

UNA STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES 2014



Samantha Gross is a native of Tuscumbia, Alabama and the Lead Student Assistant in the Office of Student Engagement. She is a graduating senior pursuing a degree in Social Work with a minor in Business Administration. As a student worker, Samantha co-coordinates seven SOAR sessions for 1400 students and the student work schedule. She serves as the front line person for the office in the absence of the senior administrative assistant. She also prepares various documents for the each area within the department. Samantha believes that she has learned the importance of professionalism, customer service and communications skills. Throughout her years at UNA, Samantha has been involved in several organizations and has served in various leadership roles. She has served as the Alternative Break Site Leader, Residence Life Community Advisor, Family Orientation Leader and University Program Council Delegate. In addition to completing her internship with Riverbend Center for Mental Health, Samantha volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Healing Place. Her supervisor, Juliette Butler states, "Samantha can be relied on to do the tasks that she is assigned. Our office is student service oriented. Therefore, good customer

service is critical. She is very thoughtful, proactive and a problem solver. She interacts with multiple students on a daily basis. She has the ability to provide our office with thoughtful feedback especially from a student's point of view and is very candid in her opinions. Samantha takes pride in her work and gives her 100%." Upon graduation in May, Samantha hopes to be secure employment with a mental health center. She hopes to gain valuable experience that she can use to grow into a leadership role and one day become a Mental Health Center Administrator.



Christopher Heatherly is a native of Cullman AL, and is currently pursuing a degree in Accounting. After transferring from Wallace State Community College in 2012, he continued his academic studies in the field of Accounting. Christopher has been employed as the student assistant for the Offices of Clinical Experiences and Teacher Certification. His primary responsibilities are to scan all student files into Banner Xtender, assist in entering data into the office's internal Microsoft Access student database and organize physical data while maintaining and updating the field experience databases. He generates spreadsheets and comprehensive data analysis reports as well. In addition to maintaining a 3.84 cumulative G.P.A., Christopher is a College of Business Accounting Scholar and Assistant Scout master for Troop 7031. His supervisors, Drs. Jill Simpson and Felicia Harris state "Chris has shown a remarkable initiative since his first day on the job. He is always eager and willing to learn and accept new responsibilities. There has been recent turnover in employees in the office, and Chris has stepped up and offered to assume additional responsibilities to help cover the gap in personnel. The quality of Chris' work is impeccable. He is well known in the College of Education and Human Sciences and is often called upon

as the go to person to assist in other areas. He demonstrates excellent time management and multi-tasking skills and is able to balance his responsibilities." Upon graduation in December, Christopher plans to attend graduate school and take the CPA exam.



Adam St. John is a native of Florence and a Communication Arts major concentrating in Theatre. He currently maintains a 3.70 GPA. Adam has been employed with University Events, Norton Auditorium as a Technical Assistant since October of 2010. Adam assists in set up, lighting, sound, and technical requirements for events that are scheduled in Norton Auditorium. He handles independent projects such as building a platform for the Miss UNA set as well as leading other staff members in group endeavors. Adam is an actor at heart and he is able to step up to the demands of the job and deals very well with the public and university personnel as well as the technical aspects of the events at Norton Auditorium. This job requires Adam to work with artists of varying temperament. He accomplishes this and is still able to contribute to a positive and professional atmosphere. His supervisor, Alice Gross states "Adam is consistently early or on time for scheduled work. He frequently will have tools ready before work time begins. Adam takes pride in his work whether it is building sets, setting/designing light, setting up and running sound, or helping greet audience members. Few people realize the magnitude of details and how physically demanding performance preparation is.

I rarely have to have him repeat a task," Adam has also active in campus organizations. He is the President of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Group, Vice President of Tau Epsilon Kappa, and a member of Phi Eta Sigma & Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Societies. One of Adam's proudest achievement is traveling to China and having an opportunity to perform in the William Shakespeare play *Winter's Tale*. Upon graduation in May, Adam plans to attend graduate school for a Master's of Fine Arts in Performance Art and one day become a professional actor.



Abril Agnew is a native of Florence and is employed within the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. She is an Interdisciplinary Studies major with a concentration in Health Promotion. Since September 2010, she performs duties such as taking phone calls, recording messages, responding to inquiries and providing clerical and secretarial support to center staff and management. In addition to handling daily staff scheduling, she also copies and distribute paperwork and perform various administrative duties. Abril is also a Senior Resident Advisor with Residence Life. She specializes in the First-year Opportunities and Connections for Students, supervises RAs and coordinates staff development training and programs. In addition to serving as a LaGrange Society Ambassador, she has been actively involved in numerous organizations and activities such as: Pre-Health Club, Top 5 international CMU participants, China Medical International Program, and Peer Health Mentoring. Her honors include: Promising Alumni, National Society of Leadership and Success, Dean's List and Community Builder of the Year. Her supervisor, Renee Vandiver states "Abril's personality just exudes drive and initiative. She arrives at work each day ready and willing to go to work. Abril exhibits the utmost in professionalism when at the office. She greets

guests with a pleasant demeanor and she deals with delicate and discrete issues with ease. In addition, she doesn't get ruffled when met with disgruntled students and/or parents. In fact, the opposite typically occurs. Abril's pleasing and bubbly personality typically puts visitors at ease, and as a student she is able to empathize with them and helps in dealing with the situation. Upon graduation in May, Abril hopes to begin graduate school or pursue full-time employment and later enroll into medical school.



Samantha Hammond is a junior majoring in Secondary Education/English Language Arts and maintains a 3.80 G.P.A. She is a native of Lexington, AL. Samantha has been employed with the Office of Admissions since January 2012 and currently serves as the TEAM Member/Mailer. Samantha is responsible for manually entering data into our student database. She is also responsible for labeling, stuffing and preparing bulk mail outs for students. The largest tasks that she is responsible for is Preview Day mail outs. There can be six to eight batches of mail that contain one to two thousand letters in each batch. "I take pride in my job and making sure the names are correct and the labels are neat and not just slapped on the envelope. I believe the mail from the University is a first impression." Samantha believes this job has helped her with her organization, listening and communication skills. She has been involved in various campus and civic organizations including Freshman Forum, Lagrange Society, Miss UNA Participant, UNA Collegiate and Chamber Singers, UNA Vocal Jazz Ensemble, The Well Leadership & Worship Teams and Assembly. Samantha has received numerous honors and scholarship awards including Phi Kappa Phi Book Scholarship, Junior Miss, and Music and Theatre. She gives back to her community and participates with Shoals Save A Life, Soup Kitchen, Weeden Elementary, and Habitat for Humanity. Samantha's supervisor, Jill Chamber's states that "(She) has

never had to worry about Samantha's reliability; she can always count on her. She is a perfectionist. If she thinks of a more efficient way to her job, she does not hesitate to make a recommendation. She is always professional, polite and there is no better candidate to represent our university. "After graduation in 2015, Samantha would like to teach and pursue graduate school and seek certification to become a guidance counselor. She hopes to obtain her doctorate.



Autumn McMunn is a native of Ardmore, Alabama majoring in Mathematics and Secondary Education. She currently maintains a 3.73 G.P.A. Since Fall of 2012, Autumn has been tutoring other students in Math. She was initially a volunteer, and was later hired as a CAARS student employee. She is now one of the first Mathematics Fellows employed by the Mathematics Learning Center. She assists course instructors during class time in collaborative learning activities and also provides one-hour supplemental instruction (SI) sessions outside of class. As a senior majoring in Mathematics and Secondary Education, Autumn is an extremely busy young lady! A "typical" week for Autumn includes attending classes, and working at least 4 hours each week as a Mathematics Fellow with Dr. Ashley Johnson's MA 113 class. She also observes and sometimes teaches lessons in public school math classes. If that is not enough, Autumn also works a part-time job as a server at the local Cracker Barrel. Early during the Fall semester Autumn volunteered to begin research on the new Mathematics Fellows program by collecting data and studying the results. Permission to complete research on Human Subjects – Protecting Human Research Participants required special training through UNA Sponsored Programs; Autumn was quick to complete all the requirements. Autumn shared her research, entitled "The Effectiveness of Peer Led Supplemental Instruction from Undergraduate Mathematics Fellows," in November at the Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference and has been selected to present her research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in

Lexington, Kentucky in April. Marlow McCullough, Autumn's supervisor states "She has a gift for guiding students into becoming independent thinkers and learners. So many students under Autumn's tutelage have expressed that she is "helpful" and have even commented that Autumn "does not make you feel dumb for asking a question." When asked about her experiences helping others with math, Autumn shared "It's so rewarding to see a student's face 'light up' when he or she finally gets a grasp on a concept!" Upon graduation, Autumn hopes to become gainfully employed as a math teacher within a Middle School or High School.



Chelsea Moon is a native of Tuscumbia and graduate of Deshler High School. She is a senior with a double major in Chemistry and Biology with a concentration in Preprofessional Medicine and Cellular & Molecular Biology. Chelsea maintains a 3.97 G.P.A. Since August 2011, Chelsea has been employed with the Northwest Alabama Inservice Center for Alabama Science in Motion as a Chemistry Lab Assistant. Her responsibilities include stocking shelves, preparing and refurbishing labs/equipment, keeping the lab and office clean/organized, preparing solutions, properly handling chemicals, filing paperwork, getting labs ready to go out each week and assisting the chemistry specialist in schools. Chelsea does not sit idle, she takes initiative. When she is not in class, Chelsea offers to help make deliveries to schools and to help with high school demonstrations and lab experiments. Chelsea is actively involved with several organizations on campus including Phi Kappa Phi, Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society, and the Student Chapter of American Chemistry Society. She has received a number of honors including Dean's List, Raymond-Isbell Endowed Scholarship, UNA Excellence Scholarship, and the Toray Fluorofibers Scholarship. She was also volunteer for Helen Keller Hospital from 2011 to 2012 where she assisted staff at the nurse's station and informational desk. Her supervisor, Candace Golliver states "Chelsea is diligent and efficient in her duties. I can always count

on Chelsea to get the job done. Chelsea comes in on her scheduled work days, refurbishes labs and gets equipment ready to go out to other schools. All I have to do is leave a to-do list, and I know that it will get done. I could not ask for anything better than the quality of work that I get from Chelsea. She is very conscious of every task that she completes. After Chelsea refurbishes a kit it gets sent to one of forty high schools to be used with ten to three hundred students. Chelsea's quality of work has been outstanding according to feedback from the teachers that I serve. "In five years, Chelsea hopes to be graduating from medical school and beginning her residency.

Congratulations to each UNA SEOTY Nominee!