Upcoming Events

March 20-22
UND Writers Conference

April 3
McNair Monthly Meeting
4 pm in 342 McCannel Hall
Myers-Briggs

April 9-13
Time Out Week and Wacipi

April 15
25th Annual McNair Forum & Banquet

Messages from McNair
McNair Scholars Program
University of North Dakota

Noël Lugo, Then & Now

First Day of Kindergarten and First Day of Graduate School!
Noël is enrolled in the Psychology MA Program at California State University—Fullerton.

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Alumni Updates

“Social Work was by far the best choice for my graduate program. This is exactly where I needed to be. So, school is going well, for anyone that needed an update. I am where I am supposed to be—the city, the school, the university, the growth and development, and the healing.” Selena Garza, MSW Program, University of Minnesota.

The McNair program helped me prepare and plan for graduate school and I am thankful for everything they did for me. Lynn Martell, Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program, University of North Dakota.

This summer I traveled to India for my Master's research on interactions between the microbiome and parasitic infections. I passed my thesis defense with distinction and graduated in July. I had two weeks off then started in the Biological

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Alumni News Cont’d

Sciences Ph.D. program. This semester I TA-ed for the first time and discovered that I really love teaching! I also took up painting as a stress reliever and found that I really enjoy that too. Tiffany Huwe, University of Notre Dame.

I still keep in contact with my undergraduate research advisor and am offering advice on new resources which I have come across. I am founder and chair of a graduate community @ ASU and actively recruit PhD/Masters students in outreach activities and work towards building a community within the graduate program. I also started a user’s group working to improve the resources and networking within ASU. Tara Boland

Faculty at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in New Town ND. Already Received a Juris Doctorate, Master of Business Administration in progress and start my Doctoral Program in the Summer of 2019. Janie Schroeder

Gavin Nadeau, Jordan Jaeger, Shelley Davis, and Kelsey Morin (not shown) shared their experiences as graduate students and answered questions from the scholars at our January 23 Monthly Seminar.

Cole Ward spoke at the February 22 McNair Scholars Monthly Seminar. He shared personal trials and tribulations of being accepted into a Ph.D. program.

Welcome New Scholars

Hello, my name is Andrew Abraham, and I grew up in St. Cloud, Minnesota area. Ever since I was young, I was always fascinated with patterns and numbers. Which made my favorite subject always mathematics. I am currently a junior going for my B.S. in Mathematics and hope to go straight into my PhD afterwards. I currently am doing research on compartmental analysis to have a better understanding on what happens to the concentration of a solution inside the compartment. When the compartment has different solutions flowing in to and out of it. Through the McNair Program I hope to improve my skills to be more ready for graduate school. I am also very grateful to have the opportunity in the McNair Program.

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Hello, my name is **Cecelia Castleberry**. I just got accepted into the McNair Program and couldn’t be happier since this program offers a plethora of materials that will help me get a Ph.D. I am one of a few students studying to obtain a degree in Molecular and Integrative Biology here at UND, and I hope to graduate in spring 2021. I hail from Mexico and want to return there one day to help research antibiotics that can cure deadly waterborne bacteria.

Hello, my name is **Jacob Nelson** and I am currently a Junior at the University of North Dakota. I grew up in small town Forman, North Dakota. I am a physics major and philosophy minor with my focus being on material sciences for physics and my philosophy interests being on existentialism. I discovered my interests through performing various science experiments in high school and watching a lot of classic films with friends and family. After achieving my bachelors, I plan to continue my education, eventually getting a PhD in physics while also attending universities across the country. I have travelled across the U.S. on multiple occasions and I’ve even flown to Norway one summer to visit family. I hope to eventually visit many other countries across the world while being able to study the physics I find interesting. When I’m not studying or finishing homework, I’m usually reading or studying film.

**Scholar News**

**Jason Power** represented McNair at the TRIO Day Luncheon held on February 6. He was one of the five TRIO Program Speakers.

Congratulations to **Jaylin Solberg** who was awarded the Barbara Ann Earwicker Award for Excellence in Research and Scientific Communication at the 2019 North Dakota Academy of Science Annual Meeting on March 8. The award is conferred to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in the quality of their research as well as their ability to communicate clearly and effectively to a broad audience.
We landed in Cleveland at noon Sunday the 7th, six hours later our advisor whisked us off to our first event, a presidential reception of all the past presidents of the Wildlife Society and similar high-ranking professionals. There I met a wide range of professionals, all more than willing to share their wisdom on how to be successful in our field, and what they are currently working on. There was one woman that told me of her bat project in which she was turning over rocks to find them because “many people forget that bats aren’t only found in caves or trees”. She then proceeded to show me several pictures of odd places she had found bats during the course of her work. I talked with several more people and listened to their stories of the unique situations they had been in or people they had met.

The next morning, I volunteered at the registration desk, checking-in professionals and students alike and getting initial face-to-face contact. After my shift was over, I roamed the booths set up and meeting representatives from graduate schools, agencies, and businesses selling new/improved technology or books. I talked with poster presenters, one of whom was a Professor that collected opportunistic data and found some intriguing data on Frogs in the Costa Rica forests which lead us talking about frogs in the Texas desert (she is a professor at the Texas Tech University).

The next several days were spent attending talks ranging on topics from how white-nose syndrome isn’t reducing bat populations as drastically (things are looking up!) to the use of toys and garden gnomes as attractants for coyotes to trail cameras. I attended numerous networking events, meeting professionals at a variety of agencies and universities. I feel I took a huge step in the right direction for my career field, and at the very least got some exposure that will potentially help me succeed in the future.

Ayla Morehouse, McNair Scholar

This year I had the privilege to travel to Cleveland Ohio to attend this year’s National wildlife Society Conference. People nationally and internationally come together to present the research they have been working on for the past year. At this event, there was a combination of oral presentations, poster presentations, and an event/job fair. Each day the oral presentations started at 8 am and went till about 5 pm. Each room consisted of its own topic, so each room was different. The presentations themselves lasted about 20 minutes. So throughout the day we got to hop from room to room based on our interests. I went to almost all the ones on bears, ones about wildlife damage, ones on wildlife management and a lot of other really interesting miscellaneous ones. At the end of each day, the people who set the conference up set up social events for all the students to network with those out working in the career field. This conference was an eye opening experience for me because I didn’t realize how many opportunities and different career paths there are with in the wildlife department. One of the new ones I found really interesting was wildlife damage, this has to do with how wildlife can cause issues and problems to the public especially in urban areas. Now, when there were big breaks between oral presentation we went to a large conference room where there were about 30-40 poster presentations, and next to each poster was the researchers so while we walked around we were able to ask any questions that came to our mind. One of the big reasons for going to this event is to network with those within our career field.

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Wildlife biology is such a small field so everyone knows someone, so the more people you know and meet the better your opportunities for the future are.

While at the conference I got to meet some amazing people and had a really productive time networking. While there I met a gentleman who works for Alaska Fish and Game, I also met a lady who works for the Alaska Science Center and lastly I met a lady who lives in Alaska, works on military land and works for Colorado State University. What I also found really fascinating is all the different ways a research project can be done. There are so many techniques and methods out there it was really cool to see how people utilized them. It was also refreshing to see all the graduate and Ph.D. work that’s out there, it reminded me that once I graduate I can finally do and focus on something I am passionate about. Going really reminded me why I’m in this major. Overall, the experience was so eye-opening and so amazing I am really glad I took the time to travel to Ohio and attend the National Wildlife Conference.

Emmalee Woods, McNair Scholar

IACC 2019 Conference

I successfully attended the International Conference and Exposition on Advanced Ceramics (IACC) 2019 conference hosted in Daytona Beach, where I was able to present my carbon sequestration project from last semester. This conference is a very prestigious conference for ceramics and composite materials. In attendance were doctorate students and professional research professors from around the world who came to present on their research topics and findings. It was a very valuable conference for me to attend as a McNair scholar, helping me to gain experience in presenting my research as well as being able to defend my project. At this conference my group presented an oral presentation as well as a poster expo where we presented our work to the audience. In addition to my presentations, this conference also allowed me to attend several other presentations from world renowned researchers from around the globe. It helped me understand the dedication and practice it takes to become an excellent research student in the future and the thought process that goes into formulating research projects that present challenging problems that need to be solved. Overall, I had a great experience at the IACC 2019 conference and gained much valuable insight and connections for future research opportunities. I look forward to attending future conferences similar to IACC 2019.

Mustafa Abdulrahman, McNair Scholar

AISES National Conference

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference held in Oklahoma City was an amazing experience. This was my first conference I had attended and there was so much that I had learned. While being able to visit Oklahoma City for the first time, I also met with other Native American students all across the United States. This was very beneficial as I networked and became friends with a few of them. Although this conference was for "STEM" majors and me being a Communication Major, I felt right at home because I presented myself in a different way. This helped me a lot because the conference had a career fair where I went spoke with Graduate Schools. During my talks, I connected with Washington State University as they told me that Dr. Amanda Boyd is a Professor whose research matches what I am interested in doing. Ever since the conference, I have been in touch with WSU and Dr. Boyd to learn more about the program and campus.

Marcus Vivier, McNair Scholar
Words for Wits

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

1) adrenalize  a. reckless boldness; rashness.
2) gadabout  b. a person who moves about restlessly or aimlessly, especially from one social activity to another.
3) ratiocinate  c. the study of the origin, history, and use of proper names.
4) temerity  d. an elaborate or complicated procedure.
5) rigmarole  e. to reason; carry on a process of reasoning.
6) sirenic  f. a written work composed of words chosen so as to avoid the use of one or more specific alphabetic characters.
7) lipogram  g. to stir to action; excite
8) onomastics  h. melodious, tempting, or alluring.

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