

Spring 2018

McNair Scholars Program at UNI Newsletter, Spring 2018

McNair Scholars Program (University of Northern Iowa)

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University of Northern Iowa
McNair Scholars Program
Spring 2018 Newsletter



A message from the Director....

Dear Friends of McNair,

I would like to take this opportunity to share information about the accomplishments of our UNI McNair Scholars Program since its inception in 1998.

12 UNI McNair Scholars have completed their doctoral degrees in various areas of Chemistry, Family Studies, Instructional Technology, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Chiropractic, Law, Osteopathy, and Vocal Performance.

25 UNI McNair Scholars are currently enrolled or accepted to enroll in graduate programs in a range of areas including: Psychology, History, Nursing, Physics, Public Health, Student Affairs, Computer Science, Sociology, Political Science, Public Administration, Gerontology, Social Work, and Cancer Research.

54 Scholars have completed their Master's degrees in Education (10), Psychology (5), Social Work (5), Counseling (4), Business Administration (4), History (3), Human Resources (3), Policy (3), Physics (2), Speech & Language Pathology (2), Music (2), Public Health (2), Health Care Administration, Nursing, American Studies, Computer Science, Mathematics, Sociology, and French.



The success of these scholars is in great part attributable to the dedicated and passionate UNI faculty research mentors and staff members who have provided a range of services which kept these scholars focused on graduate work. The program has changed people's lives. TRiO Works!

Thank you for your participation and support.

Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts, McNair Scholars Program Director



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Dayelle Davis,
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Secretary

Congratulations!



2017— 2018 Graduating Scholars:

Jason Fly

Aarika Forney

Sarah Hofmeyer

Dianna Huisman

Andrew Jessip

Taylor Olson

Ashley Sánchez

Leon Shears

Gabrielle Woods





Recent Happenings

The McNair Scholars have stayed busy throughout this academic year, hosting events for the campus community, going on trips, and presenting their academic research.

In November, the McNair Scholars Association hosted First Gen First, where six first-generation McNair Scholars served on a student panel, sharing their experiences and perspectives about being first-generation students with UNI students, staff, and administrators.

In February, the Scholars celebrated National TRiO Day by getting together to share what TRiO means to them, and sending letters to their elected officials to encourage them to continue to support TRiO programs.

In March, Dr. Watts and six scholars traveled to Washington D.C, where they presented their research projects at the University of Maryland National Conference for McNair Scholars. The trip also included a tour of the White House, U.S. Capitol Building, and several museums.

In April, several scholars presented their research and internship experiences at the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Student Research and Engagement Conference at UNI.

From May to July, several scholars will be participating in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute. The scholars will complete individual research projects with the guidance of a faculty mentor, and present their projects at the McNair Scholars Symposium on July 20th.



Graduating Scholars Future Plans....

Jason Fly graduates May 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. He has accepted admission to the PhD in Clinical Psychology program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Jason would like to thank **Dr. Seong-in Choi** and **Dr. Catherine DeSoto** for their support.



Aarika Forney graduates May 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She has accepted admission to the MA in Political Science program at The University of Oklahoma, with full funding. Aarika would like to thank **Dr. Jill Wittrock** and the **Political Science Department** for their support.

Sarah Hofmeyer graduates May 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She has accepted admission to the PhD in Public Administration program at the University of Kansas, with full funding.



Dianna Huisman graduates May 2018 with Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Biochemistry. She has accepted admission to the PhD in Cancer Research program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, with full funding. Dianna would like to thank **Dr. Peter Berendzen** and **Dr. David McClenahan** for their support.



Graduating Scholars Future Plans....

Andrew Jessip graduated in December 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media. He has accepted admission to the MEd in Student Affairs program at Iowa State University, with full funding. Andrew would like to thank **Dr. Kristin Woods** and **Dr. Elise DuBord** for their mentorship and support.



Taylor Olson graduates May 2018 with Bachelor's degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science. He has accepted admission to the PhD in Computer Science program at Northwestern University, with full funding. Taylor would like to thank **Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts** and **Dr. Aleksander Poleksic** for their support.

Ashley Sánchez graduates May 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. This semester, she was named as a 2018 Newman Civic Fellow, as nominated by UNI President, Mark A. Nook. She has accepted admission to the MS in Sociology program at Northern Illinois University, with full funding. Ashley would like to thank **Dr. Juan Carlos Castillo** and **Dr. Carolyn Hildebrandt** for their mentorship and support.



Leon Shears graduates May 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. He has accepted admission to the Master of Social Work program at the University of Northern Iowa. Leon would like to thank **Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts** and **Dr. William Downs** for their mentorship and support.



Graduating Scholars Future Plans....

Gabrielle Woods is graduating in August 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Leisure, Youth and Human Services. Gabrielle would like to thank Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh and Dr. Rodney Dieser for their mentorship and support.



Congratulations Scholars!

McNair Staff...

Dayelle Davis joined the McNair team in August 2017, serving as the Graduate Assistant for the program. Dayelle is from Superior, WI and is an alumni and former staff member of the Upward Bound program at the University of Wisconsin– Superior. Dayelle will be working with the McNair Scholars on their writing skills during the Summer Research Institute .



The McNair Scholars Program is happy to announce that Cheryl Everman has been hired as our Secretary. Cheryl is from Cedar Falls, IA and has worked in educational support for many years as an administrative assistant and office manager. Welcome, Cheryl!



McNair Scholars Summer Plans....

Kyla Ford is a junior undergraduate student studying Social Work from Lisbon, IA. Kyla will be participating in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, researching gun violence in public schools with faculty mentor **Dr. Anthony Gabriele**, in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology.



Elise Coleman is a junior undergraduate student studying Psychology from Belle Plaine, IA. Elise will be participating in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, researching parental alienation with faculty mentor **Dr. Dilbur Arsiwalla** in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Vanessa (Nessa) Jordan is a junior undergraduate student studying Criminology and Psychology from Des Moines, IA. Nessa will be participating in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, researching the impacts of current practices of incarceration of inmates, with faculty mentor **Dr. Marybeth Stalp** in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.





McNair Scholars Summer Plans....

Dante Miller is a junior undergraduate student studying Sociology from Austell, GA. Dante will be participating in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, researching the effect of culture on voting with **Dr. Carissa Froyum** in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology.



Joshua (Josh) Prybil is a junior undergraduate student studying Analytical Chemistry from Solon, IA. Josh will be conducting summer research at UNI, studying organometallic Chemistry with faculty mentor **Dr. Martin Chin** in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Julie (Jewels) Howard is a junior undergraduate student studying Criminology and Psychology from Champaign, IL. Jewels has accepted a summer internship with the AmeriCorps VISTA program, working at the Summer Learning Academy in Waterloo Schools.





McNair Scholars Summer Plans....



Yakira Sanders is a junior undergraduate student studying Social Work from Des Moines, IA. Yakira has accepted an internship position with the Mentorship Initiative for Student Life (MISL) program at the Ohio State University, where she will gain professional experience working in Student Affairs and prepare for graduate school.

Linda (Lyn) Tackett is a senior undergraduate studying Anthropology and Biology from Glendora, CA. Lyn will be conducting summer research at UNI. She will be doing a paleoethnobotanical study of the Cedar Valley with faculty mentor **Dr. Donald Gaff**. Lyn has been awarded the Donald and Gudrun Fruehling Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, which will fund her project.



Blake Thomas is a junior undergraduate student studying Health Promotion and Global Health from Waterloo, IA. Blake has accepted the Northeast Iowa Medical Education Foundation research internship, through the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Blake will be working alongside **Dr. Jim Hoehns** in Waterloo, IA.



Upcoming Events

July 20, 2018 : 10am-12 noon. Refreshments to follow

McNair Scholars Program Summer Research Institute Symposium

At the **Center for Multicultural Education**

Public Welcome

A Farewell Message

Dear friends,

As many of you know, the UNI McNair Scholars Program has come to the end of its funding. As a result, I have accepted a position as the Director of Indian Natural Resources, Science, and Engineering Program (INRSEP) & Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for the College of Natural Resources & Sciences at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. My final day as the McNair Scholars Program Director, and the effective closing date for the program, will be July 20, 2018.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with such amazing scholars here at the University of Northern Iowa.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Nievita Bueno Watts

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