

# FUTURE

## March 2019 Newsletter

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## Spread the Word to End the Word 2019

On March 6th, Best Buddies hosted a Spread the Word Day Event to spread awareness of the harmful effects that using the "r word" can have on society. This day was created by the Special Olympics and the Best Buddies program and is recognized annually to continue the growth of understanding and inclusion. This year at UT, students from Best Buddies along with FUTURE students and mentors stood on the pedestrian walkway with signs, chanting calls to stop using the r word. There was a banner that people could sign to signify their pledge to never again use the hateful word. Our FUTURE students were fantastic advocates and stayed out to support the movement even when the weather was chilly!

The FUTURE Program also got to takeover the College of Education, Health, and Human Science's Instagram story on this day to further spread awareness. We are so appreciative of a campus community that sees the strength and ability in every single student. We know that there are still many steps to take to make society truly inclusive and welcoming to all, but today we celebrate those who strive to make a difference.



# Vols Vote Vision!

FUTURE's Strategic Planning and Engagement Assistant, Natalie Campbell, is taking her passion for diversity and inclusion to the top of the university. She is running for student body president with the campaign "Vision." Her and her team chose this campaign platform because she sees the value of student opinion. She has worked tirelessly to advocate for the students at FUTURE, and will continue to advocate for every group on the college campus whose voices may not be heard as loudly as others. She radiates poise and positivity, and FUTURE has no doubt that she is going to do more amazing things for the university. Election week is April 15th-17th, so be sure to look for her on campus to tell her about your vision for the University of Tennessee!



Let's ask a FUTURE student

*What is the biggest tip you have for someone who is new to the program?*

**Work hard and never be afraid to try new things. -Ciara**

**Try not to pick classes that are too hard. -Blake**

**Be kind to your friends and behave. -Hunter**

**I would say to enjoy the Fun Fridays with your friends! -Rachel**

# FUTURE Profiles

## FUTURE Staff: Claire Pierce

Claire Pierce works with FUTURE as a graduate research assistant this semester. Claire is a master's student in clinical mental health counseling, and hopes to work in private practice with a focus on marriage and family counseling. Thus far, her work at FUTURE has consisted of helping with next year's admissions, communicating with the academic support specialist, and helping the mentor coordinator with communication and consistency between the mentors. Working with the FUTURE program has been relevant to her work in terms of meeting individuals where they are and working to understand their situation from their own point of view. She has been vital in the success of the new mentor system, and works hard to meet with the circles of support and help our students reach their full potential. Claire's favorite thing about the FUTURE program is the amount of motivation and drive the program possesses. She says the amount of growth that she has seen within the program over the past two years has been incredible, and we have to agree!



### Fun Facts about Claire:

- she is a former dancer
- she is a fitness instructor and currently teaches Lagree Method classes
- she has a golden retriever puppy named Charly



## FUTURE Family: Ciara

Ciara's mother, Charity, gave FUTURE a look into her family, and how they all work together to get things done. She says that Ciara is a huge influence on her younger brother, Jadon. "Ciara helps with cooking, helping around the house, and teaching him new things." She also helps him defeat the bosses in his favorite video games. Ciara just received her learner's permit, and practices driving with her uncle Marshall. He provides great encouragement as she learns how to drive. After school, Charity says that Ciara's favorite thing to do is listen to music; Ciara has a secret singing talent she doesn't tell many people about.

Ciara and her family have been on a lot of great adventures. Vacations have ranged from Niagara falls, the beach, and even Spain!

They also love exploring different parts of Tennessee. For the future, Charity envisions Ciara getting a full-time job, living independently, and perhaps pursuing a degree. We are so happy they are a part of the FUTURE family!





## FUTURE Mentor: Pamela Lively

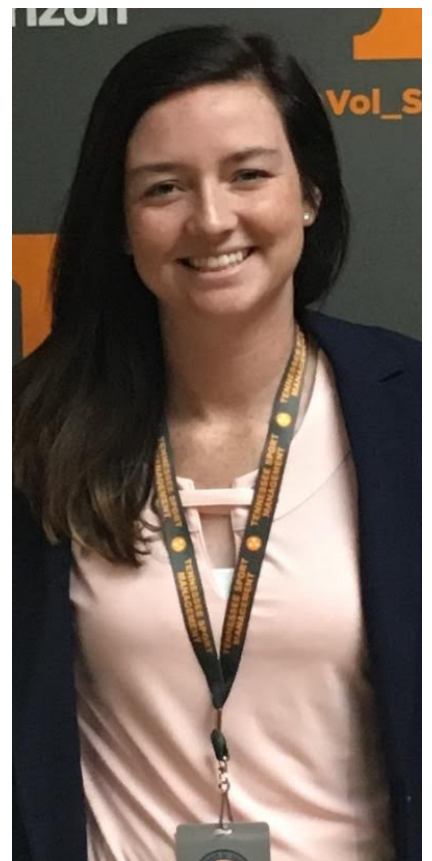
Pamela Lively is a senior majoring in Audiology and Speech Pathology. She is from Decatur, Tennessee. She first started working with FUTURE when she took Counseling Education 333 for a service-learning credit. She has spent three semesters getting to know the students and serving with the FUTURE program. She's learned quite a few valuable lessons from her experience with FUTURE. She said, "no matter who you're with, you're much more alike than you are different, and never underestimate the people you meet or yourself." When she's not working with students or being studious, she likes to read, watch Netflix, and scroll through Pinterest. She is a social media officer for UTK's astronomy club and she's planning her wedding in November! Pamela, thanks for all you do, we are so grateful for you!



## FUTURE Audit Instructor: Jessica Dietz

Jessica Dietz is a graduate student from Howard County, Maryland. She attended the Ohio State University for her undergraduate degree in Accounting and Marketing. She is attending the University of Tennessee for graduate school for a Master's in Sports Management. She says her goal in teaching in the Physical Education Activity Program (PEAP) is to help balance all of her students' goals, whether it is to try a new sport, get back into a familiar sport, or to set time aside to be physically active. She says the PEAP classes are an excellent opportunity to expose students to new ways to be active.

Jessica challenges herself to get to know more about her students- "I feel that it can really make a large campus feel a little bit smaller when you feel like someone knows more than just your name in a class. Since the PEAP classes are only 20 to 30 students, it is a great opportunity to get students talking and meeting new people. "I really love beginning my classes with a fun question of the day to foster that networking and maybe just get students laughing during a stressful day of classes." You can find Jessica playing tennis, watching college football in the fall, and catching up on her favorite tv shows when she's not teaching or in class. Thanks, Jessica, for your passion and big heart for physical activity! FUTURE is so thankful to get to work with you!





## Goals Made, Goals Met: Katie's Internship with Hearing and Speech

This month's internship highlight is The Hearing and Speech Center, and they have Katie Erwin as their intern. Jennifer Wilson is Katie's supervisor, and has set many goals for Katie's growth this semester. She said that Katie's work ethic has been great and that there are four main goals they work towards each time she's there: arriving to work promptly and immediately starting on the task list, decreasing extraneous conversation and increasing efficient use of time during all work tasks, learning and applying appropriate professional conventions in conversation and all written correspondence, and increasing problem solving skills. She referred to Katie's attitude within her internship as being upbeat and positive. Katie is very open to suggestions for change and improvement which makes her internship easy flowing. She seems to always be improving in her ability to communicate what she is good at doing. Jennifer said that this improvement will be a main focus when they begin to talk about interviewing and talking about strengths. She said that Katie works very well with others and has a gift for bringing people together and helping others feel valuable.

Jennifer explained the one main thing that she wants Katie to learn from her internships is to better understand the skills that she could offer an employer and be able to communicate those skills. She would love to see her find a position that allows her to use word processing, writing, and social media skills. We are so glad that this partnership brings Katie's high energy to Hearing and Speech while challenging her to improve her skills for the workplace.



## FUTURE Student: Elise McDaniel



Elise McDaniel is a first-year student from Knoxville. Elise's family consists of her parents, a dog named Bingo, and her brother named Cole. She loves UT and her classmates. Her favorite activities on campus are Fun Fridays and participating in Best Buddies. Elise has two internships this semester: working in the kitchen at Presidential Court Dining Hall and working in Food and Nutrition at the health center for UT's athletes. Her favorite hobbies are singing, dancing, and coloring. Elise is a well-seasoned traveler. She's been to China, Switzerland, Israel, Mexico, and will be going to Spain this Summer.

# Fun Fridays

March gave us one of our most exciting and special Fun Fridays of the school year. FUTURE students were lucky enough to take a tour and get a behind the scenes look at The Tennessee Theatre! The Tennessee Theatre is one of Knoxville's most famous landmarks, so we were thrilled to learn more about its rich history. We were blown away by the beautiful interior and almost magical feeling of being in the theatre. A huge thank you to the people at The Tennessee Theatre for providing a fun and accessible tour!



## April Calendar

**13th- Alumni Picnic**

**15th Jason's Deli Fundraiser**

**17th- Intelligent Lives On Campus Film Screening**

**19th- Smokies game for FUTURE Program**

**27th- Last Day of Class**

**30th- Parent Night**