

Winthrop University
**McNair Scholars
Program**
Newsletter



Fall 2013



From left to right: Scholars Brittany Lawrence, Dwana David, Symone Calhoun, Keisha Carden and, Program Director, Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood.

On Thursday, September 12, 2013, Scholars Brittany Lawrence, Dwana David, Symone Calhoun, Keisha Carden, and Program Director, Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood, traveled to the University of Alabama for *McNair Scholars and Directors Visitation Day*.

McNair Visitation Day is a special event for McNair Scholars who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree at The University of Alabama. Special sessions are held in the morning and early afternoon, which include a campus tour, lunch with current graduate students, and faculty and student panels on special topics.

Scholars had the opportunity to sit in on the *Through the Doors Symposium* which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the University of Alabama in 1963.

Additionally, Scholars had the chance to learn about funding opportunities such as the McNair Graduate Fellowship which consists of a \$15,000 stipend for the academic year, plus a scholarship to pay full tuition for up to 15 hours for Fall and Spring semesters, and health insurance. For more information regarding this fellowship, visit <http://graduate.ua.edu/financial/mcnair.html>.

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally funded TRIO program that prepares first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented undergraduates to be successful in graduate school.

Winthrop's McNair Scholars Program includes, but is not limited to, a paid summer research experience, faculty mentoring, workshops, GRE and graduate school application preparation, and travel to present research and explore graduate programs.

**NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS!**

Apply at www.winthrop.edu/mcnair.

DEADLINE:
Friday, November 1st at 5pm



McNair Scholars Program

Winthrop University
104 Dinkins Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733
(803) 323-2125
mcnair@winthrop.edu

Program Director:
Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood

Administrative Assistant:
Mrs. Barb Yeager

Graduate Assistant:
LaToya P. Hicks

McNair Scholars 2013 Research Projects

BRIANNA BARNETTE

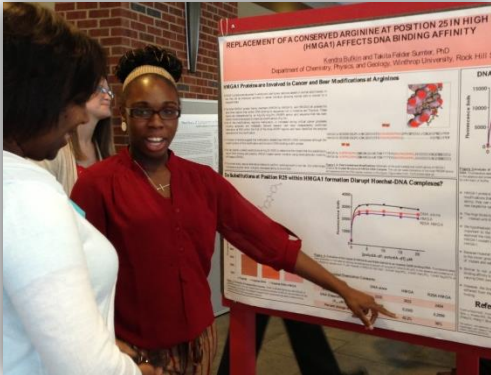
"The Perceived Readiness of Educators to Teach AAE Speaking Students"

Mentor: Lisa Harris, Ph.D.

LEAH BROWN

"The Effects of Drawing, Listening, and Writing on Mood"

Mentor: Merry Sleight, Ph.D.



▲ KENDRA BUFKIN

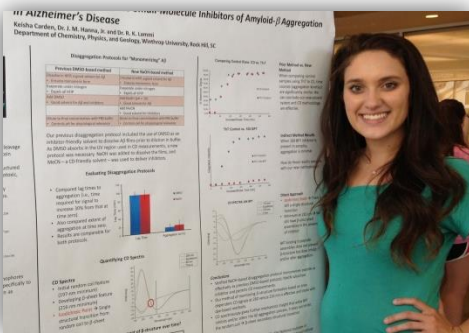
"Replacement of a Conserved Arginine at Position 25 in High Mobility Group A1 Protein Affects DNA Binding Affinity"

Mentor: Takita Sumter, Ph.D.

SYMONE CALHOUN

"The Impact of Time Pressure and Personality on Conformity"

Mentor: Donna Nelson, Ph.D.



▲ KEISHA D. CARDEN

"Mechanistic Insights into Small-Molecule Inhibitors of Amyloid-β Aggregation in Alzheimer's Disease"

Mentor: Robin K. Lammi, Ph.D.

AMANDA CAVIN

"How Do Teachers Define Teacher Quality?"

Mentor: Carol Marchel, Ph.D.



▲ DWANA DAVID

"Perceptions of Difficulty on Procrastination"

Mentor: Matthew Hayes, Ph.D.

NICOLE DROWN

"Papists, Machiavels, and the Roman Standard: Webster's The White Devil as a Critique of Idealizing Britannia"

Mentor: Jack DeRochi, Ph.D.

AARON FOUNTAIN

"The War in the Schools: San Francisco Bay Area High Schools and the Antiwar Movement, 1965-1973"

Mentor: Andrew Doyle, Ph.D.



▲ CHELSEA GILMORE

"Attitudes about Online and Face to Face Relationships: The Role of Attachment Style and Accessible Memories"

Mentor: Donna Nelson, Ph.D.

KIERRA JAMES

"Children's Attitudes toward Reading"

Mentor: Antigo Martin-Delaney, Ph.D.

CHELSEA JOHNSON

"Undergraduate Experiences that Encourage Students to Pursue Advanced Degrees in Computing Disciplines"

Mentor: Marguerite Doman, Ph.D.

STANLEY KENNEDY

"How Different Definitions of Homelessness Affect Available Resources for K-12 Public School Children"

Mentor: Marleah Bouchard, Psy.D.

BRITTANY LAWRENCE

"The Effects of Geography and Disease Incidences on Mutation Rates of Chinese HIV-1 vif Genes"

Mentor: Kristi Westover, Ph.D.

JOHNAKIN MARTIN

"A Reaction-Diffusion Model on the Effect of Insulin in Colon Cancer"

Mentor: Zachary Abernathy, Ph.D.

JUSTIN MOORE

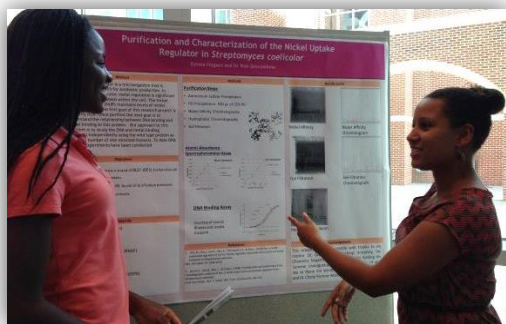
"Income Tax Expense vs. Cash Taxes Paid: An Empirical Analysis of Faithful Representation"

Mentor: Clarence Coleman, Ph.D.

NIKESHA NELSON

"Recreating Perception towards the Africanist Aesthetic: Opening Doors for Exploration"

Mentor: Stephanie Milling, Ph.D.



▲ DENISE PEPPERS

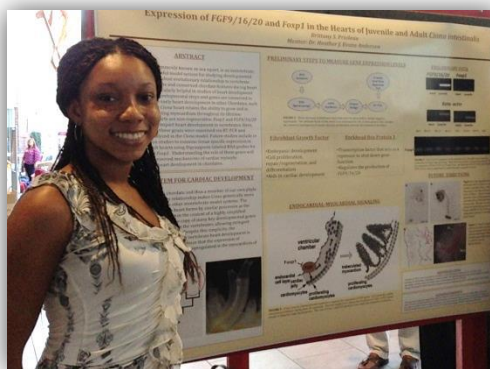
"Purification and Characterization of the Nickel Uptake Regulator (NUR)"

Mentor: Nicholas Grossoehme, Ph.D.

JOSE PARAMO

"Education and Its Effect on Military Discipline"

Mentor: Stephen Smith, Ph.D.



▲ BRITTANY PRIOLEAU

"Expression of FGF9/16/20 and Foxp1 in Juvenile and Adult Ciona intestinalis"

Mentor: Heather Evans-Anderson, Ph.D.

DERION REID

"Silencing Cellular Expression of the High Mobility Group A1 (HMGA1) to Enhance Sensitivity to Chemotherapy"

Mentor: Takita Sumter, Ph.D.



▲ HANNAH SWAN

"Machine Learning for Phylogenetic Invariants"

Mentor: Joseph Rusinko, Ph.D.

SARA WICKS

"Synthesis and Evaluation of Biphenyltetrols as Amyloid-β Aggregation Inhibitors"

Mentor: James Hanna, Ph.D.



Celebrating Our Mentors

Thank you to the Winthrop University faculty members who support the program by mentoring and directing research. McNair would not be a successful program without your dedication!

"As the graduate director of the history department, Dr. Andy Doyle has provided wonderful feedback on my research projects. I have worked with him twice, and each time, I learn more than just history."

- Aaron Fountain, Jr.

"My mentor, Dr. Marguerite Doman, has been an excellent support system for me over the past two years. Not only has she helped me with my research, but she has also helped me pursue numerous opportunities and achieve personal goals. I appreciate her and everything that she does for me."

- Chelsea Johnson

"My mentor, Dr. Donna Nelson, has truly been a blessing to me since I became a McNair Scholar. Having the privilege of being her student before working together this summer greatly enhanced our relationship. She was very supportive and gave good constructive criticism. She rarely had a negative thing to say and her love for the project was just as apparent as mine. I could never thank her enough for guiding me through this experience. It would not have been the success it was without her. Thank you."

- Symone Calhoun

"My mentor, Dr. Matthew Hayes, is fabulous! He is so helpful and always willing to give great advice and feedback where I need it. I really appreciate him for everything he does."

- Dwana David

Scholar Spotlight: Hannah Swan



Congratulations to Hannah Swan who is the 2013 recipient of **The Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Senior Scholarship!** The Richardson Scholarship is a full-tuition scholarship awarded annually to a deserving rising senior. We interviewed Hannah to ask her about her accomplishment and here is what she had to say:

Q: What motivated you to apply for the scholarship?

I was invited to apply for the Richardson Scholarship after being nominated by a faculty member which was an honor in itself.

Q: What does being awarded this scholarship mean to you and your family?

This will be the first year that my family did not need to take out loans to pay my tuition so it means a lot to us.

Q: What recommendations do you have for Scholars who may be considering applying for the scholarship next year?

I think honesty is important in the application. Talk about what Winthrop means to you. The Richardson's made the endowment because of the experience that Rosalind Sallenger Richardson had while she attended Winthrop. The school means a lot to her and I think it's important for applicants to make that connection too. Take the opportunity to brag about how great the faculty is and talk about the impact they've had on you because that is what really sets Winthrop apart from other institutions.

Points of Pride

Destinee Johnson was invited to **Phi Kappa Phi**, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Amanda Cavin is a featured student in "**First Generation Voices**," a multimedia project highlighting the stories of first generation college students at member campuses of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Click [here](#) to view her story.

Derion Reid & Denise Peppers were selected, along with over thirty other students, to attend the **2013 Penn State STEM Open House** from September 27-29, 2013. Over the course of the weekend, Derion and Denise had the opportunity to interview with faculty members, to meet with current graduate students and to tour the campus and the State College community. The visit also featured keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Alley, who is a Nobel Prize Recipient and the host of 'EARTH: Operators' Manual'.

Brittany Prioleau received the **FASEB MARC Travel Award** to attend the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Nashville, Tennessee from November 13-16, 2013.

Aaron Fountain's research project, "The War in the Schools: San Francisco Bay Area High Schools and the Antiwar Movement, 1965-1973," was accepted to be presented at the **Phi Alpha Theta 2014 Biennial Convention** which will take place in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico from January 2-5, 2014. Only one student and one faculty member from a university can be nominated and Aaron was chosen as the student representative for Winthrop.

Chelsea Johnson was recently selected by faculty in the College of Business as one of two Winthrop candidates for a prestigious internship position with **KPMG**, one of the "Big Four" accounting firms.

Symone Calhoun was chosen by faculty members to be featured in the "**Student Spotlight**" section in the October issue of *Psyc E-News*, the official newsletter of the Psychology Department at Winthrop University.

Advice Corner

Recent McNair alumni provide Words of Wisdom to our current Scholars as they prepare for graduate school.



McNair Alumni, Shantelle Igiozee

Pursing a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences

- Give yourself ample time to apply to the school. Pay attention to those application deadlines.
 - Do your research to see which school best suits you before applying.
 - After acceptance, try to connect with a former or current student at the school to help prepare you for your 1st semester!
- If possible, try to review/study course work that you know you were weak in because graduate school moves at a faster pace than undergraduate school.
- At the end of an interview ALWAYS, ALWAYS send a thank you note!!! It could make the difference between receiving an acceptance letter or a rejection letter.



McNair Alumni, Cedric Williams

Medical Student at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

I encourage each and every scholar to stay focused on their goals. There is no need to settle due to happenstance. If you can think it, it is probably possible.



McNair Alumni, Brittany Walker

Graduate Student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Grad school is hard! Once you get to this level of education you can't expect to be at the top of the class anymore. Internal metrics of achievement versus comparing yourself to other students is critically important. Also, you have to be proactive and ask for help when you need it. As you prepare for graduate school, read more than just one article of the faculty member you're interested in working with. Email the faculty you're most interested in to find out more about their research and introduce yourself. If you end up attending that university, your name will most likely be on the short list of students they want to join their research group. Apply for at least one fellowship while you're applying to grad school! Any additional financial support during your first year of grad school will make life so much easier.

From the McNair Graduate Assistant



Name: LaToya P. Hicks

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Education: B.A. Psychology, Spelman College

S.S.P. School Psychology, Winthrop University (In Progress)

Greetings Scholars! It is my pleasure to serve as the 2013-2014 Graduate Assistant for the Winthrop University McNair Scholars Program. Like many of you, I was a first-generation, low-income and underrepresented undergraduate student. As such, I am able to appreciate and recognize the value in the guidance, support and experience offered by the McNair Scholars Program and I hope you do too. As I learn more about the program and about the accomplishments of its Scholars, I am amazed and inspired. In the months to come, I hope to have an opportunity to use my experiences as a first-generation college student to help you all in some way and to get to know each of you better. If there is anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to serving you!

Upcoming Events

WU McNair Scholars Program Application Deadline

Friday, November 1, 2013, 5:00pm

<http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair>

18th Annual Posters on the Hill 2014

Washington, D.C.

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2013

Distinguished opportunity for undergraduate students to present their research to members of Congress. Hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/student_events/posters_on_the_hill/

2014 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2013

An exciting Capitol Hill internship/semester in Washington, D.C. available to outstanding sophomore, junior and senior TRIO SS or McNair Scholars. Internship-scholarship covers tuition, fees, and housing.

http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/Students/Semester_in_Washington_DC/COE/NAV_Students/Students_Semester_in_Washington_DC.aspx?hkey=3de9c155-a2ec-4eef-8ce9-16d126839e66

2013 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS)

Loews Hotel, Atlanta, GA

November 12 – 16, 2013

<http://sermacs2013.org/>

16th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference

University of North Texas

February 14 – 16, 2014

<http://trio.unt.edu/mcnair/conference>

2014 Annual Meeting for the 60th Anniversary of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA)

Nashville, Tennessee

March 5 – 8, 2014

<http://sepaonline.com/annualmeeting-info.htm>

The 2nd Annual Ivy Plus Symposium

Cambridge, Massachusetts

March 13 – 15, 2014

<http://www.ivyplussymposium.com>

Inauguration of Winthrop University's 10th President, Dr. Jane Marie Comstock

Winthrop University

Friday, March 28, 2014

<http://www.winthrop.edu/president>

2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

April 3 – 5, 2014

Abstract Submission Deadline is December 6, 2013.

http://www.cur.org/ncur_2014/

SEPTEMBER

Kia Smalls
Amanda Cavin
Dwana David



OCTOBER

Dr. Ronald E. McNair
Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood
LaToya Hicks
Brittany Lawrence

DECEMBER

Sarah Wicks

NOVEMBER

Denise Peppers
Nicole Drown
Johnakin Martin
Nikeshia Nelson
Jose Paramo

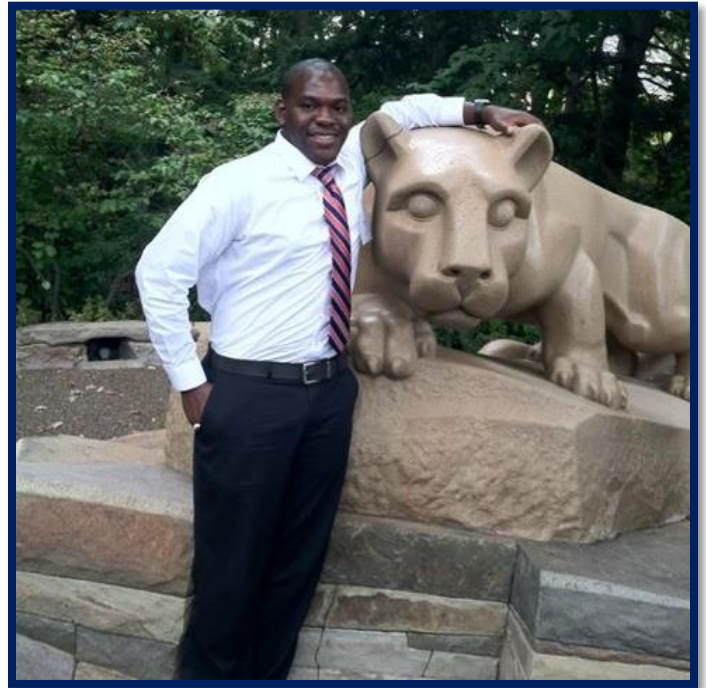
JANUARY

Kierra James

Photo Album



Baby Kameryn, daughter of Scholar, Kierra James.



Scholar Derion Reid at the Nittany Lion during the 2013 Penn State Stem Open House.



Scholar Denise Peppers, with other participants, at the Nittany Lion during the 2013 Penn State Stem Open House.



The 2013 McNair Scholar cohort and Dr. Fortner-Wood pose for the camera.



A glimpse into the *Through the Doors Symposium* during “McNair Scholars and Directors Visitation Day” at the University of Alabama.

Scholar Sarah Wicks presenting at the *Fall 2013 SURE Poster Symposium*.

