

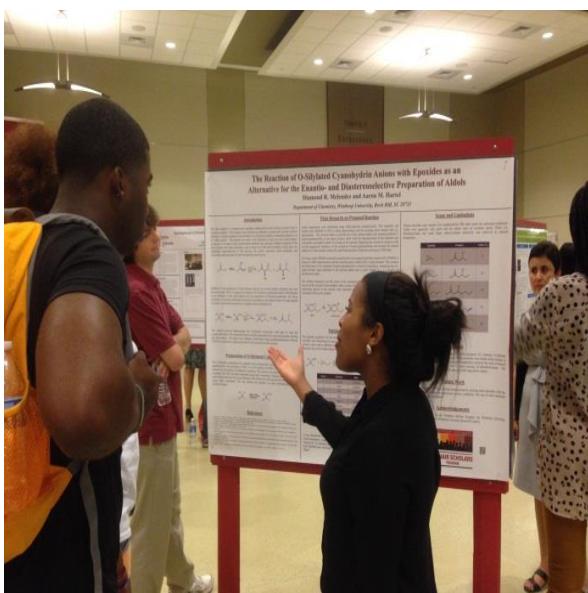
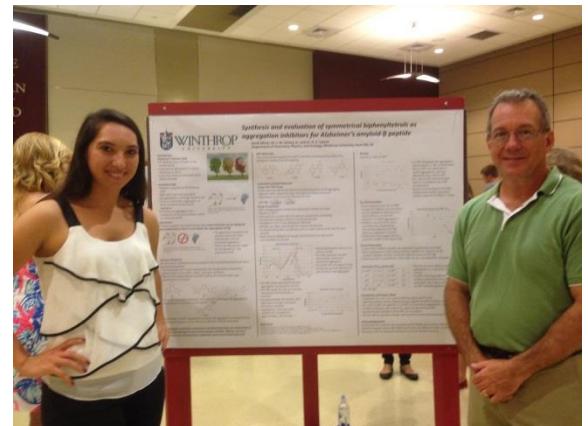
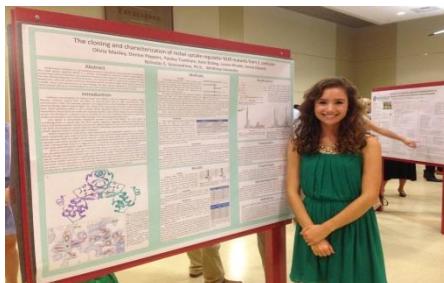
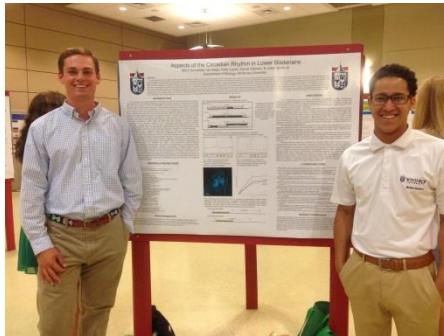
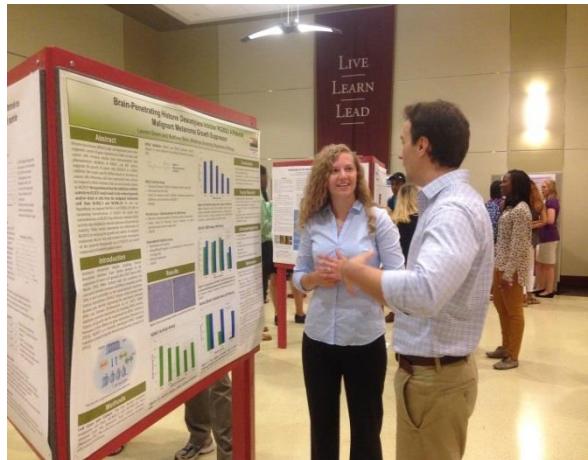
Winthrop University  
**MCNAIR SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM**

Newsletter



Fall 2014

## Scholars Present at SURE Poster Presentation



As part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), Winthrop University students work with faculty over the summer on research projects in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, geology, and mathematics.



The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally-funded TRIO program that prepares first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented undergraduates to be successful in graduate school.

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, and travel to present research and explore graduate programs.

Learn more at:  
<http://www.mcnairscholars.com>



### McNair Scholars Program

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**Program Director:**  
Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Mrs. Barb Yeager

**Graduate Assistant:**  
Kierra L. James

# UPDATE WITH SOME OF OUR ALUMS

## Dwana David

*I am currently in the School Psychology program at Winthrop University. I have an associateship with a local HeadStart program.*

## Aaron Fountain

*I am currently enrolled in the PhD in History program at Indiana University-Bloomington. I have received the McNair Fellowship for my first year and I have a five year financial package that includes tuition waiver, fellowships and paid assistantships (like a TA), and also health insurance.*

## Jose Paramo

*I am pursing my Master's in Political Science at Virginia Tech.. I was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship which covers my tuition and provides a monthly stipend of \$1400 a month.*

## Hannah Swan

*I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Computing with a track in graphics and visualization at the University of Utah and I have a graduate fellowship.*

## Kierra James

*I am currently in the School Psychology program at Winthrop University. I am also proud to be the new McNair Graduate Associate.*

## Destinee Johnson

*I am enrolled in the one-year, full-time Teacher Education Program at Stanford University pursuing my M.A. in Secondary Chemistry Teaching Credential. I received a fellowship from the Stanford Graduate School of Education.*

## Brittany Lawrence

*I am pursuing my Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Georgia – Athens.*

## Derion Reid

*I am enrolled in the Ph.D. in Chemistry program at Northeastern University in Boston. I accepted the GEM Associate Fellowship, which provides a tuition waiver and a full stipend without teaching.*

## John Huffman

*John is currently attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is pursuing a dual degree in Energy Systems and Urban Planning. John has written a new book entitled, "A Compact Study Guide for the New LEED Exams." This study guide can be found on Amazon.com for \$84.55. (See "Points of Pride")*



# POINTS OF PRIDE



Students discuss some of their most recent accomplishments and contributions gained from the program...

## Densie Peppers

" I was fortunate to present my summer research in a poster style at Winthrop's SURE symposium. It was a great time to fellowship with colleagues through our research. I really enjoyed sharing my research with other faculty who are outside of the chemistry department because it challenged me to present information to an unfamiliar audience. My favorite moment of this years' symposium was when I was explaining my research to a fellow researcher's mother and Dean Jones. Both were very unfamiliar with the type of research I do but both were also very interested in my work. What made this experience so fulfilling was that by the end of my talk, they both were able to understand the purpose of my research. It felt good to be able to connect my research with something they could relate to. "

## John Huffman

"I wrote this book to help exam candidates that struggle to purchase expensive webinars or practice literature from the organizations that produce those items for LEED. My experience with those mediums was less than positive. Many of the available materials are from outdated publications or too technical for the average person to comprehend. I want people that are just being introduced to sustainable concepts to have the best possible chance at success. I could not have done this without the ever present help of my wife Laura or the Winthrop Community that has embraced and supported me with vigor."

## Shalace Rose

"I have continued to collect data on my research study, "Health Habits and Physical Activities of Student Truck Drivers" and will prepare to submit a manuscript to the *American Journal of Health Promotion* by the end of the academic school year."

## Jordyn Kessler

"I hope to publish the research that I presented at SAEOPP."



# New to the McNair Office

"As an alumni of the McNair Scholars Program, it feels great to be an active part of the team. Working as an employee for the program is different from being a participating scholar, but the work I do is still important. I'm just glad I am contributing to helping this program and the current scholars thrive." - Jasmine Sanders



"I am proud to be a part of the program staff. It feels good to give back to the people who have been so influential in my undergraduate and now graduate career." - Kierra James (GA)



"This is my first year working in the McNair Office and it is an indeed pleasure having this opportunity. I enjoy providing assistance to others in any possible way that I can. I look forward to working the staff throughout this school term." – Courtney Mungo

Kierra James (Graduate Associate), Jasmine Sanders (Office Assistant), and Courtney Mungo (Office Assistant) are all new to the McNair Office this year.

## Advice from Alums

### Aaron Fountain

When you are applying to graduate school, try to contact current graduate students. You will learn more about the program than what is on the website, the good, the bad, and the ugly. From personal experience.

### Destinee Johnson

"Start early, stay organized, and keep copies of everything during the graduate school admissions process."

### Derion Reid

The biggest advice I can give for graduate school admissions is to make sure you start doing research on the programs you're interested in early. Be sure that the program is a good fit for you, based on the classes you have taken and your research knowledge. Take advantage of the graduate admission course provided by McNair, use this time wisely to get writing feedback for your personal statement and also as a dedicated time to complete most of your applications. Lastly, apply for fellowships during your senior year such as GEM, Hertz Foundation, NSF, etc. NSF is unique where you don't even have to do the research proposed in your application, it is only used to see how well you can articulate a scientific idea.

### Brittany Lawrence

Apply to schools early and make sure to pay attention to deadlines for financial aid and assistantships. Submit applications early and have a plan B in case you end up without financial support other than loans. The key is not to freak out! Think ahead of time about taking a gap year or working while they're studying if that does happen.



# Research & Scholarship Deadlines

(see [www.winthrop.edu/ONCA](http://www.winthrop.edu/ONCA) & the McNair Bulletin Board)

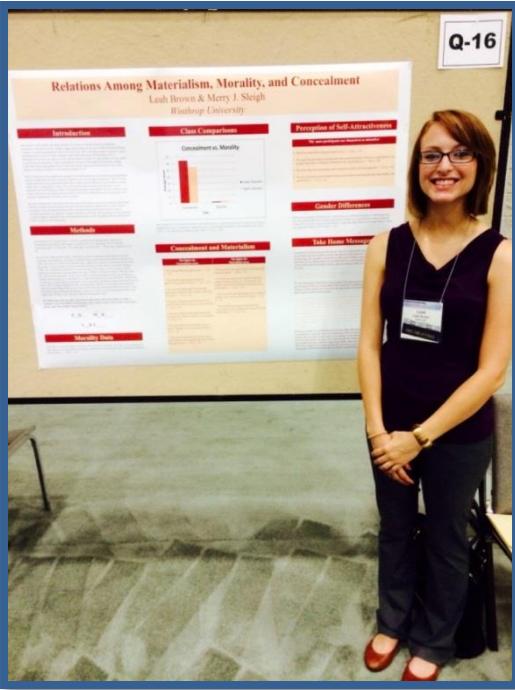
Deadline	Opportunity	A Little Information
Dec. 31	University of Maryland 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual National McNair Research Conference	Deadline or Abstracts - More information can be found on the office bulletin board
Jan. 2	Mickey Leland 2015 Energy Fellowship Internship Program	More information can be found on the office bulletin board
Jan. 5	Duke Endowment 2015-2017 Fellowship	Application due at noon. (More information can be found on the office bulletin board)
Jan. 15	ASA Minority Fellowship	Ph.D. Study in Sociology
	Newhouse Graduate Fellowship in Newspaper Journalism for Minorities	Non-journalism Minority Students seeking MA Program at Syracuse
	Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program	Undergraduate and Graduate Awards for Sophomores and Master's Degree-Seeking Students
	The Fund for Theological Education	Undergraduate and Graduate Awards for students interested in the Ministry
Feb. 1	Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Program	Graduate Study Fellowships for PKP Members
	Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship	Senior or Graduate School Computer Science/Engineering Major
	James Madison Memorial Fellowship	Master of Arts, Teaching, or Education Degree in American History or Government
	IWPR/George Washington Fellowships	Entering Graduate Student at GW Interested in Research on Women
Feb. 2	2015 Nebraska Summer Research Program	Priority Review Deadline; Actual Deadline: March 2 <sup>nd</sup> (More information can be found on the office bulletin board)
Feb. 10	University of Maryland Summer Research Initiative to Increase Diversity	More information can be found on the office bulletin board
Mar. 1	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships	Undergraduate and Graduate Study Abroad Opportunities
	Smithsonian Fellowships and Grants	Undergraduate and Graduate Students in Art
	MEXT Research Scholarship	Graduate Study in Japan

## Upcoming McNair Events

Thursday February 12th @ 11 am – First of Two Required McNair SRE Orientations

Wednesday, May 1st First Day of Winthrop McNair SRE

June 25-28 – SAEOPP National McNair Research Conference



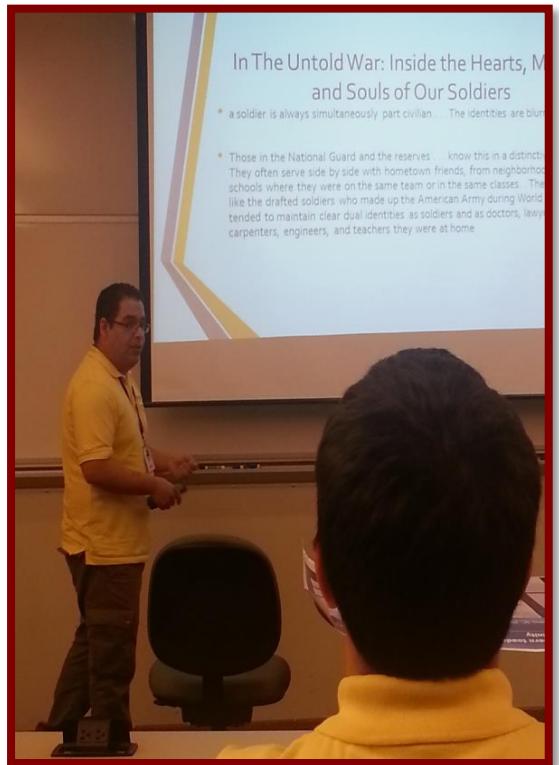
## Scholar Spotlight: Leah Brown

Leah presented two posters at the 2014 Annual APA Convention this past August in Washington, D.C. Her poster, "The Effects of Drawing, Listening, and Writing on Mood Change" was a finalist for the 2014 Raymond Corsini Student Poster Award (Division One of the American Psychological Association). She is in the process of publishing that research and will then try to get her summer 2014 McNair research published.

Above, Leah Brown presents one of her posters at the APA Convention.

## Alumni Spotlight: José Paramo

José is pursuing a Master Degree in Political Science at Virginia Tech. As part of National Latino heritage month José will be showcasing a documentary, *Colors of Courage*, showcasing Latino contributions in World War II, after which he will be giving a presentation on minority contributions in Word War II and doing a Q&A session. At right, José, is presenting research to a McNair audience.



## Scholar Among Scholars Spotlight: Lauren Green

At the McNair Fiesta (on 12/11), Lauren Green (at left) was presented with the Scholar Among Scholars Award plaque which hangs in the Program office. The award was created this summer in honor of Lauren's exceptional work during the SRE including, but not limited to that Lauren was the first Scholar to prepare and give both PowerPoint and Poster presentations.



## From the Director: Traditions and Congratulations

First and foremost, I want to congratulate alumnus Megan Friend on earning her Master of Science Degree in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership with honors this December. Congrats Megan! I also want to Celebrate Scholar Jordyn Kessler's graduation from Winthrop this December.

One of our McNair traditions is celebrating our Scholars' Graduations in a special lunch before the May graduation. In December, Mrs. Yeager and I typically host a special lunch or dinner out at a local restaurant (a tradition we started with our first graduates Alfie, Brandi, and Shanequa). When I asked Jordyn how she wanted McNair to celebrate her December graduation, she wanted to do something that involved everyone – the famous Winthrop McNair Taco Bar (see Shalace leading the line below) – and Jordyn wanted to invite our 15 incoming participants. We agreed with Kristin that we should add some extra fun with games. Below, you can see Jordyn (with Lauren and Kristin) getting a hole in one with my brand new Winthrop Eagles Corn Hole set. This event was so much fun I think this will be a new December tradition. I think everyone appreciated a break during exam week.

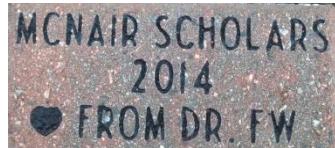
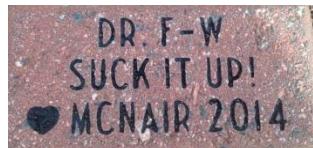


Congratulations also go to Leah Brown who received two prestigious awards from the Psychology Faculty – Outstanding Scholar and Outstanding Student (pictured above with her Mentor Dr. Merry Sleigh; for award info, see <http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/psychology/default.aspx?id=20088>). On top of her 2014 award from APA for her research with Dr. Sleigh, it has been a banner year for Leah.

Emily Hokett is studying abroad this year but has still been active on her research. This fall, Emily learned that her research with Dr. Reiland will be published!! Congratulations Emily!

The last photo above shows Mrs. Yeager giving the office her special brand of Holiday Cheer. We had so much fun with the results, that we have an easel full of instant photos of Scholars and Alumni posing in the wreath. Our program is so blessed to have an Executive Support Specialist who manages federal record keeping and creates masterpieces for everyone to enjoy (including but not limited to pumpkin rolls and artwork).

Below, you can see our McNair 2014 bricks which are on Scholars Walk near Kinard and Owens Halls. I do not have words for how special it makes me feel to see my very own "Suck it up!" brick. THANK YOU!!



Kierra has already started on our spring newsletter. The list of good news is building up for that edition as well. I think we should include a spread of baby photos in honor of the children of our Scholars and Alumni. [Keep an eye out for photo requests from Kierra.] Thank you Kierra James, Courtney Mungo, and Stephanie Bartlett, for your help in putting this newsletter together.

Scholars and Alumni: Please help us recognize your good work. Share updates ☺ We love to hear from you. -Dr. FW

# UGA's McNair Scholars Campus Visit Program

October 8, 2014

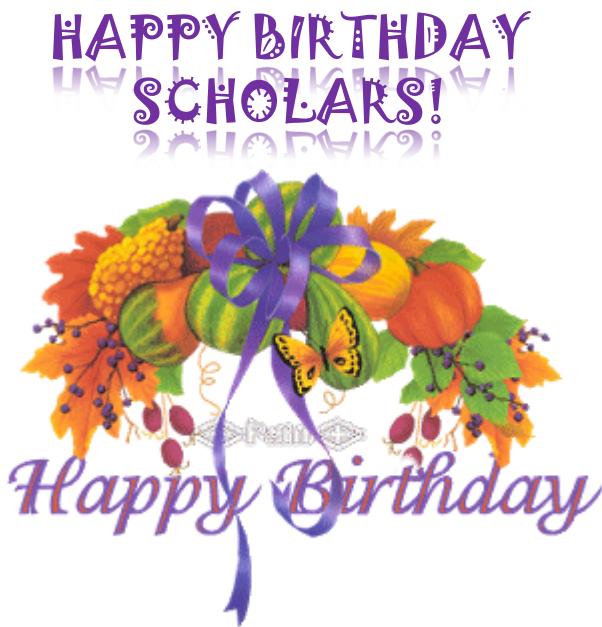
"It was a good trip. I learned some new things about UGA's financial aid and housing. I also met with a faculty members and discussed opportunities at the university." - Jordyn Kessler

"I appreciated the opportunity to travel with these amazing Scholars and getting to catch up with Brittany Lawrence. Thanks for making the time to see us Brittany." – Dr. FW



Scholars (l to r): Jordyn Kessler, Denise Peppers, Brittany Lawrence (Alum), Sarah Wicks, and Kendra Bufkin pose with Dr. Fortner-Wood (program director) during the visit to UGA. Alex Foster (not pictured) also participated in UGA's McNair Visitation Day.

NOVEMBER  
SHANTELLE IGIOZEE  
MEGAN FRIEND  
DENISE PEPPERS  
LEAH BROWN  
NICOLE DROWN  
JOHNAKIN MARTIN  
NIKESHA NELSON  
ZACHARY COLLIER  
JOSÉ PARAMO



DECEMBER  
AMY MOORE  
LAWANA REED  
CHELSEA JOHNSON  
MACRESHIA SALTERS  
JESSICA FUENTES  
JUSTIN MOORE  
SHALACE ROSE  
SARAH WICKS

# Etiquette Dinner

October 27, 2014



McNair Scholars and Staff attend "Strictly Manners," an etiquette dinner and workshop on proper interview behavior.



Kierra James watches as Boswell demonstrates with a dinner guest.



Scholar Denise Peppers displays appropriate interview attire.



Amy Sullivan practices proper hand shaking at her table.



Scholar Diamond Melendez listens to directions from Ms. Boswell.

# MCNR 302:

## Graduate Application Prep

Scholars from MCNR 302 benefited from guest speakers

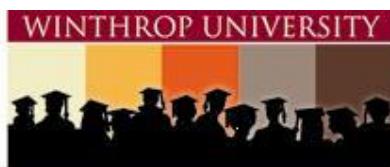
Dr. Merry Sleigh and Amy Sullivan who shared their expertise on graduate admissions topics. Here's what the Scholars gained from these experiences:

"Dr. Sleigh's visit taught me to tackle my statement of intent one paragraph at a time" and "Amy Sullivan's provided useful information for interviews, which is something we all go through at some point in our lives. I found her background story about how she changed her major 3 times and then decided to pursue career counseling to be inspirational."

-Shalace Rose



Amy Sullivan prepared the students in both sections of McNair 302 for graduate admissions interviews.



**McNAIR SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM**

### Program Contact Info

**TRiO**

RONALD E. McNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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