

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS ACADEMY

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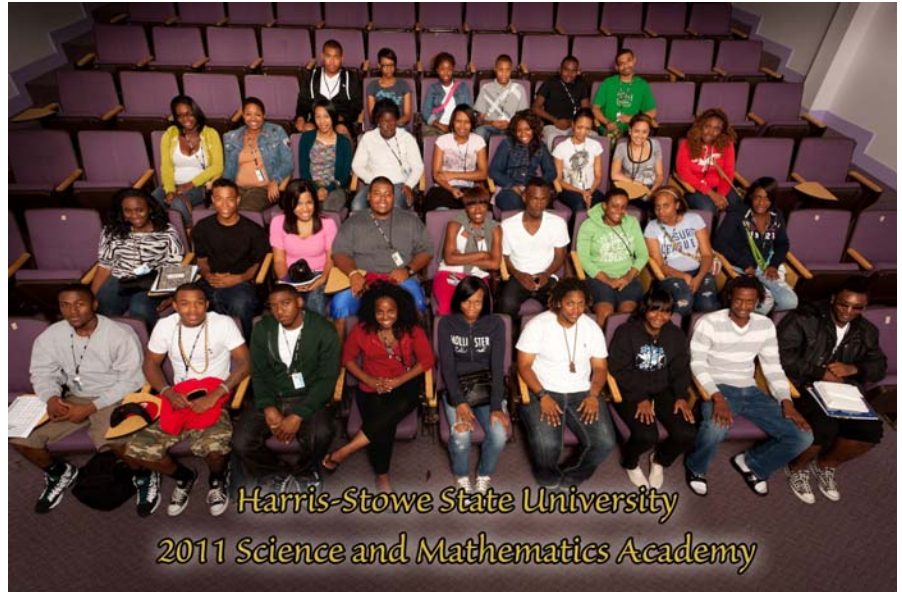
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Greetings,

The scholars of the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy are eager to begin their matriculation at Harris Stowe-State University in August.

For the past five weeks, these students have been busy preparing themselves for the 2011 fall semester. The time has come for the scholars to highlight their academic achievements to the HSSU academic community, their family and peers.

The 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy Fair is on July 30, 2011, and is the culminating summer program event. The fair is the golden opportunity for the scholars to showcase their educational accomplishments and research projects that they conducted with various HSSU faculty members. The 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy scholars are eager to step into the spotlight and shine.

Ready, Set, Showtime!

Best,
Dr. Tommie Turner

What is a Herbarium? Answers Lots of Questions

What is a herbarium? The answer to this question and many others was revealed to the 2011 Science and Math Academy students on their recent visit to the Herbarium at the Missouri Botanical Gardens (Shaw's Garden). For many this was a new and different experience from their other trips to the garden. This time, instead of walking around and looking at all the different types of vegetation and flora, Charles Kirksey and the other students got a chance to discuss the history of plants and the scientists associated with botany and the naming of plants.



The dried species of plants caught Quintin Mack's attention because, "They died a long time ago but they were still preserved." Martika Green's interest was caught by the very old, historic books about plants that were in the herbarium's library. The collection includes a first edition copy of a book by Charles Darwin on evolution by natural selection.



"I learned that there are billions of plants in the world and some of them look exactly alike but are totally different in their background and species," noted Arrion Henderson. Akeela Aziz was both impressed and depressed after she learned about the disastrous effects of war on the land and the plants, which, in turn, affects our food, ability to develop medicine and amount and availability of wooden materials.



Overall, the students gained a lot more information about the very intricate relationship that exists between plants and their importance to science and life on Earth.

Editor's note: Herbarium, in botany, is a collection of preserved plant specimens. These specimens may be whole plants or plant parts; these will usually be in a dried form, mounted on a sheet, but depending upon the material may also be kept in alcohol or other preservation. The term can also refer to the building where the specimens are stored, or the scientific institute that not only stores but also researches these specimens.



"I would recommend the botanical garden for all ages and anyone who is interested in plants and science." Akella Aziz

REFLECTIONS

These are some of the thoughts from the students who participated in the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy.

"Two months ago, I never would have thought that I would have the goals and aspirations I have now. From day one, I have learned so much about school life, other people and their situations and I have learned more about myself." Andrew Erby

"When I was first accepted into the program, I did not know what it took to be a college student, but since I've been here, one of my classes, University Experience has taught me that I need motivation and I need to set goals for myself." Ashlee Coleman

"The best things I liked about the summer experience were the individuals that surrounded me. They made it easy to socialize, get used to the campus life, and also helped a lot with class work." Dalvin Morrow

"One of the things I enjoyed was dorm life. Living on campus was a fun experience. We learned how to live on our own. The best part was meeting my roomies (roommates). We got along well and had many long talks." Antwanette Randle

"I feel that this experience has molded me and prepared me for the college lifestyle. We go to six different classes everyday which makes you stay on top of your game. Part of being a college student, is being able to manage your time and learn now to say "no." Charles Kirksey

"Living in the dorm with other people was something completely new to me. In high school, there were many different personalities but you were not with them all day. I liked living in the dorm and having a suite. You did not have to be in each other's faces all the time. There was usually always something for us to do. Something I was not used to doing is having someone tell me what to do every hour." Jessica McKee

"Being in the summer academy was a good experience, but staying in the dorms stood out for me more than anything. Two things I liked about staying the dorms is the feeling of being independent and meeting new people." Caylah Gilbert

"I enjoyed the Science and Math program this summer, but there are so many things I had to sacrifice to get here for instance, my freedom. In this program, we work on a tight schedule. From 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., we are constantly busy. The schedule is very productive but when you are used to sleeping in during the summer you may find it hard to adapt to this new schedule." Tristan Hubbard

"My experience at the Science and Math Academy has been challenging, yet interesting. First, all the strict rules and six classes a day are tough. In order to succeed you must be organized. Since your schedule is so time-oriented, you are likely to be tired and worn out by the end of the day. Even though it is challenging, it is healthy because it teaches you how to prepare for college life and an adult life later." Akeela Aziz

*We are the world,
We are the children.
We are the ones who make a brighter
day
So let's start giving.
There's a choice we're making,
We're saving our own lives.
It's true.
We'll make a better day -- Just you
and me!*

Lyrics by Michael Jackson c1985.

“Go Green” Fashion Show- A Crowd Pleaser

On Thursday, July 14, 2011, in the Emerson Performance Center, the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy participants staged a “Go Green” Fashion Show. The show’s purpose is to raise awareness about the need to “Recycle, Reduce and Reuse” many of the materials we use every day.

A power point presentation designed by Brandee Paster and Cierra Spight highlighted the importance of conserving our resources. It also showed the audience examples of recycling projects. Typical recyclable items include paper, aluminum and glass. Other items such as batteries, plastic and wood can also be recycled.

Dr. Ann Podleski, a mentor to the HSSU campus sustainability efforts, gave a Power Point presentation on the various activities around campus. The author, Chris Walker, recited an original poem about the conservation of resources. The finale included a runway display of various styles of dress made from recyclable materials.

The 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy Fair

On Saturday, July 30, 2011, the Science and Mathematics Academy’s students will celebrate their accomplishments. The students will display, explain and demonstrate for parents, visitors and friends the various concepts and principles that they had studied over the five-week course. Various groups of students present their posters and research projects on biology, robotics, mathematics, physical science and chemistry topics. The keynote speaker for the 2011 Science and Mathematics Academy Fair is Mr. Reginald Robinson, an aeronautical engineer at The Boeing Company. Boeing is an American multinational aerospace and defense corporation.

