The 2012/2013 UWO McNair Scholars Program Cohort completed their summer undergraduate research research this past August. Students presented their research at the McNair Showcase on Friday, September 27th at the UWO Reeve Union Ballroom. Approximately 100 guests attended the event.

**Brandi Deptula:** Glycohydrolase enzyme expression and activity from the bacterial isolate JT5-1, a gut inhabitant of an evolutionarily higher termite, Mentor: Eric G. Matson, PhD, Department of Biology and Microbiology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Kathleen Dreymiller:** Ventilatory Oxygen Extraction in Relation to Ambient Temperature in Black-Capped Chickadees, Mentor: Sheldon Cooper, PhD, Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Rabar Hawramy:** Antiviral and Antibacterial Properties of Phoenix dactylifera, Mentor: Dr. Teri Shors, Department of Biology and Microbiology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Jessica Hron:** “Baby it’s Your World Ain’t it?”: A Rhetorical Criticism of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality, Mentor: M. Geneva Murray PhD, Department of Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Adrian Landreth:** Synthetic Utilization and Exploration of Gallium, Mentors: Kyle Strom and Dr. John Snyder, Department of Chemistry, Boston University, Research Experience for Undergraduates

**Stevan Mazibrada:** Limitations of Direct Democracy, Mentor: Dr. Michael Jasinski, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Tiffany Pillows:** The Posting of Unprofessional Content Online by Nursing Students, Mentor: Suzanne Marnocha PhD, RN, MSN, CCRN, Department of Nursing, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**Marissa Theys:** Identity Fusion: An Examination of Unions and Political Behavior, Mentor: Dr. James Krueger, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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McNair Scholars Complete Undergraduate Research

Taylor Waring: Atomic Colossus: Representing the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mentor: Marguerite Helmers, Ph. D., Department of English, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Darin White: Abraham in the New Testament: Faith and Works in the letter of Paul and James, Mentor: Dr. Michael Baltutis, Department of Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Lupearly Wright: Magic and the Historical Jesus, Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Corley, Department of Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Rilee Zeinert: Characterizing MntP: A Manganese Export Protein, Mentor: Dr. Lauren Waters, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Our New Program Assistant

Kelly Berndt
UWO McNair Scholars Program Assistant

My hometown is Oshkosh, WI and I now reside in Ripon, WI. I attained my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Secondary Education from Ripon College in 2011. I am currently earning my Master of Arts in Counseling, with a Higher Education Counseling emphasis, at Lakeland College. I am also engaged to be married in June of 2014 to my Ripon College sweetheart. I began working as the McNair Scholars Program Assistant in May of 2013. The McNair Scholars Program is special to me because I have a passion for working with students, specifically in the higher education setting. I enjoy traveling with the scholars and assisting them in any way possible. I look forward to seeing where the 2012/2013 cohort goes in the future, and I am eager to meet the new 2013/2014 cohort in January.

Congratulations To Our Graduates!

Congratulations to the UWO McNair Scholars who are graduating on December 14, 2013.

Kathryn Baez
Jaime Castillo
Kathleen Dreymiller
Papa Fall

Lang Lee Lee
Fabiola Navarro
Grant O’Connell
Tiffany Pillows

Upcoming Student Research Events

NCUR 2014
April 3-5, 2014, at University of Kentucky

Posters on the Hill 2014
Date TBD, Washington, D.C.

Posters in the Rotunda
March 12, 2014, Madison

Celebration of Scholarship
April 24, 2014, at UW Oshkosh
UWO McNair Scholars Attend 22nd Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference

The 22nd Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair was held in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin November 8-10, 2013. A group of 8 UWO McNair Scholars attended the conference. Scholars Jessica Hron and Marissa Theys gave oral presentations on their research while Brandi Deptula, Rabar Hawramy, Stevan Mazibrada, Lupearly Wright, and Darin White, all presented their research at a poster presentation event with other scholars from all over the U.S.

Over the three day conference, the students attended the Graduate School Fair, heard many inspiring speakers, and attended the Fireside Chat given by Ronald McNair’s brother, Carl McNair. The students also had the opportunity to listen to the other scholar research presentations as well.

The scholars listened and asked questions to a panel of Deans and Directors from various universities. They were able to ask questions to current graduate students who shared their stories and gave advice for the scholars. They also learned some of the best strategies for applying to graduate school from Donald Asher, author of Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way into the Graduate School of Your Choice.

Our scholars who attended this conference had an amazing time learning from other McNair Scholars, graduate students, and directors about what they can do when they achieve the dream of obtaining their Ph.D. It was also a great experience to show off their summer research to such a large and diverse audience of academics.

McNair Scholars Adrian Landreth & Lupearly Wright Receive Honor Awards

Adrian Landreth received the Chemistry Alumni Research award in December 2013. This award recognizes outstanding research accomplishments by the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chemistry majors. Congratulations Adrian!

Congratualtions to our scholar, Lupearly Wright! Lupearly was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda National Omega Chapter in November 2013. She will also be inducted into the Golden Key in December 2013. Pearl is a member of the Society of Leadership and Success.
One of the many benefits to being a McNair Scholar is the opportunity to visit various graduate schools across the U.S. At these graduate school visits the scholars get the opportunity to explore campuses within, and outside of, Wisconsin. They tour the campuses and set up meetings to talk with possible future faculty advisors to discuss research. Our scholars also meet with graduate school admissions members, former McNair Scholars, and graduate students themselves. This is a great opportunity which helps students create connections and assists students in choosing the right graduate school to continue their education. This summer we visited the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Northern Illinois University, the University of Alabama, and various universities in Washington, D.C.

**Spotlight: Vai Lor**

I grew up in a refugee camp in Thailand and then my family immigrated to the US. My parents were simple farmers with no education so they pushed my siblings and me to get our education. I struggled throughout my education because I had difficulties understanding English. Overtime, I learned to appreciate education and the concept of hard work. I worked hard, went to college, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. I continued to get a master’s degree and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a Master of Science in Spring of 2011. I studied the effects of plant interaction on gene expression in Arabidopsis thaliana under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Dorn.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I entered in the Plant Biological Sciences Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota in Fall 2011. Graduate life is hard and busy. Since I have a family, personal time outside of lab is non-existent, but I do get to watch my daughter grow. Now I am a third-year Ph.D. student studying under the guidance of Dr. Neil Olszewski. I am studying the regulation of gibberellin (GA) response in Solanum lycopersicum (Tomato). Gas are phytohormones that are important for regulating plant growth and development. There are three candidate genes hypothesized to regulate GA response in plants. These genes will be targeted using the genome editing technology called TALENs (transcription activator-like effector nuclease) to disrupt gene function and generate mutants. By studying these mutants, insight will be gained about the functional roles these genes have in GA regulation.

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