

UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Issue VII Spring 2017

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM KICKS OFF THE YEAR WITH A NEW COHORT!

This spring the McNair Program welcomed 16 high-achieving, highly motivated, and enthusiastic students, 13 of whom will be engaged in faculty-mentored research internships this summer. All are currently attending the McNair Lecture Series, which covers topics in areas such as research, GRE prep, and graduate school readiness.



Aminata Bojang: Aminata, a sophomore from Madison, WI, is majoring in biology and minoring in French. She is interested in working with animals and hopes to one day become a veterinarian. She will conduct research in the summer of 2018.

Leigh Hayes: Leigh is a senior from Greenville, Wisconsin. She is majoring in geology and anthropology. She has already had fieldwork experience in geology but hopes to broaden her understanding of anthropological research, particularly of osteology and forensics. Her goal is to obtain a PhD in biological anthropology. She will be working with Dr. Karsten in the Anthropology Department.

Brianna Langs: Brianna is a sophomore from Milwaukee, WI. She is majoring in elementary education and minoring in African American studies. She is very interested in better understanding the causes of the achievement gap in education. Ultimately, Brianna hopes to obtain a Doctorate of Education. She will be working with Dr. Mueller in the English Department.

Santidra Love: Santidra is a junior from Milwaukee, WI and is majoring in biology and minoring in neuroscience. Her goal is to do graduate work in anesthesiology. She will be working with Dr. Kurtz in the Biology Department this summer.

Deanna Luttenberger: Deanna is a junior from Fond du Lac, WI and is majoring in psychology and minoring in neuroscience. She is interested in memory loss and Alzheimer's. Her goal is to obtain a PhD in neuropsychology and work as a neuropsychologist. She will be working with Dr. Olszewska in the Psychology Department.

Aimee Maher: Aimee is a senior from Green Bay, WI majoring in art history or conservation. Aimee's goal is to earn a PhD in studio art or art history. She is particularly interested in the chemistry of materials and will be conducting her research with Dr. Mihalick in the Chemistry Department.

Khaila Miles-Semons: Khaila is a sophomore from Milwaukee, WI and is majoring in psychology with a minor in African American studies. She is interested in becoming a marriage and family therapist in her own private practice, and hopes eventually to earn her PhD in clinical psychology. She will conduct research in the summer of 2018.

(continued to next page)



The UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program is 100% funded through a TRIO grant from the United States Department of Education PR/Award Number P217A120210. For 2016/2017, the UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program will receive \$226,000.00 this year in federal funds.



RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Issue VII Spring 2017

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM KICKS OFF THE YEAR WITH A NEW COHORT!

Andrew Miller: Andrew, a junior from Kaukauna, WI, is majoring in biology and minoring in astronomy and chemistry. He is interested in going to graduate school for astrobiology, eventually obtaining a PhD. He hopes to have a career in research, perhaps in academia or at NASA. Andrew will be working with Dr. Pritzl in the Physics and Astronomy Department.

David Morser: David, a super senior from Kaukauna, WI, is majoring in Japanese and professional physics and minoring in astronomy and math. His goal is to obtain his PhD in astrophysics. He will be conducting research for a second year in a row with Dr. Kaltcheva in the Physics Department.

Holly Post: Holly, a senior from Fond du Lac, WI, is majoring in biochemistry, and minoring in neuroscience. Her goal is to attend graduate school for chemistry, either working in immunology, food science, or becoming a college professor. This summer she will be working with Dr. Bianchetti in the Chemistry Department.

Sarah Reed: Sarah, a sophomore from Green Bay, WI, is majoring in kinesiology and minoring in French. Sarah is interested in attending medical school in a combined program to attain both a MD and PhD. Her interests are in the areas of sports medicine, orthopedics, cardiology, and neurology. She will conduct research in the summer of 2018.

Alyssa Scott: Alyssa is a senior from Wausau, WI majoring in psychology. Her goal is to earn a master's in mental health and a PhD in clinical psychology. She hopes to

provide therapy to children. She is particularly interested in how technology impacts children's acquisition of language. Her research mentor this summer will be Dr. Kucker in the Psychology Department.

Bonnie Smith: Bonnie is a senior from Sheboygan, WI majoring in education. She is interested in earning a Doctor of Education and becoming a college professor. Her summer research mentor is Dr. Wineberg in the Early Childhood Education and Special Education Department.

Darlene Swenson: Darlene is a senior from Seldovia, Alaska majoring in fine arts, with an emphasis in design. She is interested in language revitalization and, ultimately, would like to write and illustrate children's books about her Native Alaskan language and culture. Her summer research mentor is Dr. Manning in the English Department.

Aracely Torres: Aracely is a junior from Fond du Lac, WI. She has a triple major in international studies with emphases in Latin American studies and European studies, Spanish with an emphasis on literature, and French. Ultimately, she would like to obtain a doctoral degree, possibly in public administration, legal studies, or international affairs, and work in foreign relations, or as a professor. Her summer research mentor is Dr. Jasinski in the Political Science Department.

Admiral Wieland: Admiral, a super senior from Crystal Lake, IL, is majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and minoring in African American studies. Admiral is highly motivated to pursue a PhD and is considering a career in academia. Their summer research mentor is Dr. Rensing from the History & Women's Studies Department.

New McNair Staff Introductions

Introducing Our New Program Director, Cordelia Bowlus

It a great honor to be the director of the UWO McNair Scholars Program! With a M.Ed. in second language acquisition and an M.A. in German language and literature, I came to this position after years of work as an academic advisor and teacher of German and English as a second language at both the secondary and college levels. I took over the reigns of the program in early July 2016 and am the first to admit that becoming familiar with all the federal regulations and administrative requirements of this job has been an intense and humbling experience. Despite some pretty frustrating moments, working directly with such highly-motivated and intellectually curious individuals has kept me going and positive about the future. Watching the McNair participants develop as scholars through their summer research projects, take on the GRE, and apply to and be accepted into graduate programs across the country has been inspiring. Nothing gives me more personal satisfaction than assisting students in reaching their potential, and, in this sense, McNair is a perfect fit for me. When I am not “McNairing,” I am hanging out with my husband, two kids (8 and 10), our teenaged exchange student daughter, and our cat and dog. I am especially fond of biking, hiking, gardening, and reading.



Corina Van Duser UWO McNair Scholars Program Assistant

I only came onboard as the McNair Program Assistant in October; however, I can honestly say I have loved every minute of it! I enjoy assisting Cordelia in administrative tasks, recruiting scholars, answering student questions, making travel arrangements, and tracking our budget and expenses, and it gives me great pride knowing that I am assisting students in realizing their potential. Being a first generation student who decided to go on for a graduate degree, I can identify with the challenges faced by these students. I grew up in Richfield, Wisconsin, a 30 minute drive from Milwaukee and was the first in my family to attend a four year college. In 2014, I graduated from UW—Eau Claire with a bachelor's in psychology and worked in administrative support for two years with Waukesha County, before moving to the Fox Valley area to pursue a master's degree here at UW Oshkosh in student affairs and college counseling. I would describe myself as bubbly, personable, and driven. Outside of the McNair office, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing competitive volleyball, watching the Green Bay Packers (especially when they beat the Chicago Bears, sorry Bears fans!), painting, snowboarding, snowmobiling, and the list goes on. I look forward to working with our new cohort and am excited to see what this year has in store for them!



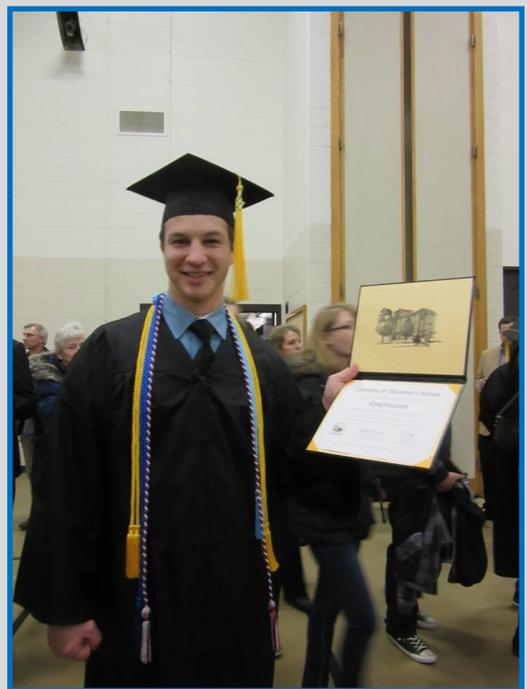
Contact Us

Cordelia Bowlus
Program Director
HS 319
(920)424-7306
bowlusc@uwosh.edu

Corina Van Duser
Program Assistant
HS 320
(920)424-7306
mcnair@uwosh.edu

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program
HS 320
800 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Congratulations to the McNair Scholars who graduated this past January 2017!



Pictured: Andre Wallace, Savannah Block, Josh Henkel, Lynn Valencic, Alyssa Valentyne
Not pictured: Alia Carroll, Laura Sullivan, Joseph Draven



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



A Scholar's Visit to San Diego!

"It's safe to say that prior to his mentorship and the experiences provided by the McNair program, I was not very well prepared for graduate school, so I am extremely grateful for this opportunity."



Jeff Berger
2015—2016 McNair Scholar
San Diego, California
(picture taken at San Diego Convention Center)

I was honored to be invited, together with my mentor Dr. Aaron Karst, to present at the Society for Neuroscience's conference, hosted in San Diego, California. This annual event focuses on the celebration/dissemination of current research being done within the field of neuroscience. Registered attendance reached 30,000 people and the sheer mass of presentations and posters spanned the entirety of the San Diego Convention Center. Our poster presentation was a result of collaborative work conducted in the summer of 2016 in Dr. Aaron Karst's lab (Psychology Department), and was made possible by the support of the McNair Scholars Program. Using Electroencephalography, we analyzed the time course of selective attention in relation to the N2PC component (an event related potential) using a repetition priming paradigm.

The whole experience was very exciting on many levels. After checking in to my hotel room and finding the conference center, I discovered the convention hall, where I marveled at the thousands of posters on display. That evening, I had some time to explore the city and delighted in dining at a small sushi restaurant. It was there that I also happened to meet a couple of professors from San Diego who were also attending. It was interesting to hear about the variety and scope of the work being done in different labs within the same field. Each day of the conference was split into two halves, the morning and the afternoon.

Our poster presentation was in the afternoon session, so I spent the morning of my first full day looking at other poster presentations and talking to professors from other schools about their research. I was also able to attend a session hosted by graduate departments from a variety of schools which provided additional information on the graduate school application process for neuroscience programs. It was particularly fascinating to talk to grad students about what they were working on in their labs.

Working with Dr. Karst really helped me to disambiguate the idea of research and transform my McNair experience into something that I utilize daily. Prior to working with him, I really didn't know what to expect from doing research, but it became more of a tangible and approachable concept throughout the course of the program. He helped me to tackle a difficult project in a relatively brief timespan by providing guidance that took my project forward one step at a time and by working through problems at a conceptual level when I found myself thinking in circles. It's safe to say that prior to his mentorship and the experiences provided by the McNair Program, I was not very well prepared for graduate school, so I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. To potential students, I would say don't be afraid to pursue research because it's not as scary or inaccessible as it might seem. I've learned that research is a collaborative effort between an entire community within a particular field, and by participating in it, you're helping to advance that field of knowledge (regardless of the size or scope of the project). In the end it just boils down to a bit of hard work and dedication. The rest you can learn as you go.



Dr. Aaron Karst
McNair Mentor for Jeffery Berger

Congratulations to these newly-minted PhDs!

Vai Lor, PhD– July 2016

University of Minnesota—Plant Biological Sciences

Aaryn Mustoe, PhD- August 2016

University of Nebraska Omaha– Psychology: Neuroscience & Behavior

Grant O’Connell, PhD– December 2016

West Virginia University—Biomedical Sciences

Amanda Schuh, PhD– August 2016

University of Michigan—Nursing

Congratulations to these recent recipients of master’s degrees!

Korin Franklin, (August 2016)

M.S in Water Resource Management/Aquatic Ecology - UW Madison

Jessica Hron, (June 2016)

M.A. Multicultural Teaching & Learning—University of Minnesota

Krystal Judah (May 2016)

M.S. Mental Health Counseling—UW Whitewater

Aaron Robinson, (May 2016)

Master of Public Health— University of Minnesota

Shariah Salahaladyn, (May 2016)

M.S.Ed. Higher Education Administration.—University of Pennsylvania

May Thao, (December 2016)

Master of Business Administration—UW Oshkosh

Recent Scholar Recognitions

Brianna Langs was nominated for one of this year’s Student Leadership and Involvement Awards.

Holly Post was selected as a co-recipient of the Gilbert F. and Katherine L. Pollnow Tuition Scholarship Award for 2017, which recognizes outstanding work in physical chemistry and its prerequisite mathematics and physics courses. In early April, Holly was honored to participate in “Getting You into Indiana University,” a recruitment program which brings prospective underrepresented and minority students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or M.F.A. to the campus for three days.

Andre Wallace was featured in UW Oshkosh Today. To see the article, visit:

<http://www.uwosh.edu/today/46118/mcnair-scholars/>

Admiral Wieland was recently named a recipient of the Chancellor's Award of Excellence as well as of the Helen Bannan Women's and Gender Studies Award.

Graduate
School
Acceptance

What's Next?!?!

Scholars Beginning Grad School in Fall 2017!

Monika Greco

Tufts University
M.A. Philosophy
Received tuition
scholarship

Marissa Munoz

UW Madison
Pharmaceutical
Sciences PhD program
with fellowship & full
funding

Andre Wallace

UW Milwaukee
Master of Public
Administration

Taylor Waring

Eastern Washington
University
Masters of Fine Arts
Scholarship Recipient

Jessica DeLarwelle

University of Washington
Social Welfare PhD
program with fellowship
& full funding

Katie Proctor

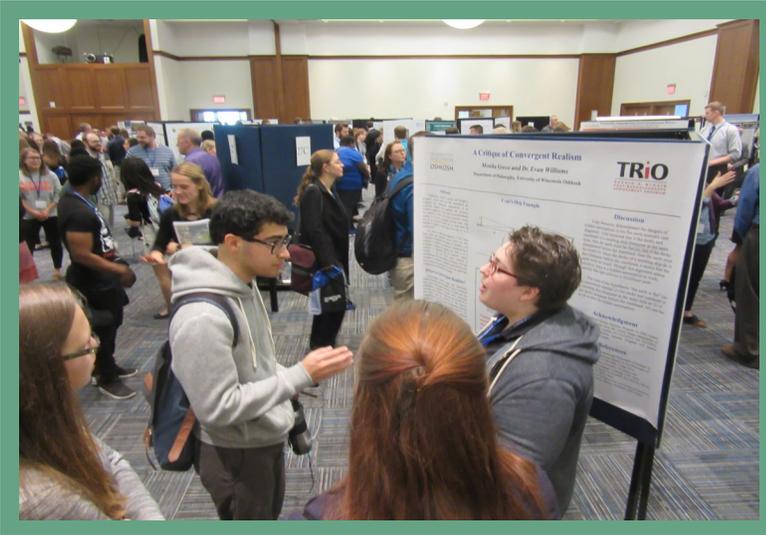
University of Memphis
Masters of Earth Sciences

Scholars, **Savannah Block,**
Cassandra Duncan, and **Jordan**
Black, also have received gradu-
ate school acceptances, but have yet
to make their decisions.

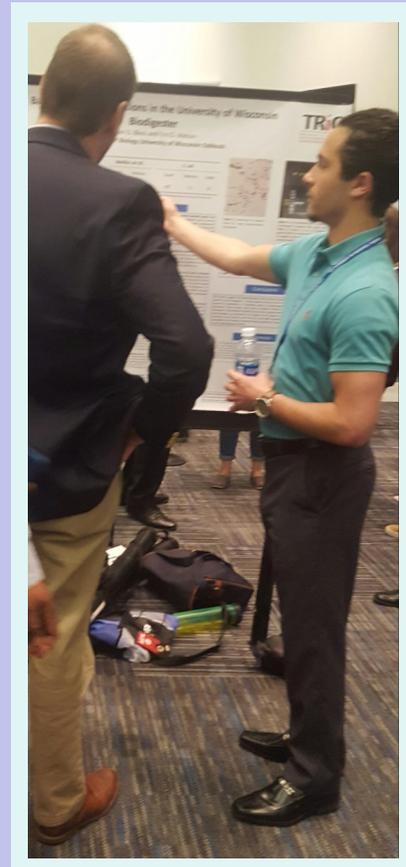
GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR FORMER SCHOLARS!

Six UWO McNair Scholars Present in Memphis, TN at NCUR's Annual Research Conference !

Six UWO McNair scholars joined eleven other exceptional UWO students to present at the National Council on Undergraduate Research's annual conference, held this year April 6-8 on the University of Memphis campus. Together with staff from the McNair Program and the Office Student Research and Creative Activity, the UWO students joined over 4,000 undergraduate students & staff from across the nation. Our students were especially honored to be able to present their research to UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt, who took time out of his busy schedule to attend the conference.



Monika Greco engaged in intense discussion of her research: "Scientific Progress and the Function of Scientific Inquiry"



Jordan Black presenting his research on bacteriophage interactions in the UWO biodigester to Chancellor Leavitt.



Pictured (left to right): Cordelia Bowlus, Cassandra Duncan, Marissa Munoz, Chancellor Leavitt, Monika Greco, David Morser, & Jeffery Berger.

Congratulations to Jeffery Berger, Monika Greco, Marissa Munoz, Jordan Black, Cassandra Duncan, & David Morser on a job well-done!

Upcoming Events!

Celebration of Scholarship: April 27, 2017

UW Oshkosh: Reeve Memorial Union: 8:30 am—4:00 pm

The following Scholars will be presenting their research:

Jeffery Berger

Jordan Black

Cassandra Duncan

Monika Greco

Aimee Maher

David Morser

Marissa Munoz

Shakura Salahaladyn

Alyssa Scott

We look forward to a wonderful and busy summer with our new cohort and wish our former scholars the best of luck in their endeavors!



University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Ronald E McNair Scholars Program, HS 320
800 Algoma Blvd

Oshkosh, WI 54901

<http://www.uwosh.edu/mcnairscholars>

Like us on Facebook! UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program