50th Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference

I was able to recently attend the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Bismarck, ND. It was exciting to see three McNair scholars present their research at a professional conference. All three did an outstanding job, and impressed me and the rest of the audience. They were very poised, both during their presentations and the question and answer period afterwards. Patrice

Carole Barrett is discussing the research presented by Sashay Schettler, Feather Tapio, and Gavin Nadeau at their session, "WHIG-UND McNair Scholars: Native American Women’s History."

McNair scholars responses to conference participation:

**Feather Tapio (major: Psychology)**
My experience at the Northern Plains History conference was extraordinary. The paper I presented was "Women’s Roles in the American Indian Movement" that I did research for over the summer. I was nervous the whole week leading up to the conference. One thing that kept me calm was going over my paper and feeling confident that I knew my material. I think going over it with Sassy, and Gavin helped a lot too because I felt comfortable about their feedback and knew that we were presenting together. When I was presenting, everyone was smiling and I could tell that a lot of people were interested in my paper. That felt really good because it showed that more than just I was interested in my research that I worked hard on. At the end, during the commentary part, it was so nice to hear compliments from people who have been in the history academia for years tell us that we did a great job and that they were proud of us. Complete strangers were telling us that we did a good job and that we did well! That was an awesome first conference experience. After our presentations I went to a few other panels. One thing that I noticed was that people who have been presenting at
conferences for years were still doing small mistakes that I was doing presenting as well. This made me feel better because it shows that no one is perfect and it is all about showing others your hard work and research. I am so happy I went and glad I had a great first experience at this conference.

*Sashay Schettler (majors: Secondary History Education & American Indian Studies)*
The Northern Great Plains History Conference was the first conference I have presented at and I had an amazing experience. I love speaking in front of people, especially when it is something I feel passionately about or have done copious amounts of research on. However, I was extremely nervous to present. Thankfully Dr. Shackelford allowed Feather and I to present to one of our classes for some additional exposure. After a crazy road trip with Feather, we met Gavin at the hotel’s pool and continued to practice. I felt I was well prepared to present on Thursday morning and thought all of us did a wonderful job. I was very thankful that my parents, and one of my nephews, were able to attend and see the progress I have made as a scholar. I was equally as grateful for both Patrice and Birgit being there to support us, as always. All my worries went out the door at the end of our presentations when we had amazing feedback. Throughout the rest of the conference I had people approach me with encouraging comments. Overall it was an amazing experience and I even made some new NDSU friends.

*Gavin Nadeau (majors: History & American Indian Studies)*
My trip to Bismarck, North Dakota was very informative and exciting. It was really interesting and great to be able to present my paper at a conference of that scale. The Northern Great Plains History Conference offers dozens of presentations from professionals, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

I am very grateful to the McNair Scholarship program for allowing me to present at such a great and professional conference. I learned that presenting a paper at a huge conference is not that bad. I received some very good feedback about my research on Native American Women in the Fur Trade. The whole experience was positive, and I look forward to going to many more!

*Jordan Jaeger Wins Great Plains Sociological Association’s Undergraduate Poster Competition in Fargo, October 2015*
Welcome New Scholars

My name is Hawo Ahmed. I am originally from Somalia. I grew up in three different countries, Somalia, Kenya, and USA. I still speak some Kiswahili but I am fluent in Somali and English. I have a 3 year old son and a 2 year old daughter. I have managed to go to school, and work while still raising both children. I am a strong believer that you can do anything you are passionate about and have the will power to do so. I plan to get my masters in nutrition and a PhD in education. My ultimate goal is to help create programs that provide nutrition for women and children in Somalia and other parts of Africa.

Hello! My name is Noël Couch. I am thrilled and honored to be a part of the McNair program. Currently a junior, I’m working towards completing my Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Related to one of my personal and research interests, I am also minoring in Women and Gender Studies. I aim to achieve a PhD in Clinical Psychology. My research interests include LGBTQ issues, ‘women’s’ issues, and drug and addiction rehabilitation. A bit about me: I grew up in Toronto, Canada, and first came to North Dakota to volunteer on a local reservation – a rewarding experience that solidified my desire to return to college and eventually earn a PhD. When I’m not working on school work or sleeping, my spouse and I enjoy doting on our four fur-babies, Cheddar, Frank, Vienna (dachshunds), and Beans (beagle). Crazy dog lady, all the way! I look forward to working with TRIO, UND staff, and my fellow scholars.

Hello my name is Jessica Fairley. I am a third year at the University Of North Dakota, and this is my first year being supported under the McNair Scholar’s Program. I am majoring in a Bachelor’s of Science in molecular and integrative biology. I currently work in Dr. Lucia Carville’s lab and my research focus is how Amphetamines contribute to epigenetic changes in successive progenies in C. elegans. In graduate school, my ultimate goal is to study the behavioral effects of epilepsy and various medications that could be used to treat epilepsy. When I’m not researching or studying, I like to spend time with family and relaxing at the cabin doing outdoor activities.

My name is Jordan Jaeger. I was born in Thief River Falls, MN. I went to school at Red Lake County Central which is separated in the two towns of Plummer and Oklee, both located in Minnesota. After I graduated high school I started college at UND in fall of 2012. I first started out as a biology major but later had a couple of major changes until I found my passion for sociology. I am now a senior in the Sociology program and I am currently doing research with Daphne Pedersen, a faculty member in the department, which I will be presenting at three conferences. The first conference is in Fargo, ND, the second in Milwaukee, WI, and the third in Chicago, IL. My research topic involves the relationship between generational status and parental involvement among undergraduate college students. After this year I want to attend graduate school to further my studies in sociology. Whether I stay at UND or decide to go to another college, I am very excited to go on.
Hello, my name is Lynn Martell and I am from Dunseith, ND. I am currently a senior at the University Of North Dakota. My majors are Psychology and Indian Studies. After graduating, I plan on attending graduate school fall of 2016 to peruse a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology. I am looking forward to doing research with my mentor, Dr. Adam Derenne, focusing on eating disorders and the peak shift phenomena. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my daughter and reading.

Hello, my name is Jordan Rudnik. I am from St. Thomas, North Dakota, small town of less than 500! I am currently a senior at the University of North Dakota, wrapping up my psychology undergraduate degree. I have started working with Dr. Heather Terrell as my mentor in the Psychology Department examining gender differences in military personnel. After graduating, I plan to attend graduate school and continue my research within the military. In my spare time, I like to read, work out, spend time with family and friends, and read research articles. I am grateful for the opportunities McNair has given me thus far and I am excited to see where my research path takes me in the near future.

AAG Regional Conference in Kearney, Nebraska
By Manna Khan

Like other conferences, the Great Plains Rocky Mountain Association of American Geographer’s 2015 Regional Conference and field trip were educational. Great Plains Rocky Mountain Conference held at Kearney, Nebraska was sponsored by University of Kearney, Nebraska. Five students and two professors attended from University of North Dakota. The trip was for four days; we left Grand Forks on Thursday, October 1st at 5 am and arrived at Kearney at 6 pm, and at 7 pm we did the registration and the evening social. The evening social was wonderful; I was able to talk about my and other students research projects, their interests, and their future projects. On Friday, we went on a field trip for the day to do site observation at Nebraska that included geological land formations, water resources, dams, reservoirs, recreation areas, irrigation systems, and production of hydro-electricity. It was a learning trip linked with geography. On Saturday, the conference started at 8 am and ended at 10 pm in the evening. It was well organized, it had sessions such as posters, papers, morning sessions, and afternoon sessions. I missed some of the paper presentations due to time overlap but most of the talks I chose ahead of time. Some research are very interesting and unfamiliar. At the luncheon, the guest speaker spoke about the history of Nebraska, how people migrated there, why they left, why they came back again. There was the Geo-Bowl that lasted for 2 hours; it is a game asking questions related to geography, and students paired up in groups according to universities. The most exciting part was dinner at the Muna Museum where the guest speaker was the chair of the Department of Geography of UCLA; he talked about the California drought, water crisis, and the future. At the end, the University of North Dakota won third place in the poster competition. It was great, I enjoyed the conference and am planning to join the one in Colorado Springs next year.
Alumni Corner  
by Patrice Giese

I recently had the pleasure of running into three McNair alumni at the 13th Annual American Indian Health Research Conference. TRIO will be celebrating 50 years on the UND campus this spring, and they graciously agreed to have their photos taken to celebrate TRIO.

Janie Schroeder graduated from the University of North Dakota School Of Law in 2015 and currently works for the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI). In two weeks, she will be starting her new position as clerk of court in New Town, ND. Janie is also busy studying for the bar exam and continuing working on her masters in Public Administration.

Liz Luger is currently in her fourth year in the University of North Dakota Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program. This past summer she was involved with and the recruiter for the Summer Institute component of the UND Indians Into Psychology Doctoral Education (INPSYDE) Program which is a two week enrichment program for American Indian high school students.

Angie Gillis graduated with her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Dakota in 2012. She has been working as the Psychology Resident at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck for the past two years.

It was great visiting with these former McNair scholars and discussing how much they have grown and achieved since they were undergraduates. We would like to expand our coverage of all the McNair alumni. If you have any items of interest or pictures please email them to jill.teters@und.edu or patrice.giese@und.edu. Looking forward to hearing from you. Also, it is that time of year, and we will be contacting you to carry out our annual follow up that is required by our granting agency, the US Department of Education. So please answer those emails.
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Words for Wits

Improve your GRE vocabulary by matching the following words and definitions:

1) ides  a. 1. confusion; turmoil; jumble: the melee of Christmas shopping.
2) divulgate  b. the inability to name objects or to recognize the written or spoken names of objects.
3) melee  c. to flee; abscond.
4) anomia  d. 1. to speak in an excited manner; babble.
2. to make a bubbling sound; bubble.
5) protean  e. (in the ancient Roman calendar) the fifteenth day of March, May, July, or October, and the thirteenth day of the other months.
6) absquatulate  f. of or relating to alms, charity, or charitable donations; charitable.
7) eleemosynary  g. to make publicly known; publish.
8) burble  h. 1. readily assuming different forms or characters; extremely variable.
2. changeable in shape or form, as an amoeba.

Answers: 1)e; 2)g; 3)a; 4)b; 5)h; 6)c; 7)f; 8)d.