



Guardian Scholars

FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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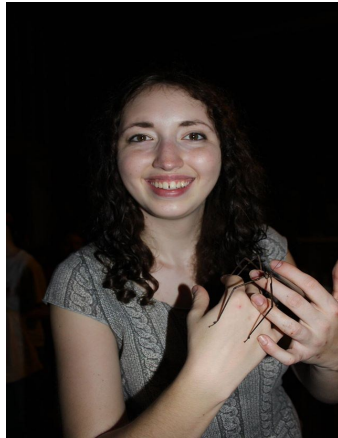
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Did you know that
the Guardian
Scholars program
accepts new
students year
round?

Please see our
website for more
information.

Guardian Scholars Around the Globe



In May 2015, Savannah Lundgren, a freshman Guardian Scholars student, was able to study abroad in Costa Rica. She took part in Biology 420's field study for two weeks. As a major in Biology with dual concentrations in Zoology and Wildlife Conservation, this experience offered her practical experience for her future educational and professional pursuits.

Savannah had the opportunity to not only travel to a beautiful country, but to immerse herself in the local culture and study the multitude of wildlife native to this country. When asked what her favorite aspects of the trip were, Savannah could not narrow it down, because she truly loved every moment of the trip.

Savannah learned to identify many different species from birds to insects, and she was the first Ball State student to catch a hummingbird. Savannah kayaked across a bioluminescent bay, explored the coral reefs of Tortuga Island, and caught bats to study.

Studying abroad allowed Savannah to learn more about biology, as well as herself. She looks forward to more study abroad opportunities in the future! Savannah shared some of her favorite photos from Costa Rica.



Guardian Scholars Student and Alumni Updates

The Guardian Scholars program is very proud to share updates of our current Guardian Scholars students and alumni:

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

The Guardian Scholars program is proud to announce that **Savannah Lundgren** is the Guardian Scholars Scholarship award winner for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Guardian Scholars scholarship began in 2012, and we continue to award eligible students up to \$2,500 per academic year.

Savannah is currently a sophomore at BSU majoring in Biology. When Savannah is not studying or attending classes, she enjoys volunteering with the Animal Rescue Fund. She is active in several student organizations, including the Wildlife Society, Excellence in Leadership, and Urban Gaming League at BSU. Savannah is an exceptional student, and we look forward to her many successes!

Scholar Success Update

- * **Jamie Childers** graduated in December 2014 and was accepted into the Biology Master's program at Ball State University for Fall 2015 and is currently taking classes.
- * **Tabitha Hammel** graduated in July 2015, and is working hard on a job search in the community. She recently joined Women In Business Unlimited, a professional development and networking organization in East Central Indiana.
- * **Savannah Lundgren** completed a ServSafe certification over the summer at Pink Leaf's Summer Sensations program. Pink Leaf: A Learning Company is owned and operated by GS alumni, **Kimberly Howe-Ferguson**.
- * **Julianna Lundgren**, an incoming freshman and Guardian Scholar, was awarded various scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Meet the Guardian Scholars Outreach Committee

The Guardian Scholars program has formed a new Outreach Committee. Members of the Outreach Committee are from various campus and community organizations around the region. This committee will work to identify and engage individuals and resources that support Guardian Scholars program's overall goal of offering post-secondary support to current and former foster youth at Ball State and Ivy Tech East Central campuses. Each

member will play a vital role in helping with areas of student recruitment, program referrals, strategic communications, and marketing. We would like to introduce the members of this committee: **Jim Womack, Sue Godfrey, Art Hill, and Angie Rogers-Howell**. We look forward to working with these individuals as they raise awareness and advocate on behalf of the Guardian Scholars Program!



Angie Rogers-Howell
Owner/President
Farmhouse Creative



Jim Womack
Family Case Manager II
Department of Child Services



Sue Godfrey
Director of Advancement
Project Leadership



Art Hill
Senior Manager of
Interactive Marketing
Ball State University

Scholar Spotlight: Tabitha Hammel

Tabitha Hammel has been with the Guardian Scholars program since 2011, beginning at Ivy Tech and then transferring to Ball State in 2013. She was the recipient of the Guardian Scholars scholarship from 2013 until 2015. Tabitha has always shown dedication to the program and had a penchant for introducing new scholars to the ins and outs of the Guardian Scholars program. Tabitha graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in Creative Writing in July, 2015. Tabitha was kind enough to share her experience in the program with us.

Q: How has the Guardian Scholars program helped you?

A: They helped me by pushing me forward, even when I have experienced trying events, such as stress and time management. They were always there pushing me to succeed.

Q: In your opinion, what is the most valuable thing Guardian Scholars has to offer students?

A: I believe it is the support they give for not only academics, but for students personally. They are there to

support scholars through personal trials, as well as academic ones.

Q: What is your fondest memory with the Guardian Scholars program?

A: My fondest memory is the Fall Kickoff from last year, 2014. I really liked that it was held outdoors and we were able to play different games. It was definitely new and different from what we had in the past.

Q: What are your post-graduate plans?

A: I plan to take a year off from school to explore my options, as well as recharge! I would like to look for a job in order to gain some professional experience, before possibly heading to graduate school.

Q: What advice do you have for future Guardian Scholars students?

A: Time management, time management, time management! It is so important for scholars to understand how to balance their time well. I would also recommend a stress ball. I think it's really important that future scholars have a thorough

understanding of everything Guardian Scholars has to offer them, because many foster youth do not have people guiding them in the right direction.

Q: How do you plan to stay involved with Guardian Scholars after you graduate?

A: I'm going to try attending all their big events, like Fall Kickoff and the Winter Break event. Other than that, I will just do my best to stay in touch with the program.



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-Tabitha Hammel

Guardian Scholars Annual Winter Break Event

Each year the Guardian Scholars program hosts a Winter Break event in December. This event allows the students and staff to celebrate the accomplishments from the Fall semester, as well as celebrate the holiday season.

The holidays are traditionally spent with family, exchanging gifts. Our scholars do not always have a traditional holiday season, so we do our best to provide students with memorable and rewarding Winter Break boxes that hold essentials to get through the winter break, as well as provide a delicious spread of food.

Over the years we have received overwhelming support from both the campus and community to help us in our mission to make the holiday season special for each one of our scholars.

We will be sending out a list of suggested donations based on needed and special items that scholars have requested. Previous donations have included toiletries, winter gloves, snacks, school supplies, gift cards, and more. We also reach out to local restaurants to donate food for the event.



If you or your organization is interested in donating to the Guardian Scholars Winter Break Event, please contact program staff at (765) 285-5538, or email us at gscholars@bsu.edu. We appreciate all the support we received last year for this event, and hope to provide our students with a memorable holiday season!

Contact Us:

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Email: gscholars@bsu.edu

Website: bsu.edu/ssrc/guardianscholars

Find us on Facebook

@ [The Indiana Guardian Scholars Program](https://www.facebook.com/TheIndianaGuardianScholarsProgram)



ATTENTION GS ALUMNI: The Guardian Scholars program values staying in touch with past scholars and we love to hear about alumni accomplishments! If you are one of the program's proud alumni, please contact us about exciting updates that may be included in our next newsletter.