



# University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

Issue IV

## NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

### McNair Scholars complete Undergraduate Research

The 2011 Cohort for the UWO McNair Scholars Program successfully completed their summer undergraduate research this past August. Students presented their research at the McNair Showcase on Friday, September 23rd at the UWO Reeve Union Ball room. Approximately 75 to 80 guests attended the event.

**Kathryn Baez:** *Access to and Socio-economic Considerations of Dental Care in Wisconsin.* Kathryn is a Junior double majoring in Nursing and Spanish . Her Mentor was Dr. Arlene Haffa from the Department of Chemistry.

**Jaime Castillo:** *Identification of Bioactive Compounds Exhibiting Antiviral Activity in Puncica granatum Arils.* Jaime is a Junior majoring in Biology/Spanish . His mentor was Dr. Teri Shors from the Biology/Microbiology Department.

**Gerald Chatman:** *Black Student Attrition on a predominantly White Campus in the Northern Midwest.* Gerald is a Senior Majoring in Human Services and Educational Leadership. His Mentor was Dr. Alfred Kisubi from the Department of Human Services and Educational Leadership.

**Jessica DeLarwelle:** *“College Students Just World Beliefs’ and Perceptions of Bullied Victims”* Jessica is a Senior majoring in Psychology. Her mentor was Dr. Erin Winterrowd in the Department of Psychology.

**Korin Franklin:** *The Effects of the Captive Environment on Total Testosterone Levels in Wild Caught Meadow Voles”* Korin is a Senior majoring in Environmental Studies. Her mentor was Dr. Misty McPhee from the Department of Environmental Studies/Biology

**Luis Granados:** *The Relationship between Undergraduate Enrollment Rates and Macroeconomics Conditions; An Analysis of Differences Across Race and Gender.* Luis is a Senior majoring in Economics. His mentor was Dr. Chad Cotti, MPA from the Department of Economics.

**Derrick Lashua:** *“Sudanese Refugee Perspective on the Emergence of South Sudan”.* Derrick is a Senior majoring in Geography. His mentor was Dr. Angela Sabula from the Geography Department.

**Grant O’Connell:** *The Potential Effects of Natural Surface Training on Lower Extremity Strength and Running Economy in Endurance Runners: A Case Study.* Grant is a Senior majoring in Kinesiology. His mentor was Dr. Dan Schmidt in the Kinesiology Department.



Korin Franklin presenting a PowerPoint on her 2011 undergraduate summer research at the McNair Showcase September 23rd, 2011.

**Holly Ozanich:** *Role of the chlorophyll molecule in signaling changes and electron transfer reactions in photosynthesis.* Holly is a Senior Majoring in Biology. Her mentor was Dr. Toivo Kallas in the Department of Biology/Microbiology.

**Theodore Robbins:** *Empathy linked to Helping for a Stigmatized Group.* Ted is a Senior Majoring in Psychology. His mentor was Dr. David Lishner from the Department of Psychology.

**Aaron Robinson:** *YY1 Expression in Ground Squirrel Retina.* Aaron is a Senior Majoring in Biology/Health Care Science. His mentor was Dr. Dana Vaughan-Merriman from the Department of Biology/Microbiology.

**Darin White:** *Religious Rituals in Social Conflict: An Argument in the Early First Century between Christianity and Judaism.* Darin is a Junior majoring in Religious Studies and Philosophy. His mentor was Dr. Michael Baltutis from the Department of Religious Studies.



The UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program is 100% funded through a TRIO grant from the United States Department of Education PR/Award Number P217A070188. For 2011/2012, the UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program will receive \$213,180 this year in federal funds.

# Highlights from Washington, D.C.

On August of 2011, the UWO McNair Scholar students of 2010/2011 traveled to Washington D.C. for a cultural trip that included cultural sight-seeing, graduate school interviews, and networking with professionals in our fields – oh did I mention an earthquake. We visited many locations like the Smithsonian, the White House, the Washington monument, Library of Congress, and even the newly created Martin Luther King Jr memorial. All of us had an opportunity to visit Washington D.C. area universities to network and give interviews to prospective graduate programs like the University of Maryland- College Park, John Hopkins, Howard University, George Washington University, and others. We also took tours at the National Institute of Health and the Capitol building. For many of the McNair Scholars it was their first trip out of the state of Wisconsin and for most of us it was our first trip to Washington D.C. It was an exciting and educational trip that bonded us as a cohort through new experiences riding the tram from school(s) to the White House and even a earthquake that many of the invaluable monuments of the Washington D.C. Area.

The earthquake was instantaneous and felt like a large military vehicle driving by only feet away. Within seconds the earthquake ended and thousands of people poured onto the streets and chaos began. Traffic jams were at almost every intersection and people filled the sidewalks to the point that the bystanders were standing in the roadway impeding traffic. Some of the monuments were damaged and the news reported other damage to cars and buildings. All and all, it was an experience of a life time that we all can reminisce over for years to come. We all came away with many memorable stories– just ask us.



The New Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial.



Crowded D.C. streets after the earthquake.



National Institute of Health

## Scholars Awarded Scholarships!

### Congratulations to these UWO McNair Scholars for their scholarship awards:

**Deseray Aguirre:** received the UWO Chancellors Award in Spring 2011.

**Tisha Samuel:** received a \$2,000 Som N Ghei and Ram Kaur Scholarship in Spring 2011.

**Kathryn Baez:** received a \$1,000 Mary Susan Sieber Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 Agnes Drexler Kujawa Memorial Scholarship, \$400 Irene L. Blanchete Nursing Scholarship, a \$1,000 Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary Nursing scholarship, and a \$250 Nightingale Nursing Scholarship.

### Some scholars also received Travel vouchers to visit various graduate schools in the U.S.:

**Korin Franklin:** Yale University and Purdue State University

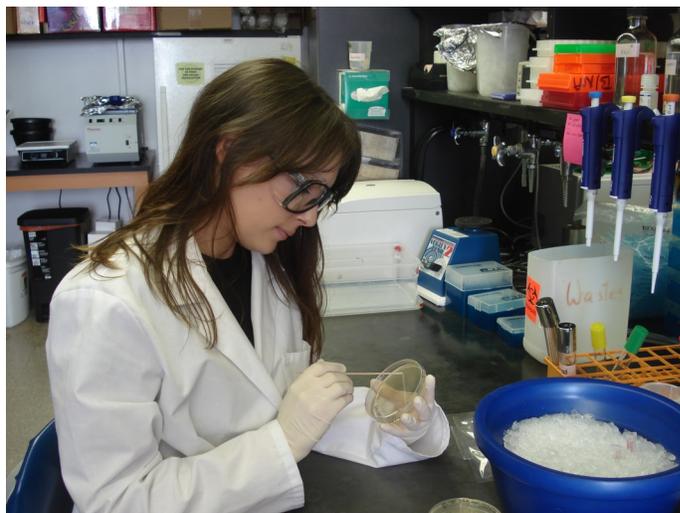
**Aaron Robinson:** Spirit of Eagles Award for application assistance and UWO sponsored travel for interviews at Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic and Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

**Holly Ozanich:** Purdue State University

## Alumnus Spotlight : *Vanessa Ante*

My first year of graduate school has been an eventful learning experience in the land of Dixie. I've just finished up the second semester of my PhD program in Microbial Pathogenesis at the University of Tennessee Health and Science Center in Memphis. What attracted me to this program is that it's an Integrated Program in the Biomedical Sciences and as such consists of seven distinct research fields. This allowed for me to not only try out research in other fields, such as cancer and neurobiology, but also to do lab rotations at UTHSC affiliated hospitals, such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Veteran Affairs Medical Center.

My summer so far has been spent mainly doing lab work. By the end of May I had made my permanent lab selection and applied for grant funding. My lab is based out of UTHSC and is working on *Vibrio Cholerae* pathogenesis. Without getting too specific or boring I do lots of microbiology work: plating bacteria, designing clones, mating strains. The really interesting part of my research is that since I've been awarded a Training Grant I'm being taught to work with Bio hazardous organisms in our Regional Biocontainment Laboratory.



Moving to Memphis was initially a huge culture shock, but I'm really starting to enjoy living in the south. Although I don't actually have much downtime, there's never a shortage of things to do in this big of a city. So far this year I: made it to one of the Grizzlies NBA final games, attended my first Beale Street Music Fest and BBQ Fest, and watched the Mississippi River hit flooding levels. I've found that in Memphis the air always smells of BBQ, there's always live music less than 2 blocks from where you are, and the weather is always 10° warmer than Wisconsin.

To Contact Vanessa, email her at: [ante@uthsc.edu](mailto:ante@uthsc.edu)

### Graduate School Visits for this years Cohort



University of Minnesota  
Graduate School Visit

The UWO McNair Scholars always have a busy summer with GRE Workshops and conducting their undergraduate research but there is always time for travel. Another one of the added benefits to being a McNair Scholar is the opportunity to visit various Graduate Schools. This summer we visited the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Northern Illinois University as a group. Some of the other schools visited by other scholars were: University of Alabama, Syracuse University, University of Delaware and Penn State. Korin Franklin and Holly Ozanich traveled to Purdue as well as Korin

being given the invitation to visit Yale. Good Luck to all of our scholars and congratulations on making the best of what McNair offers to making your transition to Graduate/PhD Programs a smooth one.



University of Minnesota

## UWO McNair Scholars travel to present their Undergraduate Research



Kathryn Baez traveled to University of California at Berkeley to present her research this past July at the 20th Annual California McNair Scholars Symposium

*"The 2011 Symposium was filled with knowledge, powerful messages for McNair Scholars, and the sharing of amazing scholarly work."*



*I gained so much from the conference that winning an award for my project was just the icing on the cake!*



Korin Franklin presented her research at the Sigma Xi Conference in Raleigh, N.C. this past November where she was given a Superior rating on her research in Environmental Science. Only one presenter was awarded this honor per category and per undergraduate level. Nice Job Korin!!

Korin also was awarded a Membership to the National Society of Leadership and Success and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (nominated by UWO).



Derrick Lashua will travel to New York to attend the Association of American Geographers event in New York, NY to present his undergraduate research on Feb 26th, 2012.

# UWO McNair Scholar Spotlight:

## Aaron Robinson



My goal in life since I was little was always to be a physician. That's always been so and will never change. There's not a better career in the world to me that better combines the passion for science and technology with the humility, joy and spontaneity of caring for people. As I enter a vast world of science, I have been able to build upon my goal. My ultimate career goal is a physician with professional interests in research and/or public health. Being a good physician is much more than "seeing patients." It's about the relationship you hold with the patients and the community you live in and taking care of that community is a responsibility held partly by physicians, which tap directly into my public health interest. It's also about lifelong learning, something research provides. Research will allow breakthroughs, trends, and problems to be discovered.

Through the generous support of the McNair Scholars Program, the University of Wisconsin -Oshkosh, and all my friends and family, I've been blessed with opportunities to continue my education. I'd also like to say a special thank you to Dr. Dana Merriman (formerly Vaughan) of the UW-Oshkosh Dept. of Biology, who's really been my "guiding light" throughout the entire process and Provost Lane Earns, who's given me the opportunity to represent UW-Oshkosh in its highest regard. Not only have I been able to visit and collaborate with world-class institutions such as the National Institutes of Health, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic, I've had the pleasure of being invited to interview for a seat in the Medical School Entering Class of 2012 at the following institutions: The University of Minnesota, The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Michigan State College of Human Medicine, the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. So far, I'm pleased to say I've been accepted at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and will continue to interview and stay in close contact with other institutions as the admissions season continues on. It's truly an honor to be considered at all of these fantastic medical universities. Where ever I decide to attend, I will represent the McNair Scholars Program and the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh with pride.



## Welcome Baby Castillo!

Congratulations to Jaime Castillo and his wife Annie with the delivery of their beautiful baby girl: Anahí Jazira Castillo! She was born on October 6th, 2011 at 8:11 pm. She weighed 6 lbs 10z and is 19cm long.



## Alumni News: Degree Watch

Congratulations to the UWO McNair Alumni who are in the process of earning advanced degrees

**Olivia Navarro** (2008 graduate) Graduated in May 2011 with a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from UW-Milwaukee. She is currently a High School Counselor at Delavan-Darien High School .

**Amanda Krohn** (2009 graduate) University of Michigan PhD program in Nursing.

**Kory Lewis** (2009 graduate) California State University- Master's Degree Program in Psychology.

**Ryan Schuh** (2009 graduate) PhD program in Kinesiology at University of Toledo.

**Aaryn Mustoe** (2009 graduate) University of Nebraska PhD program in Psychobiology.

**Seth Block** (2009 graduate) University of Wisconsin-Madison Master's to PhD program in Environmental Studies.

**Leviathan Whitfield** (2009 graduate) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Master's Degree Program in Urban Studies.

**Vai Lor** (2009 graduate) University of Minnesota PhD program in Genetics-Plant biology science.

**Pa Nhia Lee** (2009 graduate) Graduated from UW-Milwaukee in May 2011 with a Master's Degree in Sociology and working as an Educational Funding (Financial Aid) Advisor at Herzing University at their online campus since August 2011.

**Amanda Scripture** (2010 graduate) Northern Illinois University Master's Program in Public Administration.

**Nathan Harris** (2011 Graduate) UWO Master's degree program in Mathematics.

**Vanessa Ante** (2010 graduate) University of Tennessee PhD Program in Microbial Pathogenesis.

**Damion Burgin** (2010 graduate) Master's Program in Criminal Justice at UWO.

**LaNee Xiong** (2010 graduate) University of Minnesota Master's degree program in Human Services.

**Gerald Kaquatosh** (2010 graduate) Washington Internship for Native Americans (WINS) program and internship projects with in the Master's of Public Policy Program at American University in Washington, D.C.

**Kendra Casanova** (2010 graduate) UWO Master's program in Genetics.

**Troy Landry** (2010 graduate) UW-Milwaukee Master's degree program in Women's Studies.

**Deseray Aguirre** (2011 graduate) George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Master's degree program in Public Health.

**Hope Schuhart** (2011 graduate) University of Arizona PhD program in Anthropology.

## UWO McNair Office has Moved!! We are now in Halsey Science, Room 161



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