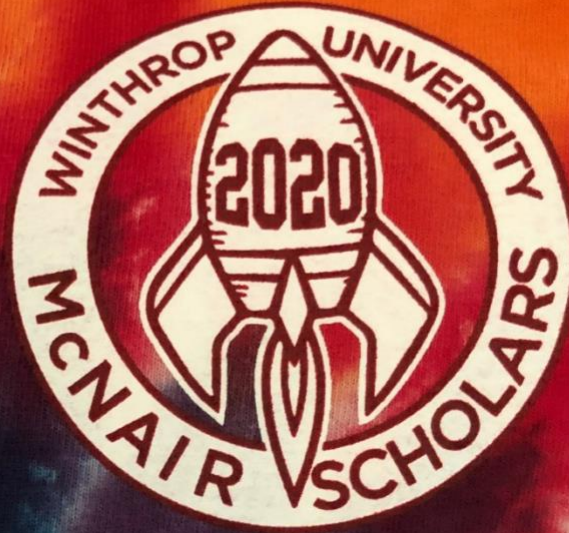
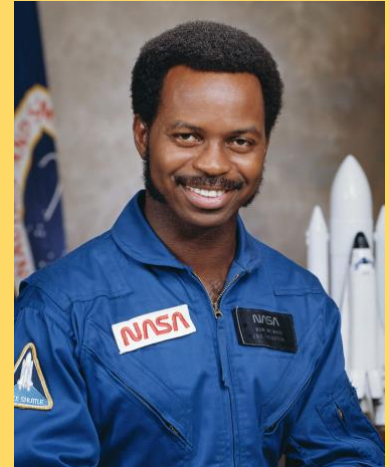


McNair Scholars Program Newsletter

Summer 2020 Research Edition



“You’re eagles! Stretch your wings
 and fly to the sky.”
 - Dr. Ronald E. McNair



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_McNair

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

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, graduate financial aid assistance, and travel to present research and explore graduate program.

Learn more at

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



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**Special thanks to
 Dr. Matt Hayes,
 Dr. Jason Hurlbert,
 Dr. Gloria Jones, and
 Jordan Lewis for
 sharing expertise
 with the Scholars
 regarding effective
 research design and
 communication.**

"The achievers and the champions are ordinary people who try a little harder and push a few steps farther"

-Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Research Scholars Spring/Summer 2020



Kiera Alexander

Major: **Nutrition**

Mentor: **Dr. Ashely Licata**

Research Project: **Impact of COVID-19 on Food Insecurity and Resiliency in College Students**

Kalin (McKenzie) Bennett

Major: **Political Science**

Mentor: **Dr. Michael Lipscomb**

Research Project: **Constituent Personality Preferences for South Carolinian Political Leaders**



Kendarius Butler

Major: **Chemistry**

Mentor: **Dr. Christian Grattan**

Research Project: **Inhibition of SPHK1 for anti-inflammatory therapy**

Yashuri Del Rosario Rodriguez

Major: **Mass Communication & French**

Mentor: **Dr. Nathaniel Frederick**

Research Project: **Latinidad and Portrayals of Second and Third Generation Latinx Immigrants in *One Day at a Time***



Research Scholars Spring/Summer 2020



Titus Echols

Major: **Elementary Education**

Mentor: **Dr. Sarah Marie Catalana**

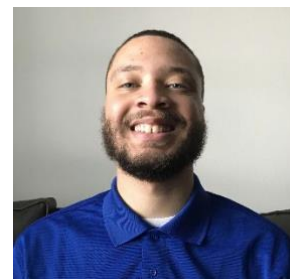
Research Project: **The Impact of Distance Learning on Students with Low-Socioeconomic Backgrounds: An Autoethnography Exploration**

Brandon Ellison

Major: **Chemistry**

Mentor: **Dr. Nicholas Grosseohme**

Research Project: **Predicting a viable pH-induced peptide switch to be incorporated with human L-chain ferritin**

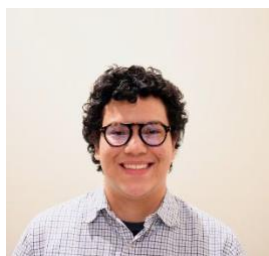


Carlos Escoto-Diaz

Major: **Biology**

Mentor: **Dr. Matthew Stern**

Research Project: **Application of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Small-Diameter Tissue-Engineered Vascular Grafts: Current and Proposed Research**

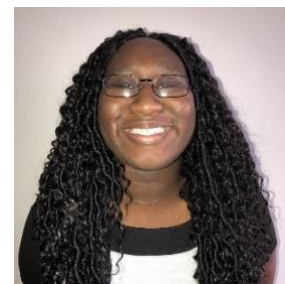


Katrina Gainey

Major: **Social Work**

Mentor: **Dr. Anthony Hill**

Research Project: **Undergraduate Students' Perceptions, Knowledge, and Attitudes towards Human Trafficking**



Alexis Garrick

Major: **Sports Management**

Mentor: **Dr. Jinwook Jason Chung**

Research Project: **Parental Influence on Youth Sport Activity Pattern Before and During COVID-19**



"Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them."

-Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Research Scholars Spring/Summer 2020



Kai Griffin

Major: **Fine Arts**

Mentor: **Dr. Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez**

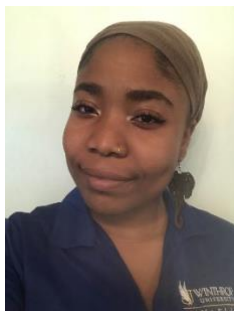
Research Project: **Queer Art Exhibitions: Diverse Inclusion or White, Gay Canon**

Chelsea Harris

Major: **Psychology**

Mentors: **Dr. Giancarlo Anselmo (Winthrop) & Dr. Jamie Yarbrough (Appalachian State University)**

Research Project: **Student Risk Screening Scale at the Middle School Level**



Keonna Jordan

Major: **Psychology**

Mentor: **Dr. Merry Sleight**

Research Project: **Perceptions of Pain Experienced by African American and Caucasian Women**

Jomar Lewis

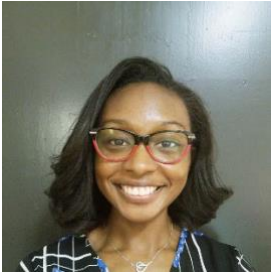
Major: **Biology**

Mentor: **Dr. Christian Grattan**

Research Project: **The Modification of SKI-1 for the Inhibition of Sphingosine Kinase 1**



Research Scholars Spring/Summer 2020



Gabrielle McGee

Major: **Psychology**

Mentor: **Dr. Donna Nelson**

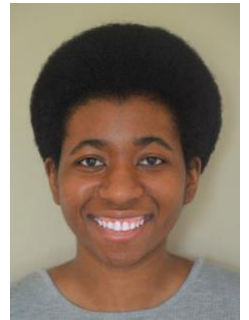
Research Project: **Student Perceptions of Significant Learning Experiences Before and After COVID-19**

Iyegbekosa (Egbe) Omoigui

Major: **Psychology**

Mentor: **Dr. Tara Collins**

Research Project: **Predictors of Criminal Behavior: Discrimination, Parenting Styles, and Socioeconomic Status**



McCayla Partain

Major: **Social Work**

Mentor: **Dr. Wendy Sellers**

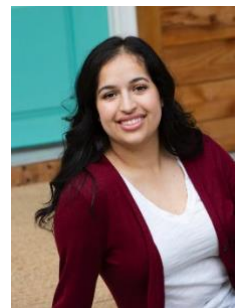
Research Project: **Campus Mental Health Services and Students Needs in COVID-19**

Ana Lydia Rodriguez

Major: **Psychology**

Mentor: **Dr. Merry Sleigh**

Research Project: **The Role of Youth Race, Stereotype Acceptance, and Aggression on Perceptions of School Altercations**



Taylor Sandifer

Majors: **Sociology & Spanish**

Mentor: **Dr. Maria Aysa-Lastra**

Research Project: **Resilience of Student Organizations During the Global COVID-19 Pandemic**

True courage comes in enduring, persevering, the preparation and believing in oneself.”

- Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Research Scholars Spring/Summer 2020



Savannah Stinson

Major: **Sociology**

Mentor: **Dr. Michael Sickels**

Research Project: **Media Influence on Black Men’s Constructions of Gender and Masculinity**

Victoria Sulak

Major: **Psychology**

Mentor: **Dr. Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez**

Research Project: **Sexual Education and Sexual Risk in Sexual Minority Youth**



Aimée Sykes

Major: **Social Work**

Mentor: **Dr. Kori Bloomquist**

Research Project: **Knowledge, Practices, and Perceptions of Screening Adults for Childhood Trauma in Primary Care Settings**



Eric Walters

Major: **Chemistry**

Mentor: **Dr. James Jr. Hanna**

Research Project: **Visible-Light promoted Alkylation of Aldehydes with Organotrifluoroborate**



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Giancarlo Anselmo

Professor of Psychology, Winthrop University

“Dr. Anselmo: Thank you for having such effective communication with me throughout the remote summer, for challenging me to develop as an independent researcher and for supporting me every step of the way on my journey to professionalism. You believed in me even when I didn’t believe in my own abilities, I couldn’t have had such an immersive experience and successful research product without your help, support, and guidance.”

-Chelsea Harris

Dr. Maria Aysa-Lastra

Associate Professor of Sociology, Winthrop University

“I greatly appreciate you Dr. Aysa-Lastra for being so supportive and encouraging throughout the summer research experience. Thanks to you, I now feel more prepared than ever to continue conducting research and to learn more about sociology in my last year at Winthrop!”

-Taylor Sandifer



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Kori Bloomquist

Assistant Professor of Social Work, Winthrop University

“Dr. B: Thank you for believing in my potential, for challenging me, and for cheering me on. Your mentorship has fundamentally shaped my future as a researcher and social worker!”

Sincerely, Aimée Sykes

Dr. Sarah Marie Catalana

Assistant Professor of Education, Winthrop University

“To believe is to accept (someone or something) as truth. There is a saying that says, the truth will set you free. Well in this case the power of belief has relinquished me from all the shackles of self-doubt. Dr. Catalana was one of very few people who believed in me. She would always say “you got this” even when I knew I did not have it. The encouragement accompanied with a great big smile pushed me to do things that I did not think I was capable of. In her office there is a plaque that says, “teaching is her superpower.” That is true she’s really good at it, but she has more than that. Dr. Catalana Believes. So, because I have someone believing in me anything is possible.”

-Titus Echols



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Jinwook Jason Chung

Assistant Professor, Program Director of Sport Management

“Working with Dr. Chung this summer was awesome! While being given the opportunity to conduct summer research through the Winthrop McNair Scholars program as a McNair Scholar I didn’t have any doubts on choosing Dr. Chung as my Mentor. He not only guided me to success through my research but also with finding confidence within myself and my work, all while doing so virtually. I am so honored and appreciative to be a part of this experience with Dr. Chung and I wouldn’t have chosen anyone else to serve as my McNair Mentor. Thank you, Dr. Chung!”

-Alexis Garrett

Dr. Tara Collins

Associate Professor of Psychology

“Words cannot describe how grateful I am to have had such a passionate, caring, and funny mentor like Dr. Collins. Her willingness to tackle a research study outside her expertise and instilling the foundations of research within me brought joy into my life. The prowess in her work ethic inspires me to keep pushing for excellence.”

-Iyegbekosa (Egbe) Omoigui



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Nathaniel Frederick

Associate of Mass Communication

“Dr. Nathaniel Frederick has been pivotal for my success in this program. Without his contribution, I would not have learned as much as I did about narrative analysis and the importance of contributing to media studies. I am forever grateful for his patience, understanding, encouragement, and immense passion during this summer research project.”

-Yashuri Del Rosario Rodriguez

Dr. Christian Grattan

Associate Professor of Chemistry

“My mentor made everything very simple for us this summer. We had to learn a new program (UCSF Chimera), and he was very patient with my lab partner and I while we were working around with Chimera. Once we got the hang of it, we were completely engaged and ready for any work that he was ready to throw at us.”

-Kendarius Butler

“The research I conducted this summer would have not been possible without the constant help and reassurance of Dr. Grattan. From helping Kendarius and myself navigate UCSF Chimera to giving us feedback on our milestones, Dr. Grattan was a vital part of our success and I am extremely grateful for the time he took out of his summer to help us with McNair.”

-Jomar Lewis



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Nicholas Grosseohme

Associate Professor of Chemistry

"Despite having a tremendous amount of personal responsibilities to tend to this summer, Dr. Grosseohme still made time in his schedule to meet with me and helped guide me along the way. Doing a computational project was a new experience for the both of us, so I am ever so grateful that he took the time to walk me through how to perform some key tasks. Also, I am thankful for a certain level of freedom that Dr. Grosseohme provided me this summer. Because of that, I was able to gain a much better understanding of our work. Without his support, I don't think I would have had any confidence in my work, nor would I have been able to concisely explain what we accomplished."

-Brandon Ellison

Dr. James Hanna, Jr.

Professor of Chemistry

"This summer, my research topic dealt with many concepts that I had not learned. There were topics such as fluorescence and single-electron radical chemistry that would usually be taught throughout a semester in upper-level chemistry classes. However, it was a hurdle that I was able to overcome with the help of my mentor, Dr. James Hanna. He focused on promoting intellectual autonomy by challenging me to delve into the topics on my own and I can still hear his words echo in my head, "I want you to be a scientist. I can get anyone to simply follow directions." That motivated me to do as much as I could within my abilities, yet when I genuinely needed help, Dr. Hanna was always willing to devote his time to aid me. There were times when we had meetings for multiple hours where he not only gave me a more intimate understanding of the chemistry but also how to sharpen my scientific writing skills. For these reasons, I am certain that the product that was produced for the McNair research symposium would not have been possible without his efforts as well. Thank you, Dr. Hanna."

-Eric Walters



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Anthony Hill

Department Chair; MSW Program Director; Associate Professor of Social Work

"My mentor, Dr. Anthony J. Hill was absolutely amazing! I am forever grateful that he agreed to be my mentor because I am not sure how I would've done it without him. Our weekly meetings via zoom were always needed because of the amount of help and encouragement that I received. I am so grateful to have conducted research with him this summer. He had faith in me even when I didn't, so I am lucky to call Dr. Hill my mentor!"

-Katrina Gainey

Dr. Ashley Licata

Assistant Professor of Human Nutrition

"As my mentor, Dr. Ashley Licata has improved my understanding of what it takes to conduct quality research. She has made herself available to me for hours at a time, explained what is required in a clear and concise research article, and has even pushed me to potentially share our work through conferences and publications in the future. She has deepened my love for research and working with her this summer exceeded my expectations during the unorthodox circumstances. Her expertise is greatly appreciated, and I couldn't have successfully completed this summer without her. I look forward to continuing my research with her in the near future."

-Kiera Alexander



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Michael Lipscomb

Professor of Political Science; Director of the Honors Program

"My wonderful mentor, Dr. Lipscomb, was one of the main factors that contributed toward my success throughout my McNair Research Experience. Dr. Lipscomb's extensive knowledge in political science helped me broaden my research topic and the scope of my research project. Additionally, my mentor helped plan the ways in which our research project should be implemented. Furthermore, his encouraging words, advice, and counsel helped me persevere in times of angst. Overall, I am incredibly honored to be able to work with Dr. Lipscomb for the duration of this research project!"

-Kalin (McKenzie) Bennett

Dr. Donna Nelson

Professor of Psychology

"I have had the honor of working with Dr. Nelson for the past two summers. I remember emailing her for the first time as a sophomore to schedule a time to speak with her about being my McNair mentor. Since that initial meeting, there has never been a moment when Dr. Nelson has not been there to offer her guidance. This summer was no different. She constantly found time to meet with me over Zoom, she fully answered any questions that I had, and she always provided such useful feedback on my work. Without her mentorship, the quality of my McNair project would not be the same. Thank you, Dr. Nelson!"

-Gabrielle McGee



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez

Assistant Professor of Political Science

"Dr. Ranallo-Benavidez has proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, to be both gracious and guiding as a mentor, a professor, and a human being. Dr. BRB took on the added responsibility of becoming a McNair Scholars mentor (for two scholars!) during his first year at Winthrop University, and did so with the professionalism, diligence, and forethought of a seasoned academic. I will forever be grateful for his willingness to take on a studio artist with interests in critical theory and show how to queerly merge those interests for intellectual inquiry. To quote Tina Turner, Dr. BRB you're simply the best, better than all the rest."

-Kai Griffin

"Dr. BRB really helped challenge my thinking and encouraged me to explore outside of my area of study. I'm grateful for the challenge, he has helped me grow a lot as a researcher."

-Victoria Sulak

Dr. Wendy Sellers

Associate Professor of Social Work

"Dr. Sellers, thank you for always believing in me, pushing me to be better, challenging me to think critically, and refusing to let me take life too seriously. You've been the best mentor I could ever ask for both before and during this experience. I am so grateful for the lessons you have taught me and the various ways you have helped to shape me as a social worker, researcher, and an advocate for social justice. Your heart for the students you teach and mentor does not go unnoticed, and the passion you have for your work and for others has truly made an impact on my life."

-McCayla Partain



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Michael Sickels
Assistant Professor of Sociology

“I could not have done this without Dr. Sickels. He helped me understand everything I needed to do and made sure I had it done correctly. The level of patience Dr. Sickels has is unmatched, and his support is unwavering!”

-Savannah Stinson

Dr. Merry Sleigh
Professor of Psychology

“My mentor was a great help this summer. She provided me with endless amounts of support, advice, and encouragement. I could not have done this amazing work without her.”

-Keonna Jordan

“Thank you for your guidance and support this summer. Your expertise was incredibly valuable to me throughout this process and I am so grateful for your time and hard work. Thank you for pushing me to do better research and for always providing valuable feedback. I appreciate everything you have done for me. This project could not have been done without your help. Thank you so much!”

-Ana (Lydia) Rodriguez



Summer 2020 Research Mentors

Acknowledgements from their Scholars



Dr. Matthew Stern
Associate Professor of Biology

"The Summer 2020 cohort's shared experiences are unique as we were tasked to yield a product like every other cohort has, but with a distance disadvantage caused by current events. For students in STEM this meant having to forego in-lab research and finding alternatives. The silver lining for us in this situation was the support from McNair program staff and our mentors. In the case of my mentor, Dr. Stern, he was willing to meet with me regularly to work on a literature review and proposal. The experience overall was challenging but was made doable because of the tremendous help from my mentor. Dr. Stern served not only for guidance but as a source of support as he believed in my ability of completing the project. He was also patient and willing to teach concepts virtually. I always looked forward to our meetings knowing that that he would be ready to help and treat any situation with a smile. If there were an award for best mentor, it should go to him (this may be a bit biased though)."

-Carlos Escoto-Diaz

Dr. Jamie Yarbrough
School Psychology Program Director
Appalachian State University

"Dr. Yarbrough: Thank you for the expertise you offered, your support, as well as the time and energy you put into making sure I succeeded, not only as a scholar, but as a future School Psychologist. Your guidance greatly shaped my research experience and helped me find a secure path to confidently move towards grad school and my ultimate passions."

-Chelsea Harris



Scholar Among Scholars Award



Aimée Sykes was awarded the Scholar Among Scholars Award this summer. The award was originally created in honor of Lauren Green's exceptional work during the SRE, but now each cohort votes for the cohort member they believe best exemplifies the qualities of a McNair Scholar. The 2020 cohort praised Aimée in many ways, noting that she "is so uplifting and encouraging when times are hard," and that she "is a special scholar with so much passion and love for people." Congratulations Aimée!

If you would like to learn more about the Scholars' summer research, click here:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/mcnair/WMSRS2020Abstracts.pdf>

Winthrop McNair Scholars Program

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Stephanie Bartlett, '12

Stats & Methods Coach:
Matthew Hayes, PhD

Programming Assistant:
Amanda Cavin, M.Ed. '15 & '17
Director, Eagle STEM Scholars Program



**Our team thanks you for supporting
Winthrop's McNair Scholars**