

Winthrop McNair Scholars Program Newsletter

2012 SRE Presentations

On July 20, Scholars showcased their hard work when presenting their summer research projects, including both oral and poster presentations. The projects were completed in only six weeks. After presentations, Scholars discussed next steps with Mentors and prepared for the GRE with Dr. Clark and Dean Jones.

Topics of research included “Mathematical Modeling of Fabric Draping,” “Observing Arg25 role in High Mobility Group A1 Proteins,” and “The Necessity of Dialect Shifting in Language Acquisition.”

The McNair Staff, Mentors, and McNair Family would like to congratulate the Scholars on their outstanding presentations. We are proud of the hard work and dedication you all showed this summer!

Several Scholars are presenting this work at conferences like UMBC, NC A&T, SEPA, and SEACSM to name a few.



Macreshia Salters presenting her gerontology research



Brittany Walker presenting her research on DNA intercalators



Dr. Fortner-Wood and Scholars at the 2012 McNair Scholars Research Symposium

Celebrating McNair Staff

The 2012 McNair summer research experience would not have been possible without the support and assistance of the McNair Staff: Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Dean Gloria Jones, Dr. Matthew Hayes, Dr. Matthew Clark, Mrs. Barb Yeager, Ms. Courtney Gregory, and Ms. Cayla Eagon. Although the Scholars have shown their appreciation for the help provided by all members of the McNair Staff, the Scholars included a few extra words in hopes of surprising the Staff in the one last time.

Dean Jones brought her wisdom of the English language and shared it with the scholars. Her methods and knowledge were one of the most beneficial lessons during my time with McNair.

-Aaron Fountain

I am eternally grateful for your continued love and support.

-Thank you. John Huffman

I'd like to thank Dr. Hayes for being such a wonderful mentor. He was readily available to answer questions, extremely helpful, and is always eager to help. I am very grateful for him. Without him, my project would not have come out as successful as it did!

Also, I want to thank Dr. Fortner-Wood for always being so ready to help, and I appreciate how happy she gets to see us succeed. Without her always working so diligently, we would not have succeeded as much as we have thus far.

-Dwana David

Dr. Fortner-Wood- Not only did you help me with my summer research, but you helped me with moving in as well. Once again, you went above and beyond the call of duty and I am very grateful to have you in my life!

Mrs. Yeager- You are a really big help to all of us! I appreciate all your help and especially the baked goodies you provide!

Ms. Eagon- You gave me really good feedback on my writing and a lot of help on my CV. I had no idea of how to do one or even what a CV was before the SRE.

Dean Jones- You made being scolded and lectured fun! Thank you for your "tough love." I am indebted to you because now I have a strategy when it comes to writing prompts on the GRE.

Dr. Hayes- Thank you for helping me understand my findings a little better.

Dr. Clark- I had almost completely forgotten some of the most elementary math concepts. Thank you for taking out the time to work through problems with us and give us some strategies to use!

Courtney- You are a great resource. Thanks for being there for us and giving your personal experiences as a Scholar!

-Kierra James

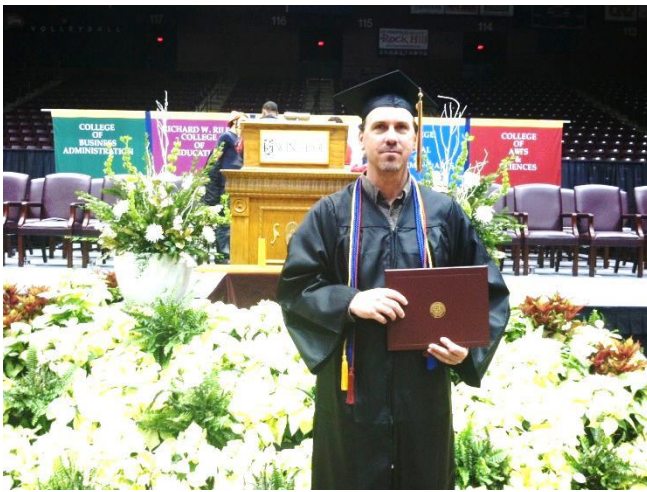
McNair December 2012 Graduation Celebration

The McNair Family celebrated the end of 3 undergraduate careers on December 14, 2012. Congratulations to John Huffman, Macreshia Salters, and Cedric Williams. All of these Scholars have served in the military. The graduates were rewarded with royal blue McNair Honor Cords and a special gift.

The McNair Family is very proud of all of you! We cannot wait to see what life has in store for you as you transition into the next steps of your life.



Dr. Fortner-Wood and Cedric Williams at Limestone College's 2012 December Graduation Ceremony



John Huffman at Winthrop's 2012 December Graduation Ceremony



Macreshia Salters in her cap and gown for Winthrop's 2012 December Graduation Ceremony



The McNair Family at the McNair 2012 December Graduation Celebration



The McNair Family at the McNair 2012 December Graduation Celebration

Celebrating Scholars

Congratulations to the following Scholars for making the **President's List** for the Spring 2012 semester:

Chelsea Johnson
Amy Moore
Jasmine Morgan



Congratulations to the following Scholars for making the **Dean's List** for the Spring 2012 semester:

Chauntice Buck
Dwana David
Aaron Fountain
Kierra James
Destinee Johnson
Shanique Sumter

- **Shantelle Igozee** was selected as one of 25 students nationally to attend the **2012 Healthy People Penn State Research Conference**. This conference is for students who are interested in attending graduate school and who are committed to research and education. Also, **Shantelle** was named the recipient of the **Hellams Award**. Shantelle earned this award for her performance and excellence as an exercise science major.
- **Destinee Johnson** was accepted to attend the **DOW-MIT ACCESS Program at MIT**. This program allows undergraduate students see what a graduate career in chemistry may look at by offering the opportunity to meet MIT professors and graduate students and tour the chemistry labs.
- **Brittany Walker** was selected to join the **Phi Beta Kappa Beta Chapter of South Carolina** and earned the **James C. Loftin Award** from the chemistry faculty of Wofford College. According to the Phi Beta Kappa Society's website, an "invitation to membership in Phi Beta Kappa is a reflection of outstanding achievement." The James C. Loftin Award is an endowed scholarship given each year to one student who is a chemistry major and has demonstrated outstanding professional promise.
- **Dwana David** received the **Magdalene E. Szeman Congenial Award**. This award is presented to a Peer Mentor that is always willing to help others, goes above and beyond their duties and responsibilities, has a true Peer Mentor Spirit, and makes connections that last well after the Peer Mentor Program and ACAD 101 is complete.
- **John Huffman** helped organize the Energy Conservation Summit that was held at Winthrop University on November 26, 2012. Huffman organized this event for his Honor's service learning project. Huffman's roles included locating on-campus organizations to co-sponsor the event, advertising the event, and moderating the event. This summit included the following guest speakers: Joan Smith (former energy manager of the Rock Hill School District, Marty Burr (City of Rock Hill), and Walter Hardin (Winthrop University).

Congratulations to the following Scholars for earning awards from **Winthrop's Psychology Department**:

Chauntice Buck – Outstanding Researcher Award
Brittney Black – Outstanding Student Commitment Award
Vitta Clawson – Outstanding Student Award

Congratulations to the following students who will be joining the McNair Family this summer:

Leah Brown, Kendra Bufkin, Symone Calhoun, Keisha Carden, Amanda Cavin, Chelsea Gilmore, Ethan Hanner, Stanley Kennedy, Johnakin Martin, Justin Moore, Nikesha Nelson, Denise Peppers, and Sarah Wicks

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Jessica Fuentes-

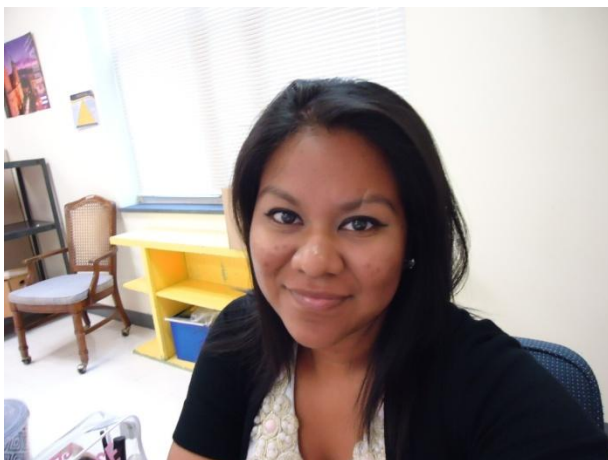
“Since graduation (May 2011), I have been working in Spartanburg, SC. I teach Spanish to students in grades 6-12. I love my job, and I would not change it for the world. I have developed great relationships with my students and seeing them grow as learners fills me with satisfaction, and when they tell me how I have changed them or that they look up to me, it touches my heart. Seeing tears in my students’ eyes as they say good bye to me for the summer tells me that I must have done something right, and I want to continue to build on that, continue to improve and touch students’ lives. Those are the moments that make it worth it: all the time, effort, and stress.

In January, I began my Master’s program at University of Southern California. I was really excited to begin my graduate work at USC because it is highly ranked for education programs. It has been difficult to run on four hours of sleep because of work, planning lessons, grading, taking 18 hours of graduate work (3 classes for my district and 3 for my Master’s), and then also find time to complete all of the readings and other assignments for those classes. However, I have not lost sight of my goal: getting my doctorate in Educational Leadership to have the power to change lives beyond the classroom.

I thank the Winthrop McNair Program for helping me strengthen and further develop my reading, writing, and analyzing skills. During my summer research experience, I had to read a lot of scholarly works, and I also had to be able to analyze and then think critically about what I could contribute to my field that would be beneficial to me and others. The McNair program helped me solidify my decision to attend graduate school to obtain my doctorate and then accomplish my goal of becoming a superintendent of a school district. Being a McNair scholar allowed me to visit schools and speak to different professors and leaders who gave me advice of how to reach my goal. I am thankful to have been a part of the first cohort of McNair scholars at Winthrop. It was an unforgettable experience. Dr. Fortner-Wood has been an incredible support, as well as everyone else in the McNair family. Through the McNair program, I was able to meet new people, make new friends, have engaging conversations about a variety of topics, and take with me many great life lessons.

This past year has been like a roller coaster, filled with surprises, challenges, and many changes, but I look forward to completing a milestone in my career next May, when I am expected to be graduating with my Master’s.”

–Jessica Fuentes (2009-2010 McNair Scholar)



A Scholar's Miss South Carolina Scholarship Pageant Experience

This summer I was a Top 15 semi-finalist in the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Pageant, an official preliminary competition for Miss America. The pageant which was held July 7-14 in Columbia, SC consisted of four competition phases: interview, talent, lifestyle and fitness in swimwear, and evening gown. I won the Miss Anderson County Scholarship Pageant in February 2012. Winning this local competition gave me the opportunity to represent my hometown at the Miss South Carolina Scholarship Pageant. This year marked my second year of involvement with the Miss America Scholarship Pageant Organization, which has provided several opportunities for community service and a variety of scholarships to continue my undergraduate education. Although the state competition is over, I will continue my year of service as Miss Anderson County serving as a local ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, and promoting healthy lifestyles through my platform, "Commit to be Fit." I would like to thank my McNair family for all of the love and support throughout the pageant.



-Destinee Johnson, 2012 McNair Scholar

Scholars' Experiences

- On September 21 and 22, Scholars Brianna Barnette, Dwana David, Aaron Fountain, Derion Reid, and Macreshia Salters attended the 20th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of Maryland. Scholars presented their research and were able to view other McNair Scholars' present research projects from across the country. Scholar Aaron Fountain stated, "Given the opportunity to present my research in front of students from across the country from various academic backgrounds taught me techniques on how to present my work to a diverse audience. I also had a learning experience outside of presenting research by talking to other McNair Scholars and college professors from places like the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago." Scholar, Dwana David, had this to say about her experiences: "My experience at UMBC was great! I was able to network with so many great people, see so much interesting scholarly research, and I gained so much information, tips, and tricks about graduate school."
- On September 25, Scholars attended the first McNair Scholars Campus Visitation Day hosted by the University of Georgia. Scholars were able to learn more about graduate programs offered at UGA and provided Scholars with a networking opportunity. Scholar Chelsea Johnson stated she "really enjoyed the UGA McNair Visitation Day. I learned a great deal about the school and about graduate studies in general. UGA is one of the institutions I am looking at for my own graduate studies, so I felt like it was an especially productive visit for me. I even made a few great connections, which I followed up with afterward."
- On October 4, 5, and 6, Dr. Fortner-Wood and three Scholars attended the Ivy Plus STEM Conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, Ivy League and other schools. Destinee Johnson, Hannah Swan, and Brittany Walker were selected from a national pool to attend the conference and presented research at the juried session. This conference was established for students interested in graduate programs in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields.

Announcements

McNair Graduate Scholarship: Started by “Proud Papa,” Brien Lewis, \$1,000 in scholarship funds was awarded to Winthrop McNair Alum, Courtney Gregory. Courtney is a student in the Master’s of Social Work Program. “I am forever grateful for the continued support that the Winthrop McNair Scholars Program provides” says Courtney.

This scholarship will be available annually to alumni from any McNair Program who enroll in graduate programs at Winthrop University. Interested applications should contact Dr. Fortner-Wood for more information.

Birthdays

December

Amy Moore
LaWana Reed
Chelsea Johnson
Macreshia Salters
Jessica Fuentes

January

Kierra James
Opal Dyson
Shanequa Bryant
Daniel Selvey
Dedra Darby

February

Cayla Eagon
Destinee Johnson
Brittany Stapleton-
Livingston



Scholars at the UGA Visitation Day



Dr. Fortner-Wood, Brittany Walker, Destinee Johnson, and Hannah Swan at the Ivy Plus STEM Conference

Contact Info



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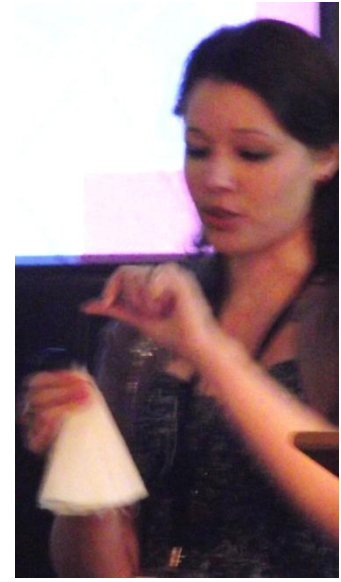
Pictures



Jose Paramo presenting research on a case study of U.S. Veterans



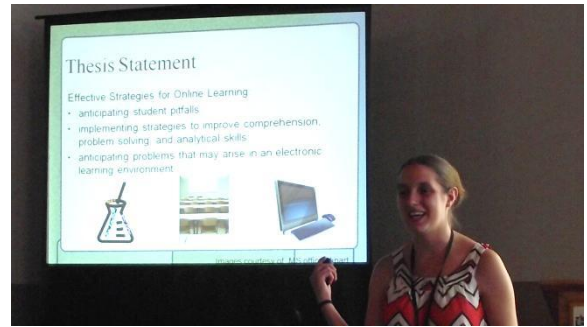
Jasmine Morgan presenting research on internet use in the workplace



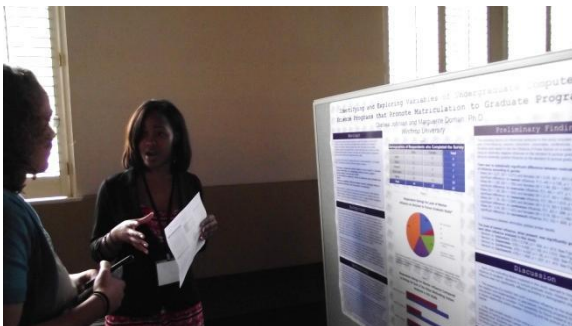
Hannah Swan presenting research on fabric draping



Vitta Clawson presenting research on parenting regret



Amy Moore presenting research on teaching chemistry through an online platform

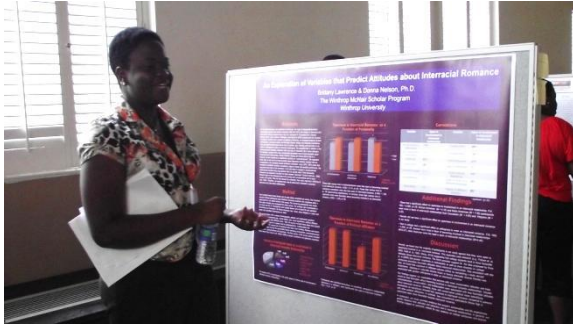


Chelsea Johnson presenting research on computer science programs



Shantelle Igiezee presenting research on food deserts.

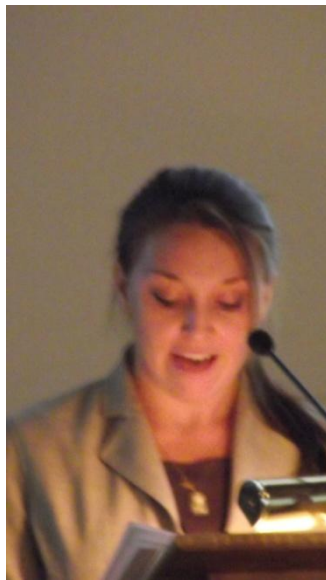
Pictures



Brittany Lawrence presenting research on interracial romance



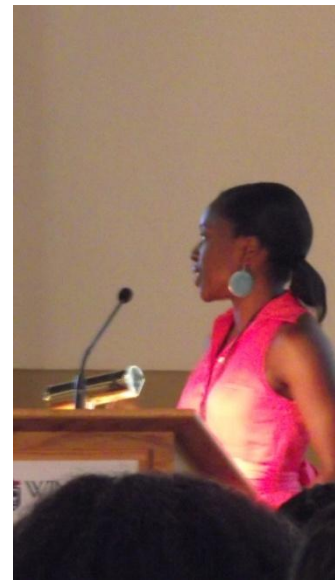
Brittany Black presenting research on parenting beliefs.



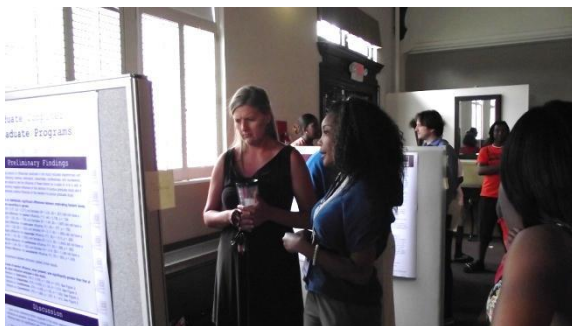
Nicole Drown presenting research on "The Orphan"



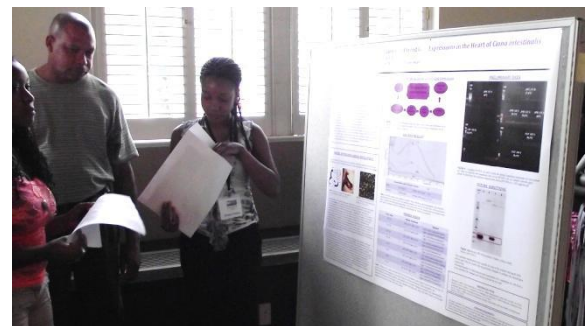
Aaron Fountain presenting research on the right to sit during the Pledge of Allegiance



Destinee Johnson presenting research on various copper (I) complexes



Chauntice Buck presenting research on a mental fatigue challenge



Brittany Prioleau presenting research on Ciona intestinalis.

Pictures



Shanique Sumter presenting research on IFRS convergence



Derion Reid presenting research on the role of Arg25



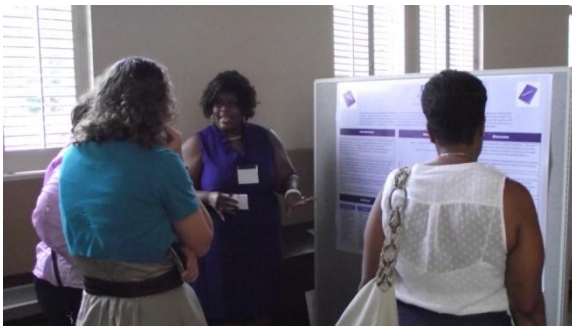
John Huffman presenting research on open model discourse



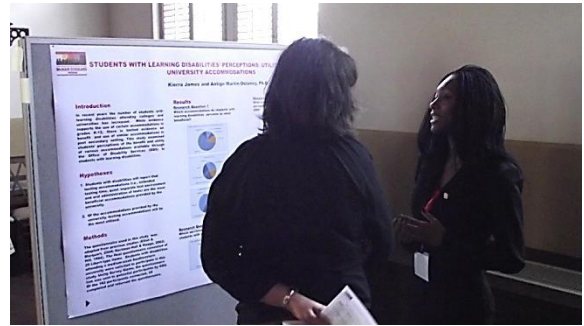
Brianna Barnette presenting research on dialect shifting



Zachary Collier presenting research on the response to intervention



Dwana David presenting research on therapeutic journaling and Facebook



Kierra James presenting research on students with learning disabilities