

SCHOLARS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES PROGRAM (SDAP)

SDAP

App State

Appalachian State University



SDAP News & Updates

October 2021

This edition highlights some of our team members and scholars. We are thrilled to introduce them to you! Keep reading to learn more about what we are up to!

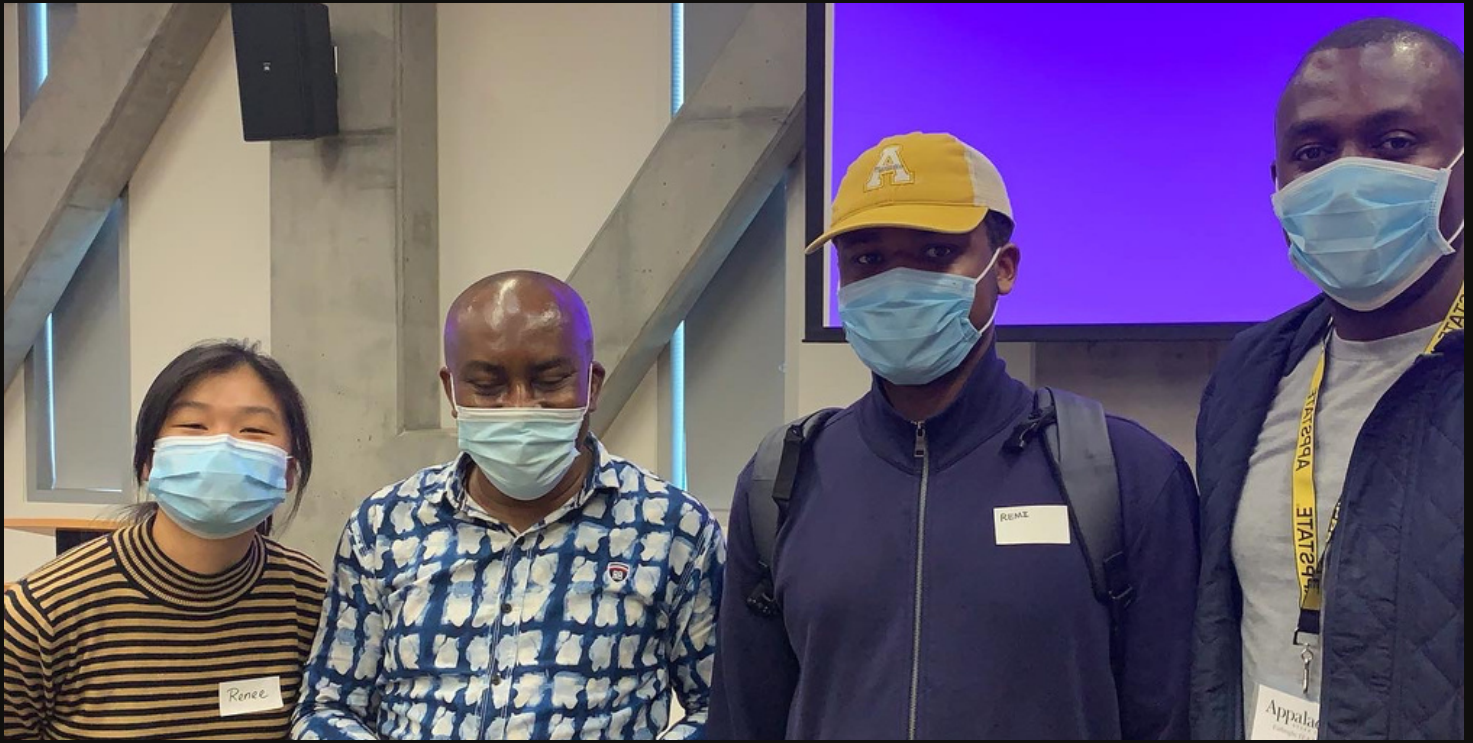
FULBRIGHT FELLOWS: App State's inclusive Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) presents to visiting international fellows



Appalachian State University's Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) was invited to present its innovative program for students with intellectual disabilities to the 2021 Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) fellows currently visiting campus from 18 countries around the globe. SDAP is one of the older inclusive postsecondary education programs for students in the country and has been considered a model program by the Department of Education for its level of inclusivity.

The presentation began with the typical Wednesday morning mindfulness activity and then transitioned to the more than 50 SDAP students, staff, peer-mentors, and Fulbright TEA Fellows engaging in a lively cultural exchange around tables set up in the Parkway Ballroom in Plemmons Student Union.

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS CONT.



Left to right: Renee Yong (SDAP staff), Anozie Ukaegbu (Nigeria), Remi Douglas (SDAP student), Brian Mupeti (Zimbabwe)

Conversations included:

- Remi Douglas told a visiting teacher from Nigeria about his favorite class, Cultivating Creative Expression through Music, and his favorite club, the Japanese Culture Club.
- Jack Juarez described to teachers from Zimbabwe his experiences living in Summit Hall dorm and how happy he is being at App. "I really enjoy being in the Best Buddies Club."
- Adeola Akinsulure, a Fulbright TEA Fellow and biology teacher from Nigeria, shared her experience visiting Grandfather Mountain's Mile High Swinging Bridge, also a favorite spot of many SDAP students.

Additionally, there were conversations about how learning occurs during a pandemic with participants swapping stories about the challenges of remote learning.

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS CONT.



“This encounter today is not just about the fellows learning about us; it is an opportunity for us to learn from them. It is mutually beneficial,” said SDAP Director and Reich College of Education assistant professor Dr. Susan Hedges.

After the exchange, several of the Fulbright TEA Fellows expressed interest in starting programs like SDAP in their home countries.

App State’s 21 Fulbright TEA Fellows are secondary school teachers of English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Special Education who travel to the U.S. from around the world to engage in a cultural exchange, learn from educators at American universities, and enhance their teaching skills. The fellows come from diverse backgrounds and share a common goal of developing their teaching methodologies but also engaging in cultural exchange. Fulbright TEA is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government, administered by IREX.

SDAP prepares college-aged students with intellectual disabilities for personal growth and occupational success. The goal upon completion of the program is that students obtain competitive, integrated employment and live independent, fulfilling lives.

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS CONT.



SPOOKY DUKE



Over the weekend, on Oct. 16, our scholars, fellows and staff all joined the community and fellow Best Buddies team members for the 11th annual Spooky Duke race held at Appalachian State University.

Spooky Duke is a USA Track & Field (USATF) certified 5k and 10k race, and this year it even included a free costume march for children, adults and dogs.

Out of the various staff, fellows and scholars to attend the 5k, one scholar did what he loves and decided to run the 5k. Remi made our team proud coming in 8th place for men ages 20-29 and coming in at 55th place overall with the finish time of 32:47.3.

Spooky Duke raises money for Parent 2 Parent to support local families who have children with special needs. This year there was also a silent auction where all proceeds go to Parent 2 Parent.

The Spooky Duke race was first sponsored by the former dean of the Reich College of Education, Dr. Charles R. Duke. [Read more!](#)

SPOOKY DUKE



Social Media

For more updates about SDAP, we encourage you to check out our social medias, listed below.



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WELCOME BETH! STAFF SPOTLIGHT



BETH.

The SDAP team is thrilled to introduce our new assistant director **Beth Sibley, CMSW**. Beth has worked at Appalachian State University since 2016 as an adjunct instructor teaching in the Social Work and Recreation Management and Physical Education departments.

Beth has been a go-to instructor for SDAP students with her popular weight training course and has a great relationship with SDAP already.

"Working for SDAP has been a dream of mine since I heard about it in 2014," states Beth.

Beth earned a BSW from James Madison University and an MSW from the University of South Carolina. She has seven years of experience in the field doing case management in mental health, health care and child welfare settings.

Beth has led a group fitness class for athletes in the community with intellectual and physical disabilities and she brings experience in educational settings working with high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her extensive background in social work aligns well with SDAP's person-centered planning approach.

You can catch Beth on campus enjoying a nice cup of black coffee from one of the many coffee shops on or surrounding campus!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



MATTI.

Matti Lyon is a Social Work Intern with SDAP at Appalachian State University. She is graduating this Fall 2021 with her Bachelors in Social Work. Matti has experience working with populations with diverse abilities, mental illness and those struggling with the effects of substance use.

As a BSW intern, she is very involved with every aspect of SDAP! She attends classes with the scholars, best buddies meetings and supports the program in any way that is needed. Matti joined SDAP because she believes "SDAP is an incredible program and is a great way to share my knowledge and skill set, while giving me the opportunity to learn and improve my professionalism." Matti states she plans to use these experiences in her future career as a social worker.

Originally from Goldsboro, N.C., Matti enjoys reading, watching movies and visiting family in her free time. You can generally find Matti enjoying her favorite candy, Skittles, at the study pods located in Leon Levine Campus for Health Sciences, her favorite spot on campus.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



SAM.

Sam Butcher is a first year student of the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program from Pinehurst N.C. Sam enjoys hanging out with his friends on Sanford mall, his

favorite spot on campus. Sam enjoys all of his classes so much that he can't pick a favorite! His favorite thing to do outside of his classes is to hang out with his friends or relax in his dorm room. Sam is also an active member of the Best Buddies club. Sam enjoys comedy, jazz music and his favorite food is pizza! After Sam graduates, he is very excited to start his career as a tv show host.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



NICHAELA.

Nichaela Casey is a first-year student in the Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program here at Appalachian State University. Originally from Raleigh, N.C., Nichaela has enjoyed moving to campus and making many new friends in Boone,

while keeping in touch with her friends and boyfriend from back home. Nichaela likes to spend time relaxing at her favorite on campus spot, Crossroads, while enjoying the cozy atmosphere to listen to music, do school work, and savor her favorite treat, Ghirardelli chocolate! Nichaela's favorite class is Personal and Family Health and she really enjoys spending time relaxing in her yoga class. Her favorite activities out of class are the two clubs she has joined this semester, Cru and App Sits. Nichaela is most excited to watch sports on television, go to her club events this semester and manage her first job ever, working for Campus Dining! After her time in SDAP, she is most looking forward to becoming a nutrition counselor!

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



MALCOLM.

Malcolm Vaughn, an Apex, N.C. native, is a sophomore at Appalachian State University majoring in choral music education.

As an SDAP fellow, Malcolm supports the scholars with their day-to-day needs including studying, cleaning or anything they may need to feel comfortable in their dorms.

Malcolm is one of the most constant resources available to the scholars.

"I love getting to know this group and share stories and jokes with them," states Malcolm. "They are such a sweet group of people with so much love to give and I feel so lucky that I get to room with them and learn from them each day."

Malcolm joined SDAP to support his future career as an educator within choir classrooms. Malcolm understands that his future students may have varying abilities and his experience within SDAP can help him better understand how to support students on the spectrum and with other diversities. He hopes to use the skills he learns from SDAP to create a comfortable and open environment within his future classrooms.

You can usually find Malcolm enjoying his favorite food, ravioli, or hanging out at Sanford Mall, his favorite spot on campus!

BEST BUDDIES



At the very end of September, Best Buddies hosted their match party where scholars were able to meet their buddies and buddy families! Each scholar and buddy got a piece of a picture and used that picture as a puzzle piece, going around the room to see who else had the same picture and putting the puzzle together meant you had found your buddy and buddy family!

October has been dedicated to allowing everyone time to get to know each other. The latest Best Buddies meeting was spent as a game night and craft night. Everyone that attended joined in to play games such as UNO and Clue, painted pumpkins, and decorated Fall mason jars! It was a really fun time. Check out the following pictures to see for yourself just how much fun everyone had!

Best Buddies is open to anyone to join!

 Follow us at
@bestbuddiesappstate

BEST BUDDIES



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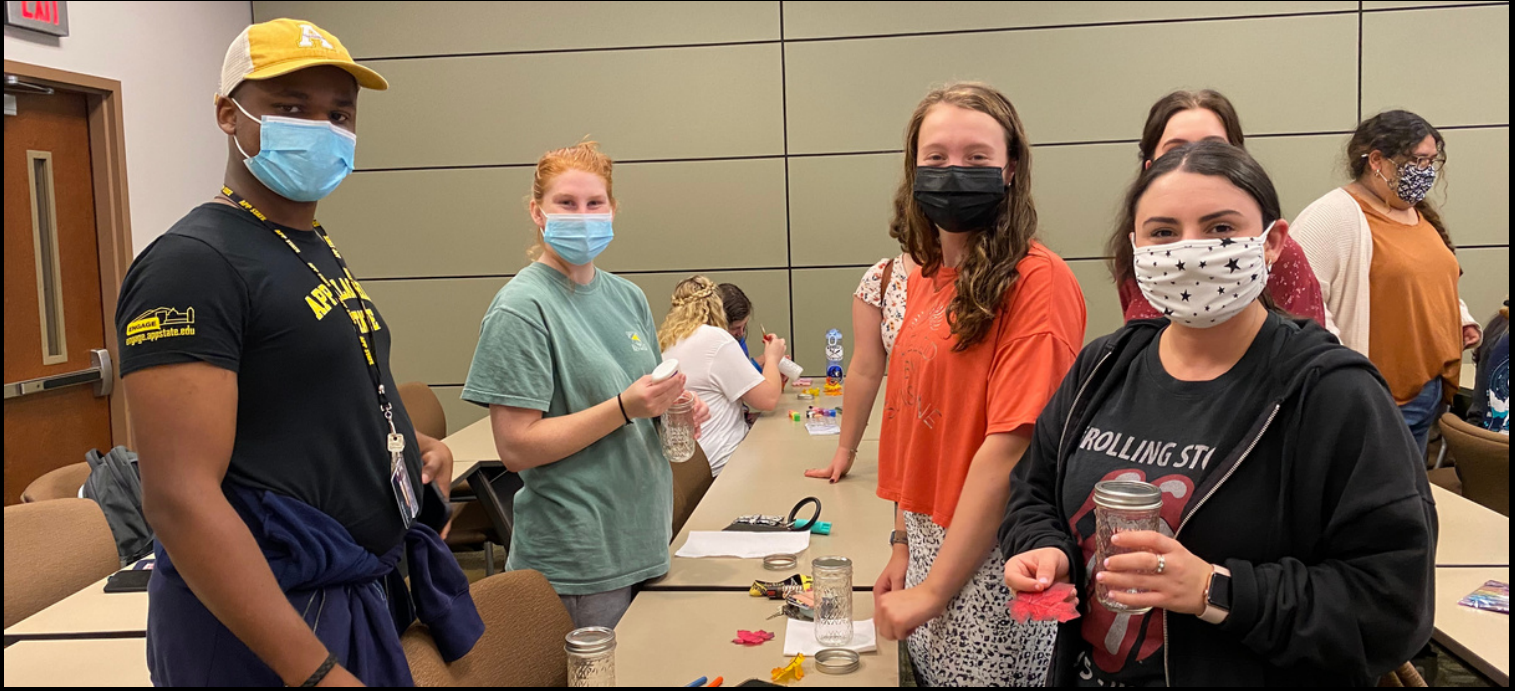
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BEST BUDDIES



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IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON MOUNTAINEERS!

Heading to The Rock for game day? Get your tickets now!





2021 APPSTATE FOOTBALL

THURSDAY SEPT. 2 EAST CAROLINA CHARLOTTE, NC	SATURDAY OCT. 2 GEORGIA STATE ATLANTA, GA	SATURDAY NOV. 6 ARKANSAS STATE JONESBORO, AR
SATURDAY SEPT. 11 MIAMI MIAMI GARDENS, FL	TUESDAY OCT. 12 LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE, LA	SATURDAY NOV. 13 SOUTH ALABAMA BOONE, NC
SATURDAY SEPT. 18 ELON BOONE, NC	WEDNESDAY OCT. 20 COASTAL CAROLINA BOONE, NC	SATURDAY NOV. 20 TROY TROY, AL
THURSDAY SEPT. 23 MARSHALL BOONE, NC	SATURDAY OCT. 30 ULM BOONE, NC	SATURDAY NOV. 27 GEORGIA SOUTHERN BOONE, NC • SENIOR DAY





TRADITION
TOUGHNESS
TOGETHER

Upcoming Events



October 25-30

APPS Haunted Homecoming Harvest

Check out engage.appstate.edu for event details!



October 30 @ 3:30 p.m.

Homecoming / Football Alumni Reunion

App vs. ULM @ Kidd Brewer Stadium



November 3 @ 8 p.m.

Lyric Open Mic @ 3rd Place



November 10 @ 2 p.m.

De-Stress Fest



November 13 @ 2:30 p.m.

App vs. South Alabama @ Kidd Brewer

Check out engage.appstate.edu for more upcoming events!

If you have any questions, comments, or other feedback, feel free to email us at

sdap@appstate.edu.

Thanks for reading!