

FUTURE

May 2019 Newsletter

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Congratulations Grads!

The FUTURE Program said bittersweet goodbyes to five amazing students this month, as they walked across the stage at the College of Education, Health, and Human Science's Graduation Ceremony on May 10th. Alex, Emily, Hunter, Joseph, and Landen were all fantastic students and contributed so much to the FUTURE Program. They will be missed, but we are so excited to see what they will do next. To learn more about each individual graduate, read the special addition of the FUTURE Profiles below! And to the rest of the UT students, we hope you have an exciting summer.



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FUTURE Staff Transitions

Along with our graduates, we are saying goodbye to a few great staff members who have put in hundreds of hours of hard work for the FUTURE Program. Aren Szepe, instructor of the Career & Life Planning class, received her PhD and has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Doane University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Wes Allen, the instructor for Life Skills, has taken up a new position as the head of the counseling clinic in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Jessica Kotik, FUTURE's current academic support specialist will take over as instructor of Life Skills. Carrie O'Reilly also received her PhD and will be moving to Montana to continue her career in education. Lastly, outreach coordinator Meredith Abercrombie will complete her year of AmeriCorps service at FUTURE and start a new year of service with City Year Denver. We are so appreciative of these individuals and the work they did for FUTURE and the students. We will not forget their contributions, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



Alumni Picnic

The FUTURE Program welcomed alumni, current students, and mentors to the annual Alumni Picnic. This year, we hosted the picnic at UT's campus so that alumni could come back to their campus and remember all of the great times they had in school.



We had a great turnout, with 27 people (and two dogs) attending the event. Thank you to everyone who came out to share some food and friendship. FUTURE intends to have more alumni events throughout the year.

Alex Notte

Alex Notte spent three years at the University of Tennessee and the FUTURE Program. During that time, Alex showed what it meant to be a true Vol fan, wearing orange almost every day. His interests included Bollywood music, catholicism, and any Vol sport. His internships included the Knoxville Symphony, the UT Aquatic Center, and a very special semester with the Alumni Office, where Alex gained new skills and helped with many important events. Alex will be missed, but we are so glad he will continue to spread the Tennessee spirit wherever he goes.



Emily Allen



Emily Allen graduated after two years at the FUTURE Program. Known fondly as the program's comedian, she always had a new joke in her joke book to make everyone laugh. She constantly showed her kind spirit and made new friends every day. During her time at FUTURE, she had internships at Visit Knoxville, UT Health & Wellness, and The Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.

Emily worked so well with the chamber that they have offered her a job, which she will be starting in the coming weeks. Congratulations Emily!

FUTURE Grad Profiles

Hunter Thomas



Hunter Thomas is a special graduate this year, as he is the first student to complete a fourth year with the FUTURE Program. Hunter was one of the biggest Vol fans on campus. He could be seen at practically every SGA event, helping out in whatever way possible. His positivity and motivation was contagious to all that had the pleasure of meeting him.

Hunter had multiple internships, was a TA for the digital literacy classes, and maintained a part-time job at Texas Roadhouse all throughout college. He celebrated his graduation by attending a Monster Jam rally in Florida. And while his time in the classroom is over, we know we will be seeing Hunter on UT's campus again.

Joseph Park

Joseph Park graduated after spending two years at the FUTURE Program. During his time at FUTURE, Joseph showed off his love of art. He excelled at both drawing and painting, and took many art classes to improve upon his skills. His internships included the YMCA Gardens, UT Speech and Hearing, and the East Tennessee Technology Access Center.



Joseph is currently applying for jobs and attending interviews. We know that with his kind heart and hard work ethic, he will find something great soon.

Landen Greene



Landen Greene spent two years at the FUTURE Program. He was a big fan of Carrie Underwood, Fast & Furious movies, and the Nashville Predators. Landen would always bring energy to Fun Friday events, playing music for everyone to dance to. His selflessness and care for all made him an excellent friend and admirable student. Some of his internships included the UT Aquatic Center and the Thornton Athletic Center, where Landen got to know many of the student athletes. We are so excited to see the things Landen will accomplish in the future.

June Calendar

9th- Tennessee River Paddle-Off

11th- FUTURE night at the Smokies

11th- FUTURE Open House 1

13th- FUTURE Open House 2

16th- Father's Day

27th- #westutterknoxville hosted by Hearing and Speech Center