

# Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Newsletter

## UWO McNair Program Funding Renewed

We are proud to announce that the UWO McNair Scholars Program was one of only 187 programs nation-wide to receive funding through the Department of Education for the 2017-22 McNair grant cycle. The grant application process is arduous and highly competitive, and we are grateful to Kimberly Busse and Leah Mann in the Office of Sponsored Programs and Faculty Development (OSPF) whose tireless efforts and attention to detail were instrumental in securing this award.

2018 marks the 10th consecutive year that we have had the privilege in stewarding this highly prestigious program, and in these ten years, we have assisted more than 135 high-achieving, low-income, first generation undergraduates develop the skills needed to succeed in graduate school. We are honored and humbled to be able to continue our work with such talented and dedicated students. #TRIOWORKS

**Kicking off the Summer with a New Cohort!  
Meet Our Participants: Pages 2-3**



“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.”

- Dr. Ronald E. McNair

### Inside this Issue

- Introducing a New Cohort.....2-3
- Graduating Scholars!.....4
- Where are They Now? .....5
- Scholars Travels to Present.....6-7
- Scholar Awards.....8
- Scholar Spotlights!.....8

### Recruiting Scholars

**Recruiting for the 2019 summer research internship is ongoing!**  
Interested students should contact [mcnair@uwosh.edu](mailto:mcnair@uwosh.edu)

### Website

[www.uwosh.edu/mcnairscholars](http://www.uwosh.edu/mcnairscholars)



# McNair Scholars Program Kicks off with a New Cohort!

**Aminata Bojang:** Aminata (Madison, WI) is majoring in biology and minoring in French. She hopes to translate her love of science and animals into a career in veterinary medicine. She will conduct research with Dr. Courtney Kurtz on metabolic syndrome in ground squirrels.

**Terrace Davis:** Terrace (Champaign, Illinois) is majoring in human services & leadership with a minor in sociology and coaching. Working under the mentorship of Dr. James Krueger, Terrace is looking at drug criminalization attitudes through the lens of race. Discipline, dedication, and determination are Terrace's guiding principles.

**Monica Fieck:** Monica (Appleton, WI) is a psychology major and communications minor. She has many interests within the fields of psychology, research, and social work. She has some research experience working with Dr. Kucker who has an ongoing study looking at the roll technology plays in language acquisition in children from various socioeconomic backgrounds. Monica's McNair research project will allow her to do a critical analysis of the data collected.

**Malykee Hall:** Malykee (Oshkosh, WI) is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. The brother of six siblings including one with special needs, Malykee is interested in a career in medicine. He will conduct research in the summer of 2019.

**Jason Lopez:** Jason (Chicago, IL) is a biology major with a chemistry minor. He hopes pursue an MD, translating his fascination with the human body, the cause and effect of illness, and his own experiences of living in poverty into a career in which he can give back to those most in need. He lives his life by Maya Angelo's words "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." Jason will be researching methyl proline and natural proline together with his mentor Dr. Brant Kedrowski.

**Braini McKenzie:** Braini (Oshkosh, WI) is a math education major with an art minor. She is passionate about education and hopes to find original, new ways to teach math through art. She will be conducting her research during the summer of 2019.

**Khaila Miles-Semons:** Khaila (Milwaukee, WI) is majoring in English with a minor in African American studies. She has a particularly strong interest in Black feminist thought. Her research with Dr. Michelle Kuhl will examine contrasting perspectives as depicted in female slave narratives and female abolitionist writings. Khaila is passionate about the importance of minority studies programs and hopes to be a leader in the area of African American studies.

# McNair Scholars Program Kicks off with a New Cohort!

**Andrew Miller:** Andrew (Kaukauna, WI) is biology major, minoring in astronomy and chemistry. He is participating in his second research internship. Last summer, he worked with Dr. Pritzl in astronomy and this summer he will be researching plant genetics with Dr. Dorn. He hopes to pursue a graduate degree in the cutting-edge field of astrobiology.

**Sarah Reed:** Sarah (Green Bay, WI) is majoring in sociology and minoring in French. She is deeply concerned about health disparities in society and is interested in pursuing a career in public health. Sarah is currently assisting her mentor Dr. Paul Van Auken on his ongoing project to collect data on refugees resettled in the Fox Valley. Sarah's McNair research internship will allow her to do a critical analysis of the data collected.

**Amanda Vue:** Amanda (Wausau, WI) is majoring in social work with minors in sociology and social justice. As the daughter of Hmong refugees and the older sister to six siblings, Amanda aspires to further her education so that she may one day be able to give back to her community by working with children. Together with her mentor Dr. Orlee Hauser she will be researching domestic and dating violence in the Hmong community.

**Katelyn Wulff:** Katelyn (Theresa, WI) is majoring nursing with a certificate in global studies. Katelyn has volunteered and worked at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac since she was a teenager and has a passion for helping others. She understands that excellent health care providers are not only knowledgeable but also sensitive to the socio-economic and cultural backgrounds of their patients. Katelyn will be working together with her mentor Dr. Michael Jasinski to replicate aspects of former UWO McNair scholar Kathryn Baez's study which looked into the socio-economic impact of poor dental care.

**Bailey Young:** Bailey (West Allis, WI) is majoring in psychology while taking pre-med classes. She is fascinated with the human body and plans to one day become a surgeon. Bailey is excited to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Morgan Churchill on an evolutionary biology project involving the bones of marine mammals.

---

*“McNair will push us to new ‘limits.’ I put the word limits in quotations because they will no longer be limits. They will be standards.” - Bailey Young*

---

# Congratulations December 2017 Scholar Graduates!



*Left to Right: Shakura Salahaladyn, Holly Post, Admiral Wieland, Alyssa Scott, & Darlene Swenson  
Not Pictured: Bonnie Smith*

# Congratulations to May 2018 Scholar Graduates!



**Top Row:** Leigh Hayes,  
Alexis Brown, Deanna  
Luttenberger



**Bottom Row:** David  
Morser, Aracely Torres,  
Carolyn Butzen

**Not Pictured:** Aimee  
Maher

# What's Next?!?!

## Stop #1: Grad School!

Fall 2017

**Jordan Black**, Colorado State University  
*MS Biomedical Sciences*

**Savannah Block**, University of Illinois  
Champaign Urbana  
*MA/PhD Writing & Rhetoric*

**Stevan Mazibrada**, West Virginia School  
of Osteopathic Medicine  
*Medical School*

**Eli Martinez**, Medical College of Wisconsin  
*Medical School*

## Stop #2: Graduate Degree Recipients!

**Kathryn Baez**, MPA June 2016  
Public Administration, UW Oshkosh

**Aaron Robinson**, MD May 2017  
Doctor of Medicine, UW Madison

**Adrian Landreth**, MS May 2016  
Chemical Biology, University of Michigan

**Fabiola Rizo**, MSE May 2017  
School Counseling, UW Oshkosh

Fall 2018

**Alyssa Scott**  
Marquette University  
*MS—Psychology: Behavior Analysis*

**Leigh Hayes**  
California State University—Chico  
*MA—Anthropology*

**Alyssa Valentyne**  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
*Medicine School*

**Carolyn Butzen**  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
*Master of Social Work*

**Cassie Duncan** (Spring 2018)  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
*MS—Wildlife Biology & Conservation*

**Suave Kyles** (Spring 2018)  
Cardinal Stritch University  
*Master of Business Administration*

**Jaime Castillo**  
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee  
*Doctorate of Nursing Practice*

**Admiral Wieland**  
University of Indiana Bloomington  
*PhD—History*

**Deanna Luttenberger**  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
*MS—Psychology*

**CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARS!**

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARS!

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARS!

# Scholar Presents at Immunology Conference in Chicago!

Participating in the Annual Immunology Conference in Chicago last year was exciting as well as intimidating. As a McNair Scholar, I was accustomed to sharing my research verbally, but this particular conference was for experts in my field, which definitely tested my abilities.

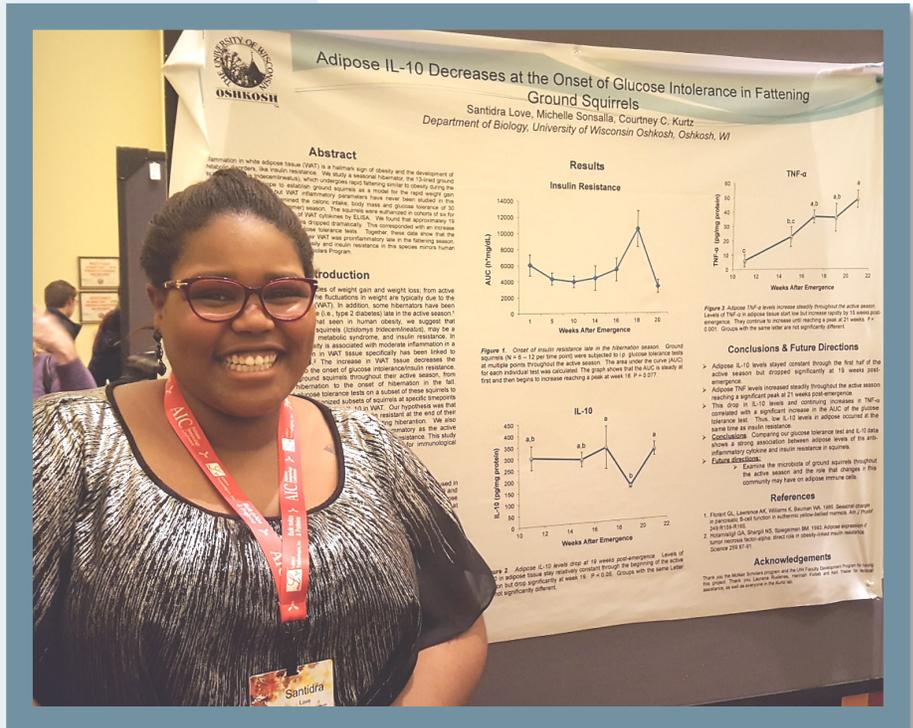
Undergraduate students were sectioned into either even or odd numbers, each having an hour window to present their poster, which was then judged by two individuals. The top three presenters were awarded with a prize. Although I didn't win a prize, the judges were pretty impressed and intrigued with my research.

This conference taught me a lot about myself, and how it's okay to not have all the answers because that's the whole reason we're all here.

The biggest lesson McNair taught me is never to give up on myself. It's okay to be frustrated, and

stumped because that's exactly why we do what we do. Research is ongoing and believing in yourself is one of the most important qualities to have.

Just completing the program over the summer alone has opened up so many doors I didn't imagine were possible. I am a scholar, and people now recognize that from the work I've done. That's one of the reasons I



***“The biggest lesson McNair taught me is never to give up on myself.”***  
*-Santidra Love, McNair Scholar*

was asked to present at the McNair Showcase, and a reason Dr. Kurtz wanted me to present at the Immunology Conference in Chicago, Illinois. I was terrified, but also extremely proud of myself.

McNair provided me with the structure I needed to learn how to conduct academically rigorous scientific research, write a strong research paper, and articulate my findings to others. I now feel empowered to further my education beyond the

bachelor's level. I am considering pursuing a master's in anesthesiology, the biological sciences, immunology, or even human anatomical sciences. My eyes have been opened to exploring M.D and Ph.D. programs. Without McNair, I would not have the skills or confidence to reach for the stars.

# National Council of Undergraduate Research

April 4-7, 2018



Edmond, Oklahoma

Three McNair Scholars attended the National Council of Undergraduate Research at the University of Central Oklahoma to present their research! These scholars traveled with the Office of Student Research & Creative Activity.



**Congratulations to  
Santidra Love,  
Leigh Hayes,  
and Deanna  
Luttenberger!**

# NCUR 2018

# Scholar Spotlights & Achievements!

## Publications & More!

### Aaryn Mustoe, PhD (University of Nebraska Omaha)

- Aaryn published in the journal, *Integrative Zoology*, and also gave a seminar talk at their society's conference in China in August 2017. To learn more, visit: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../1749-4877.12318/full> and <http://isiz9.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>.

### Jessica De Larwelle, PhD candidate (University of Washington )

- Jessica co-authored on a paper during her Bachelors in Psychology at UW Oshkosh, which was published in the *Journal of Experimental Aging Research*. The title is 'Diagnosis makes a difference: Perceptions of older persons with dementia symptoms.' To learn more, visit: <http://www.tandfonline.com/.../10.1080/0361073X.2017.1422475>

### Shariah Salahaladyn, MEd (University of Pennsylvania)

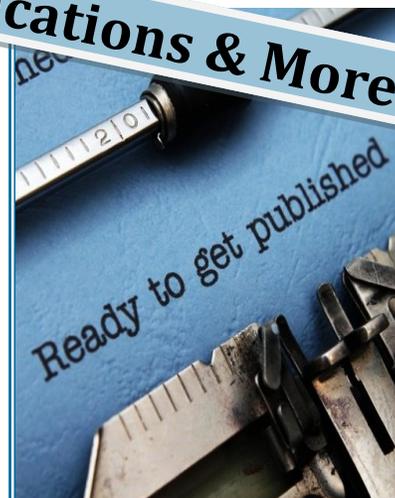
- Shariah and her former Master's level class recently had a book published titled "*Educational Challenges at Minority Serving Institutions*"

### Alyssa Valentyne, MD Candidate (UW Madison, Fall 2018)

- With the help of her mentor, Dr. Crawford and the team at Clean Wisconsin, Alyssa is a published co-author. To learn more, visit: <https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1WbLiB8ccgWRJ>

### Grant O'Connell, PhD (West Virginia University)

- After being offered a tenure track assistant professor's position at Case Western Reserve University, Grant's lab uses cutting-edge molecular biology techniques to study the immune response to stroke in real world clinical populations with the goal of developing novel diagnostics and therapeutics. For example, one of the primary projects is focused on the identification of immune-related biomarkers, which could be measured using a rapid blood test to help clinicians determine whether an individual is having a stroke. To learn more about his publications, visit: <https://www.nature.com/npjgenmed/> and <https://www.nature.com/srep/>



## Awards , Conferences, & Presentations!

**Leigh Hayes**—Chancellor's Award for Excellence

**Brianna Langs** — Danielle S. Jones Student Leader Inclusive Excellence Award

**Glenn Malecki** — Outstanding Student Leader Award

**Alyssa Scott:** Alyssa presented at the MPA conference April 21-22, 2018. Alyssa was also accepted to present her thesis at ICIS (International Congress of Infant Studies) in Philadelphia this summer as an oral presentation!

**Savannah Block:** Savannah presented at the Computers & Writing Conference May 23-24, 2018 in Virginia!

**Deanna Luttenberger:** Deanna presented at the Association for Psychology Science Conference in San Francisco, California from May 24—May 27th!

**Leigh Hayes:** April 11-14, 2018, Leigh presented at the Association of American Anthropologists' conference in Austin, Texas where her research was accepted!

**Celebration of Scholarship:** Several UW Oshkosh students, along with McNair Scholars, Monica Fieck, David Morser, and Deanna Luttenberger presented poster presentations at the Celebration of Scholarship held on April 26, 2018.