

# ACCESS & EXCELLENCE, May 2017

The University of Texas at Austin/Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

## INTELLECTUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PRE-GRADUATE SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

DDCE and Moody College of Communication



When Daniel Conroy-Beam started his freshman year at UT Austin, he had visions of himself in a white lab coat and stethoscope. But as he started to explore his interests, he soon realized medical school just wasn't for him.

When Conroy-Beam entered the Intellectual Entrepreneurship (IE) program, everything started falling into place. As an IE Pre-Graduate School Intern, he worked with a graduate student mentor who was studying evolutionary psychology.

"My mentor gave me a glimpse into graduate school life and academia," Conroy-Beam says. "Just as importantly, he gave me encouragement and convinced me that I was good enough to go to graduate school and to be a scientist." Working alongside his mentor, Conroy-Beam gained hands-on experience in every phase of research, from developing hypotheses to designing experimental tasks to writing up and presenting data.

He also got his first taste of academic life at the 2009 Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference in California. The trip was funded by a Kuhn IE Award, which is granted to a select group of IE scholars each year.

"For the first time in my life I got to see cutting-edge research and be surrounded by people who shared the niche obsession I had been developing," says Conroy-Beam (B.S., Psychology, '11/Ph.D., Individual Differences and Evolutionary Psychology, '16). "It was exciting and energizing, and after that conference I knew for sure that I could spend the rest of my life as a psychologist."

Now an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Conroy-Beam is well on his way to becoming a leader in evolutionary psychology—and one of the very few African American scientists in the field.