

July 01, 2022

Re: Celebrating the Winthrop McNair Summer 2022 Researchers



Dear Winthrop,

I am writing to share more bragging rights over the outstanding performance of our McNair Scholars. Many of you witnessed the Scholars' impressive research products during our summer research symposium June 20. Thank you for being a part of the Scholars' support network. I hope you find this letter provides more evidence that Winthrop deserves its reputation for exceptional undergraduate research experiences. This is a long letter, but the news is worth the read!



Winthrop McNair Scholars on Emory Graduate School Tour with Eagle STEM, Honors, & McNair Alumnus Jordan Lewis (more about Jordan at the bottom of page 3)

McNair is proud to be a part of Winthrop's [Summer Undergraduate Research Experience \(SURE\)](https://www.winthrop.edu/summer-undergraduate-research-experience). This summer, McNair supported 13 new and four continuing Scholars through our summer 2022 research internship. Here they are. Their individual photos and abstracts are accessible here: <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/mcnair/WMRS2022.pdf>.

Summer 2022 Scholar	Faculty Mentor	SAEOPP Category	Pres. Type	Summer 2022 Research Presentation Title
Evelyn Barrales	Dr. Adrienne Edwards	Social Science	Oral	Cultural Influences on Gender Identity Development Among Mexican American Women in Multigenerational Households
Spencer (Best) Bermudez	Dr. Monique Constance-Huggins	Social Science	Oral	What Are the Barriers to Mental Health Usage by Low-Income Individuals: The Perspective of Service Providers
Sierra Burns	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Social Science	Poster	Child and Adult Trauma, Imposter Syndrome, and Just World Belief
Josephine Chestnut	Dr. Kathleen West	Social Science	Poster	Myths, Misconceptions, and Metaphorical Mountains; What Factors Keep Students From Seeking Mental Health Care?
A'Niyah Choice	Dr. Adrienne Edwards	Social Science	Oral	A Qualitative Examination of College Students' Perceptions of the Impact of Parenting Styles on Emotional Development
Olive Corby	Dr. Donna Webster Nelson	Social Science	Poster	Personality Differences in Effectiveness of Emotion Regulation Following Autobiographical Recollections of Trauma
Samson Demissie	Dr. Brent Woodfill	Social Science	Oral	How does the Clinton ConNEXTion Action Plan intend to improve the Quality of Life of Southside Rock Hill Residents?

Lucas Dupuy*	Dr. Kristen Abernathy	Health	Oral	Dynamics of EBV and the Potential for Vaccinations in the United States
Nastajia Hamilton	Dr. Donna Webster Nelson	Social Science	Oral	Adverse Childhood Experiences, Post-Traumatic Growth, & Social Support Predict Hypersexuality in College Students
Brooke Jewell	Dr. Jason Hurlbert	Life Science	Oral	Temperature Optimization, Purification and Future Characterization of CAIN55: the Bacteriophage-derived Protein
Courtney Miller	Dr. Nicholas Grosseohme	Life Science	Oral	Characterization of the Interplay between Phosphorylation and Dimerization of RitR
Logan Pender	Dr. Leigh Poole	Education	Poster	Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Institutions' Financial Initiatives for Historically Underserved Students in Study Abroad
Molly Quetel	Dr. James Hanna, Jr.	Physical Science	Oral	Reaction of Hydrazones with Potassium Organotrifluoroborates Through Photoredox Catalysis
Gabrielle Walker	Dr. Victoria Frost	Life Science	Oral	Investigations of Nucleotide Modifications in Winthrop's Bacteriophage Collection
Eric Walters	Dr. Jason Hurlbert	Life Science	Oral	Expression, Purification, and Characterization of GeneM: A Novel Virulence Factor of the Phytopathogen <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i>
Ebonie White	Dr. Merry Sleigh	Social Science	Poster	Adults' Empathy and Experiences with and Perceptions of Imposter Syndrome
Trey Wineglass	Dr. Joanna Jackson	Business	Oral	Perceptions of the Current Nursing Shortage and Strategies to Increase Staff Retention

*Lucas Dupuy is completing summer research with Dr. Kristen Abernathy outside of the McNair summer research internship, supported by SC-INBRE, and as part of the [SURE](#) program.

Each of these outstanding students made good on their selection by the [Winthrop McNair Advisory Board](#) and excelled under our most challenging timeline yet. The most important part of the McNair Research experience is the **expert support of their Faculty Mentors**. Additionally, each of the following folks provided repeated direct research support to the Scholars: Dr. Matt Hayes (Stats & Methods Coach, effective presentations), Stephanie Bartlett (Writing Coach), Dr. Jason Hurlbert (reading and producing scientific writing, presenting), Dr. Gloria Jones (writing skills), Amanda Cavin (effective presentations, constructive feedback, summer programming), and Barb Yeager (feedback, etiquette, expectations, and so much more).

As we have most years since we were first funded in 2009, Winthrop's McNair program incorporated the [Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel \(SAEOPP\) McNair/SSS national Research Conference](#) into our summer internship. Here is a breakdown of our approach and outcomes.

- Winthrop started its McNair summer program May 11 and held our on-campus symposium June 20.
- Around the country, TRiO McNair and (a few TRiO SSS) undergraduate researchers submitted abstracts to SAEOPP by June 9 and 10-minute presentations by June 17. They presented in-person June 24-25.
- Presenters came from Winthrop, UCLA, U of FL, Ill Urbana-Champaign, John Jay - Criminal Justice, UNH, Concord, Harding, UNG, Cal State Sacramento, Georgia Southern, UAB, Eastern Michigan, Washington State, SUNY Brockport, U of OK, Texas Southern, and other U.S. colleges/universities.
- The top three presentations receive checks at the awards ceremony: 3rd place prize is \$200, 2nd place prize is \$350, 1st place prize is \$500.
- The 17 Winthrop McNair Scholars presented in 6 categories (Posters, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Business, and Health)
- Winthrop Scholars placed in the top 3 of all 6 categories.
- Winthrop Scholars earned 6 of the 24 top 3 awards.
- Five Winthrop McNair Scholars were awarded 1st place.

Please check my math. I believe this means: **Winthrop earned 25% of all of the awards, 62.5% of the 8 first place awards, and 83% of the first place awards for the 6 categories in which they competed.** This is our strongest showing at SAEOPP and I do not know how we can top this summer.

Here are the research presentations that were selected for SAEOPP awards. As I told the Scholars, **a win for one is a win for all** because of the community, practice, and feedback these Scholars gave each other. Every presentation was worthy of placing.

Scholar	Mentor	SAEOPP Presentation Award
Olive Corby	Dr. Donna Webster Nelson	1 st place Posters
Lucas Dupuy	Dr. Kristen Abernathy	1 st in Health (Oral)
Nastajia Hamilton	Dr. Donna Webster Nelson	1 st in Social Science (Oral)
Molly Quetel**	Dr. James Hanna	1 st in Physical Science (Oral)
Eric Walters	Dr. Jason Hurlbert	3 rd in Life Science (Oral)
Trey Wineglass	Dr. Joanna Jackson	1 st in Business (Oral)

**Molly Quetel also received 1st place in Physical Science in 2021 (tied with Jomar Lewis, Mentor: Dr. Christian Grattan). I believe this is the first time a Winthrop McNair Scholar has placed at SAEOPP in more than one year.



Top L to R: Molly Quetel, Nastajia Hamilton, Olive Corby

Bottom L to R: Eric Walters, Trey Wineglass, Lucas Dupuy

McNair Purpose. Winthrop’s program is funded to serve 30 undergraduates who are first-generation college students from low-income families (FG&LI) and/or who come from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds. At least 2/3rds of each cohort we serve must meet the FG&LI criteria. Most programs around the country are funded to serve 25 students. Winthrop University and Foundation investments in the program; the dedication of our faculty mentors; the widespread support of staff, faculty, administrators, and Trustees; Winthrop’s extraordinary undergraduate research experiences; and the efforts of our staff, our UC Dean, and our [Advisory Board](#) help us make the most of our resources, so we can support the individual strengths and needs of each Scholar. Winthrop is funded through September 30, 2023. We hope to hear by Sept. 30, 2022 that we were successful in this spring’s grant competition.

Program Objectives. Winthrop earns prior experience points for serving 30+ participants each year, 2/3rds of which are FG&LI, and meeting our annual program objectives (below).

1. 96% of participants complete high quality research projects (97% in last annual performance report, APR)
2. 50% of graduates immediately enroll in graduate programs (71% in last APR)
3. 75% of enrollees continue graduate study their second year (71% in last APR)
4. 14% of graduates will earn a PhD within 10 years (15% in last APR)

When we finish our summer program, I will update our growing list of Winthrop McNair PhDs [here](#). For example, Dr. Savannah Moritzzy (BIOL, Mentor: Dr. Vicky Frost) graduated from UR this spring. Dr. Aaron Fountain (HIST, Mentor: Dr. Andy Doyle) successfully defended his dissertation at IU this summer. Soon, we will add **Jordan Lewis, (BIOL, Mentors: Drs. Vicky Frost and Matt Heard) pictured above. Jordan defends his dissertation in early August and will move to Yale to complete his Post Doc (see https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2209109). You might remember Jordan from this [Winthrop Magazine](#) cover and story.**

There are so many folks who directly supported the Scholars and/or program this summer: Barb Yeager, Maya Felder, Stephanie Bartlett, Matt Hayes, Amanda Cavin, Dean Leigh Poole, Janelle Sealy, Deborah Broome, Michelle Hare, Dawn Sayer, our friends in IT especially Eric Moss, Mike Sickels, Joni Boyd, Michelle Smith, Willis Lewis, Kelly Costner, Cody Walters, Leon, Phyllis Redden, Jordan Lewis and many Winthrop McNair alumni. There are many folks not on this list that I also owe a big debt of gratitude. Please know you are appreciated!

Please brag with us. The support our McNair program receives from the entire Winthrop community means all of Winthrop has earned the right to brag about Winthrop McNair Scholars' research and graduate degree accomplishments. We appreciate that Winthrop faculty, staff, Directors, Chairs, Deans, and senior leaders step up throughout the year to directly or indirectly support Winthrop's McNair Scholars. We are also grateful to the entire SAEOPP research conference team that ensures our students are informed, inspired, and celebrated.

Please help us recruit the next cohort of new McNair Scholars by encouraging strong undergraduates at Winthrop and other SC universities to learn about the program at <https://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/> and determine if it is a good fit for their post-baccalaureate goals. Priority consideration is given to applications received between Labor Day and fall break. Students can find out if they are eligible by completing the online survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/IsMcNair4me>.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Fortner, Ph.D.

Proud Director, McNair Scholars Program

Professor of Psychology

Winthrop University

