



Alexandra Alford

Internship: 4-H Youth Development

Supervisor: Justin Crowe, Extension Specialist II, 4-H Youth Development

Major: Public Health Nutrition

Alexandra Alford is a second semester graduate student in the Department of Nutrition, Public Health Nutrition Graduate Programs at The University of Tennessee. She has a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology from The University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Additionally, she works as a maternal and child health (MCH) nutrition leadership funded trainee and a research assistant for Dr. Marsha Spence, Associate Professor of Practice, Director, Public Health Nutrition Graduate Program, The University of Tennessee. Upon graduation, Alexandra would like to be a licensed dietitian working in her community targeting underserved populations and working to educate and improve their quality of life. Alexandra has been the recipient of numerous honors and achievements during her academic career.



Erin Nicole Allen

Internship: Animal Science Department

Supervisor: Dr. Peter Krawczel, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

Major: Agricultural Leadership and Education

Erin Nicole Allen is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Agricultural Leadership and Education. Erin was granted a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science in 2016 from The University of Tennessee. She has participated in the North American Inter Collegiate Dairy Challenge, April 2016, and networked with dairy producers and professionals from the Midwestern region of the United States. Erin has gained research experience while working with Dr. Gina Pighetti, Associate Professor, Animal Science, on the Southeast Milk Quality Initiative, and was a research assistant with Dr. Joseph Donaldson, Assistant Professor, 4-H Youth Development. With her dairy background and research experience Erin would like to have a career in Extension.



Sarah Best

Internship: Agricultural and Resource Economics Department

Supervisor: Dr. Aaron Smith, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics

Major: Agribusiness Management

Sarah Best graduated in May of 2017 from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. She worked part-time with Sustainable Mountain Agriculture Center, and had an internship with the Tennessee FFA Foundation, Inc. She also served as the Tennessee State FFA President. Sarah had the opportunity to travel abroad visiting, South Africa, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, and Austria. Most recently, Sarah spent her summer as a research assistant for plant sciences professor Dr. Brian Leckie at Tennessee Technological University. After graduation Sarah hopes to pursue a career in the Federal Government and concentrate on policy that impacts global agriculture practices, economic development, natural resource use and international trade.



Victoria Lynn Campbell

Internship: Agricultural and Resource Economics Department

Supervisor: Dr. Aaron Smith, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics

Major: Food and Agricultural Business

Victoria Lynn Campbell graduated in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics with a major in Food and Agricultural Business. She currently serves as Ambassador, UT College of Agricultural Sciences, representing the college at events on and off campus. Additionally, Victoria served as a Financial Services intern with Farm Credit of Mid-America, Fayetteville, Tennessee. Victoria plans to begin graduate school at The University of Tennessee within the AREC Department in the fall of 2017. With the knowledge she has gained on the financial lending process and how FCMA serves their customers and rural communities Victoria's career goal is to work on the financial side of agriculture and help make farming more financially feasible for agriculturist today.



Shelby Christian

Internship: Putnam County

Supervisor: Michelle Parrott, Extension Agent III & County Director

Major: Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Shelby Christian is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology with a concentration in Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Tennessee Technological University. Shelby is a member of the Bonecave FCE Club, CFS Club, Lambda Alpha Sigma Agricultural Service Sorority, and an Ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Human Ecology. She has worked as a volunteer with different branches of 4-H Programs across the Central Region. Shelby hopes this opportunity will help her grow more knowledgeable about Extension and all it does. In the future she hopes to have a career with Extension. Shelby also plans to continue her education and pursue further degrees while working.



Courtney Fay Cooper

Internship: Plant Sciences Department

Supervisor: Dr. Annette Wszelaki, Associate Professor, Plant Sciences Major: Horticulture

Courtney Fay Cooper graduated in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Arkansas. She is a member of the University Honors College. Courtney worked as a research assistant to Dr. Elena Garcia, Strawberry Research Grant at university of Arkansas, served as an intern with the Farmers Market, TriCycle Farms and was a student assistant at the Horticulture Display Gardens at The University of Arkansas. Ms. Cooper was the 2014 Golden Award Recipient from the Girl Scouts of the United States. In the summer of 2015 she participated in the Global Community Development in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) University of Arkansas Study Abroad Program. After graduate school, Courtney hopes to move to a large urban center and start a nonprofit focused on creating community gardens in low income areas.



Vanessa Cosey

Internship: Dickson County

Supervisor: Janet Cluck, Extension Agent III & County Director

Major: Family and Consumer Sciences

Vanessa Cosey returned to college after retirement to earn her Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University. Vanessa had a successful career in civil service at both state and federal levels. She has experience working with youth and adults as a lead volunteer in the Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts. Vanessa had the opportunity to study abroad administering Early Childhood Education Programs in Singapore the summer of 2016. Upon her return to college she chose to study Family and Consumer Sciences and plans to be an educator and advocate for education and families, and use her education to help others.



Whitney Paige Cowan

Internship: Rutherford County

Supervisor: Carla Bush, Extension Agent III

Major: Child Development and Family Relations

Whitney Paige Cowan plans to graduate from Tennessee Technological University in December of 2017, earning a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology with a concentration in Child Development & Family Relations. Whitney has experience as a teacher assistant at TTU providing support to the Human Ecology Department. She is very passionate about serving her community and recognizing the needs of the community in order to help meet those needs. Some of her current leadership roles include Peer Mentor at TTU, Member of Child Development and Family Relations Club, and a member of Servants of Christ at Tennessee Technological University. Whitney hopes to have a career with UT Extension and be of service to her community.



Tyrell Doss
Internship: Dyer County
Supervisor: William Taylor
Major:



Marina Fahmy
Internship: Davidson County
Supervisor: Ebone' Colclough, Extension Agent I
Major: Nutrition and Food Science

Marina Fahmy plans to graduate in August, 2017 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences from Middle Tennessee State University. Marina migrated with her family from Egypt to the US when she was six years old. She is bilingual (Arabic/English). Coming from an Arabic-speaking home, she has learned to overcome many cultural challenges in the classroom. Her volunteer activities and service experience include working at the Cannon County Senior Center and the American Association of Retired Persons. Marina hopes to use her Nutrition and Food Science major and minor in psychology to educate others about the importance of healthy eating, meal preparation and behavioral change. Marina enjoys gardening flowers, fruits, and vegetables and loves seeing the results of her hard work.

Photo

Amanda Elizabeth Fuller
Internship: Madison County
Supervisor: Sharon Tubbs, Extension Agent III
Major: Fashion Merchandising

Amanda Elizabeth Fuller is currently enrolled at The University of Tennessee at Martin with a major in Fashion Merchandise and a minor in Journalism. Amanda became a 4-Her in the fourth grade and has grown through her experiences and loves what 4-H stands for. She would love to give back to an organization that has meant so much to her and help other children appreciate 4-H and see how much it has to offer. Amanda has a lot of volunteer experience with different organizations including Sr. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, in Memphis, Tennessee. In the future Amanda would like to further her education in Fashion Merchandise and Journalism to obtain a Fashion Journalism job in the United States or Spain.



Audrey Fulton
Internship: Davidson County/Governor's Residence
Supervisor: Michael E Barry
Major: Agriculture (Concentration in Agri Business)

Audrey Fulton is a senior at Austin Peay State University. She has previous experience with the Robertson County Extension Office where she volunteered to expand her knowledge on a potential career in Extension. Audrey is currently a Community Assistant with University Landing and a teaching assistant for APSU's Geology Department. Growing up on the family farm she possesses a personal understanding of Agriculture. When Audrey was younger she was also an active 4-H member. She has become highly interested in a career with the USDA as a Soil Scientist or Conservationist. Her goal is to influence agriculture and farmers positively through proactive measures.



Jennifer Ha

Internship: Union County

Supervisor: Sahnnon DeWitt, Extension Agent II & County Director

Major: Food Science and Technology

Jennifer Ha is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Food Science at The University of Tennessee while enrolled in the Chattanooga State Dual Enrollment Program. Her work experience includes a position with Rivemont Presbyterian Early Learning Center as a Preschool Teacher. She is a member of the UTK Food Science Club and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. Jennifer also participated in the UT Pharmacy Shadowing Program, Undergraduate Nutrition Students Association, and the Academy of Student Pharmacists. She plans to continue her education and go to graduate school for a Master's degree in Food Science then start a career in the food industry either Food Microbiology or Research and Development.



Ashley Hillsman

Internship: Bedford County

Supervisor: Whitney Danhof, Extension Agent III

Major: Nutrition and Food Science

Ashley Hillsman graduated in May, 2017 from Middle Tennessee State with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science. Recently Ashley presented at the 2017 TOPS Conference. Additionally, she is very actively involved in the community with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Ashley worked with the SNAP-Ed program and learned a lot from that experience and looks forward to working with professionals that are established in her field of study. Upon graduation her goal is to become a Community Nutrition Educator or Extension Agent with UT or TSU Extension Service. She has a desire to educate and serve the under-served population and help prevent many nutrition-related conditions. Ashley also plans to continue her education by beginning graduate school in spring of 2018.



Kayla Sampson

Internship: Cheatham County

Supervisors: Ronnie Barron, Extension Agent III & County Director / Sierra Knaus, Extension Agent III

Major:



Akofa Hukporti

Internship: Williamson County

Supervisor: Patsy Watkins, Extension Agent II

Major: Family and Consumer Sciences

Akofa Hukporti is currently enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science Education with a minor in Social Work. She has gained very strong customer service skills while working as a waitress. Akofa also has experience as a Yoga Instructor at Middle Tennessee State University and Olympics Gym. After completing her Bachelor's degree, Akofa would like to work with Extension and expand her knowledge and experiences then pursue a position teaching High School Family and Consumer Sciences. Her long term career goal is to build a school in West Africa, Ghana that will be able to provide full scholarships to children who cannot afford to attend school.

Photo



Asian Hooper

Internship County: Shelby County

Supervisors: Jo Anne Waterman, Extension Agent I and Chris Cooper, Extension Agent II



Anna Ekene Tharpe

Internship: Plant Sciences Department

Supervisor: Dr. Amy Fulcher, Associate Professor, Plant Sciences

Major: Plant Science, Horticulture

Anna Tharpe currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Plant Sciences, Horticulture at The University of Tennessee, with an expected graduation date of May, 2018. Anna has worked as a Sales Associate with Nine West and as a Student Researcher at The University of Tennessee Weed Management Department. She is a member of the American Association of Horticulture Sciences. Anna was a member of 4-H and has 300+ volunteer hours for the Red Cross. She is interested in real world irrigation and sprayer technology. Having a great interest in all plant life, she would like to enter the green industry and build a nursery business where she can share this joy with a larger audience.



Ryan Watson

Internship: Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science Department

Supervisor: Andrea Ludwig, Associate Professor, Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science

Major: Biosystems Engineering

Ryan Watson is an undergraduate in Biosystems Engineering –Pre-Professional at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is a member of the Chancellor’s Honors Program and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean’s Scholar. He is currently working at the Herbarium at The University of Tennessee which he feels will help him gain more knowledge of plants and how certain environmental systems work. Ryan grew up in a small farming town and has seen the struggles in the agricultural community. Upon graduation he would like to work with a company that is working to solve current problems and help make the environment sustainable enough to provide for all of future generations.



Jacob L. Webster

Internship: Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries Department

Supervisor: Dr. Wayne Clatterbuck, Professor, Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries

Major: Forestry: Forest Resources Management Concentration

Jacob Webster plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry: Forest Resources Management in 2018. He is currently working at Hoot ‘n’ Hollar Farm with eight years of experience. He has also worked at Schmidt Brothers Sawmill and construction and is with the City of Gatlinburg Smokey Mountain Tunes and Tales. Jacob holds a Basic Wildland Firefighters certification. Other work experience includes working with and being a member of the Forestry Club at UT which included working on the Cumberland Trail, The TN Division of Forestry Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Strike Team, and Chuck Swan State Forest. Jacob participated in some of the different programs offered through the Montgomery County 4-H. He would like to return to graduate school to research and document new findings in the Forestry industry and in fire ecology.



Front row seated left to right: Audrey Fulton, Shelby Christian, Whitney Paige Cowan, Erin Nicole Allen, Courtney Fay Cooper. **Back row standing left to right:** Jacob Webster, Sarah Best, Kayla Sampson, Alexandria Alford, Ryan Watson, Ashley Hillsman, Akofa Hukporti, Marina Fahmy, Jennifer Ha, Anna Ekene Tharpe, Victoria Lynn Campbell, Asian Hooper, Tyrell Doss. **Not pictured:** Vanessa Cosey, Amanda Elizabeth Fuller.