

Dear President Mahony, Provost Boyd, and Colleagues,

July 12, 2016

The outstanding work of Winthrop's McNair Scholars and faculty mentors each year has resulted in a tradition of a letter to the campus celebrating their accomplishments at the end of the summer research experience. 2016 has been a special year for McNair because of several student accomplishments including the graduation of our program's first Ph.D., Dr. Ashton Brock '10 (Chemistry, University of Virginia, McNair Mentor - Dr. Takita Sumter). As usual, this message is long because it includes recognition of student excellence and gratitude to many of the folks who played a role in the students' success.

The primary purpose of this message is to acknowledge the good work of Winthrop's 17 McNair summer research interns and recognize the valuable contributions of the faculty mentors who shared their expertise over the past two months (sometimes more) to help these undergraduates conduct and present substantive research in their discipline. Below are the names of the 2016 Winthrop McNair Summer Scholars, their Mentors, their research topics, and the categories to which their presentations were assigned. Two of these students are from other institutions (Lesley Peña, Columbia College and Shannon Snelgrove, Clemson University). Five of our continuing participants are not listed because they are participating in REUs at other institutions. Those students are Jordan Lewis, Theresa Melendez, Savannah Moritzky, Jesslyn Park, and Leigha Stahl.

2016 McNair Scholar	Faculty Mentor	Research Topic	Category
Naseem Adkinson-Jobe	Dr. Stephanie Lawson	Collector's Relationship to Access-Based Consumption: A Sneakerhead's Perspective	Poster
Lesley Peña	Dr. Darren Ritzer	Mindfulness, Coping, and Stress Levels Among Different Races	Poster ¹
Savannah Pewett	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Police Perceptions Across Ethnicities and Cultures	Poster
Claudia Salazar	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Adults' Cognitive and Emotional Reactions to Self-Reported Stereotype Experiences	Poster
Jálen Smith	Dr. Brad Tripp	Examining Longitudinal Data of Juvenile Delinquents in Rock Hill, SC	Poster
Shannon Snelgrove	Dr. Laura Gardner	Contemporary Black Women Artists' Narratives	Poster
Cera Crowe	Dr. Padmini Patwardhan	Business Sustainability: An Analysis of Three Enterprises in Charlotte, North Carolina	Social Science
Maddie Diaz	Dr. Takita Sumter	Investigation of the HMGA1/EF24 Nexus in Human Colon Cancer	Life Science
Jesse Grainger	Dr. Brent Cagle	"I Don't Fit in a Box, No One Does." Intersectionality and Homeless Identity	Social Science
Autumn Leggins	Dr. Nick Grosseohme	Controlling the Expression Levels of Oct4 in Murine Adipose Derived Stem Cells Using Invitrogen's Gene Switch™ System	Life Science
Elizabeth Lambert	Dr. Adriana Cordis	Whistleblower Laws and Corporate Fraud in the United States	Social Science
Nicole McMullen	Dr. Heather Evans-Anderson	Targeted Mutagenesis of FOXO Transcription Factors in the Model Organism <i>Ciona intestinalis</i> Utilizing the CRISPR/Cas9 System	Life Science
Holly Rittenberry	Dr. Joni Boyd	The Relationship of Lower Body Flexibility and Stress on the Ulnar Collateral Ligament in High School Baseball Players	Health

Tollie Schultz	Dr. Tara Collins	Masculinity and Femininity as Predictors of Emotional Expressivity and Relational Attachment	Social Science
Shayla Warren	Dr. Maria Aysa-Lastra	Associations Between Perceived Discrimination on Subjective Quality of Life Among Adults in the US	Social Science ²
Camerun Washington	Dr Kathryn Kohl	Investigating X Chromosome Non-disjunction in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> su(var)3-9 mutants	Life Science ¹
Alexis Williamson	Dr. Brad Witzel	Implementation of Resilience in Children of Low Socio-Economic Status	Education

Every year, I am proud of the caliber of the Scholars' presentations. This year, I am also proud of the dedication to excellence each student displayed through a long series of "McNair moments" that appeared during our unforgiving timeline. At our national conference last month, the Southeastern Association of Equal Opportunity Programs and Personnel McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference, Winthrop's Scholars were frequently recognized for their good work and the collective character. So often they heard "Oh, you're from Winthrop!" and an immediate compliment about the quality of Winthrop student work or the cohesiveness of the cohort.

Please take a moment to congratulate all 17 of Winthrop's McNair summer Scholars and their Mentors for their excellent work.

Three of the presenters listed above earned top honors and awards of up to \$500. Those Scholars are **Lesley Peña** (1st place in Posters, Mentor - Dr. **Darren Ritzer**, PSYC), **Shayla Warren** (2nd place in Social Science orals, Mentor - Dr. **Maria Aysa-Lastra**, SOCL), and **Camerun Washington** (1st place in Life Science orals, Mentor – Dr. **Kathryn Kohl**, BIOL). These are highly competitive categories and students from 27 institutions competed. The list of institutions includes, but is not limited to, the Universities of California (Berkeley and San Francisco), Florida, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

There are a lot of folks who helped us get to this point. **First and foremost, Dean Gloria Jones**, teaches our Scholars about writing during the first week, helps prepare the Scholars for the verbal and writing sections of the GRE, is invested in each individual Scholar, and supports the staff year round. The McNair staff provides Scholars with targeted support and includes the following folks: Dr. Matt Hayes (Stats and Methods Coach), Ms. Stephanie Bartlett (Head Writing Coach), Robert Wilson (Writing Coach), Barb Yeager (Executive Support Specialist), and Amanda Cavin (McNair alum and GA). Drs. Jason Hurlbert, Tracy Griggs, Brad Witzel, Leslie Bickford, and Merry Sleigh shared specialized expertise to help the Scholars move forward on their research or graduate pursuits. This summer, we are particularly grateful to Winthrop's IRB Chair (Dr. Aaron Hartel), Financial Aid folks (especially Michelle Hare and Julia Fockler), Student Financial Services Folks (especially Judy Basehore), Residence Life folks (especially Dawn Sayer), Aramark (Pam Yurkovic and the great chefs), and Printing Services (Thank you Jill Stuckey, Sibbie Lowery, Richie Parrish, and Angie Connor). Our IT experts (especially Eric Threatt and Eric Moss) as well as the folks the Procurement, Accounts Payable, and SPAR offices (Thank you Deborah Broome and Joan Hetherington) have also been very helpful this summer (and all year round).

This has been a very special year. In addition to 100% of our students completing research, 100% of our 2015-16 graduates received graduate program offers. Also, this is the first year the Scholars travelled to Lake City, SC, Dr. Ronald E. McNair's home town. There, the Scholars learned more about the great person they are encouraged to emulate. And, the celebration of the end of the summer research experience had four special guests in addition to the Scholars and their families: The Mahonys. Having a President at one of our celebrations is a first for our program and the students were excited about it. **Thank you President Mahony for showing our students that you are invested in and proud of their successes.**

The beginning of each cohort's success starts with the strategic selections made by our Advisory Board: Dr. Adolphus Belk, Ashley Causey (McNair Scholar), Dr. Heather Evans-Anderson, Dr. Kareema Gray, Ms. Rose Gray, Dr. Wenonah Haire, Dr. Willis Lewis, Dr. Karen Stock, Dr. Takita Sumter, Dr. Will Thacker, and Dr. Brad Witzel (<http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/default.aspx?id=28622>).

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For more on Winthrop McNair Scholars' research, check out <http://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/mcnair> (Thank you, DeAnn Brame and Stephanie Bartlett).

Thank you, Winthrop, for your help in supporting these outstanding students.

-Cheryl

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