



College of Science and Mathematics
Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

Highlights of Summer Bridge 2012

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2012

2012 Summer Bridge Program Highlights

COSAM's outstanding academic enrichment and stimulating learning experience selected twenty nine pre-college students were selected to participate in Summer Bridge 2012. The program has served over 450 minority students during a total of 16 summers. The students participated in a four-week intensive program that includes: non-credit instruction of mathematics and chemistry courses; educational development of study skills, time management and financial literacy; and enhancement of social skills. The Summer Bridge program concluded with the 16th Annual Awards Luncheon on June 28, 2012.



Although many of the twenty nine pre-freshmen were graduates from very diverse backgrounds, they were diligent in completing their assignments, modeled appropriate behaviors, worked hard to enhance time management and leadership skills, embraced service learning, explored alternative careers and had fun as they explored the AU campus, bonded with each other and developed expanded academic and social networks.

The 16th Annual Awards Luncheon was held on June 28, 2012 at the Lexington Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Dr. Charles Savrda, Interim Dean of COSAM, presided over the luncheon and introduced the Awards Luncheon speaker, TaShawna Thomas Stokes, M.D. Dr. Stokes, a native of Montgomery, AL, was a participant in the 1998 Summer Bridge program. While at Auburn University, Dr. Stokes was involved in a number of activities and

was elected Miss Auburn. She was awarded her degree in biomedical sciences in 2001, and she received her medical degree from the University of South Alabama. In 2010, Dr. Stokes returned to Alabama and is currently a pediatrician in Madison, AL and member of the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Leadership Council. Dr. Stokes inspired our SBP participants to strive to achieve their highest potential. Dr. Stokes shared inspirational moments from her life and challenged Summer Bride participants to strive to achieve their highest potential. The program included an invocation by Jayme Shephard and remarks by Dr. Lawrence Wit. Four Summer Bridge participants, Kiara Parker, Elliott Rivers, Lonnisha Smith, and Ricarrdo Spencer, shared their Summer Bridge experience and all participants were given certificates. The Annual Awards Luncheon was attended by some of our supporters including, AT& T Pioneers, who not only provide fiscal and social support for our students, but also enrich the curriculum by providing instruction in the area of fiscal literacy, many University administrators, faculty, staff, and supportive parents and friends. We are greatly appreciative to all those that made contributions to make the 2012 Summer Bridge Program a success.



The COSAM Summer Bridge Program is one of our most successful strategies to attract, retain and empower minority undergraduates for careers in the sciences, mathematics and professional careers. Unfortunately, we still struggle to attract and enroll adequate numbers of male students into our program and to Auburn University. We are greatly concerned about the economic and social implications of this trend and will redouble our efforts in this area in the next recruiting period.

COSAM Summer Bridge continues to be a highly effective retention tool as all of the 2012 participants returned to Auburn for fall term enrollment with nineteen (29) enrolling in COSAM curricula. The outstanding pre-freshmen cohort had an average ACT score of 24.7 and average GPA was 3.69. Attendees came from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Student majors for the fall included Biomedical Sciences, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Zoology with concentration interests in Pre-Pharmacy(8), Pre-Dentistry(2), Pre-Physical Therapy (2), Pre-Veterinary Medicine(1), and Pre-Medicine(10). The official class picture of the 2012 participants, counselors and staff is presented below. The twenty females and nine males who participated in our math and science living and learning community benefited from the experiences of successful upperclassmen role models and former Bridge participants: Marissa Bolling, Arthur Bruce, Brittany McCracken, Tsinina Thomas, Dillon Thompson. We look forward to the arrival of the 2013 Summer Bridge group.



2012 Summer Bridge Program Participants, Counselors and Staff