



RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Kicking off Summer 2019 with 15 New McNair Scholars!
2019 McNair Graduates Receive Thousands to Fund Graduate Study!



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UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

TRIO
RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

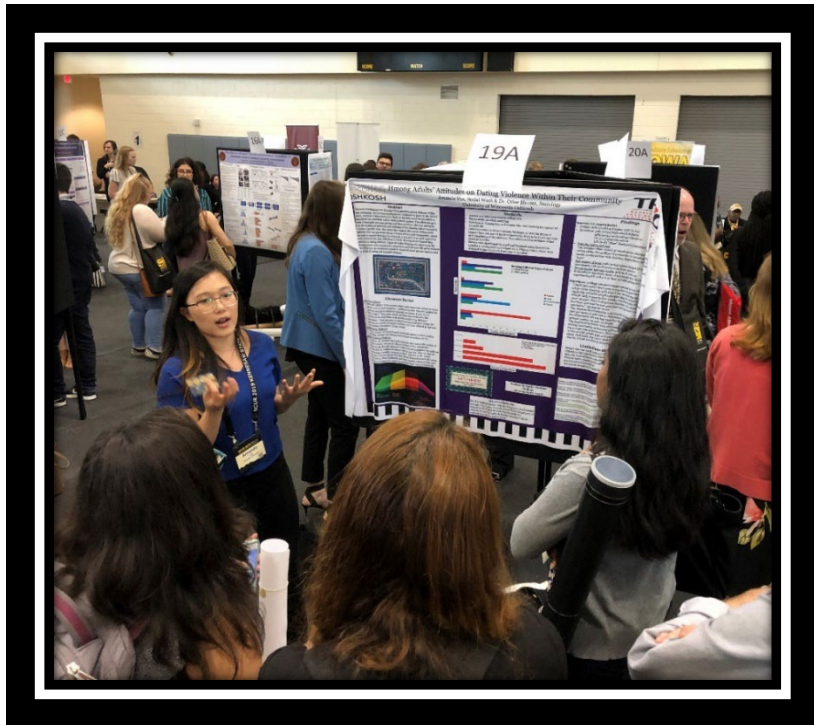
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

10 McNair scholars participated in and completed the 2018 McNair Summer Research

Scholars traveled to Schaumburg, Illinois to present their research at the National McNair Conference

Scholars made numerous graduate school visits, including trips to UW Milwaukee, UW Madison, University of Minnesota, and the University of Michigan.

Scholars spent a week in Washington DC visiting graduate programs, the Smithsonian, Senators on Capitol Hill, and the Kennedy Center for a performance of *The Color Purple*.



Amanda Vue, left, presents her research to several other students at the NCUR in Kennesaw State University.

“Looking back, I can say without a doubt that deciding to apply to the McNair Program was one of the best decisions I made during my time at the university.”

--Monica Fieck, 2017-18
McNair Scholar

What is the McNair Program?

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, a federally funded TRIO Program, assists bright, highly motivated undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds acquire the skills they need to get into and succeed in graduate school. The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is privileged to be one of only 187 institutions nation-wide afforded the opportunity to offer our students the benefits of this prestigious program.



Meet the 2019 McNair Cohort!

Malykee Hall (Oshkosh, WI), a biology major, will be working with Dr. Sabrina Mueller-Spitz researching the biodiversity and physiology of the aquatic *Deinococcus* bacteria in Lake Winnebago.

Brenna Prieto (Sheboygan, WI), a psychology major with a Spanish minor, will conduct research with Dr. Justyna Olszewska. The focus of their project will be on memory distortions for familiar and unfamiliar company logos.



Rachel McKay (Jackson, WI), a biology major with a chemistry minor, will be researching chemoreception in insects with Dr. Robert Mitchell. A better understanding of how insects smell could contribute to finding more effective and less toxic methods of pest control.

Braini McKenzie (Oshkosh, WI), an education major with a minor in psychology, will work with Dr. Alicia Johnson to examine leadership development experiences of students of color at predominantly white institutions of higher education.

Riley Drechsler (Wisconsin Rapids, WI), an anthropology major with a Spanish minor, will, with the help of her mentor Dr. Adrienne Frie, focus on the mortuary practices at Magdalenska Gora Iron Age settlement (located in Slovenia today). Their research will take them to the Peabody Institute at Harvard, where the majority of archaeological artifacts from this site are found. Together they hope to gain insight into social stratification and gender roles.

Alicia Obermeier (Appleton, WI), human services leadership major with a minor in women's and gender studies, is interested in how the LGBTQ+ community has taken ownership of the formerly derogatory word "queer" while continuing to denounce "faggot." She will take a socio-linguistic approach to "queer" identities. In doing so, she hopes to shed light on the ways in which non-heteronormative individuals defined themselves before taking ownership of "queer" as an inclusive, umbrella term for all sexual and gender minorities. Alicia's mentor is Dr. Jerry Thomas.

Aubrey Wzientek (Marengo, IL), a kinesiology major, is particularly interested in performance and rehabilitation. With her mentor Dr. Brian Wallace, she will compare the differing body mechanics, which result when collegiate softball players bat off of a tee versus strike at a front toss. The UW Oshkosh women's softball team has agreed to participate in this study.

Angel Camacho (Kenosha, WI), a dual-degree seeking student majoring in both education and business, is interested in finding ways to improve student learning outcomes. For the purpose of his study, he and his mentor Dr. Benjamin Artz are testing the effectiveness of using the Cornell notetaking method in micro-econ classes.

Elias Flor Martinez (Menasha, WI), a biology major, will be working with Dr. Jessica Lucas in the field of plant cell biology. They will research microtubule organization and the molecular mechanism of guard cells, essential in the regulatory function of stomata. This functionality will help scientists find ways to produce plants that can tolerate hostile climates with the goal of preventing a food shortage.

Doua Xiong (Wausau, WI), a biology major, will be working with Dr. Morgan Churchill in the field of evolutionary biology with a focus on marine mammals and cranial anatomy. They will research differences in the cranial anatomy affecting the temporalis muscle size to better understand evolution.

Joy Evans (Milwaukee, WI), an environmental health major, will be analyzing student health data with her mentor Juliana Kahrs, MPH. The two will examine UW Oshkosh student health surveys to better understand potential chronic health issues associated with food insecurity among students of color.

Stacey Sparks (Neeah, WI), an English education major, will work with Dr. Yoko Mogi-Hein on a project which examines the impact of programs designed to address the challenges of children faced with poverty, trauma, and neglect. As part of this project, she hopes to work with UW Oshkosh Head Start Program to assess non-identifiable data collected over the last 10 years.

Megan Elger (Hartford, WI), a communications major, will research family estrangement, focusing on how estranged adult children are impacted by the messages they receive from society. Megan, who just completed her Associate's at UW Fond du Lac, and her mentor Dr. Kristi Wilkum, are the first to be recruited into McNair from a UW Oshkosh Access Campus.



Daniel Obi (Madison, WI), a biology major, will be working with Dr. Paulson on apoptosis, also known as cell death. Their research question is "What key mechanism/s in mitotic arrested cells is/are responsible for apoptosis?" Their findings could provide a valuable contribution in the field of cancer research.

Mia Wilson (Milwaukee, WI) is a double major in political science and women's and gender studies with a minor in social justice. She is interested in identifying key factors that contribute to building an environment of inclusivity for students of color at predominantly white institutions (PWI) such as UW Oshkosh. She will be conducting her research with Dr. Heidi Nicholls.

Graduating McNair Scholars!

Spring 2019



Fall 2018

**Terrace
Davis**

**Major: Human
Services
Minor: Sociology**

Scholar Snapshot: Terrace committed to University of Michigan, where he will pursue a Master of Social Work. Terrace was the recipient of the Michigan Opportunity Grant and the Dean's Mission Scholarship and will be a Detroit Clinical Scholar. He will receive over \$90,000 in funding.



**Monica
Fieck**

**Major:
Psychology
Minor:
Communications**

Scholar Snapshot: Monica has accepted an offer to pursue a Master of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Over two years, Monica will receive \$40,000 in tuition reimbursement in addition to a paid research assistantship amounting to \$10,000.

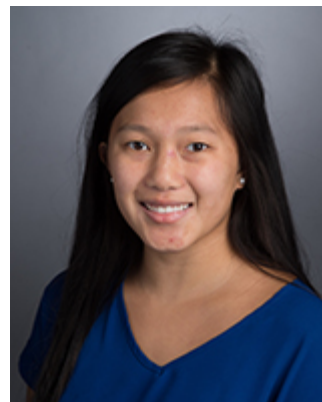


Fall 2018

**Andrew
Miller**

**Major: Biology
Minor:
Astronomy**

Scholar Snapshot: Andrew has accepted a position as a Lab Technician and has applied to the University of Colorado Boulder where he hopes to pursue a Master's in Genetics.



**Amanda
Vue**

**Major: Social
Work
Minor: Sociology
& Social Justice**

Scholar Snapshot: Amanda has chosen to pursue Master of Social Work at UW Madison, where she will focus on child, youth, and family welfare. Amanda has applied for the Public Child Welfare Program, a program that covers tuition and fees and provides a monthly stipend to students from diverse backgrounds committed to pursuing a career in public child welfare.



Santidra Love

Major: Biology
Minor: Neuroscience

Scholar Snapshot: Santidra hopes to pursue graduate school in the biological sciences after gaining some experience working in a lab environment.



Brianna Langs

Major: Elementary Education

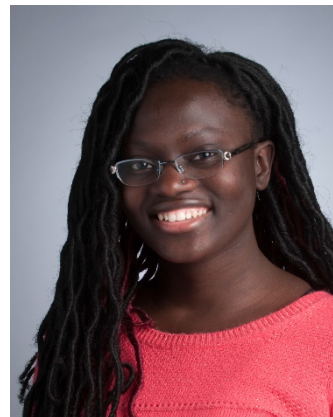
Scholar Snapshot: Brianna will pursue a Master of Education in Student Affairs Marquette University in Milwaukee. Brianna received a graduate student assistantship with the Office of Resident Life. In addition to receiving a stipend, the assistantship will cover her cost of housing and up to six credit hours per semester.



Sarah Reed

Major: Sociology
Minor: French

Scholar Snapshot: Sarah will pursue a Master of Public Health at UW Milwaukee. As a recipient of the prestigious Advanced Opportunity Fellowship (AOP), Sarah will receive a tuition waiver and a \$22,000 fellowship. In addition, Sarah won the Dr. Tomás Garrett-Rosas Research Award, created to recognize a graduate student whose research interests demonstrate a focus on social justice and potential for community outreach. Dr. Garrett-Rosas was himself a McNair Scholar and inspiring role model. The award amounts to \$3,000 over two years. All McNair scholars accepted into UWM graduate programs are automatically awarded a \$6,000 scholarship.



Aminata Bojang

Major: Biology
Minor: French

Scholar Snapshot: After graduation, Aminata plans to gain work experience. She is particularly interested in applying for internships and programs that will help her explore various professions. Gifted in both the sciences and languages, Aminata has a wide range of interests, from veterinary medicine to public health, possibly immunology, or even ESL instruction! Stay tuned for graduate school plans!

Former Scholars: Graduate School Bound!

Graduate School Bound!

Bonnie Smith, Master of Education, Bilingual Education (June 2019)

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

- Bonnie completed 1 year of teaching at Washington Elementary School in the Oshkosh Area School District. Not only was she one of eight District employees recognized for exceptional service, but Bonnie was awarded the prestigious Project Amor, a scholarship intended to support outstanding educators interested in pursuing a Master of Education with a focus on bilingual education. Thanks to Project Amor, Bonnie's graduate school tuition is fully covered!

Josh Henkel, Master of Social Work (September 2019)

University of Wisconsin - Madison

- Josh's military experience has provided him with the GI Bill, therefore, his tuition is covered!

David Morser, Master of Science in Physics-Quantum Computing (September 2019)

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Aimee Maher, Master of Education (June 2019)

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Cross-Categorical Special Education

Glenn Malecki, Master of Science (January 2019)

Xavier University, Healthcare Economics and Outcomes Research

Jaime Castillo, Doctorate of Nursing Practice (September 2018)

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

- Jaime completed his Master of Science in Nursing at UW Milwaukee in May 2018 and is now continuing for his Doctorate in Nursing!

Aracely Torres, Master of Education, Teaching (September 2018)

Marian University

Pearl Wright, Master of Science, Sustainable & Resilient Food Systems (September 2018)

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Hope MacDonald, Master of Arts, Anthropology (September 2018)

Northern Illinois University

- Hope received a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, which helps fund her tuition!

Former Scholars: Congratulations!

**Congratulations to the following scholars
for completion of graduate degrees! #TRIOworks**

Jordan Black, Colorado State University
MS Biomedical Sciences – August 2018

Thomas Kenote, University of Minnesota
MS, Natural Resource Management - May 2019

Suave Kyles, Cardinal Stritch University
Master of Business Administration - May 2019

Marissa Munoz, UW – Madison
MS Pharmaceutical Sciences – January 2019

Katie Proctor, University of Memphis
MS Earth Sciences – May 2019

- *Katie will continue on for her PhD in Earth Sciences at the University of Memphis.*

Sam Retzloff, Emory University
MPH Epidemiology - May 2018

Ben Sajdak, Medical College of Wisconsin
PhD Visual Neuroscience - November 2018

Marissa Theys, University of Minnesota
MA Political Science – February 2018

Monika Greco, Tufts University
MA Philosophy - May 2019

- *Monika is taking a gap year to work with a prominent civil rights attorney in Boston, MA. She will begin the law school application process this fall.*

Krystal Judah (De Leon), Northern Illinois University
JD, Juris Doctor of Law – December 2018



Brooke Wollner, UW Madison
MS Educational Psychology – Feb. 2019

- *Brooke is continuing for her PhD and anticipates defending her dissertation in Spring 2020.*

Savannah Block, University of Illinois
Champaign Urbana
MA Rhetoric & Composition - May 2019

Taylor Waring, Eastern Washington University, MFA
Creative Writing & Poetry - June 2019

Fay Osman, UW Milwaukee
MPH/PA, Public Health – May 2018

- *Fay is continuing for her Doctorate of Public Health!*

Aaron Jackson, UW Oshkosh
Master of Public Administration - May 2018

“Discipline. Determination. Dedication.” – Terrace Davis

McNair Scholars present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Kennesaw, Georgia!

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of McNair and the Office of Student Research and Creative Activity (OSRCA), McNair scholars were able to join forces with other UWO students engaged in undergraduate research to represent our institution at NCUR!

Congratulations to all the UW Oshkosh students who presented at NCUR!

McNair Scholars:

Aminata Bojang, Monica Fieck, Jason Lopez, Khaila Miles-Semons, Sarah Reed, Amanda Vue, and Katelyn Wulff

Students sponsored by OSRCA:

Madeline Hass, Megan Rose, Hannah Thorn, Hayley Vandeenboom, Kaila Vanderwielen, Angela Vickman, and Michael Watson



Aminata Bojang (top) & Jason Lopez (bottom) present research.

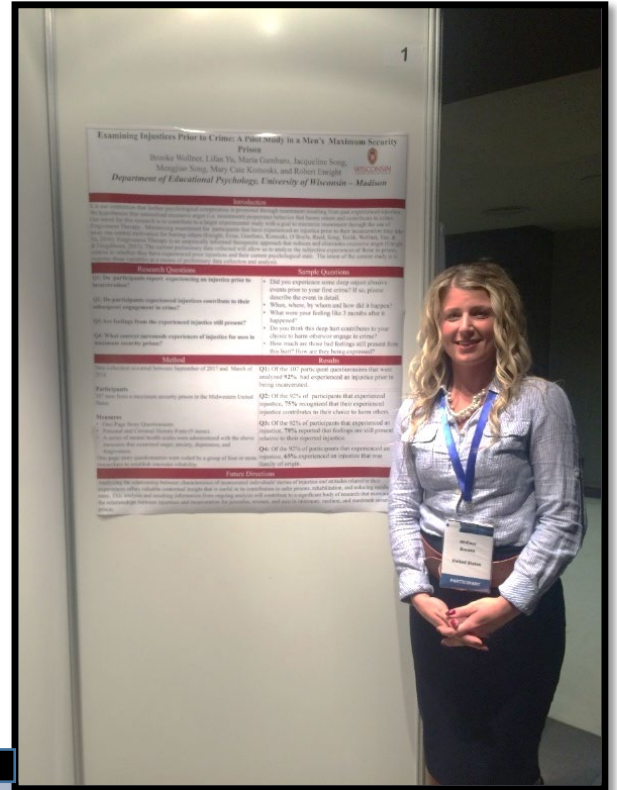


Stephen Kercher, Director of OSRCA, with UWO NCUR Participants

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Brooke Wollner, MS UW Madison PhD Candidate

Brooke presented at the Association for Moral Education (AME) conference in Barcelona, Spain. Her research, "Examining Injustices Prior to Crime: A Pilot Study in a Men's Maximum Security Prison," focuses on historical trauma and restorative justice as it relates to education and Forgiveness Therapy in the prison system. Brooke participated as a McNair Scholar in 2014 at UW Oshkosh. She completed her master's in February 2019 and is currently pursuing her PhD in Educational Psychology at UW Madison. She plans to defend her dissertation in spring 2020. Congratulations on all your hard work Brooke!



Leigh Hayes University of California Chico Master's Candidate

We are especially proud of Leigh Hayes for having volunteered in the search and recovery effort following the devastating fires in Paradise, CA during the fall of 2018.

Leigh is pursuing a master's in anthropology at the University of California Chico. She has a strong interest in archaeology and forensics and plans to apply to PhD programs for the fall of 2021.



*Congratulations to
Brooke and Leigh for all
their hard work and
accomplishments!*

“Before you can achieve your dream,
you must first have one.”

- Ronald E. McNair, PhD



The UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program is 100% funded through a TRIO grant from the United States Department of Education PR/Award Number P217A170088. For 2018/2019, the UW Oshkosh McNair Scholars Program received \$240,676 in federal funds.

To learn more, visit us at www.uwosh.edu/mcnairscholars

