

Summer 7-1-2014

Telemetry, Summer 2014

McNair Scholars Program (University of Northern Iowa)

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Telemetry

McNair Scholars Program Quarterly Newsletter
at the University of Northern Iowa

Summer 2014

STEP UP your game with research

Learn how to **find the FUNDS**

Explore **NEW** opportunities



INSIDE THIS ISSUE.....

Message from the Director

New McNair Scholars

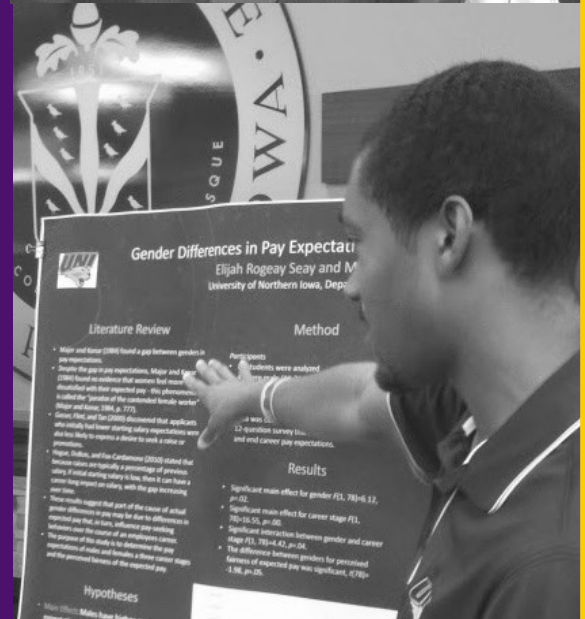
Summer Research Internship Begins!

Research in the Capitol

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Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors

Contact Information





The Capitol Building in Des Moines, IA. Two McNair Scholars represented UNI at the Research in the Capitol event on April 1st.

Message from the Director

We're about ready to begin our Summer Research Internship (SRI) program. Actually, one student has already started! Learn more about it at our [website](#). This is an annual program so there will be another one next summer. This summer marks our 15th consecutive SRI. We will begin taking applications and selecting participants for next year in the Spring 2015 semester (not as far away as it looks).

Thanks again to our Graduate Assistant, Janessa Hageman, who does the hard work of compiling, writing, and editing "Telemetry," our Facebook page and our Twitter account. If you've got a minute, take some time to look around the [Facebook](#) page or follow us on [Twitter](#).

If you find that you may be interested in our program, and think that you may qualify, come by the office, give us a call, or write a letter, an email, or a text. We'd be happy to talk to you.

Enjoy the summer.

Regards,

Dr. Dennis M. Irons, Director

McNair Scholars Program

University of Northern Iowa

dennis.irons@uni.edu (319) 273-7234

Summer Research Internship BEGINS!

The McNair Scholars Summer Research Internship (SRI) is about to kick-off this summer! We would like to say thank you to all our participants and mentors who take part in this program.

Stay tuned this summer for updates on their research projects. To learn more about SRI, please checkout the SRI Page on our [website](#).

McNair NEW Scholars

We would like to welcome the following students into the McNair Scholars Program:

- **Laura Castro**
- **Michael Creech**
- **Vanessa Espinoza**
- **Virginia McCall**

Learn more about these students on the ["Current Students" page of our website](#).

EVENTS

June

2 2014 Summer Research Internship Begins

- Check out the [Calendar](#) webpage to stay informed of other summer events.

SHOUT-Outs

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to our students. Our students are very involved on campus as well as their academic studies.

CONGRATULATIONS to Manuel Salinas and Norma Garcia Tellez for representing the University of Northern Iowa at Research in the Capitol at the Iowa Statehouse in Des Moines, IA, on April 1st, 2014. Learn more about their presentations on the next page.

SHOUT-OUT to our new McNair Scholar, Virginia McCall, on receiving a grant to attend the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Professional Development Institute in Washington, D.C., April 7th-11th. You can read her story further on in the newsletter.



Manuel Salinas presenting his research in Des Moines, IA.

Research in the Capitol

Manuel Salinas and Norma Garcia Tellez represented the University of Northern Iowa at Research in the Capitol at the Iowa Statehouse in Des Moines, IA, on April 1st, 2014. Learn more about their presentations below.

Social Exclusion and Health: The Moderating Role of Social Support

Manuel Salinas

Major: Psychology

Mentor: Robert Hitlan

Research on social exclusion and rejection indicates that both chronic and acute episodes are aversive for the targets of such behavior. Many such experiences are also linked to altered neuroendocrine and immunological functioning. Although existing levels of social support are argued to ameliorate some of the negative outcomes/correlates of such behavior, few studies have attempted to systematically examine if (and how) this buffering effect is contingent on the source of support. Participants completed a survey assessing their psychological and physical health and perceptions of being excluded within their social world. Participants also provided saliva samples. As predicted, perceived exclusion, cortisol, and c-reactive protein levels were significantly related to psychological and physical health symptoms. Social support from significant (i.e. special) others moderated the relation between exclusion and some outcomes.

Hispanic Women and Their Perception of Anti-Aging: Buying the Foundation of Youth

Norma Garcia Tellez

Major: Family Services

Mentors: April Catham-Carpenter, Catherine MacGillivray, and Fernando Calderon

Statistics show that the Hispanic population in the United States is growing rapidly, which means that the number of older Hispanic adults will increase over time in the U.S. Due to the population change, our society will have to consider the Latino population. This study focuses on the meaning and the value Hispanic women place on their appearance as middle-aged women. It is a replication of an already existing qualitative study of middle-aged Caucasian women who use anti-aging products (Williams, 2013). My study looks specifically at Hispanic women in their 50's that use anti-aging products. Through research and in-depth interviews of Hispanic women, I better understand how middle-aged Hispanic women deal with anti-aging.



Norma Garcia posing with her research poster at Research at the Capitol.



Virginia Mccall at the NAPE Professional Development Institute in Washington, D.C., held April 7th-11th.

Student Spotlight — Virginia Mccall

Virginia Mccall, an actuarial science student and McNair Scholar here at UNI, is not only working towards her future as a professional in the field but searching for opportunities to give back to students wanting to advance in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers.

Virginia has experienced stigmas for students that are an underrepresented minority in STEM fields. With her journey, she realized many students, especially those of diverse backgrounds, do not have the confidence to reach their full potential, and do not believe that they could succeed in these fields. Her goal is to be successful within actuarial science, so she will not only be an advocate but an inspiration.

"Unless a child can touch it, they won't believe it," said Virginia. She says setting an example can open a child's mind to the possibilities.

Virginia recently had the opportunity to go to the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Professional Development Institute in Washington, D.C. April 7th—11th. NAPE's mission is to create and promote greater gender balance and diversity in the workforce, assure equity in education, and be a strong voice in advocating for legislation that protects access, equity, and diversity in the classroom and the workforce.

Virginia was the only student invited to attend the conference and also had the opportunity to co-present with Meagan Pollock, a consultant, developer, and speaker advocating for equity and access in STEM fields. Their presentation was titled, "STEM for All, All for STEM!" The presentation focused on how to communicate STEM careers to students.

Virginia's connection with Meagan began after she attended STEM Day at the Capitol in Des Moines, IA, in February. She stopped at the NAPE table and instantly became engrossed in conversation. From there, NAPE connected her with Meagan who resides in Indiana. Virginia said she was very thankful for the experience and the impact networking had on allowing her to attend the conference.

Since the conference, she is more motivated than ever. "I am not bound by anyone else's criteria and expectations," said Virginia reflecting on the experience.

Virginia plans to stay in contact with NAPE in her future ventures. As for her studies, she plans to graduate next December to be the first African American female student to graduate in the Actuarial Science Program from UNI.

When asked what her advice is for other students of diverse backgrounds entering STEM fields she replied, **"You need tenacity and have to be persistent. Remember your worth, don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to be wrong. Tenaciousness, you need it."**

STEM for All, All for STEM!

Virginia McCall and Meagan Pollock's presentation focused on how to empower teachers to effectively communicate to students the breadth of opportunities and pathways in STEM Careers.

To view the presentation paste the following link:
http://www.napequity.org/nape-content/uploads/Pollock_NAPEPDI2014_Toolkit_04-15-14_klr.pdf

Also, here are links to a few of Virginia's favorite presentations during the conference:

Increasing Achievement by Removing Social Stigmas

http://www.napequity.org/nape-content/uploads/cermak_davenport_PDI_presentation.pdf

Spark 101: Inspiring Students through Real-World Inquiry

http://www.napequity.org/nape-content/uploads/johnson_NAPE-Spark-101-Presentation-Deck.pdf



Virginia McCall and Meagan Pollock at the NAPE Professional Development Institute in Washington, D.C.

Graduating Seniors

Learn more about our graduating seniors and their future plans.

Dylan Keller

Degree: B.A. History & Political Communication

Certificate: Public History

Minor: Politics & Law

Future Plans: Attending graduate school at the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a M.A. in History and has a full-time assistantship.

Advice for future McNair Scholars:

"The McNair program and Trio Services are great assets to UNI and the staff are always willing to lend an extra hand or be a voice on your behalf."

Elijah Seay

Degree: B.A. Psychology

Minor: Coaching

Certificate: Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Future Plans: Attending the University of Illinois—Urbana/Champaign to pursue a M.A. in Human Resources Industrial Relations. Elijah also has received a university fellowship.

Advice for future McNair Scholars:

"Take advantage of all the assistance that your advisor provides! They are very knowledgeable in their field and are always ready to answer questions you may have. Lastly, do not be discouraged in the difficult times during your research. Many challenging times will occur but know that you have all the support in the world and that there are people who are always ready to help."

Stephanie Strong

Degree: B.A. Psychology

Minor: Anthropology

Certificate: Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Future Plans: Attending the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a M.A. in Psychology-Clinical Science. She will be a research assistant at the CSBS.

Manuel Salinas

Degree: B.A. Psychology

Future Plans: Attending the University Northern Iowa to pursue a M.A. in Social Psychology.

Advice for future McNair Scholars:

"Make a great professional relationship with your faculty mentor and present your research at conferences as many times as you can."

Congratulations to our
other seniors:

Alysia Grant

Mindy Guajardo

Tasha Hancock

Alicia Jessip

CONGRATULATIONS
to all of our students
for all their **HARD**
work they put in this
SEMESTER!

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With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the McNair Staff listed above.

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