A heartfelt thank you to everyone for making CSTEP’s 25th Anniversary Scholarship and Alumni Gala held on Friday, May 4th at the Buffalo Niagara Marriot Hotel a success! Your generous support helped us recognize our outstanding alumni, 2012 graduates, distinguished faculty research mentors, and research interns. Thank you for enacting CSTEP’s motto: “To whom much is given, much is required.”

We look forward to working with you in the future as we continue supporting and preparing talented underrepresented students pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields as well as the licensed and allied health professions.

Please note that we are still accepting donations towards our “Drive for $25k” to fund CSTEP research scholarships. Please make all checks payable to CSTEP and send it to the CSTEP office at 222 Norton Hall, Buffalo NY 14261.

CSTEP TOP TEN

Congratulations to the following ten students who are recipients of a $50 card to the University Bookstore for exemplifying excellence in academics by consistently maintaining a superior GPA.

1. Avonelle Brandon
2. Howard Chen
3. Jenny Chen
4. Paul Glenn
5. Sharlene Green
6. Jade Lewis
7. Li Li Lin
8. Andrew Ortiz
9. Amanda Osei
10. Brittany Sainz

NEXT CSTEP MEETING

ABC’s of Graduate School Graduate School Panel
Friday, October 19, 2012
Noon
567 Capen
Food will be served!
This 2012 spring semester, 20 students from the UB, CSTEP Program, participated in the 20th Annual CSTEP Statewide Conference entitled Journeys Beyond Excellence, held April 13-15th, 2012 at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George. Over 650 CSTEP students and staff from 50 colleges across New York State were present. The 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, 150 students competed in the Research Poster Competition in natural sciences, physical sciences, technology, social sciences, and human services categories demonstrating research conducted via the CSTEP Research Program. Hector Coco and Damian Ogbonna presented their research via oral presentation in the Technology category.

Our poster presenters included: Nailah Sinclair, Tavia Garvey and Richard Hunte in the Natural Science category, Shanney Lacey in the Technology category, Belle Cunningham in the Physical Science category and Jonathan Feliciano in the Social Science category.

UB CSTEP had an unprecedented 5 winners across all categories. Belle Cunningham, Hector Coco and Jonathan Feliciano were awarded as Honorable Mentions. Richard Hunte and Shanney Lacey were awarded 1st Place.

The conference ended with an insightful keynote address by CSTEP Alumnus Dr. Gezzer Ortega, a Pediatric Surgery Researcher at St. Johns Hopkins Hospital: Children Center. He addressed the importance of CSTEP’s goal - to continue the assault on the problem of underrepresentation of minorities in STEM and the licensed professions. He discussed the differences between mentors and coaches, the core values of a person, and his experience as a CSTEP student. He also discussed the challenges and realities that students must face as they strive for excellence in academics and the importance of establishing a personal mission.
Sharece Blake, Electrical Engineering

My career goals are to attend graduate school and then work at a corporation. I applied to the CSTEP Summer Research Program because research examines areas of study in depth which generates new ideas and discoveries. To be honest, I did not know what to expect, but I’m glad I took a chance. The CSTEP Summer Program has definitely given me an experience to remember because it allowed me to get hands on involvement in my field which you can not get in lectures.

I am working at the Energy Systems Institute (ESI) with Dr. Jennifer Zirnheld. The title of my research project is “Effects of Transient Currents on the Electrical Characteristics of a Thin Wire.” The purpose of the project is to electrically stress a wire and evaluate the thermal effects due to resistive heating by building a circuit that could generate constant current pulses at durations and amplitudes of choice.

FUTURE PLANS: I plan on obtaining a Masters in Electrical Engineering. In the future, I want to develop, test and design electrical products and equipment that can then be manufactured. I would like to enhance existing technologies and make them more captivating.

Nurys De La Cruz, Psychology

From this experience, I expected to gain skills to conduct and present research. The take away concept for me was, to whom much is given much is required. I should take everything that I have learned this summer and pass it on to those around me. Not only did we learn how to conduct and present research but the mentors provided insight into graduate school. My mentor answered all my questions about research and graduate school in general.

My research project was entitled, “Investigation of Parenting Approaches Between Mothers and Fathers of Children with ADHD.” This investigation compares maternal and paternal interactions with ADHD diagnosed children from 15 families. Child led play, parent led play, and clean up were recorded and then coded for parent behavior and child behavior. Results were analyzed to investigate differences in parenting approaches by gender. The approaches that mothers and fathers take when interacting with their child could be used to further the development of effective ADHD interventions.

FUTURE PLANS: My career goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Neuropsychology. Ultimately, I want to work in a hospital environment with children.
Mohamed Abdulla, Mechanical Engineering

Upon completing my junior year, I felt that my grades were fairly competitive in terms of applying for a Mechanical Engineering graduate program. However, I lacked experience and needed to be a little more hands on during my undergraduate studies. The summer research program actually turned out to be more than I expected! Not only did I get the hands on research experience I needed, but I also attended countless workshops that helped me become well-rounded, and had the chance to take a practice GRE and see where I stand. I also had the opportunity to familiarize myself with faculty members and Ph.D. candidates.

My summer research project was entitled “Virtual Prototyping [VP] of Intuitive Surgical’s da Vinci Mega Needle Driver”. The goal is to use commercial VP software to make design improvements to a tool used by a surgical robot.

FUTURE PLANS: To pursue a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration.

Melina Bowdwin, Nuclear Medicine Technology

This past summer, I developed a strong interest in Public Health and Preventive Medicine, that I would like to pursue in graduate school. I applied to the summer research program because I wanted to get a good handle on what research really is and what it takes to pursue a career in research. I wanted to see if research is really what I would like to do or not. The program was what I expected, but I do wish we had more time to spend in the lab before producing our poster. Despite some of the obstacles I faced in my first few weeks in the lab, I am very happy with the data analysis I have done and how my project is coming along.

My research project was entitled, “Negative Pressure Breathing to enhance Nitrogen Elimination during DISSUB and other Diving Operations.” I work under Dr. David Pendergast, who is a professor of physiology. Before the CSTEP program, I did not have any other internship or research experience.

FUTURE PLANS: To obtain a Master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology and Environmental Health or a Master’s degree in Exercise Science to be able to work in a clinic to facilitate diagnostic imaging with radionuclides as well as radionuclide therapy for cancer and tumors.
The CSTEP Outstanding Research Mentor Award recognizes outstanding CSTEP research mentors who have been involved in mentoring, supervising and advising CSTEP undergraduate researchers, and have impacted CSTEP students’ academic and professional careers. These mentors support CSTEP’s mission to increase the success of underrepresented populations pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and the licensed professions. The outstanding CSTEP Faculty Mentors were nominated by undergraduate CSTEP students during the spring and selected by the CSTEP Advisory Board and staff.

**DR. FOLARIN EROGBOGBO**
Research Assistant Professor, Chemistry Department

“Dr. Erogbogbo always pushed me to do my best. He always pushed me to go for the best scholarship, internship, research experience, and the best graduate/professional school after graduation. There have been many times when I did not know what would be the best course of action or if I had the qualifications to take them. Dr. Erogbogbo inspired me and encouraged me to just go for it. His biggest lesson was to always ask, because if you don’t you are already telling yourself no. He told me to let others have the opportunity to tell me yes. In turn, I have had great academic successes and experiences. Also, I don’t think I would be pursuing into an MD/PhD program, and especially one as great as I am attending, if it were not for him. Much of my success in my academic career at UB was due to his assistance.”

Student Nominator: Jasmine May, First Year Medical Student at Northwestern University

**DR. JENNIFER ZIRNHELD**
Director and Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering Department

“Dr. Zirnheld allowed me to select my own projects of interest. I presented my work at the UB Celebration of Academic Excellence in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. I’m in the process of tailoring my career towards her area of expertise (energy systems) and electronics. She motivated me to do better undergrad. I had people doubting and questioning my abilities prior to college. It was good to know I had someone in my corner.

Student Nominator: Brianna Clark, Associate Engineer, Distribution Planning at Power Industry

**DR. KEVIN BURKE**
Senior Research Scientist/Adjunct Instructor, Electrical Engineering Department

“Dr. Burke inspired me to pursue a graduate education, which is an option I never thought I had until I began working with Dr. Burke. He showed me statistics of minorities graduating with an advanced degree. It let me understand that earning a masters degree would mean a great deal to me and to many others. He showed me how important it would be in the long term to graduate with an masters. Without Dr. Burke’s mentorship I would not have pursued a masters degree.”

Student Nominator: Antonio Upia, Electrical Engineering M.S. Student at UB
CSTEP’S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
Graduates Exemplifying Major Success (GEMS)

Richard Linares, Engineer

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: Aerospace Engineering, BS 2009, Control and Estimation Theory, PhD Candidate, 2013

ORIGINAL CITY: Yonkers, NY

CURRENT CITY: Buffalo, NY

CURRENT JOB POSITION: Research Aerospace Engineer, CUBRC


ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), American Astronautical Society (AAS), American Geophysical Union (AGU), American Meteorological Society (AMS).

ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: CSTEP trip to the Medical Research Corridor in downtown Buffalo during the Summer Research Program and taking part in the Brush-Up-Buffalo community service activity.

WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: I would like to thank Shanna Crump-Owens for her help, advice, and assistance during my graduate career.

Ian Waite, Engineer

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: Industrial Engineering, BS 2009, Industrial Engineering MS, 2011

ORIGINAL CITY: Kingston, Jamaica

CURRENT CITY: Hudson Falls, NY

CURRENT JOB POSITION: Quality Engineer, General Electric Company


ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: American Society for Quality (Hudson Mohawk Chapter).

ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: Having great guidance and mentoring from Patricia (Tia) Greer and Shanna Crump-Owens from the CSTEP office.

WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Shanna Crump-Owens, Patricia Greer, Dr. Rakesh Nagi (Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering), Dr. Sean Wu (Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering), Dr. Victor Paquet (Department of Industrial & Systems Engineering), Dr. Pamela McCauley Bush, all CSTEP members.

Ian Waite, Quality Engineer
General Electric Company

Richard Linares, Research
Aerospace Engineer, CUBRC

“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.”

Maya Angelou, American Author and Poet

Ian Waite, Engineer

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.”

Vince Lombardi, NFL Football Coach

Ian Waite, Quality Engineer
General Electric Company
Olayemi Ola, MD

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: Biology and Psychology, BA 2006, Medicine, MD 2011 (American University of Antigua)

ORIGINAL CITY: Queens, NY
CURRENT CITY: Marlton, NJ

CURRENT JOB POSITION: Medical Doctor (Resident Doctor-Post Graduate Year 1), UMDNJ Camden Campus Cooper University Hospital

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Church youth Leader, Praise and Worship Leader, International Pediatric elective at University of Ibadan, College of Medicine [Nigeria], University of Buffalo Gospel Choir - President (Twice)

ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: Pediatric Association Society, Eastern Scientific Pediatric Research

ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: Tearing up at the CSTEP office because I was not sure if I could get into medical school. I was introduced to Ms. Crump-Owens who encouraged me that nothing is impossible and that I could get into medical school as long as I work hard. She even gave me some examples of people who had struggles but were able to get into medical school. She informed me of the CSTEP Kaplan Scholarship which offered the MCAT course. I cannot say thank you enough, I am truly grateful.

WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: I would like to thank God, my parents and siblings for the constant support and encouragement. CSTEP, especially Shanna Crump-Owens, my mentors Dr. Sarumi and Dr. Fadoju, and finally, I would like to thank the love of my life.

Chidiebere Onyishi, RN

DEGREE(S) YEAR OF GRADUATION: Medicinal Chemistry, BS 2007, Nursing, BSN 2010, Family Nurse Practitioner, DNP Anticipated 2014

ORIGINAL CITY: Bronx, NY
CURRENT CITY: Buffalo, NY

CURRENT JOB POSITION: Registered Nurse, Kaleida Health

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Food & Clothing Drives, Flu Clinics

ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS: Graduate Nursing Organization

ONE FOND MEMORY OF UB AND/OR CSTEP: The Annual CSTEP Graduation Ceremony and how everyone came together to celebrate all the hard work and difficult times at UB.

WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Hilary Onyishi, Ofoma Asogwa, Mr. & Mrs. Eluma Asogwa, Preston Niland, and Shanna Crump-Owens.
Funding Your Research - $500 Undergraduate Research Awards

Are you doing interested in research? If so, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (CURCA), $500 undergraduate research awards may be of interest to you.

This research award could potentially be used to purchase new equipment or materials that may be vital in conducting your research. This funding could also be used to cover the cost of attending a research conference to present your research.

The Benefits:
- Receiving funding for your research looks good on applications to graduate schools
- This money could be used for materials your lab may not otherwise have access to
- Attending a research conference to present or even to attend can be an enlightening experience
- Applying for this Award is great practice for other grants you may be interested in applying to in the future

Applications are accepted and reviewed throughout the Fall and Spring Semesters. It would be a good idea to start working with your research mentor on your application now; the first deadline for applications this Fall semester will be October 3, 2012 by 3:00 PM.

For more information, visit http://curca.buffalo.edu/students/funding.php

CSTEP Laptop Loaner Program

Did your computer crash? Is it running slow? Need one for the semester? CSTEP now has a laptop loaner program for the Fall 2012 semester. Students interested in borrowing a mini netbook should stop by the office today!

Career Services Mentor Program

Working with a mentor in your field can be a great asset in helping prepare you for a future career in your field. A mentor has been where you currently are as a student and have the benefit of more life experience which they can share with you. The Career Services office and the UB Alumni Association have partnered together to create a mentor network for UB undergraduates to benefit from.

What can a mentor do for you?
- Help you explore the possibilities within your field of study
- Guide you through your undergraduate career
- Offer insight into the life after graduating
- Help you prepare applications and personal statements for graduate schools and jobs

If you are interested in participating in this mentor program, you can easily register online from the career services website. Participants must register and create a profile. Mentors can then view your profile and contact you if they believe they would be a good match.

For more information visit: www.ub-careers.buffalo.edu/mentor

I started organizing my thoughts during the summer; just a few weeks after the end of the semester. I took the first step in applying for a Fulbright fellowship and met with the UB Fulbright Advisor, Dr. Kenneth Shockley, to help me understand the application process better. I continued communicating with him during the entire process.

WHO CAN APPLY?
Graduating college seniors, graduate students, professionals and artists to study, teach, or conduct research. A bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) is required by the start of the Fulbright grant period. Students are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential. The 2013-2014 applications are online. The National deadline October 17th. All UB students who apply for the scholarship must apply through UB and adhere to all deadlines.

The waiting period is hectic, but I am grateful for the scholarship. I would not have done it without my support system; advisors, mentors, friends, family, etc. I am encouraging everyone to apply because the scholarship provides a unique experience. Expenses are covered, including flight, but each country varies to how much that person receives. For Tajikistan, I should be receiving approximately $30,000.

Waiting until the last minute is not a good idea because there are many things to be done in advance. Planning can ease the stress.

GRANT BENEFIT INCLUDE:
• Round-trip transportation to the host country
• Funding to cover room, board, and incidental costs, based on the cost of living in the host country
• Health benefits

In some countries, grants may also include:
• Book and research allowances
• Mid-term enrichment activities
• Full or partial tuition
• Language study programs
• Pre-departure and in-country orientations

I encourage you to apply. For more information visit the website: http://fulbright.state.gov/

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Below are some of the items needed:
• Online application (leadership, plans, biography)
• Recommendation letters
• Letters of Affiliation
• Personal Statement
• Project proposal (what you plan on doing abroad)
• Transcripts from all institutions attended beyond high school

TIMELINE
September - UB application due
October - UB Interviews
October - Application submitted to a national competition
January - I was notified by the National Screening Committee that I was moved to the next round
Mid February - I was interviewed by the Embassy for Tajikistan
April - I was notified that I received the scholarship contingent upon obtaining medical clearance.
May - I obtained medical clearance
June - Departure orientation (each geographical region has its own)
SEPTEMBER

3 MON  CSTEP Welcome Back BBQ 1:00-4:00PM, South Lake Village Community Room
10 MON  CSTEP Research Internship Program Begins
14 FRI  Research Opportunities Fair 1:00-4:00PM, UGL Library Lobby
19 WED  Interview Like a Pro for the Professional Health Schools, 4:00-5:30PM 145C, SU
21 FRI  CSTEP MONTHLY MEETING: Study Abroad: Noon, 567 Capen-LUNCH SERVED!
22 SAT  Community Service: Habitat for Humanity - Building/Renovating a House 9AM site 130 Hasting Ave, Buffalo NY 14215

OCTOBER

5 FRI  CSTEP Research Luncheon: Session A, Noon, 567 Capen - LUNCH SERVED!
9 TUES  Early Assurance Programs at UB’s Medical and Dental Schools, 5:00-6:00PM, 272 Capen Hall
10 WED  Kaplan Practice Exams: DAT, GRE, LSAT,MCAT, and PCAT 6:00PM Ste 201, UB Commons, call (716) 636-1882 for more information
19 FRI  CSTEP MONTHLY MEETING: Graduate School Pannel: Noon, 567 Capen Hall - Refreshments will be served!
25 THURS  RX For Success “Pharmacy”: 5:00PM, 183A Kapoor Hall, South Campus Pharmacy School - FREE FOOD!
26 FRI  CSTEP Night Out - 7:00PM at Lasertron

NOVEMBER

6 TUES  Election Day - VOTE!
9 FRI  Panel of Professionals - Noon, 567 Capen Hall - LUNCH SERVED!
19 MON  Campus Health Educator (CHE) Service Learning Project- Application Deadline
30 FRI  CSTEP Fall Internship Program Ends

DECEMBER

7 FRI  CSTEP End of Semester Reception -Research Luncheon: Session B Noon, 567 Capen Hall, LUNCH SERVED!
7 FRI  Recruitment begins for CSTEP Summer Research Program - Applications Available
CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

A Graduate Student Panel
Will share their experiences regarding:
- The Application Process
- Balancing Course Loads
- Funding Sources

October 19, 2012
Noon
567 Capen Hall

For more information please contact: kerishah@buffalo.edu

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!!!
The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) provides services and activities to increase talented underrepresented students’ retention into the licensed professions and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). CSTEP meets this objective 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 other enrichment activities.

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT.

CSTEP MISSION STATEMENT

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