department  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Kathryn Medler  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Associate Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Department of Biological Sciences  

SUMMER PROJECT: The Role of TRPM4 and TRPM5 Channels in the Taste System

ABSTRACT: The TRPM4 and TRPM5 channels are non-selective cationic channels that aid in the signal transduction pathway of the taste system. The TRPM5 channel is required to communicate bitter, sweet, and umami taste signals to the brain. However, the TRPM4 channel has not been characterized, thus the functions of this particular channel in the taste system aren’t known. In our research, we perform behavioral tests utilizing groups of mice who have selectively lost either TRPM5, TRPM4, or both channels to see how the loss affect their consumption of different taste stimuli. This research will help further our understanding of the function of the TRPM4 channel and its importance in the taste signal transduction pathway.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To one day become a clinical pharmacist that is committed to public service by utilizing my educational experience to educate individuals worldwide on how to effectively and positively utilize medication through a self-established drug care institution. Additionally, I want to be apart of finding ground breaking cures to diseases that have had such a great impact on our society.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Nothing is impossible, the word itself says ‘I’m possible!’” - Audrey Hepburn
Oluwatosin Oniyide

HOMETOWN: Islip, New York  
MAJOR: Pre-Med/Biomedical Sciences  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Hochstetter Hall  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Mary A. Bisson  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Department of Biological Sciences  

SUMMER PROJECT: A fluorescence microscopy study on ROS production in Chara australis (R. Br)

ABSTRACT: Our research focuses on the effects of Cadmium [Cd] on Reactive oxidative species [ROS] production in Chara Australis. Prior studies [Clabeaux et al. 2011] have shown that Chara Australis can absorb cadmium [a pollutant] from aquatic environments, however the effects of cadmium on Chara are currently being investigated. Cadmium induces stress upon Chara; which results in ROS Production. ROS oxidize non-fluorescent DCHF into fluorescent DCF. By measuring Fluorescence in Chara we can determine the concentration of ROS over time. Without this information determining Chara’s function in the process of rehabilitating cadmium polluted environments is difficult.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: I aspire to attend medical school and afterwards join the U.S Navy and serve as a pediatric surgeon.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he’s one who asks the right questions.” - Claude Lévi-Strauss

Rasheen Powell

HOMETOWN: Buffalo, New York  
MAJOR: Pharmacology and Toxicology  
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: Natural Sciences Complex  
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. Sherry Chemler  
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Professor  
DEPARTMENT: Chemistry  

SUMMER PROJECT: Synthesis of Enatiopure Isoindoline Core Structure via Cu(II) Catalyzed Carboamination

ABSTRACT: Cyclic nitrogen containing compounds are found in various biologically active compounds, both synthetic and naturally occurring. However, synthesis of these compounds de novo can be difficult due to the reaction conditions required, and a narrow selection of reactants. To alleviate this, the method described utilizes chiral copper (II) catalysis for the synthesis of 1-[3,3-diphenylallyl]-2-[methylsulfonyl]isoindoline via copper catalyzed coupling. In concluding this research, it is anticipated to isolate the desired product in high yield and also apply this methodology to more complex nitrogen containing compounds. In doing so, the potential number of steps for specific drug synthesis would decrease.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a Philosophical Doctorate in Pharmacology & Toxicology.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Do you want to know the world? Then look at it closely. Do you want to like it? Then look at it from afar.” - Ion Luca Caragiale
Valeria Prieto

**HOMETOWN:** New York City, NY  
**MAJOR:** Civil Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** The Structural Engineering and Earthquake Simulation Laboratory  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Ravi Ranade  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

**SUMMER PROJECT:** The Optimization of Ultra-High Performance Concrete: Pozzolanic Materials and Particle Size Distribution Method

**ABSTRACT:** Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) is a special construction material with significantly greater compressive strength than conventional concrete. However, UHPC generally requires more cement, leading to an increase in the material’s cost and carbon footprint. In this study, proportions of pozzolanic materials will be evaluated in a mix design based on particle size distribution. It is expected that the resulting densely packed mix will display higher compressive strength and enhanced durability. This development can potentially lead to a framework for the production of UHPC, with given compressive strengths, that optimizes the use of more sustainable ingredients in the interest of the environment and society.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** I plan to graduate with a Master’s Degree in Structural Engineering and own a successful engineering firm in New York City.  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.”

Yonas Redae

**HOMETOWN:** Buffalo, NY  
**MAJOR:** Biomedical Science  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC)  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Jessy Alexander  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Research Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Medicine

**SUMMER PROJECT:** The Role of Complement Factor H in Muscle Inflammation

**ABSTRACT:** Complement cascade is an arm of the innate immune system. Complement factor H (FH) is an important complement regulator. Therefore, its absence results in diseases such as dense deposit disease and age related macular degeneration. During the grid hang test, FH-/- mice fell of the grid in less time compared to controls, indicating reduced muscle strength. In this study C57BL6 mice sufficient and deficient in FH will be subjected to behavioral tests followed by assessment of inflammatory markers in muscle and bone by real-time PCR. The results will indicate the pathways that are involved, potentially leading to the identification of therapeutic targets.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a PhD in Biomedical Sciences.  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it” - William Arthur Ward
**Zakiya Rhodie**

**HOMETOWN:** Valley Stream, NY  
**MAJOR:** Pharmacology and Toxicology  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** Farber Hall  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Richard Rabin  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Pharmacology and Toxicology

**SUMMER PROJECT:** The Effects of Alcohol on Microglial Phagocytosis  
**ABSTRACT:** Microglia, which are innate immune cells of the central nervous system (CNS), have been linked to CNS disorders such as multiple sclerosis and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). As inflammatory mediators, microglia perform phagocytosis by engulfing cellular debris. Given the high prevalence and use of alcohol, is microglial phagocytosis altered? Using a model microglial cell line, we will treat BV2 cells with ethanol then measure the intake of fluorescent beads using flow cytometry and a fluorescent microscope. Examining the effects of ethanol on microglial phagocytosis will help further our understanding of microglial activation and involvement in neurodegenerative disorders and TBI's.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To obtain a Doctorate of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) and a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.).  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “The question isn’t who is going to let me; it’s who is going to stop me.” - Ayn Rand, Author of Anthem

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**I’Yanna Scott**

**HOMETOWN:** Rochester, NY  
**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT:** University at Buffalo School of Public Health  
**SUMMER MENTOR:** Dr. Heather Orom  
**SUMMER MENTOR TITLE:** Assistant Professor  
**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

**SUMMER PROJECT:** Factors Associated with the Influence of Physician Recommendations on Prostate Cancer Patients’ Treatment Decisions  
**ABSTRACT:** Patient-centered care may increase adherence to physician recommendations. We tested whether patient-centeredness of the patient-physician relationship [trust, closeness, shared decision-making and poor treatment by physician] was associated with the influence of physician treatment recommendations on prostate cancer patients’ treatment choice. Patients (N=1016; 856 White, 98 Black, 62 Hispanic) rated their relationship with their physicians after they made their decision and prior to treatment. Data were analyzed with generalized estimating equations. As predicted, receiving more patient-centered care was associated with greater perceived influence of recommendations (Ps<.001) and match between treatment recommended and received. Patient-centeredness of care may improve adherence.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS:** To become a Doctor of Medicine and give back to my community.  
**WORDS TO LIVE BY:** “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” - St. Francis of Assisi
Clarence Uzoho

HOMETOWN: Rochester, NY
MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering
INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT: UB Nanosatellite Laboratory
SUMMER MENTOR: Dr. John Crassidis
SUMMER MENTOR TITLE: Assistant Professor
DEPARTMENT: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

SUMMER PROJECT: Nanosatellite Design, Testing, and Fabrication
ABSTRACT: The likelihood of collisions between random objects in space and space crafts is increasing at a rapid rate. These collisions could have deadly effects on space travellers. Therefore, it is imperative that nanosatellites (smaller and cheaper satellites) be launched in space so as to study these objects. We would be using cost-effective techniques like soldering to integrate parts of the nanosatellite. In addition, highly sophisticated programs like Arduino would be used to control the attitude and orientation of the nanosatellite. Through our research, we would develop an affordable nanosatellite that can monitor space objects and give information about their properties. This research would help simplify future studies of space.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER GOALS: To obtain a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and become a Mechanical Engineer.
WORDS TO LIVE BY: “Don’t count the things you do. Do the things that count.” - Zig Ziglar

Members of the 2015 CSTEP Summer Research Program cohort at Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Shukree Abdul-Rashed  
MAJOR: Chemistry  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Chemistry  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Michael Detty  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Work on the design and synthesis of infrared-absorbing dyes for use in the Raman and photoacoustic spectroscopy, in addition to the testing of the synthesized materials.

Adetunji Idris Adesina  
MAJOR: Civil Engineering  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Civil, Structural, & Environmental Engineering  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Teng Wu  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Determine region(s) of New York State most prone to hurricane attack; extract historical data from HURDAT for NY based hurricanes; use modeling to predict movement of future hurricanes; observe geography for civil structures; use statistical mythology to predict damage loss in civil structures.

Summar Amin  
MAJOR: Pre-Dental/Biomedical Sciences  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: School of Dental Medicine, Oral Biology Department  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Frank Scannapieco  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Data collection and recording audit of dental care in a long-term care facility. Includes record review, data entry onto computer, collation of data, and participation in data analysis and manuscript preparation.

Judite Ayeh  
MAJOR: Biological Sciences  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Microbiology & Immunology  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. John C. Panepinto  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Investigate the role of RMT5 in Tital cell formation in Cryptococcus neoformans.

Kwame Boakye-Yiadom  
MAJOR: Biological Sciences  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Institute for Laser Photonics & Biophonics  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Hilliard Kutscher  

Kelly Boamah  
MAJOR: Pharmacology & Toxicology  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Pharmacology & Toxicology  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Rajendram Rajnarayanan  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Performing experiments on flies in both the larvae stages and the adult fly stages. Testing novel compounds on larvae and adult flies to try to reduce the effects of Muscular Dystrophy.

Joaquin Canay  
MAJOR: Biotechnology  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Pharmacology & Toxicology  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Margarita Dubocovich  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Learn to perform the surgical procedures necessary to lesion the SCN (electrolytic lesion) and DMH (chemical lesion). This will involve learning to use a stereotaxic surgical apparatus, learning how to prepare and inject anesthetic, learning sterile surgical technique and post-operative care. Following surgery, mice will be moved into the experimental protocol known to produce rhythmcity. Assist with these experiments as well as with data analysis for the experiments. Additionally, in order to characterize the lesions and insure they are in the correct location, the learn how to dissect mouse brains, section brains using a cryostat, stain sections using cresyl or DAPI and analyze staining via microscopy.

Kevin Carpio  
MAJOR: Aerospace Engineering  
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Manoranjan Majji  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Develop a testbed prototype for flywheels to be used in the CANJAM for grociter ADC.
Jessica Chung

**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Microbiology & Immunology  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. John C. Panepinto  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Analysis of Gis2 and 7nf9 in C. neoformans stress adaptations and post-transcriptional gene regulation.

Mohamed Diaby

**MAJOR:** Civil Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Civil, Structural, & Environmental Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Jongmin Shim  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Perform dynamic experiments with split Hopkinson pressure bar apparatus consisting of three bars (e.g. striker, input bar, output bar).

Erickson Duarte

**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. M. Amin Karami  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is focused on design and fabrication of an aircraft, which uses smart materials for maneuvering. This project will be performed in Intelligent Dynamic Sensors and Sensing Systems Lab.

Kemji Eke

**MAJOR:** Pharmaceutical Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Center for Excellence in Bioinformatics  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Gene Morse  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Help build the SUNY Global Health Institute, a multidisciplinary online resource to connect students, faculty and staff in initiatives happening across SUNY campuses toward global health.

Gabriella Jaramillo

**MAJOR:** Psychology  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Psychology  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Jamie Ostrov  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Data entry and checking data coding. Assisting with data collection in the lab and at local schools. Readings and discussion of journal articles. Literature searches and project organization.

Nyonsuawlue Kollue

**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Jennifer Surtees  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Determine the role of mismatch repair in DNA repair and genome stability.

Jacob Milling

**MAJOR:** Pre-Med/Biomedical Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Institute for Lasers Photonics and Biophotonics  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Hilliard Kutscher  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Fabrication for analyzation of nanoparticles. Dual-loaded controlled release of core-shell nanoparticles for anti-HIV therapy.

Karabi Mitchell

**MAJOR:** Aerospace Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Amin Karami  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Rotary Energy Harvester for wind and wave power generation.

Hoda Moussa

**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Amin Karami  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** “Release Characteristics of Doxycycline and Minocycline from Nano-Calcium Sulfate and NanoGen: Effect of Human Osteoblastic Cells.”

Shawn Gibson

**MAJOR:** Pre-Med/Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Laura Rusche  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Student will focus on the origin of a telomere-binding protein in yeast; student will also attend weekly lab meetings and weekly undergraduate research meetings with faculty mentor and another undergraduate researcher.
Emmanuel Obogbaimhe  
**MAJOR:** Computer Science  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Computer Science & Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Bina Ramamurthy  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Digital choreographic lineage data aggregation.

Crystal Naylor  
**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Shermali Guanwardena  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Using Drosophila crossings and larval dissections the student will test predictions/questions on axonal transport.

Samuel Odulaja  
**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Deborah Chung  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Research on 3D metal printing.

Peter Okorozo  
**MAJOR:** Pharmaceutical Science  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Robert M. Straubinger  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Quantify the time course and dynamics of pancreatic cancer responses to inhibitors of sonic Hedgehog signaling pathways.

Oluwatosin Oniyide  
**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Mary. A. Bisson  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Conduct experiments regarding adaptations to stress in the alga Chara, using fluorescent microscopy.

Tashi Palmo  
**MAJOR:** Pharmacology & Toxicology  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Center for Hearing and Deafness  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Richard Salvi  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** “Calcitonin gene related protein (CGRP)-immuno reactive neurons in the amygdala: high-level noise exposure.”

Valeria Prieto  
**MAJOR:** Civil, Structural, & Environmental Engineering  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Civil, Structural, & Environmental Engineering  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Ravi Ranade  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Mixing concrete for Ultra-High Performance Concrete; carrying out laboratory-based tests such as uniaxial tension test, flexure test and compression test; literature review of the fundamentals of high performance concrete and mix design methods.

Folake Olaleye  
**MAJOR:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Biological Sciences  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Kathryn Medler  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Role of TRPM4 and TRPM5 Channels in the Taste System. This research will help further our understanding of the function of the TRPM4 channel and its importance in the taste signal transduction pathway.

Yonas Redae  
**MAJOR:** Biomedical Sciences  
**INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT:** Clinical Translational and Research Center  
**INTERN SUPERVISOR:** Dr. Jessy Alexander  
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Student will work with genotyping; PCR and gel-electrophoresis; assessment of body fat, lean, and fluid; grid hanging experiment; RNA extraction and analysis.
Zakiya Rhodie

MAJOR: Pharmacology & Toxicology
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Pharmacology & Toxicology
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Richard Rabin
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Carry out assays of phagocytosis using AL2 microglia. These studies require tissue cultures, microscopic imaging and flow cytometry.

Timothy Semon

MAJOR: Pre-Dental/Anthropology
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: Oral Biology
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. Ashu Sharma
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Conducting lab experiments that show the difference between the bacteria with the genetically engineered strain versus the non-engineered strain. Also, conducting analysis on improving the strain.

Clarence Uzoho

MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering
INTERNSHIP DEPARTMENT: UB Nanostat Lab
INTERN SUPERVISOR: Dr. John Crassidis
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Work with the integration of a solar panel unit for UB’s nanosatellite program. This includes both hardware testing and theoretical validation.
Shukree Abdul-Rashed
CHEMISTRY

Future Plans: Accepted to University of Rochester for a PhD in Organic Chemistry.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Michael Detty, Dr. Jennifer Morrison.
Personal Quote: “Being #2 is just being the first to lose.” - Aubrey Graham

Amani Abuhamra
PSYCHOLOGY

Saidat Adekanbi
SOCIAL SCIENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY, HEALTH & WELLNESS (MINOR)

Affiliations: Fashion Student Association, Wellness Education Services.
Future Plans: Applying for graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: My mother for being my voice of reasoning and always preaching about positivity to me when I was feeling let down about school; Jacqueline Hollins, Anna Sotelo-Peryea, Estella Johnson.
Personal Quote: “Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.” - Maya Angelou

Adetunji Idris Adesina
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Affiliations: SSS, CSTEP Summer Research Program 2015.
Future Plans: Seek employment.
People I Would Like to Thank: Professor Karami.
Personal Quote: “Never give up!”

Samar Adhami
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: SSS, Women & Children’s Hospital (Research Assistant), Campus Health Educator, Career Services, Muslim Women’s Council.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Biological Sciences for master’s study.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr Morrison and Linda Delbello from SSS. CSTEP - Ms. Shanna and all the graduate assistants that helped me in every step of the way! I am also tremendously thankful for being able to participate in CHE it has been my favorite internship throughout college!
-All my professors that have helped me during office hours.
Personal Quote: “When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.” - Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

Asma Akram
BIOLOGY

Affiliations: Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students [Treasurer].
Future Plans: Attend graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: My mentor Professor Walter Hakala, and Dr. Yu.
Personal Quote: “Have faith in your capabilities and don’t let others’ opinions underestimate you. Life is challenging, accept it and strive even harder to pursue your dream career. Understand failures as the steps leading to a brighter future. Hard work always pays off.”

Mohammed Saleh Al Obahy
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Future Plans: Seek employment.

Jafar Ali
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Lisa Anang  
**PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (MINOR)**  
**Affiliations:** McNair.  
**Future Plans:** Applying for a master’s program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** God Almighty, Dr. Susan Ott, Mrs. Heather Hagenbuch, and Christa Greenburg.  
**Personal Quote:** ”The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” - Aristotle

Tymala Apedo  
**SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES**  
**Affiliations:** EOP, Interdisciplinary Science Education Partnership - National Science Foundation (Intern), Tau Sigma Honors Society.  
**Future Plans:** Seek employment.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** Dr. Joseph Gardella, Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Linda Zilgme, Mrs. Marcelina Rodríguez-Rondon, Mrs. Gudyia Msuku.  
**Personal Quote:** ”With God, all things are possible” - Matthew 19:26

Judite Ayeh  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**Affiliations:** Admissions Assistant, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015.  
**Future Plans:** Obtain a master’s degree and then apply for medical school.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** My mentor Dr. John Panepinto, Nelson Rivera, and Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens.  
**Personal Quote:** ”Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

Kelly Boamah  
**PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY**  
**Affiliations:** FASA, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015.  
**Future Plans:** Accepted to D’Youville College of Pharmacy.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** Rajendram Rajnarayanan, Ph.D, Satpal Singh, Ph.D, Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens, Renee Mapp, and Anaiss Rijo.  
**Personal Quote:** ”I promise to tidy up before company arrives; wouldn’t want my socks and daydreams all over the carpet”- Sarah Kay

Kwame Boakye-Yiadom  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**Affiliations:** Pre-Pharmacy Club, Intramural Basketball, Recreation Services, Division I Buffalo Bull’s Men’s Basketball, Habitat for Humanity, CSTEP Summer Research Program 2015.  
**Future Plans:** Accepted to UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for PharmD program.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** Shanna Crump-Owens, Patricia A. Greer, Dr. Hilliard Kutscher, Nelson Rivera, Lavone Rodolph, and Khadijat Olagoke.  
**Personal Quote:** ”In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” - Abraham Lincoln

Melina Bowdwin  
**NUCLEAR MEDICINE - MASTER’S PROGRAM**  
**Affiliations:** Campus Health Educator (CHE), CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2012.  
**Future Plans:** Seeking employment.  
**People I Would Like to Thank:** I would like to thank my parents for always encouraging me and my adviser, Dr. Heather Orom for guiding me through the research and analyses for my Integrative Project.

Barinaepkee Banuna  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - MASTER’S PROGRAM**  
**Affiliations:** Campus Health Educator (CHE), CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2012.  
**Future Plans:** Accepted to medical school.
Bryant Chen  
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS (MINOR)  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for graduate school.

Jenny Chen  
CHEMICAL ENGINEER  
Affiliations: EOP.  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for a master's program in Chemical Engineering.  
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Alexandridis.

Xiang Yang Chen  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
Affiliations: CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2014.  
Future Plans: Seek employment.

Deedat Choudhury  
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING  
Affiliations: Society of American Military Engineers.  
Future Plans: Seek employment.  
People I Would Like to Thank: My family for being the motivation to complete my degree and change our fortunes.  
Personal Quote: “I hated every minute of training. But I said, ’Don’t quit. Suffer now, and live the rest of your life as a champion’.” - Muhammed Ali

Jessica Chung  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Affiliations: Campus Living, EOP.  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply to medical school.  
People I Would Like to Thank: I want to thank my sister, Judy. She’s been my number one support from day one. My parents/family and all the great friends I’ve made at UB, you know who you are, and Dr. Amanda Bloom.  
Personal Quote: “Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value.” - Albert Einstein

Cristina Cisneros  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Alexandra Clark  
PHYSICS

Danielle Coleman  
SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY - HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/ COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH  
Affiliations: FASA, ACE, LASA, Undergraduate Academies, UB Richmond Hall Council. UB STARS, Sisters of Charity Hospital (Intern).  
Future Plans: Apply for medical school.  
People I Would Like to Thank: I would like to thank Ramelli Choates (ACE advisor), Sandra Handy (Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Program advisor), Heide Cornell (Sisters of Charity Volunteer Services Coordinator), Mary Xenopoulos (Nurse Practitioner/Manager at Sisters of Charity ICU) and the fellow nurses and staff in that unit. Also, I am grateful for CSTEP and would like to give thanks to Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens and grad assistants for the opportunity to join CHE and gain contacts through a past alumni panel and medical school event. I would like to thank my past CA: Marc Salme, dear friends, and my biggest role model of all: my mother.  
Personal Quote: “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” - Dr. Seuss

Emmanuel Cott  
COMPUTER SCIENCE, ECONOMICS  
Affiliations: EOP, UB Track & Field, ARC Lab Tutor.  
Future Plans: Apply for master’s program in Computer Science.  
People I Would Like to Thank: God Almighty, My mother Alicia Thomas, my sisters Christian and Chanthini, Lani Jendrowski, Michael Casper, Jacob Lang, Carl Alphonce, and Lucinda Scott.  
Personal Quote: “In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.” - Bill Cosby
Lataesha Davidson  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Diane Deroche  
NURSING

Eileen Diih  
EXERCISE SCIENCE

Darnell Dodard  
MATHEMATICS
Affiliations: NSBE

Yanling Dong  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, PSYCHOLOGY
Affiliations: SSS, Honors College.
Future Plans: Accepted to SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine.
People I Would Like to Thank: My family and boyfriend, Jennifer Morrison, Elizabeth Morsheimer, Megan Stewart.
Personal Quote: “One day, in retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful.” - Sigmund Freud

Fredrick Durojaiye  
PSYCHOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
Affiliations: UB Club Soccer.
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply to graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: Christa Greenberg and Vivian Williams.
Personal Quote: “Don’t let where you’ve been determine where you’re going.”

Ben Do  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY (MINOR)
Affiliations: EOP, SSS.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Pharmacy to obtain my PharmD.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. David Shubert, Mr. Darryl Barnes, Ms. Linda Zilgme, Brenda Reed.
Personal Quote: “The secret of getting ahead is getting started.” - Mark Twain

Kemji Eke  
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
Affiliations: CURCA, Dance for AASU Vibe, CSTEP Summer Research Program 2014.
Future Plans: Applying for graduate school in nutrition.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Morse, Shanna Crump-Owens, Ms. Tia, and Dr. Lulat for their continued support and mentoring throughout my academic achievements.
Personal Quote: “When not doing what you love is more painful than overcoming the doubt in your ability to do it...”

Erikson Duarte  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Affiliations: SSS.
Future Plans: Seek employment.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Jennifer Morrison, Dr. Amin Karami, and Dr. Ruogang Zhao.
Personal Quote: “For success, the most effort you put into it the most you will get out of it.”
Folaranmi Fakayode
MECHANICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Affiliations: NSBE.

Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Biological Sciences for master’s study in Biological Sciences.

People I Would Like to Thank: I will like to thank God for showing himself through me proving I too can make. My family and friends for the assistance and support. And programs like C-STEP and LSAMP for giving people like myself opportunity to show their worth.

Personal Quote: “...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” - Luke 6:45 [NKJV]

Casterland Fanfan
GEOLOGY

Affiliations: LSAMP, NSBE.

Future Plans: Applying to graduate school for masters study in engineering.

Personal Quote: “You can’t win a race by just running, you have to talk to yourself. You have to talk to yourself when you are running and tell yourself you can win” - Assata Shakur

Sophia Faniyan
PSYCHOLOGY, LINGUISTICS

Affiliations: Tau Sigma Psi Chi, Undergraduate Psychology Association.

Future Plans: Applying for graduate school.

Lingjie Feng
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Affiliations: EOP.

Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for a master’s program in Electrical Engineering.

People I Would Like to Thank: God Almighty, Dr. Susan Ott, Mrs. Heather Hagenbuch, and Christa Greenburg.

Personal Quote: “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” - Aristotle

Rachel Fenton
PSYCHOLOGY

Affiliations: McNair, LASA, Undergraduate Psychology Association.

Future Plans: Accepted to George Washington University for doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology, with a focus on Clinical Neuropsychology.

People I Would Like to Thank: Christa Greenberg, Heather Hagenbuch, Dr. Susan Ott, and my mother Patricia Amis [RIP].

Personal Quote: “I hated every minute of training. But I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now, and live the rest of your life as a champion’.” - Muhammed Ali

Tara-Jeneil Fenton
PSYCHOLOGY

Affiliations: EOP, Interdisciplinary Science Education Partnership - National Science Foundation (Intern), Tau Sigma Honors Society.

Future Plans: Applying for graduate studies within UB School of Social Work.

People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Joseph Gardella, Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Linda Zilgme, Mrs. Marcelina Rodriguez-Rondon, Mrs. Gudyia Msuku.

Personal Quote: “With God, all things are possible” - Matthew 19:26

Nolan Foster
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Affiliations: NSBE.

Future Plans: Accepted position as Software Engineer with General Motors.

People I Would Like to Thank: Kris Schindler.

Personal Quote: “If I had seen further it was because I was standing on the shoulders of giants.” - Issac Newton
Chris Galarraga  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Sean Galette  
GEOGRAPHY, INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Affiliations: Black Student Union.
Future Plans: Applying for a master’s program in Computer Science.
People I Would Like to Thank: My executive board, previous alumnis, family and friends, Tommie Babbs, and Dr. Werner Last but not least, God.
Personal Quote: “Started from the bottom, now we here” - Drake

Tavia Garvey  
PHARMACY - PHARMD

Angelica Gomez  
CHEMISTRY
Affiliations: Mentholatum (Quality Control Intern), IIMAK (R&D Chemist Intern).
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply to graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Wood.
Personal Quote: “I knew that if I failed I wouldn’t regret that, but I knew the one thing I might regret is not trying.” – Jeff Bezos

Andris Gomez  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Jayonia Griffin  
NURSING

Adrian Guadalupe  
PHILOSOPHY

Queen Hashi  
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Daniel Henry  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Keira Henry  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (MINOR)

Affiliations: NSBE.
Future Plans: Accepted position as Software Engineer with General Motors.
People I Would Like to Thank: Kris Schindler.
Personal Quote: “If I had seen further it was because I was standing on the shoulders of giants.” - Issac Newton
Karen Heredia  
COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS AND SCIENCES, EDUCATION (MINOR)  
Affiliations: EOP, LASA, Alma Nanichi.  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply to graduate school.  
People I Would Like to Thank: EOP advisors and classmates.  
Personal Quote: “Don’t let anything stop you from reaching your goal!”

Estefanie Herrera  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY  
Affiliations: Ackers, Campus Health Educator.  
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Biological Sciences for master’s study in Biological Sciences.  
People I Would Like to Thank: I will like to thank God for showing himself through me proving I too can make. My family and friends for the assistance and support. And programs like C-STEP and LSAMP for giving people like myself opportunity to show their worth.

Jahi James  
URBAN & REGIONAL ANALYSIS  
Affiliations: Undergraduate Biology Association, Community Assistant (Flint Village), Campus Health Educator (CHE), Alpha Phi Omega, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2014.  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for graduate study in clinical psychology.  
People I Would Like to Thank: I want to thank the entire CSTEP office for all the hard work they do. Ms. Shanna, Ms. Tia, and all the graduate students have offered guidance and friendship when I really needed it. I also want to thank my research mentors Dr. Larry Hawk and Michelle Bubnik for working with me for two years and continuing to offer support and advice.  
Personal Quote: “The meaning of life is to find your gift, the purpose of life is to give it away.” - Joy J. Golliver

Alexandra Jimenez  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
Affiliations: EOP.  
Future Plans: Apply to law school.  
People I Would Like to Thank: CSTEP Graduate Assistants for their help with my graduate school applications.

Kyle Jemmott  
COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Affiliations: CSTEP Summer Research Program 2013, Campus Health Educator 2015, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Pharmacology and Toxicology Club, CSTEP Student of the Year 2015.  
Future Plans: Accepted to University at Albany School of Public Health for graduate studies in Epidemiology.  
People I Would Like to Thank: My Mom, Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens, Kerisha Hawthorne, Nelson Rivera, Corey Placito, Dr. Panepinto, and Dr. James Olson.  
Personal Quote: “The climb is tough but the view from the top is always better.”
Kadeejah Kelly
ENGLISH, BIOLOGY (MINOR), AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (MINOR)
Affiliations: SSS.
Future Plans: Admitted to UB Law School.
People I Would Like to Thank: Reshona George, Jennifer Morrison, Ming-Qian Ma, Brandi McKnight, Ruth Mack, Khadijat Olagoke, Anaiss Rijo, and Nelson Rivera.
Personal Quote: “Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you riding through the ruts, don’t complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don’t bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live!” - Bob Marley

Vinh Kha
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
Affiliations: EOP.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Engineering for graduate study in biomedical engineering.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Jennifer Morrison, Dr. Amin Karami, and Dr. Ruogang Zhao.
Personal Quote: “All life is an experiment. The more experiments, the better.” - Emerson

Muhammad Khan
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
Future Plans: Accepted position as Reliability Engineer with Northrop Grumman in Florida.
People I Would Like to Thank: Shanna Owens (CSTEP) and Hadar Borden (Undergrad Academies).

Karen Koblan
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

CSTEP 2016 GRADUATING SENIORS

Jonathan Linfield
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Bryanna Lokey
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Levi Li
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Future Plans: Seek employment.
People I Would Like to Thank: Daniel Henry and Dr. Yoo.

Justin Liang
COMPUTER SCIENCE
Future Plans: Seek employment.
Personal Quote: “Don’t wait, The time will never be just right” - Napoleon

Bingyao Lin
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
Future Plans: Seek employment.

Cuiyan Lin
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (MINOR)
Affiliations: Tau Beta Pi, EOP.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Engineering for MS in Biomedical Engineering.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Jonathan Lovell.
Personal Quote: “The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice.” - Brian Herbert

Jenny Li
PHARMACY - PHARMD
Lili Lin
EXERCISE SCIENCES
Affiliations: SSS, Honors College, CURCA.
Future Plans: Admitted to UB Doctor of Physical Therapy program.
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. White Scott.
Personal Quote: "You gotta jump off the cliff all the time."

Wei Lin
OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY
Affiliations: SSS.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Public Health and Health Professions to study Occupational Therapy.

Wenhua Lin
COMPUTER SCIENCE
Future Plans: Seek employment.
Personal Quote: "Everything that doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

Anthony Lopez
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, SPANISH (MINOR)
Affiliations: Campus Health Educator, Rugby, Anime Club, Comic Book Club, Smash Club, UB MAPS.
Future Plans: Attending UB School of Biological Sciences for graduate study.
People I Would Like to Thank: Shanna Crump-Owens for her support and dedication to the students of CSTEP. See shows that she cares for her students and in a school as large as this it really means a lot to have someone care about your studies; Anais Rijos for all the help she gave me when applying to the SRP, Kaplan scholarship and graduate school; Señora Barbara Avila-Shah for being such a passionate teacher and having an incredible willingness to help. She has helped me rediscovered an interest and passion to learn more about the language of spanish which can help me with my future career goals and satisfy my thirst to finally be fluent in the language.
Personal Quote: "Don’t wait for the perfect moment take the moment and make it perfect.”

Shaquille Louis
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Affiliations: UB breakdance, UB Dancesport, Order of the Engineer.
Future Plans: Accepted position as process engineer with Texas Instruments.
People I Would Like to Thank: Professors Blaine Fifer and Elizabeth Clizbe.
Personal Quote: "The best way to predict the future, is to create it.”

Shakeema Mattox
NURSING, SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY

Aminah McBryde
HISTORY

Muhamed McBryde
HISTORY

Jacob Milling
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY (MINOR)
Affiliations: Campus Health Educator (CHE), CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2014, CURCA, Anti-HIV Research, Substance Abuse Research, BMS Focus Group Member, Board of Academic Integrity.
Future Plans: Accepted to Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.
People I Would Like to Thank: Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens, Mr. Nelson Rivera, Dr. Hilliard Kutscher, Dr. Gene Morse, and Dr. David Shubert.
Personal Quote: “Trying to define yourself, is like trying to bite your own teeth.” - Allan W. Watts
Karabi Mitchell
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (MINOR)

Affiliations: SSS.
Future Plans: Seek employment.
People I Would Like to Thank: Professor Karami.
Personal Quote: “Never give up!”

Anthony Montero
MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Jamie Morris
PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY (MINOR)

Affiliations: EOP.
Future Plans: Apply for graduate school.

Hoda Moussa
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: EOP, CSTEP Summer Research Program 2015.
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Engineering for graduate study in biomedical engineering.
People I Would Like to Thank: I would like to thank my parents for encouraging me every step of the way, Mrs. Crump-Owens and the CSTEP team for providing students with opportunities to learn and prepare for the professional world, Dr. Ceacareanu, and Dr. Dziak for her mentorship.
Personal Quote: “The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.” - Walter Bagehot

Crystal Naylor
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Future Plans: Apply for graduate studies in Biology and continue on to medical school.
People I Would Like to Thank: CSTEP for providing the many opportunities that they do to help students get involved and advance in their academic career.
Personal Quote: “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

Emmanuel Nsengiyumva
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Samuel Odulaja
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Affiliations: National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), CURCA, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015.
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: Everybody in the CSTEP Office, Dr. Kenneth English, Dr. Deborah Chung, and Dr. Jason Armstrong.
Personal Quote: “The climb is tough but the view from the top is always better.”

Ugo Oji
SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY

Affiliations: Campus Health Educator (CHE).
Future Plans: Applying to graduate school.

Peter Okorozo
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: Campus Health Educator (CHE), CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015.
Future Plans: Working as a Case Manager / Housing Specialist at BFNC.

Temitope Olalekan
SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY
Ashley Ortiz  
**PSYCHOLOGY**  
Affiliations: EOP.  
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply to graduate school.  
People I Would Like to Thank: Linda DelBello, African Student Association, Black Student Union, Caribbean Student Association, Student Support Services, and everyone who ever believed in me.  
Personal Quote: “A journey of a thousand miles begins in one step.” - Lao Tzu

Folake Olaleye  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
Affiliations: Campus Health Educator (CHE), CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015.  
Future Plans: Accepted to D’Youville College School of Pharmacy.  
People I Would Like to Thank: I would like to thank my research mentor, Dr. Kathryn Medler, for believing in me and providing me with the opportunity to experience scientific research in a way that has motivated me to continue research as I attend professional school. I would also like to thank the entire CSTEP staff, but most especially Mrs. Crump-Owens, for giving me the courage to believe in myself and believe in the future that I want to create for myself through countless academic and social opportunities.  
Personal Quote: “If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more. If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.” - Oprah Winfrey

Michael Olu-Talabi  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Ifechukwu Ononye  
**AEROSPACE ENGINEERING**

Joedie Padilla  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Austin Price  
**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**  
Affiliations: UB Track & Field, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2014.  
Future Plans: Accepted to medical school.

Alejandro Perez  
**ACCOUNTING**  
Affiliations: Beta Alpha Psi, UB Accounting Association, SSS, Ackers, Schomburg Fellow.  
Future Plans: Accepted to UB School of Accounting for graduate studies.  
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Jennifer Morrison.  
Personal Quote: “Maximum effort” - Deadpool

Johan Phillip  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Affiliations: EOP.  
Future Plans: Attend professional school for occupational therapy.  
People I Would Like to Thank: Cstep program is the only program I have been a part of in my academic career. The free tutors that is available for step students was very important in my academic journey. For the mentors or role models I would say one of my professor was a role model her name is Brenda Moore also my program advisor Mary Venezia.  
Personal Quote: “Belief is the first step.”

Rasheen Powell, II  
**PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY, AND CHEMISTRY**  
Future Plans: Applying to graduate school for pharmacology.  
People I Would Like to Thank: Dr. Sherry Chelmer, Nan Um, Shanna Crump-Owens, Tia Greer, Nelson Rivera, Lavone Rodolph, Khadijat Olagoke, and Dr. Danielle Johnson.  
Personal Quote: “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” - Aristotle
Sean Quach  
PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY

Yonas Redae  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Affiliations: EOP, Honors, CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2015, CTRC.
Future Plans: Seek employment and apply for graduate school.
People I Would Like to Thank: All members of CSTEP, and Dr. Jessy Alexander.
Personal Quote: “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

Victoria Robbins  
PSYCHOLOGY

Miah Roberts  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Zaimah Robinson  
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Katherine Sierra  
SOCIAL SCIENCES INTERDISCIPLINARY

Temitayo Sodeke  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: MAPS, Campus Health Educator.
Future Plans: Applying for medical school.

Timothy Semon  
ANTHROPOLOGY

Affiliations: Finish In Four [Student Ambassador], Campus Health Educator, CSTEP Summer Research Program 201 (Cohort Leader), University Life and Services [Student Assistant], Peer Mentor, Habitat for Humanity.
Future Plans: Applying to dental school.
People I Would Like to Thank: Arlene Kaukus, Cheryl Incorvia, Jo Marie Woltz, John Lambert, Shanna Crump-Owens, Nelson Rivera, Patricia Greer, Anaiss Rijo, Dennis Black, Barb Ricotta, Doreen Wackeroth.
Personal Quote: "Stay Humble."

Phurba Sherpa  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: EOP.
Future Plans: Accepted to Notre Dame and Long Island University for pharmacy school.
People I Would Like to Thank: Lani Jendroski.

Sanjot Singh  
BIOTECHNOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY

Future Plans: Attend graduate school.

Shaythia Sterling  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Affiliations: Community Assistant [Hadley Village], Treasurer [Red Jacket], NRHH.
Future Plans: Applying for a master’s program in Biology.
People I Would Like to Thank: My whole family and all the people from home who believe in my dreams.
Personal Quote: “Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” — Maya Angelou
Syeda Tahia  
**BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**Affiliations:** SSS, Woman in Science and Engineering (WiSE), National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), Global Scholars Program, Undergraduate Academies, International Student Mentoring Program (ISMP), Citizens Police Academy.

**Future Plans:** Applying to graduate school.

**People I Would Like to Thank:** All my advisers and mentors, and Dr. Koury.

**Personal Quote:** “The best richness is the richness of the soul.”

---

Jeff Tang  
**EXERCISE SCIENCE**

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Valerie Tapia  
**APPLIED MATHEMATICS**

**Affiliations:** McNair, LASA.

**Future Plans:** Applying for graduate school.

**People I Would Like to Thank:** Dr. Chris Yuen, Heather Hagenbuch, Dr. Susan Ott.

**Personal Quote:** “Never give up.”

---

Abel Taye  
**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

**Affiliations:** NSBE, ESW.

**Future Plans:** Accepted to University of Cincinnati School of Engineering for an MEng in mechanical engineering.

**People I Would Like to Thank:** My friends who have been with me and helped me when I got stuck. I would like to thanks the C-Step office for encouraging me to continue my education. My family for being supportive and God for being there always. Dr. Edward M. Kasprzak.

**Personal Quote:** “Tis a lesson you should heed: Try, try, try again. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try, try again.” - William Edward Hickson

---

Douglas Tsahey  
**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**Affiliations:** Campus Health Educator, ACE, McNair.

**Future Plans:** Attending UB School of Biological Sciences for graduate study.

**People I Would Like to Thank:** Mrs. Shanna Crump-Owens, Dr. David Shubert, and Dr. Jason Kay.

**Personal Quote:** “Hard work and believing in your self is essential for success.”

---

Marissa Walters  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Affiliations:** Fargo Hall Council, Resident Advisor, UB Zeal, Toys for Tots, Campus Health Educator [CHE], CSTEP Summer Research Intern 2014.

**Future Plans:** Applying for graduate school.

**People I Would Like to Thank:** Dr. Jessica Poulin, Mrs. Shauna Crump-Owens, Nelson Rivera, Abiola Olatunde (Former Chemistry 102 TA), and John Truong (Former Physics TA).

**Personal Quote:** “Life has it ups and down but it will always be good.”

---

Shanaysia Folk-Killings  
**MATHEMATICS**

**Future Plans:** Applying to occupational therapy programs.

---

Qinqin Xiao  
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

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Bao Xu  
**MATHEMATICS**

**Future Plans:** Seek employment.
Zujia Xu  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Yarek Yankanna  
PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY

Gary Ye  
PSYCHOLOGY

Sue Zhang  
OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

Yi Ying Zheng  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Future Plans: Apply to medical school.

JiaWei Zhu  
PSYCHOLOGY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAL</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION</th>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>YEAR OF GRADUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Abebio</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>Union College</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Olumuyi</td>
<td>Aiyegbe</td>
<td>Residence Director</td>
<td>Union College</td>
<td>EDM</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Asoh</td>
<td>Technical Consultant</td>
<td>Hewlett-Packard</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Cemi</td>
<td>Abreu</td>
<td>Physical Therapist</td>
<td>PTC</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Rita</td>
<td>Akuazu</td>
<td>Nursing Student</td>
<td>O’Yesville College</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Claudius</td>
<td>Acowode</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>Private Agency</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>Acosahsua</td>
<td>Pharmacy Intern</td>
<td>Whitter Rehabilitation Hospital</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Enica</td>
<td>Acoma</td>
<td>Human Resource Administrator</td>
<td>Wilkes University</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Bruce</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
<td>University at Buffalo, School of Public Health and Health Professions</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs.</td>
<td>Jamelia</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>First Lieutenant United States Army Critical Care Nurse</td>
<td>Brooks Army Medical Center</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Dina</td>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Senior Occupational Therapist</td>
<td>North Shore University Health System</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Blessing</td>
<td>Adebanjo</td>
<td>Assistant Coordinating Manager for House Staff Affairs</td>
<td>Harlem Hospital Center</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>Adejiga</td>
<td>Pharmacy Student</td>
<td>Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>Ademilele</td>
<td>Licensed Practical Nurse</td>
<td>PTC</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Sherry</td>
<td>Ajoyong</td>
<td>Physical Therapist</td>
<td>Visiting Nurse Services</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Pirsilla</td>
<td>Aligi-Baffour</td>
<td>Laboratory Assistant</td>
<td>Roswell Park Cancer Institute</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Afrane</td>
<td>Nursing Student</td>
<td>PTC</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Geraldine</td>
<td>Agbanziwe</td>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
<td>University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Agyegye</td>
<td>Intern Architect</td>
<td>CSERA</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Agyegye</td>
<td>Mortgage</td>
<td>Bank of America</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Serfast</td>
<td>Agyadzie</td>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
<td>University at Buffalo</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Darwane</td>
<td>Akaigbog</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>O’Yesville College of Pharmacy and Critical Care Pharmacist</td>
<td>PHARM</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Akuamah-Boateng</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
<td>University at Buffalo STEP</td>
<td>BA</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Gregory</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>UniX Administrator</td>
<td>Bon Secours Health System</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>1998</td>
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**When:** Friday, May 19th, 2017
**Time:** 6:00pm

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You can also email Shanna Crump-Owens, Director, at sicrump@buffalo.edu