



EvanstonScholars

COLLEGE TIMES

JULY - AUGUST 2018

Evanston Scholars Newsletter

Scholar and staff transitions, summer fun, and more!



Letter from Executive Director

Dear Liane,

We do transitions at Evanston Scholars; in fact, it's the most important thing we do. At the most basic level, we help high school students transition into college graduates, but there are many steps along the way. Transitions can be hard; they take energy and effort by all involved. But as they say, anything worth doing is worth doing well. Here is a glimpse of the many transitions happening here at Evanston Scholars:

Scholar Transitions. . .

- **Welcome 2020 Scholars** – see below for the names of the rising high school juniors who recently joined our program
- **Rising senior High School Scholars** are finishing summer college programs and turning their eyes and efforts to the **college application/financial aid process**
- **Rising freshman College Scholars** are wrapping up summer jobs and focusing keenly on **stepping foot on campus and setting themselves up for success**
- **Returning College Scholars** are completing internships, summer jobs, and studies abroad and are **ready to continue their college journeys, now as upperclassmen**

Staff Transitions. . .

- We've had some recent comings and goings on staff--fond farewells and happy welcomes to some new faces. . . please read below for more details

Program Transitions (and expansions). . .

- We started with just 10 Scholars in 2011, and with the addition of our 38 new 2020 Scholars, **we now serve more than 200 Scholars**
- Last year, we created a **dedicated staff position on College Affordability** - critical to getting Scholars to AND through college
- This year, we launched **Career Readiness programming** - helping Scholars

prepare for life after college

Finally, Evanston Scholars is transitioning into a new fiscal year as well. As we launch into the 2018-2019 school year, and close out our books on the last year, **please consider a [donation](#)** to support our Evanston Scholars programs. **All donations made by July 31 will be matched by a generous donor.**

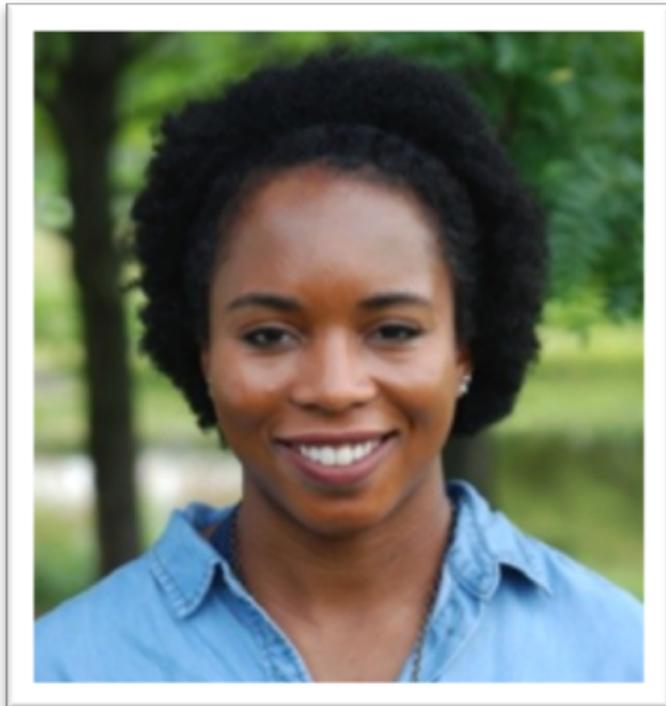
Thanks and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,



Steve Newman, Executive Director

EVANSTON SCHOLARS STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS



Introducing new College Access Associates (and ETHS grads!) Charity Williams, left and Cecilia Gomez, right

This summer we are bidding fond farewells as well as welcoming new staff members here at Evanston Scholars.

Our Director of College Access, **Alison Segal**, will be stepping out of her role on August 3 to spend more time with her family. Ali has been a tremendous leader of the College Access Program, bringing innovative ideas, a compassionate heart, and unflagging work ethic into the office every day. Fortunately, Ali will be continuing her involvement with Evanston Scholars on a project basis.

We are thrilled to announce that **Laura Maloney**, currently Mentor and Parent Coordinator, will move into the Director of College Access position effective August 6. Laura first joined Evanston Scholars as a mentor in 2012 and soon afterwards she joined the staff as Mentor Coordinator, which expanded to Mentor and Parent Coordinator last year. Her wealth of college knowledge will be a great asset as she guides the programming that will enable every Scholar to find their "best fit" college.

Serena Walker and **DeAnna Smith**, our two Associate Directors of College Access, will be moving on to the next phase of their own educational journeys - they will both be enrolling in graduate school this fall. Serena will be attending Yale Law School in Connecticut and DeAnna will be pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Both Serena and DeAnna have brought an enormous amount of dedication, talent, and fresh ideas into our program.

We welcome **Charity Williams** (photo, top left) and **Cecilia Gomez** (photo, top right), both ETHS grads, who joined our team on July 23 as College Access Associates. Charity, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, was recently a Scholar Coach with the Schuler Scholar Program. Cecilia, a graduate of DePaul University with a Masters from Loyola University Chicago, has worked in college access in a variety of capacities.

We look forward to welcoming Laura, Charity, and Cecilia to their new roles and are working to ensure a smooth transition to continue to support all of our Scholars and families on their college journeys. A huge thank you to Ali, Serena, and DeAnna for their excellent work in College Access and for their many contributions to creating a caring, supportive Evanston Scholars community.

SCHOLAR PROFILE:

SUMMER MITCHELL'S

SUMMER OF SELF DISCOVERY AND GIVING BACK

"This has honestly been one of the greatest experiences of my life because I am so passionate about leveling the playing field." -- Summer Mitchell



Evanston Scholar **Summer Mitchell** (*top photo: far right; bottom left photo: far left; bottom right photo: second from left*), ES '17 and rising sophomore at University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), spent five weeks this summer as a **Residential Mentor** for **UW's PEOPLE program** (Pre-College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence).

Summer says, "In a lot of ways PEOPLE is like Evanston Scholars except that the students begin the program in middle school. It caters to low-income, first-generation students wanting to go to UW schools, specifically UW-Madison. Students get help with ACT prep, reading comprehension, college essays, and more. And every summer they come to summer school at UW-Madison. The fact that everyone knows each other, by name at the least, really adds to the sense of community." Summer is working with rising high school seniors this summer.

"I love this program," Summer added, "Because it's like I'm giving back. Evanston Scholars has helped me so much and at PEOPLE, I can make an impact on multiple students who have similar backgrounds as me. I really hope to see these students walking the streets of campus in two years. It'll make me proud to see them adding to the diversity at UW-Madison." For a more in-depth look at Summer's enriching summer experience and how it has influenced her career plans,

COLLEGE TIMES: *How did you get the summer position at PEOPLE? And why were you interested in this position?*

SUMMER: I am a part of an academic support program called Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) and they have postings of opportunities in the office. I saw the flyer and the PEOPLE program paralleled many of the qualities of Evanston Scholars in the way that they were dedicated to getting first-generation, low-income students to college. This appealed to me immediately because I wanted to give back, not necessarily to the same community that helped me, but to a similar one, with kids just like me.

COLLEGE TIMES: *Please share some examples of the activities/work/events you have done with these students over the summer.*

SUMMER: While at this program I served as a mentor to the incoming senior students. They had internships across Madison in areas such as art education, biomedical engineering, and surgery. In the mornings I walked the education seminar students to their class on Bascom Hill and even sat through and participated in their daily three-and-a-half-hour seminar. I served as a role model sitting in on the class and engaging in the activities.

I also led the bus route with a co-RM (Residential Mentor) to take the surgery, pharmacy, and nursing interns to the UW hospital on the outskirts of campus. I also participated in helping the students write their admittance essays to UW. I was a great help to them given I had written the exact same three prompts. Because these students come from low-income and diverse backgrounds, being able to relate to their experiences made essay guidance easier than if a professional from an affluent background were to help them. Additionally, I served as someone who could answer questions about campus life, whether that be academically or socially.

COLLEGE TIMES: *What have you learned about yourself through your work this summer?*

SUMMER: This summer I learned that you don't have to be an extrovert or the life of the crowd to be a leader. Being a leader isn't about who's the loudest. I wasn't the most outgoing of the RMs but the students gravitated towards me for my calm, friendly, and trustworthy nature. I was able to impact students on a "micro level." Instead of speaking in front of a crowd in a conventional way, I was able to speak one-on-one and possibly influence their lives in a deeper way.

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What has been the most fun part of the job?

[Translate ▼](#)

SUMMER: This program is primarily academic but there were TBCD events (Team Building and Character Development) that the students participated in during the evenings after their seminars and internships were completed. These events included going to the movies, going to the West Town mall, going ice skating and rollerblading, going to pottery and art classes, participating in a Brazilian self-defense class, Zumba, and so much more. One of my favorite TBCD events however was going to the Kalahari at Wisconsin Dells. The water park is fun itself but surrounded by the energy and excitement of the kids made it much more enjoyable.

COLLEGE TIMES: *What has been the most challenging part of the job?*

SUMMER: The most challenging part of the job was keeping the same level of energy. The position was live-in, so the RMs (Residential Mentors) were on call 24/7 if needed. We woke up at 7am and our day ended at 11pm, with lights out. The days were long and exhausting, transporting the students to and from their seminars and classes, especially on days when the weather skyrocketed to the 90s. Given very few breaks, on top of the beaming sun, and all the energy from the students, there were definitely some exhausting days throughout the five weeks. However, when down time was needed, the RMs supported one another by taking on extra shifts, which helped greatly.

COLLEGE TIMES: *Has this work influenced your plans for study/career interests for the future? If so, how?*

SUMMER: Although a lot of these kids and I share similar backgrounds, most of the kids coming from Milwaukee come from even more disadvantaged backgrounds than me, who was born and raised in the amazing suburb of Evanston. And even though they didn't have the same opportunities, resources, and experiences as some of their wealthier peers across the country, I saw so much potential in these individuals that needed to be harvested. This has veered my career into wanting to water and help individuals flourish who have grown up in the weeds. Their petals can be just as beautiful and bright if given the proper attention. In my career, whatever it may be, I want to help elevate those who have been oppressed or put down.

COLLEGE TIMES: *Is there anything else you want to share? Would you recommend other Scholars look for similar programs?*

SUMMER: This has honestly been one of the greatest experiences of my life because I am so passionate about leveling the playing field. My dream is to one day, as an alumnus, walk on the UW-Madison campus and see an array of different people. Right now, that's not the case, but programs like the PEOPLE program are striving to accomplish this. PEOPLE students who get accepted into the university will receive a full scholarship, and that's amazing because money is many times the greatest barrier to a proper education and a great life. This program has honestly influenced my path in what law I want to study. Before, it was housing discrimination and sentencing disparities, but now I am also considering investigating the education gap and system. And I would highly recommend Evanston Scholars look for opportunities like this. Specifically, the Summer Collegiate Experience (SCE) that I attended upon my freshman year at UW-Madison.

**WELCOME TO OUR CLASS OF 2020
EVANSTON SCHOLARS!**

Mya Allen
Katerine Arellano-Garcia
Wendy Becerra Delgado
Blanca Casique-Flores
Kristen Diaz
Jordan Drummond
Kelly Estrada
Stephon Frost
Nikki Garcia
Gilbeli Girodier
Jada Hamer
Michelle Hernandez
Jun Hong
Safiya House
Shilae Hudson
Aman Idrees
Jaryah Jackson
Mario Leon
Maria Moreno Mendoza

Jazmine Morrow
Titus Ogungbemi
Oliver Pacheco
Francisco Patino
Jennifer Perez
Mariette Pompilus
Chassa Pratt
Donna Renteria
Bryan Rodriguez
Fabian Rojas
José De Jesús Rojas-León
Litzzy Segura
Aakayla Sheppard
Kayla Smith
Ariadna Velasquez Bautist
Raven Warlick
Shyanne Williams
Asya Wright
Briana Wright

PHOTO GALLERY: SUMMER WORK, SUMMER FUN

*BELOW: TOP LEFT: Scholar **Oli Jacques** (ES '15, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) and his mother, Nelune Jacques, visit the San Antonio, TX office of the company where he worked as a summer intern. TOP RIGHT: (L to R) Scholars **Jazmin Garcia** (ES '17, Washington University in St. Louis) and **Elshaday Abraham**, (ES '17, Northwestern University) catch up with each other at the July 24 Tuesdays in July workshop; BOTTOM LEFT: (L to R) Scholars **Vanessa Beaudoin** (ES '15, University of Missouri), **Michael Barrera**, (ES '18, Lehigh University), and **Andrea Guy**, (ES '14, Lake Forest College '18) pose at AbbVie, where they spent the day learning about jobs and internships; BOTTOM RIGHT: (Middle) Scholar **Jennifer Becerra** (far right) (ES '19) poses near Harvard while on on summer enrichment program at Boston University.*





CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- **JULY 31** - Class of 2020 Workshop: Your Future, Your Self
- **JULY 31**- Summer Concert/Picnic at Baker Park
- **AUGUST 9-10** - College App Bootcamp 2-3
- **AUGUST 26** - New Mentor Orientation
- **AUGUST 27** - Back-to-School Breakfast
- **AUGUST 29** - Class of 2020 Initiation

About Evanston Scholars

Evanston Scholars is a non-profit organization that improves college access and success for a diverse group of ambitious Evanston students who are primarily first-generation, low-income, and students of color, starting with the college admissions process and continuing through graduation.

Thank you to the mentors, families, donors, and community partners who are helping college dreams become reality.

To learn more, visit us at www.evanstonscholars.org



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