

# **SCHOLARS WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES PROGRAM (SDAP)**

# **SDAP**

*App State*

**Appalachian State University**



## **SDAP News & Updates**

January 2022

This edition welcomes students back to campus with a few updates and introduces some of our scholars. Keep reading to learn more about what we are up to!

# WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS



Greetings Mountaineers! We trust that you all had a restful winter break and are ready for a productive and safe spring semester. While the year 2021 was filled with challenges not seen before, the faculty and staff of Scholars with Diverse Abilities are committed to ensuring that our scholars and all students continue to experience the highest standard of learning.

SDAP is excited to announce that we are celebrating the program's Ten-Year Anniversary this year! There will be several celebrations across the semester culminating in a big event in April -- so stay tuned for more information!



# GEOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FIELD TRIP



Appalachian State University's Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) went on a field trip to the Geological and Environmental Services (GES) Department in the Rankin Science Center. The session was led by lecturer Marta Toran and Lily Vowels, teaching the scholars the basics of Geology, various careers within the department, and how to identify different rocks. The scholars also took a tour of the Geology Museum where they got to analyze the oldest rock on Earth and a real dinosaur bone!



# BEST BUDDIES



The ever-popular Best Buddies club has lots of great events planned for this semester including S'mores at the firepit and a Valentine's Dance in the Student Union. Best Buddies is committed to creating an inclusive, loving, and caring environment where everyone feels comfortable being themselves. The club is devoted to cultivating strong friendships and connections between our club members and is open for anyone to join. Club meetings are every other Wednesday at 7pm, usually in the Reich College of Education, room 124. Follow us on Instagram for more info about events!

## Upcoming Club Events

- **February 19 @ 6 p.m** Valentine's Dance



Follow us at  
[@bestbuddiesappstate](https://www.instagram.com/bestbuddiesappstate)



# SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Nicholas Curry



Nick is originally from Boonville, North Carolina. His favorite candy is Kit Kats and his favorite class is weightlifting. Outside of class you can find Nick hanging out at Sanford Mall or going to church group with his friends!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Shana Ferguson

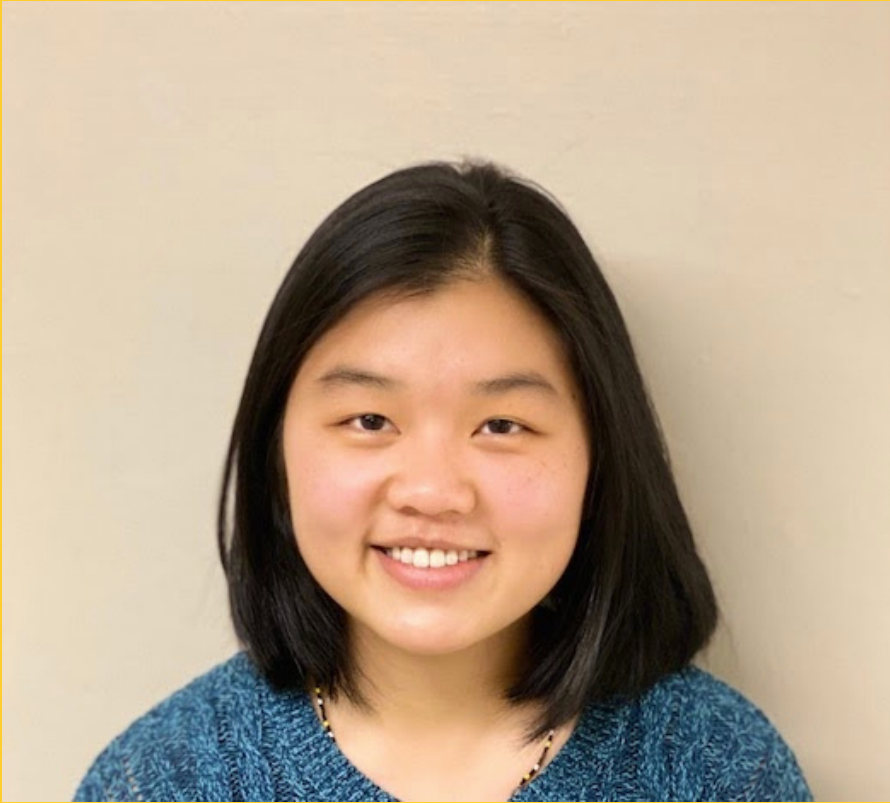


Shana is one of SDAP's Interns and a senior at Appalachian State University majoring in Social Work with a minor in Child Development. She is planning to graduate in May. She has experience working with individuals with diverse abilities, mental illness, and adverse childhood experiences. As a social work intern she is very involved with SDAP, attending classes with the scholars and supporting the program in any way that is needed.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Renee Yong



Renee is a third-year graduate student in the Masters of Music Therapy Program at Appalachian State University. She is SDAP's Graduate Research Assistant, in a typical day she is researching evidence-based practices from Postsecondary Education articles to inform SDAP and analyze its data. She joined SDAP hoping to learn effective strategies working with individuals with disabilities and Renee is passionate about researching music therapy interventions as an approach to mental health and neuroplasticity.

# Upcoming Campus Events



**February 1 - 5**

**Black Lives Matter at School Week**



Check out [engage.appstate.edu](https://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](mailto:sdap@appstate.edu).

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