

## McNair Scholars Program Kicks Off Year With New Cohort!

The McNair Scholars Program welcomed a new cohort of students for the 2014/2015 academic year. These 15 students will be working hard on research projects with a faculty mentor in an effort to enter into a graduate school after they have completed their undergraduate curriculums.

**Alexis Brown:** Alexis is a junior from Glenwood, IL. She is a Marketing major working with Dr. Norlisha Crawford, the Director of the African-American Studies Program.

**Joshua Hill:** Josh is a Chemistry major from Manitowoc, WI working with Dr. Brant Kedrowski.

**Aaron Jackson:** Aaron is working with Dr. James Krueger from the Political Science Department. Aaron is from Appleton and is a Criminal Justice and Sociology major with two minors in African-American Studies and Psychology.

**Patrick Klepp:** Patrick is a Microbiology major from Oshkosh. He is working with Dr. Sabrina Mueller-Spitz this year for research in Biology

**Wilson Lee:** Wilson is working with Dr. Alfred T. Kisbui on a project in Human Services Leadership. Wilson is a senior from Sheboygan, WI.

**Jennifer MacDonald:** Jennifer is working on an Anthropology project with Dr. Stephanie May de Montigny as her faculty mentor. She is a senior minoring in Linguistics from Farmington Hills, Michigan.

**Glenn Malecki:** Glenn is a Biology major working with Dr. Colleen McDermott from the Biology and Medical Technology Department and the associate Dean of College of Letters and Sciences. Glenn is a senior from Lemont, Illinois.

**Eli Martinez:** Eli is a senior from Oshkosh. He is a Biology major and is completing his research with Dr. Lauren Waters from the Chemistry Department



McNair Scholars Program 2014-2015 Cohort.

Not Pictured: Patrick Klepp (scholar), Julie Thao (Program Assistant)

**Katie Proctor:** Katie is a junior majoring in Anthropology. Her faculty mentor is Dr. Pete Brown from the department of Anthropology and Religious Studies.

**Samantha Retzloff:** Samantha is a Biology major working with Dr. Sabrina Mueller-Spitz . Samantha is a junior from Oshkosh.

**Laura Sullivan:** Laura is a Biology major in her junior year at UW-Oshkosh. Her faculty mentor is Dr. Elsbeth "Misty" McPhee from the Environmental Science and Biology department.

**Jonathon Toepfer:** Jonathon is a junior working on a Biology major and a Chemistry minor. He will be working on his research with Dr. Greg Kleinheinz this summer. Dr. Kleinheinz is a professor of Environmental Engineering Technology and the Viessmann Chair of Sustainable Technology.

**Alyssa Valentyne:** Alyssa is a junior double majoring in Biology and Spanish with a minor in Chemistry. Alyssa's research will be conducted with the help of Dr. Kevin Crawford from the Chemistry department.

**Chelsea Vosters:** Chelsea is a Psychology major working on a minor in Geology. She is a senior student working with Dr. Anca Miron of the Psychology department over the summer.

Dr. Miron is also the IRB Chair for UW- Oshkosh.

### Returning McNair Scholars:

**Franki Mayer:** Franki is a senior completing a major in Biology. She will be working with Dr. Eric Matson from the Biology/Microbiology department this summer.

---

## Our New Communication Assistant



**Eryn A Hutto**  
UWO McNair Scholars Communication Assistant

I am a sophomore student from De Pere, WI pursuing a major in Psychology. I am hoping to become a licensed clinical Social Worker after I have completed graduate school and have earned my MSW. I have three Chihuahuas at home and they are my life. I am also SAFE trained and am involved in LGBTQ/GSRD issues. I started working for the McNair Scholars program in October of 2014 and I have very much enjoyed the experience. I look forward to getting to know this year's cohort better and helping out in any way that I can.

---

## Our New Program Assistant

**Julie Thao**  
UWO McNair Scholars Program Assistant

Hi everyone, my name is Julie Thao. I was born and raised in Wausau, WI and currently live in Menasha, WI. I graduated last year with my Associate's Degree in Administrative Professional and plan on continuing for my Bachelor's Degree in Leadership and Organizational Studies this fall. While working for UW Oshkosh, I am also working at Fox Valley Technical College in the Counseling and Advising Service Office. Aside from work and school, I enjoy staying active and playing sports. I would describe myself as an outgoing, spontaneous, and positive person. I hope to get to know each and everyone of you better soon! Good luck on your research projects!



---

### Congratulations to Aaron Jackson!

Aaron is receiving the Greek Man of the Year Award from Omega Delta Phi. Great Job Aaron!

### Congratulations to Tristan Greening!

Tristan Greening from the 2013-2014 cohort received an award of \$100 at the Celebration of Scholarship on April 23rd, 2015 for his "Mating Behaviors of Captive Thirteen-Lined Ground Squirrels" oral presentation.

## Newly Published by McNair Scholars!

**Michael Mason:** Michael's article entitled "Communication quality improvement in student nursing clinicals" was recently published in the Journal of Nursing Education and Practice volume 4, issue 9. This article details his research on communication between those in the clinical nursing practice, be they educators or students.



**Tiffany Pilliow:** Tiffany Pilliow from the 2012-2013 cohort is soon to be published in this spring's edition of the Nurse Educator Journal. "Unprofessional Content Posted Online Among Nursing Students" was pre-published online and is available for viewing now.

## McNair National Conference

Halloween weekend 2014 was an exciting weekend for the McNair Scholars. Not just from Oshkosh, but from around the country. That weekend was the annual National McNair Conference in Lake Geneva Wisconsin. This was the second time I was honored with being able to attend this incredible conference, and it was a weekend full of opportunities and learning experiences. The opportunities consisted of the contacts we all were able to make with representatives of graduate programs around the country and the advice we received from recruiters who told us what they were looking for when considering applications to their programs in order for us to be better prepared in our application process. The learning experiences came from undergrad students from around the country presenting their student research projects on everything from the mating behaviors of 13-lined ground squirrels to nano-technology use, to repairing optic nerve endings in humans. With all the things that can go wrong in our world, it is encouraging to see so many young brilliant minds working to solve those problems.

Another part of this conference was "networking", but it was what we saw as just meeting new friends and having fun. One highlight of the conference was hearing Carl McNair, the brother of Ronald McNair speak at a fireside chat. Many students told their personal stories about how they got to where they are today and how the McNair program helped them. Will Allen, from "Growing Power" an urban agriculture organization headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was one of the guest speakers.

A costume dance party was the hit of the weekend where students were able to let their talents on the dance floor carry them late into the evening. The last event we all participated in was the school pride chant, where McNair groups from the different schools wrote their own chant about their school and their own McNair experience. Those of us who spend our summers in the library or the lab are often thought of as nerds and geeks by some, but we proved we could howl with the best!

This event was a lot of hard work going in, kind of scary to be standing up presenting our research in front of some of the best students in the country, and one of the most fun events of the year. I will carry the memories and the friendships made that weekend with me throughout my career and my life.



## Congratulations to Our 2015 Graduates!

**Thomas Kenote\*\***

**Shariah Salahaladyn\*\***

**Lupearly Wright**

**\*\*Receiving Chancellor Award**

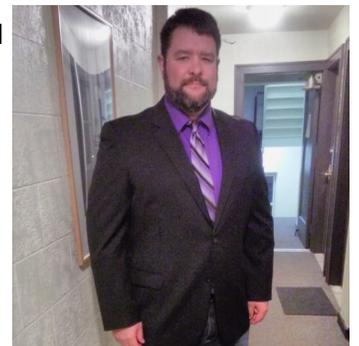
**Grad Program News: Shariah Salahaladyn was accepted to the Masters of Education Program at Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Congratulations Shariah!**



## Spotlight: Theodore Robbins

I was born and raised in the countryside outside the small community of Waupaca Wisconsin, quietly nestled between Manawa and Rural Wisconsin - and yes there is a town named Rural Wisconsin. I spent my youth playing in the Crystal Rivers and riding my bike alongside my sidekick "Frizzy", a miniature dachshund. At the time my mother was a certified nursing assistant for the Wisconsin Veteran's Home; step-father, a mechanic at a local factory; father, a carpenter for a local construction company. My focus in high school was in athletics and extracurricular that left little time for academics that lead me down a path into the United States Army Military Police Corp. The U.S. military provided me with the opportunity to travel and see the world while gaining new perspectives and insights into the human condition. Upon returning home, I started a family and began working at the local foundry, which quickly motivated me to expand my horizons and to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. While in the Psychology department I focused my attention on social psychology and the impacts and outcomes of empathy and racial groups. With the assistance of the McNair Program I was able to perform two years of research focused on empathy and its impacts on Native Americans.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I entered in the Ph.D. program at the University at Buffalo (SUNY) as a funded teaching assistant and Schomburg Fellow. I am in my second year of my program and completing my master's degree before starting the Ph.D. part of the program. My master's degree is focused on the complexities of veterans negotiating social networks and identity when return home to their families after they have served their country with the help of Dr. Michael Farrell and Dr. Ellen Berrey. With more and more research supporting the increasing psychological harm that soldiers experience while in extended tours in conflict zones, understanding how veteran's transition out of a soldier role-identity and into a veteran role-identity that allows for other roles and identities associated with them. By using theorist like Burke and Stets, Stryker, and Turner we can better understand how soldiers transition out of their current role-identity and into a veteran role-identity. We can also understand the role-identity conflict that soldiers experience when they fail to negotiate out of their soldier identity after their service. I am currently focusing my efforts on veterans, the military, indigenous studies, family, and social psychology scholarship through my Ph.D.



Name: Ted Robbins

Email: [tjrobbin@buffalo.edu](mailto:tjrobbin@buffalo.edu)

## Scholar Update: Adrian Landreth

Adrian has begun working on his PhD at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Good luck to Adrian and we look forward to hearing about his future completion of the degree.

A special thanks to Eryn Hutto our communications assistant for creating this newsletter.



University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, HS 161  
800 Algoma Blvd.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901  
<http://www.uwosh.edu/mcnairscholars>

## Contact Us

Julie Thao  
Program Assistant  
HS 161  
(920)424-3171  
[mcnair@uwosh.edu](mailto:mcnair@uwosh.edu)

Mary Seaman  
Program Director  
HS 160  
(920)424-7085  
[seamanm@uwosh.edu](mailto:seamanm@uwosh.edu)