

FUTURE

April 2019 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

PILOT PROGRAM

ALEX AUDITIONS FOR SMOKEY

FUTURE PROFILES

MAY CALENDAR

AND MORE...



No Slowing Down in April

April was a busy month for the FUTURE Program! First, we recognized Autism Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd. Program Director Emma Burgin and FUTURE parent Kim Kredich participated in an autism educational panel that evening. They discussed misconceptions about autism, the change they would like to see on campus and in society, and ways people can be more inclusive in their every day lives. It was a great night of discussion and learning. That same week, FUTURE held admissions interviews to find out who would be admitted this coming fall. Every candidate was fabulous, and we are so excited to welcome seven new students to the program this coming year. FUTURE hosted two separate percentage nights at Jason's Deli. We also hosted an on-campus screening of the documentary Intelligent Lives. To read more about what is happening at FUTURE, check out the rest of our newsletter below!



@utkfutur



@utk_future



@utk_future



futureut@utk.edu



futureut.utk.edu

Pilot Residential Program Announced

A huge step for the FUTURE Program was made this month, as it was announced that a pilot residential program would be starting in the fall of 2019. With this program, up to 25% of FUTURE students will have the opportunity to live on campus in a dorm style that is best suited for their needs. Campus living has always been a goal for the FUTURE Program. It further improves inclusion on campus and teaches FUTURE students more independence skills beyond the life skills classroom. The next step will be to conduct evaluations for the students interested in living on campus to see which individuals qualify. To learn more about the pilot program, you can read the news article released by UT News on their website.

Smokey Tryouts!

This month, FUTURE student Alex Cole boldly auditioned to become the next Smokey mascot! He attended an intensive day-long audition process and worked hard the entire day. We are so impressed by his bravery and confidence to get out there and show his spirit.



Let's ask a FUTURE student

What are you most excited to do during summer break?

I am ready to relax and spend my time wisely. -Ben

I am looking forward to starting the Young Life day care. -Molly

I am going to have fun doing absolutely nothing! -Rachel

Working with the President: Alex Cole's Internship with Interim President Randy Boyd



Alex Cole recently completed his internship at Randy Boyd's office, where his main job is to attend meetings with President Boyd and take notes and minutes. Aside from the meetings, Alex has been asked to do various jobs, such as composing excel spreadsheets and delivering mail, and he also learned how to transfer calls throughout the office from the front desk phone. Alison Ross, Alex's internship supervisor, described Alex's attitude as being very friendly. "He has approached his work with alacrity and discipline from his first day. I have noticed that Alex has become more talkative and outgoing over his time here, but he has always displayed a good work ethic." She said that when anybody asks Alex about FUTURE and the courses he is taking he has consistently said that he enjoys his classes, and seems to be enthusiastic about his classes in FUTURE and his classmates. While Alex does not have a specific favorite part of his internship, he enjoys working with Drew and Olivia in a joint capacity, especially when they are able to walk around Andy Holt Tower. When asked about Alex's growth this semester, Alison said, "Alex has proven capable in everything he has been asked to do throughout the semester, so I would honestly say that, more than anything, I have seen Alex improve in his willingness to initiate and develop friendships with the people with whom he works." Alison hopes the work at this internship has taught Alex to gain a greater handle on the skills he would need to work in an office in the future.

FUTURE Student: Blake Burroughs



Blake Burroughs is a first-year student from Morristown, Tennessee. His favorite classes are any of the physical education classes available. Chick-Fil-A is his favorite place to eat on campus. When he's not in class, he hangs out with his friends from high school that go to UT. He loves to visit his old high school and attend their football games in the fall. He spends his free time watching Netflix and any sports games with his dad. He is a huge fan of superhero shows and movies, and can quote almost every character. His witty sense of humor can not go unnoticed at FUTURE. We are so appreciative of the energy he brings to the program.

FUTURE Profiles

FUTURE Mentor: Allyson Stotts

Allyson Stotts is a sophomore from Decatur, Tennessee, majoring in special education. She found out about FUTURE on UT's snapchat account. She's been working with FUTURE for a year now and has developed so many meaningful friendships. She says that her main lesson she's learned about herself and the people she serves is patience. She says "I have had to learn how to balance friendship and my role as a mentor because I want the students to academically perform the best that they can, but I also want them to know that I am a friend of theirs on this large campus." This best exemplifies what FUTURE mentors' roles are within the program. Allyson likes to spend her free time hanging out with her friends in and outside of FUTURE and watching crime and documentary shows.



FUTURE Family: The Carters



This month, FUTURE got to learn about Molly Carter's family. She is supported by her two loving parents and her older brother, Gray. Molly's mother, Jennifer, told us all about their family, and the ways they spend time together. The family has been going to Jupiter Island in Florida for 15 years, and loves to stay there for a few weeks each summer. The Carters stay active by hiking in the mountains and paddle boarding at the lake. They also love to go to the zoo in Knoxville. They're currently excited to get their new puppy, Coco! Jennifer has loved seeing Molly thrive at FUTURE, especially this semester with her internship at the Early Learning Center. Outside of class, Jennifer says Molly stays busy with Young Life, going to different camps, and having sleepovers with her friends. Jennifer said, "Molly has always been resourceful and independent. She is very good at telling people how much they mean to her." We couldn't agree more, and we are so glad this family of VOL fans are a part of FUTURE.

FUTURE Staff: Elissa Ferrar



Elissa serves as the graduate counseling intern for the FUTURE program this semester. She was born and raised in Nashville, but went to Arkansas to get her undergraduate degree in psychology. She is now at the University of Tennessee to pursue her masters in clinical mental health counseling. Elissa works to build therapeutic relationships, provide support, and empower students in an environment where they feel safe accepted at FUTURE. Elissa works mainly with the ladies of FUTURE. She said she works with them both as a group and also in one-on-one settings, as she meets with several of them individually during the week.

Elissa's favorite thing about the FUTURE program is getting to know all of the women in FUTURE. She said, "they are some of the sweetest, funniest, and most positive people that I have had the pleasure to spend time with. In working with them this semester, I got to see how insightful and thoughtful they are. They are so encouraging to me and to one another. I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunity to build relationships with them this semester." In her free time, Elissa likes to be with her friends in the outdoors, play volleyball or tennis, or take long road trips to listen to podcasts or music.

FUTURE Audit Instructor: Suzanne Wright

Suzanne Wright is an associate professor teaching Asian Art History. She was born in Houston, Texas, and attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, for her undergraduate degree. For graduate school, she attended University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University. She says her main goal for teaching Asian Art History is for "students to come away with an understanding of what these works meant to the people who had them made or used them: what their function was, what their religious or philosophical significance was, what their subjects are, and what it was about them that people found beautiful or expressive."

She loves teaching the subject because the students offer fresh perspectives to art that she's grown accustomed to. This semester, the FUTURE student in her class was Joseph. Her favorite leisure activities are attending the theatre and playing the electronic keyboard.



Fun Fridays

For the month of April, Fun Fridays consisted of a day of mindfulness lessons, a viewing of the movie Coco, and a smokies game that was unfortunately rained out. But, our last Fun Friday was spent doing something on most Vol's college bucket lists. We painted the spirit rock on campus to celebrate our graduating seniors! We had a blast getting our hands dirty and giving our seniors a well-deserved shoutout. All of campus was able to see our work and the names of each student who is graduating. This has been an exciting year of Fun Fridays. Who knows what adventures we will get into next year!



May Calendar

2nd- FUTURE & Best Buddies Banquet

3rd- Inskip Party in the Park

10th- CEHHS Graduation Ceremony

17-19- Rhythm and Blooms Music Festival

27th- Memorial Day

