Fall Banquet October, 2015
The Fall Banquet this year was a special event. AGEP and LSAMP merged their banquets for the first time in several years. LSAMP students presented posters at the beginning of the banquet and our guest speakers discussed the challenges they faced as undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and finally negotiating for their first faculty position. AGEP Scholars serve as peer mentors for new incoming graduate students (BRIDGE), undergraduate students (LSAMP) and high school students (Purdue Bound). They provide tutorial assistance whenever needed and conduct career development workshops for Purdue Bound, SROP and LSAMP programs. Having a combined banquet provided additional opportunity for AGEP and LSAMP students to network and socialize. Guest speakers were: Angel Avina, LSAMP Alumni and current graduate student; Dr. Oscar Morales-Collazo, AGEP Alumni and Postdoctoral Researcher in Chemical & Biological Engineering at Notre Dame University; Dr. Shalamar Armstrong, AGEP Alumni and Assistant Professor of Agronomy at Purdue; and Dr. Shaneka Lawson, Purdue Alumni and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Forestry & Natural Resources at Purdue.

Fall 2015 AGEP Scholars:
Alexander Barrios-Math
Ashley Jacobs-Life/Bio Sciences
Breanne Wright-Nutrition Science
Brittini Brown-Agricultural Education
Darryl Reano-Geosciences
Fernando Tormos-Aponte-Political Science
Fushcia-Ann Hoover-Environmental Eng.
Jeffrey Avery-Computer Science
Jennifer Sdunzik-American Studies
Kadari Taylor-Watson-American Studies
Kyle Dahlin-Math
Sasha Vega-Alvarez-Life/Bio Sciences
Sean Natoli-Chemistry
Shana Hardy-Life/Bio Sciences
Torrie Cropps-Agriculture Science
Congratulations to Kadari Taylor-Watson on being selected as a 2016 Humanities Without Walls Pre-Doctoral Fellow. Kadari, a PhD student in American Studies, is an AGEP Graduate Professional Assistant and AGEP Scholar as well as a Scholar in Residence with the Black Cultural Center. Her current research interests are focused on Transnational identity of West and Central African Print Fabric & Fashion. She traveled to Ghana for her dissertation to understand the role of fashion and dress as an identity marker for African American expatriates. As an HWW Pre-Doctoral Fellow, she will attend a three-week Pre-Doctoral Summer workshop in Chicago during the Chicago Humanities Festival. We applaud Kadari for her creative efforts to expand cultural awareness and encourage higher self confidence and esteem of African American men and women through fashion.

AGEP Scholar and doctoral candidate in the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education, Brittini Brown, was recently honored as the “Graduate Spotlight” of the month on the department website, and for good reason. In the AGEP Summer Newsletter we wrote about Brittini’s Google Chat event “Environments of Success” which featured a discussion between Brittini and four other scholars whose work is focused on creating environments of success for graduate students coming from minority serving institutions. Brittini also wrote an excellent article titled “Food for Thought: The Link Between MSIs and Agriculture” which was posted (Aug 4, 2015) on MSIs Unplugged, a blog administered by the Penn Graduate School of Education. A link to this article was also listed on the American Council on Education (ACE) CPRS Blog Posts. Most recently, an Infographic from Brittini titled “1862 and 1890 Land-Grant University Contributions to the STEM Workforce” was published in Higher Ed Spotlight (Dec 11, 2015), a blog by American Council on Education (ACE) and was sited by another article published in Higher Ed Today titled “How Land-Grant Universities Contribute to the STEM Workforce”. Upon completion of her doctoral degree, Brittini plans to pursue a career in higher education policy. We salute Brittini on her determination and dedication to improving diversity in higher education.
AGEP Scholar **Fushcia-Ann Hoover** recently submitted an article that was published by The Huffington Post online. The article titled "Engineer your Future: Don’t go it Alone, Own it, Create it" was selected for a thought leadership campaign called “Generation Do-It-Yourself (GenDIY)-on The Huffington Post and GettingSmart.com. Fushcia wrote about her struggle as a woman of color, first generation graduate student with a low income background, pursuing a PhD in Engineering. She bravely tells her story hoping to inspire other young people to carve their own unique path to graduation and a better life. Read the whole article here: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gendiy/engineer-your-future-dont_b_8941824.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gendiy/engineer-your-future-dont_b_8941824.html)

In December, 2015 Fushcia attended the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California to give her first oral presentation on her doctoral research. AGU's Fall meeting attracts over 20,000 geoscience researchers from around the world, and is one of the largest conferences in the nation and world. Her talk titled "Combining the Power of Statistical Analyses and Community Interviews to Identify Adoption Barriers for Storm water Best-Management Practices", covered preliminary results that demonstrate the difficulty in measuring changes in water quality, as well as plans to conduct resident interviews with two low-income communities of color in the City of Chicago. The interviews are intended to gauge attitudes and understanding residents have of storm water and water quality issues plaguing their communities, and whether the ability to measure change impacts these attitudes or support for storm water management practices. Fushcia is a doctoral candidate in Ecological Sciences and Engineering. Her research explores the use of ecological methods for managing and reducing runoff in urban environments. Kudos to Fushcia on her admirable contributions to diversity and improving our environment.

AGEP Scholar, **Fernando Tormos-Aponte** recently received the Graduate School’s Fredrick Andrews Environmental Travel Award. He expects to use the funds to investigate the influence of Indigenous peoples over international political decision-making processes, such as United Nations Climate Change conferences. This builds on recent research that he carried out with a collaborative research team led by Dr. Kimberly Marion Suiseeya and Dr. Laura Zanotti. The research team attended the United Nations recent climate change conference (UNFCCC COP21) in Paris to conduct a collaborative event ethnography that investigates the participation and influence of Indigenous peoples in the negotiations. Fernando also presented two papers at the Southern Political Science Association on how transnational social movements maintain solidarity in a context of domination and social group difference. Fernando is a doctoral candidate in Political Science. His research focuses on how social movements overcome internal divisions to influence policy. We congratulate Fernando on his impressive achievements.
AGEP EVENTS

Wynton Johnson, Jennifer Sdunzik, Jonathan Freeman, Alex Barrios, Ashley Jacobs and Sean Natoli

AGEP table at Graduate Info Fair 2015

Fernando Tormos-Aponte and Torrie Cropps at COMPACT for Faculty Diversity

Darryl Reano recruiting at SACNAS 2015 in Washington DC

Upcoming Events

January 18
Martin Luther King Jr

February 19-21
Texas National McNair UNT Denton, TX

March 7-8
NRMN Workshop Chicago, IL

March 14-19
Spring Break

March 31-April 2
MANRRS 2016 Jacksonville, FL

April 7-13
AERA Annual Meeting Washington, DC

April 23
California Diversity San Jose, CA

Contact us:

Alliance for Graduate Education & Professorate (AGEP)
155 South Grant Street Young Hall Room B68 West Lafayette, IN 47907 Phone: 765-494-7899 E-mail: agep@purdue.edu Website: http://ww.purdue.edu/gradschool/diversity/agep/

Wherever you go, go with all your heart.
- Confucius