Congratulations to the following ten students who achieved a superior GPA last semester:

1. Naza Abdelrahman
2. Parveen Attai
3. Zachary Chung
4. Obe Joseph
5. Jalisa Kelly
6. Maya Kirkby
7. Aaron Lewis
8. Valeria Prieto
9. Deja Thompson
10. Aaron Nimako

Connections Matter: To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI, 2017 GRADUATES, SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS, FACULTY RESEARCH MENTORS & RESEARCH INTERNS

Friday, May 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Buffalo Niagara Marriott
1340 Millersport Highway
Amherst, NY 14221
Join us for an event celebrating CSTEP reaching our 30th year milestone of fostering exemplary achievements and success among students pursuing STEM, allied health and the licensed professions.
Connect with CSTEP students, staff, partners and alumni during an evening of fun consisting of dinner, awards and music.
Hope to see you there!
All proceeds will benefit the CSTEP Scholarship Fund.
Register by Friday, April 28, 2017 at cpmc.buffalo.edu/cstep/events/anniversary.php
To register for the gala, click this link.
To register for Marriott accommodations, click this link.
For more information, email Shanna Crump-Owens, CSTEP director at sicrump@buffalo.edu.

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS

Don’t forget to submit your official UB paperwork for conferral and commencement! There is a difference with both forms.
Also, you must complete the CSTEP Graduating Senior Survey found HERE.
First, **Do your research.** Research graduate schools themselves. What types of programs interest you? Which grad schools are strong in your field? Where do you want to live? Depending on what you want to study, your graduate education will typically last between two and five years of your life, so make sure you aim to live somewhere you will feel happy and fulfilled.

Then, start building up your research experience in your academic projects. An article on Education Portal points out, “Undergraduate research experience is one of the most important elements of any graduate school application.”

In addition to developing your research skills through your undergraduate classes, you can seek out opportunities to do independent study courses with professors, present at academic conferences, and even publish papers.

2. **Maintain a strong GPA**

Your GPA is one of the first things that high-ranking programs in your field will look at in your graduate school application. Make sure you keep that GPA as high as possible, especially in classes related to your major.

As you’ll see when you start researching programs, many of them require at least a 3.0 GPA for admission, and it goes up from there. Some of the best graduate schools want to see at least a 3.5 GPA. The time to start building the foundation for a strong transcript starts in your very first years of college.

3. **Secure strong recommendations**

As part of your application, many graduate programs will ask for two or three letters of recommendation from your undergraduate professors. In order for your application to stand out to the admissions committee, you need to make sure that you stand out to the college professors who will be writing those recommendations.

Attend office hours (and, it should go without saying, class!). Seek out those independent study courses mentioned above, and get advice on the best graduate school programs for you. You may find that professors are happy to help—remember, many of them were in your shoes not so long ago!

4. **Extracurricular is extra special**

The Career Center at the University of Illinois stresses the importance of getting involved in extracurricular activities. These activities “all help develop transferrable skills that graduate programs and eventually employers will value—initiative, teamwork, communication, leadership, responsibility, perseverance, etc. You will also likely reflect on these extracurricular experiences when preparing your personal statement and giving interviews.”

Moreover, getting involved with professional organizations as an undergraduate can help you network with mentors in your field. There is a professional organization for just about every profession that you can think of. Want to go to grad school to be a physics teacher? Join the American Association of Physics Teachers. A social worker? Join the National Association of Social Workers. An economist? Join the American Economic Association. You get the idea.

5. **Earn a high Standardized Test score**

The GRE, LSAT, PCAT, DAT, MCAT are the SAT of grad school: they are standardized test that most programs require for admission. The good news is, like the SAT, the tests are predictable and beatable. With some study and practice, you can achieve a high score.

It’s never too early to begin prepping. Start by familiarizing yourself with the test. You can utilize the resources provided by ETS, the test maker. Build your vocabulary by reading the New York Times or listening to NPR on your commute. Take a Kaplan GRE class. Your GRE scores are good for up to five years, so there is no harm in taking the test sooner rather than later.

Think of it like this—you’re already on your way! By reading this blog post, you’ve taken the first steps toward becoming a competitive applicant for the top graduate schools in your field.

Source: Kaplan Test Prep, click [HERE](https://www.kaptest.com/grad-school) for original article.
Kaylan LoCicero, Social Sciences Interdisciplinary

My research project was entitled, "Identifying Physicians’ Influence on Prostate Cancer Patients’ Treatment Decision." Physician recommendations may be the most important influence on men’s prostate cancer treatment decisions, however there is limited data that explains under what circumstances physician’s recommendations influence treatment decisions. In our research, We conducted a qualitative data analysis of transcribed interviews with 25 prostate cancer patients who discussed their decision-making experience to examine any major themes that that may reflect a strong influence in men’s treatment decision. This research will provide a better understanding of physicians’ influence on men’s’ treatment decision and how patient-physician relationships can remedy if treatment is over or under prescribed.

The staff and program helped me grow and gain more confidence in myself. I am now eager to continue working in Dr. Orom’s lab in the academic year as I continue to look for opportunities for graduate school.

FUTURE PLANS: To obtain a Bachelor of Sciences in Community Mental Heath and attend the University at Buffalo’s ABS Summer Nursing Program to obtain a Bachelor degree in nursing, and become a registered nurse in my local community.

Jarrett Franklin, Electrical Engineering

This past summer, I worked on “Using Software to Determine the Total Harmonic Distortion of Waveforms.” Relays are electrical switches used to block current to a power system when a fault is detected. In electronics, faults are irregular changes in current that can lead to system damage. However, harmonics are waveform distortions that can mimic faults. This can lead to nuisance tripping which is the process of a relay sealing current from the system when transient signals are detected. By using software simulations these compositions can be studied to ensure proper relay performance. The ability to determine the magnitude of harmonic composition, will aid manufacturers in defining relay settings that can differentiate faults from harmonics.

By the end of the summer program, I strengthened my ability to speak and engage with professional engineering companies. In regards to my career as an electrical engineer, it was awesome being able to conduct research and simultaneously see how what you learned can be applied. In my opinion, doing research between sophomore and junior year is the right time. If you start research early, you will be able to put your heart into your future academics and career.

FUTURE PLANS: To work with a space program.
Jalisa Kelly, Biomedical Engineering

During the summer, I worked with a team on “Changes in Knowledge and the Intent of Breastfeeding among Pregnant Smokers after Smoking Cessation.” I was very fortunate as my mentor encouraged me to get more involved, working with patients and coding information from surveys and interviews.

Our research employed data from the UB Pregnancy and Smoking Cessation study, which uses multiple component interventions to guide pregnant smokers on the journey to quit. Surveys showcased the change in knowledge and intent to breastfeed in a sample size of 32 women. It is expected that the intent to breastfeed will increase amongst our sample size once educated about breastfeeding, and smoking has ceased.

FUTURE PLANS: To attend medical school and obtain an M.D. graduate and go on to be a doctor in underserved areas. I also plan on becoming a clinical instructor.

Alejandro Falca, Medicinal Chemistry

During the summer research program, I investigated quantum dots which are valuable light harvesters for solar energy conversion and photocatalysis. Semiconductor quantum dots have been studied extensively for their size-dependent optical properties as well as for their role as excitonic and trap states, which may alter charge-transfer processes. One major challenge is to maintain the separation of photogenerated charges. We synthesized a CdSe/CdTe heterostructure on TiO$_2$ films through ligand exchange in order to spatially separate electrons and holes upon excitation of light. We expect this configuration of quantum dots to minimize electron-hole recombination thus improving the odds that photogenerated electrons and holes can be used to do work.

The biggest lesson I learned this past summer from doing research is that you should always ask for advice, but you have to get to look for the answer by yourself. Forming new knowledge comes from your individual work in the lab. It is okay to come with limited skills to your first research opportunity but it is more important that you connect well with your mentor and gain strong independence as you build your ability to become field ready.

FUTURE PLANS: My current goal is to be accepted into the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, while long term I want to become an anesthesiologist.
KUDOS

Recognizing CSTEP students who have made exceptional accomplishments during the academic year

AARON NIMAKO, SENIOR

Acceptee, Master’s Program, Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo

A member of 2016 CSTEP’s Summer Research Program, Mr. Nimako has been a very active member of our program participating in both Community Health Educator (CHE) and also as a math instructor for high school students in the Medical Science & Technology Entry Program (MedSTEP) based out of UB’s medical school.

Keep up the great work, Aaron!

ACCOUNTING STUDENTS OFFER FREE 2017 TAX PREPARATION HELP!

Accounting students from the University at Buffalo School of Management again are offering free tax preparation for people and families with annual incomes of less than $54,000.

Free tax preparation will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 1, 2 and 15 in 112 Jacobs Management Center, and on April 8 and 9 in 122 Jacobs Management Center (UB North Campus).

Services will also be offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, and March 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 in 403 Hayes Hall (UB South Campus).

For information and a list of required documents, please visit http://mgt.buffalo.edu/about/community-engagement/free-tax-preparation-services-individuals-families.html

GRADUATE ASSISTANT WELCOME!

Hi everyone! My name is Natalia Marte and I am the new Graduate Assistant for CSTEP. I am a first year law student and recently graduated with my Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. For undergrad, I attended Roger Williams University in Providence, Rhode Island where I attained my B.A. in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice.

At John Jay College of Criminal Justice, I participated and worked for the Ronald H. Brown (RHB) Law School Prep Program housed in the Latino/a and Latin American Studies Department. As a RHB fellow, I prepared for the LSAT, received mentorship from current practicing attorneys and judges, and received advisement for my personal and diversity statements. I also conducted research for the American Civil Liberties Union in Puerto Rico on mass incarceration, policing practices, discriminatory laws affecting the LGBTQ communities, and the current state of violence against women with a focus on Brazil.

I am very passionate about the Black Lives Matter Movement, ending the new form of modern slavery called "mass incarceration", dismantling private privatization, ending patriarchy, advocating for the rights of the LGBTQ community, and many other issues affecting underrepresented communities today. I am currently working on my JD/Ph.D in Sociology application as well. I plan to use my education to conduct research on these issues and propose new effective solutions.

I am very excited to work with all of you and I encourage you to take advantage of CSTEP services. We are all here to help you become all that you can be. Stop by our office to get to know us better, ask us questions, or request our help with graduate school applications or internships. Looking forward towards meeting you all!
CSTEP’S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
Graduates Exemplifying Major Success (GEMS)

Steven Hurt, Enginee

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: B.A. Computer Science and Engineering, 2002
ORIGINAL CITY: Rochester, NY
CURRENT CITY: Rochester, NY
CURRENT JOB POSITION: SW Test Engineer, Harris Corporation
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Made financial contributions to Prayer Tower Church of God In Christ as a “thank you” for the generosity and support they provided me while I was a student at UB. Current Member of the New Life Fellowship Missions Team based in Rochester, NY. Travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti to work on key projects at the Lathan Mission Foundation, which consisted of an all-boys orphanage, a church, clinic, and a school.
ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: Harris Corporation University Relations Team; Harris RF Communications AARG NE (African American Resource Group Northeast) Steering Committee; INROADS Alumnus; Spring 2012 Advisory Board for Engineering Diversity Participant, Penn State College of Engineering
ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: One fond memory of my time at UB was the fact that during my senior year there, my diet consisted primarily chicken tender subs (and boy were they good!).
WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: UB EOP Staff (Dr. Henry Durand, James Ramsey, et. al) for helping cultivate a tight knit community for its program members. Shanna Crump-Owens and CSTEP for making scholarship monies available to me. Elder Lionel Butts and the Prayer Tower Church of God In Christ for welcoming me into their church family while I attended UB. Sharon Sanford for her overall positivity on campus. Helene Kershner – UB Computer Science and Engineering Department for her support while I was in that department. Frank Williams, Dean of Admissions – Daemen College for being a positive role model for me when I interned at the UB Career Planning and Placement Department.

Chanel Henley, Technology Consultant

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2006, Computer Science, B.S.
ORIGINAL CITY: Lackawanna, NY
CURRENT CITY: Fairfax, VA
CURRENT JOB POSITION: Principal Consultant/Web Developer, Intuitive.IT
ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Toastmasters
ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: The various experiences as a Resident Advisor, peer educator, mentor, and student monitor that helped me grow to become a well-rounded leader both in my career, as well in other areas of my life.
WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: My parents – more than anyone in this world, they’ve been there to support me in all my endeavors. The UB CSTEP Program, Daniel Ackers Scholars Programs, INROADS Upstate New York. All for preparing me for the real world through the various workshops and seminars, as well as the internship experiences that I had while at UB.
Looking for a high-impact summer research experience?

CSTEP 2017 SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Who’s eligible for the SRP?

• U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• Underrepresented (African-American, Latino, Native American) or economically disadvantaged
• At least a rising sophomore with two semesters of science coursework completed
• UB students pursuing a STEM or allied health professions
• Minimum 2.8 GPA

What’s the Summer Research Program (SRP) about?

The CSTEP Summer Research Program (SRP) is an intensive research experience to enhance the competitiveness of talented underrepresented students pursuing the licensed professions or STEM majors. Participants will be better equipped to gain admission into graduate or professional school programs. Also, the CSTEP SRP will strengthen your research skills and expose you to the rigors of graduate study. Additionally, you will develop your research presentation abilities, learn about the culture of research, and much more!

How do I apply?

• Completed 2-part CSTEP SRP Application (on our website & in the office)
• Personal Statement
• Two Letters of Recommendation (faculty, supervisor, staff and/or advisors)
• Copy of UB Student ID
• Official College Transcript
• Résumé

How’s the SRP structured?

8.5-week program from June 6 – August 3, 2017.

Students are matched with a faculty mentor to conduct research for 25 hours per week. Additionally, participants will attend a research methods seminar, workshops, and fieldtrips. The program culminates with our capstone Research Poster Symposium where students present their research to peers, faculty, and the University community.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Here’s what a few students from previous summers said about their experience:

“The CSTEP Summer Research Program isn’t just a program that provides research opportunities; it gave me access to alumni, scholarships, fellowships, friendships and networking.” - Michael

“This experience has been amazing because not only was it educational and informative, but it was uplifting and made me feel like the sky is the limit.” - Melissa
Spring 2017
CSTEP Calendar

MARCH

8 WED
CSTEP Day of Service: 9am - 1pm, CSTEP Students needed to volunteer in classroom at International Prep Academy (Buffalo, NY)

10 FRI
CSTEP MONTHLY MEETING: Research Luncheon (Session A), Noon-1pm, 567 Capen (Lunch Served)

16 THU
APPLICATION DEADLINE for 2017 CSTEP Summer Research Program

APRIL

7 FRI
CSTEP Statewide Conference “Journey’s Beyond Excellence”, Fri. 7-Sun. 9, Lake George, NY

10 FRI
CSTEP MONTHLY MEETING: Research Luncheon (Session B), Noon-1pm, 567 Capen (Lunch Served)

19 WED
CSTEP Excellence Scholarship Application Deadline - $500 - APPLY TODAY!

26 WED
CSTEP CHE Organ Donor Registry Drive - 10am - 4:00pm, SU Lobby

28 FRI
CSTEP Spring Internship Program Ends

MAY

12 FRI
CSTEP Student Recognition Dinner: Harriman Hall, 6:00pm

JUNE

6 TUES
CSTEP Summer Research Program Begins

Our group at International Prep Academy for 2017 Day of Service

Community Service with Habitat for Humanity learning how to make sheds

Kaytlan LoCicero presenting for one of our Research Luncheons

CHE students at Unyts learning to dissect cow eyes with Dr. Sangita Patel

CSTEP GRADUATE ASSISTANT’S OFFICE HOURS

CHELSEA GONZALEZ
TUE 3PM - 4PM
WED 2PM - 5:30PM
THU 3PM - 5:30PM
cgonzal@buffalo.edu

MICHAEL MARRERO
TUE 10AM - 5PM
FRI 5PM - 5:15PM
bda7@buffalo.edu

NATALIA MARTE
TUE 10AM - 2:00PM
WED 2PM - 5PM
FRI 12PM - 5PM
kerishah@buffalo.edu

NELSON RIVERA
TUES - FRI
10AM - 3PM
nmrivera@buffalo.edu

CSTEP Graduate Assistants are available during these office hours to meet with students to discuss graduate school options, review personal statements, and assist with the application

DROP IN HOURS WITH SHANNA CRUMP-OWENS
MON, WED, FRI
11AM - 3PM
RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY

Connections Matter:
To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected
RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ALUMNI, 2017 GRADUATES, SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS, FACULTY RESEARCH MENTORS & RESEARCH INTERNS

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To register for Marriott accommodations, click this link

For more information, email Shanna Crump-Owens, CSTEP Director at sicrump@buffalo.edu.

All proceeds will benefit the CSTEP Scholarship Fund.
The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) provides high-impact services and activities to broaden talented underrepresented students’ participation and retention into the licensed professions and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). CSTEP meets this goal by providing the following services: academic and career advisement, paid academic year and summer research/internship opportunities, tutoring, academic and career workshops, the CSTEP/Kaplan Scholarship, personal statement review and assistance with the graduate school application process, the CSTEP Excellence Scholarship, monthly student meetings, newsletters, attendance to conferences, and connections with alumni.

CSTEP mission statement

The Future Belongs to those who prepare for it.

CSTEP motto: “To Whom Much is Given, Much Is Expected”