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7-20-2018

## McNair Scholars Summer Research Symposium [Program] 2018

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**University of Northern Iowa  
McNair Scholars Program  
Summer Research  
Symposium 2018**



**Date: Friday, July 20, 2018**

**Time: 10:00am—12 noon**

**Center for Multicultural  
Education (CME)**



**McNair  
Scholars  
Program**

**University of  
Northern Iowa**

**TRIO**

**RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

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# Program

Welcome.....Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts

## Program Part One

Dante Miller, Sociology

*Remembering Obama in the Era of Trump*

Vanessa Jordan, Criminology and Psychology

*The Relationship between U.S. Prison and Mental Health: A Review of Literature*

Kyla Ford, Social Work and Criminology

*Relationship Between School Conduct Policies and In-School Violence*

Elise Coleman, Psychology

*The Difference a Dad Makes: Paternal Involvement and Child Outcomes*

Lyn Tackett, Biology and Anthropology

*Through a "Green" Lens: A Paleoethnobotanical Survey of the Cedar Valley*

## Program Part Two

Acknowledgements.....Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts

## Program Part Three

Conferring of McNair stoles.....Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts

## Program Part Four

Light refreshments and Congratulations

The McNair Scholars Program students and staff would like to thank the University of Northern Iowa faculty, administration and staff for all their assistance and support.

We would also like to thank our families and communities, without whom none of our achievements would be possible.

*Thank You*



# Dante Miller

Dr. Carissa Froyum

*Remembering Obama in the  
Era of Trump*

Abstract

People think the election of Obama led to post racial America. Our research seeks to understand how collective memory of generations affects political understandings of the election of President Obama and President Trump. Using Bonilla-Silva's lens of racism without racist and Berlant's theory of cruel optimism we argue that post racial ideas are optimistic and hinder how individuals remember Americas racial past. Through interviewing Generation X and Millennials we find personal relationships factor into how individuals recall political events more than candidate stances. Decoupling politics from person creates a phenomenon where individuals assume voting does not have social implications.

Keywords: Collective Memory; Racism Without Racist; Cruel Optimism

Dante Miller is a senior Sociology major at the University of Northern Iowa graduating in Fall 2018. His research interest include, collective memory, politics, and culture, specifically how culture influences political engagement and what role collective memory plays in the formation of political beliefs. After graduation Dante plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology with a focus in politics and culture where he plans continue investigating inequality surrounding deracialized politics.



# Vanessa Jordan

Dr. Marybeth Stalp

## *The Relationship between U.S. Prison and Mental Health: A Review of Literature*

### Abstract

The majority of the population immediately think of “criminal” or “solitary confinement”. However, the prison population is made up of people who were swept up by policy implementation that was used as a form of social control. This systematic literature review explores the relationship between U.S. prisons and mental health using four main themes: the history of US prisons, race in prison, gender in prison, and mental health in prison.

Keywords: Prisons, Mental health, Racial Disparities

Vanessa Jordan is a senior at the University of Northern Iowa. She is expected to graduate December of 2018 with a major in criminology and minor in psychology. She plans to pursue a PhD in Sociology. Her research interests include law and society, policy reform, and prison reform.



# Kyla Ford

Dr. Anthony Gabriele

## *Evaluating School Conduct Policies in Relation to School Violence*

### Abstract

In this study, I used purposeful sampling to analyze the school conduct policies of high schools across the United States that experienced a shooting in academic years 2016-2018. Selected schools were ranked with respect to severity of school violence. I then employed a content-analysis methodology to code the intended response of schools to serious conduct offenses as expressed in these schools' conduct policies. From these data, I will describe the variation in exclusionary discipline policies within this select sample of schools and examine the relationship between level of opportune discretion explicitly stated in a policy and severity of violence within the school. I will also examine individual and school characteristics that contribute to risk or protective factors related to school violence.

Keywords: school violence, school conduct policy, zero tolerance

Kyla Ford is a Social Work major with a Criminology minor whose research interests include prevention science, data-driven decision making, and the epidemiology of violence. She plans to pursue a PhD in Community Psychology in order to develop the research and advocacy skills necessary to understand new ways to prevent interpersonal violence through social service programs and public policy.



# Elise Coleman

Dr. Dilbur Arsiwalla

## *The Difference a Dad Makes: Paternal Involvement and Child Outcomes*

### Abstract

Over 30% of U.S. children are being raised without their father. This growing trend in family structures has an undeniable impact on the socio-emotional development of our youngest generations, and subsequently our society as a whole. This study reviews the Building Strong Families dataset to examine the correlation between paternal Involvement and children's socio-emotional outcomes in fragile families. We expect that paternal involvement serves as a protective factor for children, decreasing the risk for negative outcomes from poor maternal involvement. The implications of this research extend to family court processes, family therapy practices, and organizations that provide community co-parenting education.

Keywords: fragile families, father-child attachments, paternal involvement

Elise Coleman is a Senior at the University of Northern Iowa, with a major in Psychology and a minor in Family Services. After graduating in Spring of 2019 she plans to pursue her PhD. in Human Development and Family Sciences. Elise's research interests include father-child attachments and paternal involvement, as well as parental alienation. In the future she intends to use her education and research to affect change within family court systems in a way that promotes fathers and children having better access to each other.



# Lyn Tackett

Dr. Donald Gaff

*Through a “Green” Lens:*

*A Paleoethnobotanical Survey of the  
Cedar Valley*

## Abstract

The Cedar Valley is an area in northeast Iowa that includes Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy and Tama counties. Over the last 10,000 years, the Cedar Valley has changed tremendously, not only by population but also the landscape. These changes present a challenge for anthropologists and archaeologists to reconstruct a picture of what life may have looked like when prehistoric native tribes settled into the Cedar Valley. Over the years, prairie grasses, wetlands, and other natural features of the Iowa landscape have been altered to accommodate industrial farming. To identify medicinal species and subsistence use of plants available to prehistoric native tribes in the Cedar Valley, ethnographies, maps, plant surveys, botanical lists and archaeological reports were utilized. The information collected was organized into a database and the results analyzed. This database will serve as a tool for future research in fields of archaeology and botany.

Keywords: Paleoethnobotany, Cedar Valley, Iowa, Native American plants

Lyn Tackett is a McNair Scholar at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Plant Biology. Her research interests include ancient and indigenous plant-based medicines, Archaic and Woodland cultures, and archaeobotany. After graduation in May 2019, Lyn plans to enroll in a doctoral program in paleoethnobotany.



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# The McNair Scholars

**Program** has an additional four scholars engaged in summer projects:

**Blake Thomas, Global Health**

Northeast Iowa Medical Education Foundation,  
University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Research

Mentor: Dr. Jim Hoehns



**Joshua Prybil, Analytical Chemistry**

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
University of Northern Iowa

Mentor: Dr. Martin Chin

**Yakira Sanders, Student Affairs**

Mentorship Initiative for Student Life Program  
The Ohio State University



**Jewels Howard, Psychology/Criminology**

AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Learning Academy  
Waterloo Schools