

# FUTURE

## November 2018 Newsletter

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## *A Season to be Thankful*

Hello FUTURE friends and families. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and head towards the holiday season, it is important to reflect on all of the things to be grateful for at the FUTURE Program. Exam time can be stressful, and it is hard to remember the great things surrounding us. For this month's newsletter, let's take a moment to highlight the things FUTURE is thankful for.

FUTURE families, the support and encouragement you provide to your students is represented through their efforts in school. They are a reflection of the love and care that you instill in them. We have multiple parents that are going the extra mile outside of the FUTURE Program in an effort to provide more support for our students. We are thankful for you.



FUTURE mentors, you put in so much effort every day to make sure FUTURE students are doing everything that is asked of them. You continuously roll with the punches and maintain solid communication. The FUTURE Program could truly not function without you all. Enjoy winter break, and know that FUTURE appreciates you.

The University of Tennessee has continued to work with the FUTURE Program through the years, and have heard our requests and constructive suggestions on how to make campus more inclusive. From athletics, to Student Government, to the Alumni Office, our students have found their place in your groups. Additionally, members of the university like Natalie Campbell work to pass legislation that improves conditions for our students (see article on next page). We now have advocates throughout campus excited to tell people about FUTURE. We are so thankful for you.

FUTURE hopes that everyone has a happy and safe winter break. We have big things to come next semester, so stay tuned to see the greatness achieved at FUTURE.



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# Bill Benefitting FUTURE Passed in SGA Senate

On Tuesday, November 6, Natalie Campbell and Mickayla Stogsdill presented a bill at the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate meeting to address FUTURE students' access to Student Disability Services (SDS). Before the bill, FUTURE students did not receive any of the services that SDS provides, such as note takers, interpreters, and SDS accommodations for exams. Natalie Campbell, an undergraduate SGA member who spends much of her time in the FUTURE offices, was passionate about getting these services for FUTURE students.

Last year, Natalie worked on getting a similar bill passed. But, after little or no change in the services provided after that bill was passed, Natalie felt there was more that needed to be done. When asked about the reason for the second bill, Natalie said, "It was important to pass another bill because this one compiled all of the research that was done throughout conversations with University administration and other experts in these types of issues."

Natalie and Mickayla worked hard on rewording the new bill to make sure necessary action was taken at an appropriate pace. Natalie said, "After we observed some additional resistance with the first bill's passage, we ensured the (new) bill had some needed strength to make sure that our students got what they need." At the meeting, they both spoke in great detail about the inherent right the FUTURE students had as active members of the University of Tennessee's campus to receive SDS accommodations. Their presentation was passionate and had a sufficient amount of evidence and research to back their claims. It was clear they were passionate in what they were fighting for.

When it was time for the senate to vote, the bill passed unanimously. Now, FUTURE students will start to receive services they need and deserve. It couldn't have been possible without the hard work of people who care so much about the program. Natalie and Mickayla, FUTURE appreciates all of your contributions into improving the lives of the FUTURE students.



Mickayla Stogsdill @M... · 11/7/18  
& it passed UNANIMOUSLY. Proud to work with @utk\_future and @Nat\_J\_Campbell and so many others to make sure students with intellectual and physical disabilities from UT's FUTURE program are treated fairly with the resources they pay for and deserve. This is only the beginning.

UT FUTURE Program @utk\_f...

Tonight, the @UTKSGA Senate is voting on a super important bill that will help FUTURE students receive SDS assistance. Come out and sh...





## Chasing Goals with the Ladies who Score Goals: **An Internship with Women's Soccer**

Rachel, a first year FUTURE student, interned with the UT women's soccer team at Regal Stadium during their season this semester. At her internship, Rachel assisted the team as she gathered equipment, filled and distributed water bottles, cleaned up after drills, and contributed to other aspects of the team's practice. Rachel showed her love and care for the ladies and was always ready to help in any way possible. Her work ethic was wonderful as she was organized and followed instructions very easily. Rachel's supervisor, Emily, said her favorite aspect about working with Rachel was "...her personality; she is funny, sweet, smart and caring." Rachel's favorite part about working with the women's soccer team is the team members.



Rachel and the staff/players have built great relationships with each other. Emily said, "It is always so fun when one of our staff or players run into Rachel on campus, we love getting to spend time with her!" Rachel loves sports, so this has been the perfect fit for her internship this semester. With Rachel's organizational skills and fantastic memory, she will be very successful in whatever career path that she chooses to take after FUTURE. We are so thankful to have students like Rachel here at FUTURE, and we cannot wait to see everything that she accomplishes. Keep being awesome, Rachel!

## FUTURE Student: Caleb Kyker



This month, the fabulous FUTURE student being showcased is Caleb Kyker. He is a third year student that brings a positive attitude and creative imagination to FUTURE every day. Some of his favorite things about the University of Tennessee are the sorority village and the Vol Shop, where he buys his UT gear. Caleb is a great artist, and just recently submitted a series of sorority house drawings for an art show. In his free time on campus, Caleb loves going to the UC to get food and make new friends. His happiness and energy is contagious at FUTURE, and we truly appreciate what he brings to the program.

# FUTURE Profiles

## FUTURE Family: The Burroughs

How does your family celebrate the holidays?

We typically decorate the house on Thanksgiving weekend, and have several family gatherings at our house during the month of December. We play in the orchestra one weekend in December for our church's Living Christmas Tree which we all enjoy. Blake has been known to make an appearance in the choir, assist the percussion section, be an usher, as well as a wiseman or shepherd.

We always spread reindeer food in the yard on Christmas Eve and eat lots of honey baked ham and rolls on Christmas Day.

What is your favorite thing to do as a family?

Our family loves music. All of us play at least two instruments. Blake has taken lessons for bass guitar and played suspended cymbal in the marching band in high school for four years. We love to play in the orchestra together at church around the holidays.

What was your favorite family vacation or favorite thing you did as a family this summer?

Our favorite vacations are the beach and Disney World. We took our camper to the beach last summer, and plan to go to Disney World in November of 2019.

What is your favorite part of the FUTURE Program?

Blake has enjoyed his Geology Class and Music History class the best this semester. He has really enjoyed having the freedom to roam campus and eat all he wants in the cafeteria, especially Chick-fil-A.



-Deedra Burroughs



## FUTURE Mentor: Jason Phillips



Jason Phillips is a second year student from Maryville, Tennessee studying neuroscience. He chose his major because he hopes to one day work in the anesthesia field. He started working with the FUTURE program this semester and is loving it so far. Although he has not had much past experience working with programs similar to FUTURE, he is glad that he is getting the opportunity. His favorite aspect of FUTURE is how all of the mentors, staff, and students have welcomed him into the program with open arms. Jason does so much to help out with the FUTURE program, and we are so glad to have him. Thanks for all of your hard work!



# FUTURE Profiles

## FUTURE Staff: Jessica Kotik

Jessica is our academic support specialist for this school year. Jessica comes to us from Kent State University, but is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jessica graduated Summa Cum Laude and received a bachelor's degree in psychology with a concentration in child psychology, and a minor in sociology. Jessica is here earning her PhD. When Jessica was an undergraduate student, she worked at the university's Bursar's office as a Financial Wealth Champion. At this job, she led seminars on financial wellness for undergraduate students. Jessica recalls that she didn't love this particular job, so she eventually received a fellowship so she could do research and get paid for it. Her research included helping children with reading disabilities improve their reading skill using mindfulness and academic



Jessica's favorite thing about working with FUTURE students is getting to see them learn, challenge themselves, and grow each day. She says that the students have the best senses of humor and can turn her day around at any time. She also loves working and collaborating with the staff to help FUTURE grow and become even greater than it already is. She also loves when she gets the opportunity to work with other graduate students because of their advice and support they provide for each other. In her free time, Jessica enjoys watching the Pittsburgh Penguins or the Steelers on TV, coloring, and working on becoming a better cook. In the winter, she likes to snowboard, and in the summer she is an extra on different TV shows. Jessica also loves to travel. She has visited 18 states and been to Italy, Greece, Poland, and Toronto. Jessica has been a great addition to FUTURE already and we can't wait to see significant strides she will make in the future!

## Fund Raising Efforts this Semester

At FUTURE, we are constantly working on ways to make the student's overall college experience more successful. One aspect of this is fund raising. Fund raising helps us provide services and assistance to students, such as books and supplies, professionally printed degrees at graduation, scholarship opportunities, and chances to attend conferences to represent postsecondary education at UT. This semester, FUTURE has held two share nights at restaurants in Knoxville. Both Jason's Deli and Moe's welcomed the program and helped raise money for our efforts. Both nights showed how amazing and supportive the FUTURE community can be, and FUTURE raised over \$200. Additionally, FUTURE was able to be a part of Big Orange Give, which is the university's biggest day of giving. While the total amount has not been confirmed, we are anticipating a great number. Thank you to all who decided to contribute to our program this year. We are so thankful for the people who care so much about our program.

Let's ask a FUTURE student



## What's your favorite part about the holidays?

I like spending Christmas with my family and opening presents with them on Christmas morning. -Rachel

I like to stay inside to keep warm when it gets really cold outside. -Ben

My favorite part of Christmas is watching my favorite Christmas movie, Elf! -Joseph

Drinking Starbucks! -Molly

## Fun Fridays

There was a wide variety of activities for Fun Fridays in the month of November. The first Friday was spent relaxing with a movie day. We knew our students deserved it after all of their hard work during midterms. FUTURE also took a trip to the Maple Hall bowling alley. This is many of the FUTURE students' favorite sport, and some even dressed up in their bowling gear. Another Fun Friday was spent at the Knoxville Art Museum, where students admired all of the art created by people around East Tennessee. For the last Friday of the month, the students had hot chocolate and did karaoke. There have been so many great experiences this semester during Fun Fridays, and there is so much in store for next semester!



## December Calendar

- 2nd- Hanukkah Begins
- 5th- Holiday Celebration at FUTURE
- 6th- ABA Interventions Art Show
- 7th- Knoxville Christmas Parade
- 21st- First day of Winter
- 23rd- Polar Express at Tennessee Theatre
- 25th- Christmas Day
- 31st- New Year's Eve