

Contributors

MARIA I. ARBELAEZ-LOPEZ is originally from Colombia, South America, but has lived in the United States for 15 years. She originally came to the U.S. as an international student, later attained a refugee status, and became a U.S. citizen in 2010. She first lived in Florida where she learned to speak English. She has an Arts Associate degree from a community college, and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in Finance at Tennessee State University. While schooling she has worked full-time, one time in the operations department of a financial institution. She is blessed with twins who are now four years old.



JESSICA BACH is a non-traditional student who started at Tennessee State University in the fall of 2013. After working as a graphic design professional for 20 years, she decided a change would be good and is now pursuing a BS in Health Information Management. She grew up near the small town of Ashland City where her family operated a 140 acre cattle farm. There she was able to experience rural life with the convenience of Nashville only fifteen miles away. Jessica currently lives in Nashville with her husband, Matt. They love to travel and explore Tennessee's many parks and hiking trails. Jessica loves art and creative hobbies as well as reading, cooking, and gardening. As a member of the Cumberland Herb Association, she designs their monthly newsletter and helps install their display garden at the annual Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. Jessica's experience at TSU has been very rewarding. She has made the Dean's List and is now a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is looking forward to graduating in 2016 and finding a bright future in the HIM field.



CHAZ GOAD is from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. He graduated from Mt. Juliet High School in 2008 and enrolled at Nashville State Community College the same year, graduating with an Associates of Science degree in spring 2013. The following fall he enrolled at Tennessee State Univer-

sity to begin work on a Bachelor's degree. Chaz, whose major is History with Teacher Licensure, is a senior. His interests are in American and military histories, but has recently become fascinated with European and Middle Eastern history.

JİYAR K. GUNDI was born in Arhus, Denmark, of Kurdish origin. He comes from an immigrant family seeking a better livelihood in the United States. Jiyah, whose first semester at Tennessee State was the Fall of 2014, is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology as prerequisite for a Doctorate in Dentistry. He sees himself as an ordinary individual aspiring to succeed in his academic endeavors in order to be of greater service to society and humanity especially in the medical field.



RICK DANIEL HALLBECK is a nontraditional student in his senior year at Tennessee State University. He moved to Nashville from Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2003. At TSU, he originally enrolled in American History I as a Foreign Language major and participated in the ISEP program in Monterrey, Mexico. After learning that he would have to transfer to another university in order to complete the degree, he decided to change his major in order to remain a TSU student. He is now an English major preparing to graduate in May 2015. Being a Northerner living in the South, attending an HBU and learning a foreign language both in Nashville and abroad, has given Rick an invaluable experience in diversity.

