



“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.” –Ronald E. McNair

Winthrop University McNair Scholars Program

Director’s Discourse

2017-18 is shaping up to be another exciting year. We have 10 Scholars preparing for graduation, six Scholars preparing for undergraduate summer research on– or off-campus, and 15 new students invited to join the program. Our continuing Scholars are presenting their research at professional conferences around the country (e.g., Black Doctoral Network, SERMACS, American Historical Association, SEACSM, SEPA, and AEFPP) and preparing for publication in the [Winthrop McNair Research Bulletin](#) or in professional journals. Several of our Scholars are applying to graduate programs and preparing for graduate interviews.

None of these outcomes would be possible without the expertise and continued support of our faculty mentors. Throughout

the academic year, each mentor reviews a constant stream of abstract, presentation, manuscript, and personal statement drafts. They also write detailed recommendation letters for their Scholar, highlighting his/her preparation and potential for graduate study. Thank you mentors!

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The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federal-ly-funded TRIO Program that prepares first-generation, low-income, and under-represented undergraduates to be successful in doctoral programs.

Winthrop’s Program includes, but is not limited to, a paid summer research experience, faculty mentoring, workshops, GRE and graduate school application preparation, graduate financial aid assistance, and travel to present research & explore graduate programs. Learn more at www.mcnairscholars.com.

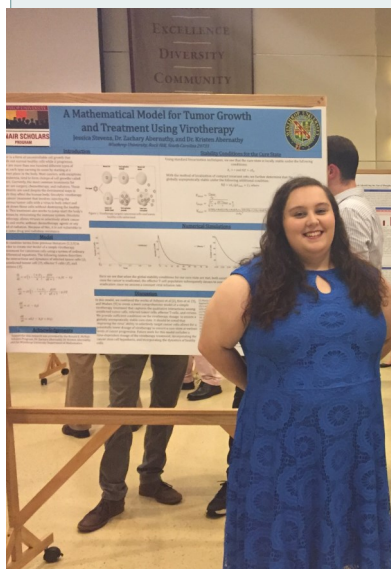




SURE Presentations

Jessica Stevens: *A Mathematical Model for Tumor Growth and Treatment using Virotherapy*

Maryssa Shanteau-Jackson: *Utilizing 5-fluorodeoxyuridine (FdUrd) to understand the role of HMGA1 overexpression in antineoplastic drug resistance*



Jessica Stevens

Scholar to Scholar: Advice When Deciding Between Doctoral Programs



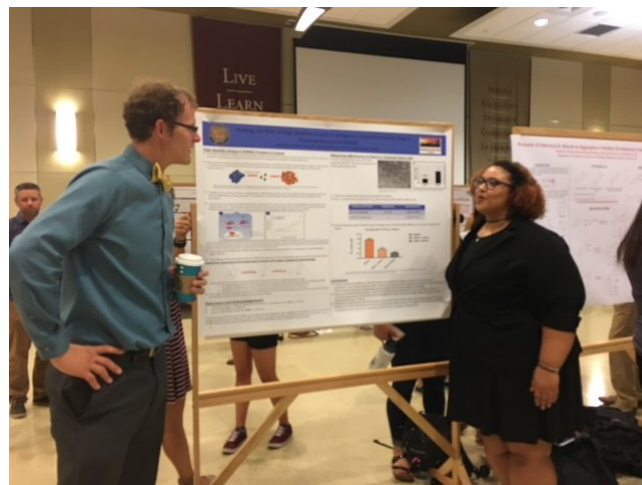
1. Recognize that your research can and will most likely change. At the same time, make sure you are within the overall field of interest.
2. Go with your gut. Remember how you felt when you visited. Could you picture yourself there?
3. Make sure your attitude matches the program/school. What do they value? Do you value the same things? (ex. relationships, networking, prestige, skill-building, academia or industry)
4. Understand people are important; research is not everything. Graduate school is about building your skills and networking.
5. Evaluate your funding opportunities (ask about departmental scholarships, potential fellowships, TA, RA). You want a program that will invest in you.
6. Realize there is no perfect choice. Also, realize that life exists outside of grad school and what you think you may "miss" from one grad program can still be learned.

~ Leigha Stahl, '17

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Presentations

Two of our scholars who participated in the intensive, 10-week McNair Summer Research Experience presented their work at Winthrop's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) poster session on September 22.

Winthrop's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) allows students to conduct cutting-edge research with faculty members in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, mathematics, geology, and physics. We were honored to take part in SURE's impressive fall showcase of student work.



Maryssa Shanteau-Jackson



Dr. Fortner-Wood and Jalen at December commencement

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduate, Jalen Smith!

McNair graduate, Jalen Smith received a B.A. in Psychology during Winthrop's December 16th commencement ceremony. She will spend next semester in Columbia, SC, interning with the Department of Justice before heading to a graduate program next fall. At her celebration luncheon, Jalen received an honorary McNair cord to wear at her graduation, a McNair pin, and one of our new stainless steel McNair tumblers for her hard work in the McNair Program. We are so proud of you, Jalen!



Jalen Smith Luncheon

Program Director, Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood, is Named the 2017 Kinard Award Winner

On December 6th, Winthrop University President Dan Mahoney announced that our McNair Program Director, fondly deemed "Mama McNair," had won the 2017 James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award. This award is the highest teaching award that Winthrop gives, and it recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated a dedication to teaching and is highly regarded on campus by faculty and students.



Dr. Fortner-Wood received the award with her sons Coby and Pierce at Winthrop's December 16th commencement ceremony. Congratulations Dr. Fortner-Wood!

Winthrop McNair Hosts Two Successful Program Information Sessions

On September 26 and October 5, we hosted our annual program information sessions. During this time, we briefly discuss what Winthrop's McNair Program entails and how to apply. We end each session with time for students to ask any questions they may have. We had a great turnout at each this year, with 10 students attending the 1st session and over 30 students attending the 2nd session. As a result of our efforts, we received 46 applications for our program this year!

Graduate Goodie Packages

In October, we surprised our McNair alumni with a little something special. We sent goodie packages that included brain teaser puzzle cubes, m&ms, mints, a McNair Scholars infuser tumbler, and words of encouragement/love from Dr. Fortner-Wood, our program director.



Goodie packages before shipment



Goodie package contents

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Dr. Fortner-Wood and several of our scholars traveled to Lake City on October 21 to remember Dr. Ronald E. McNair and participate in his Memorial 5K Run/Walk. A few photos from this event are below!



A Celebration of Scholars: El Cancun

We were excited to host a "McNair Family Dinner" at El Cancun on December 7 so staff and Scholars could connect before our scholars headed home for the holidays. A great time was had by all, and we hope to do similar events in the future!



Recent McNair Photos



5 Fast Facts About Our Graduate Associate, Ashley Watson



1. I graduated from College of Charleston in May of 2017 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Psychology. I am currently in the School Psychology Graduate Program at Winthrop.
2. I have 1 cat named Lucky (who I am slightly obsessed with) and 1 dog named Sam.
3. My older brother Andrew, and his wife, Courtney, had their first baby girl, Eliza, in August of 2016, so I love spoiling her whenever possible. We even got matching onesies for Christmas!
4. My favorite type of ice cream is chocolate chip cookie dough.
5. My dream vacation destination is Greece!

Guess Who!

Which Scholar Belongs with Each Baby Picture?



- A. Marissa McNeace
- B. Brittany McCarver
- C. Quviah Streater
- D. Ana Barkley
- E. Jessica Stevens
- F. Raven Temoney



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