Upcoming Events

December 11
McNair Scholars Monthly Meeting at 12 noon in 342 McCannel Hall McNair Graduate Panel

December 16-20
Final Exams

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University of Minnesota
McNair 2019 Visitation Program

The U of M was a wonderful school to visit. On Aug 6th I took the light rail from downtown Minneapolis, where I was staying, onto the campus. Minneapolis has a clean and timely public transport system. It’s a convenience that would allow me to live off-campus without needing to drive in the cities. I got to the McNair Student presentation early and met other McNair students from across the nation. Derek Maness from the University of Minnesota Office of Diversity gave a warm welcome introducing the Director of the U’s McNair Program, Anthony Albecker. Mr. Albecker told us about being in the McNair Program and how he has never met more special people than those in the McNair Program and that we are all capable of coming to the University of Minnesota as graduate students.

Next, we were given a presentation by Jim Rollins from the Graduate School Admissions Office. The presentation was very educational. I learned about the reasons that people usually attend grad school; it surprised me that research isn’t as large of a section as most other reasons. He also told in detail how the funding of grad school works. PhD students at the U of M are always offered Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant positions to help earn their stipend, depending on the program, a Grad School Stipend ranges usually from twenty to thirty thousand dollars a year. Included with the U of M’s stipend is health care and dental, along with a tuition waiver. Their goal is that students don’t have to take out loans or work externally to afford grad school. Rollins also explained fellowships, which are basically scholarships for Grad School. Internal Fellowships are counted towards your university funding, external fellowships aren’t. We were given information about the DOVE fellowship, through the diversity office, which McNair Students are very like to get (16 out of 19 who applied last year received it.) We were told that McNair students also have the graduate school application fee waived.

Rollins then talked about finding programs that fit you, and the application process. Reach out to the Director of Graduate Studies in your interested department, or the Graduate Program Coordinator, look at courses and labs, and compare departments and funding, not whole schools. We went over the average timeline for applications, and what that details. Applications are
holistically reviewed, and the most important part is your personal statement. In your personal statement, state goals that line up with the program, mention your faculty, mention McNair and your research, and most importantly, highlight You! We discussed Letters of Recommendation, and that UMTC wants three with an application. We finished the presentation with a list of resources for McNair and graduate students.

After this presentation, we took a photo and started a tour. I had to leave the tour early to go to my first faculty meeting with Dr. Aaron Massari. He does research with Nano and Materials Chemistry and is the Director of Graduate Studies in Chemical Physics. We talked about how a lot of his graduate students are using infrared spectroscopy to observe how different materials change when electrical signal is passed through them. He gave me a tour of his lab, and I met some graduate students working in the lab. He said that about 350 students apply to the Chemistry PhD program and about 50 are accepted every year. You have the option to also apply to Chemical Physics and that program has different requirements, they accept more Math, Physics, and Engineering students. However, chemical engineering students usually are more prepared and can do as well as chemistry undergrads in the chemistry PhD program. Massari also gave me a tour of both chemistry buildings, showing me the lab groups, and explaining what each of them is researching currently. He was very kind and gave me a lot of great information.

I ate lunch at their memorial union, in their food court. Then had a meeting with Dr. Joe Topczewski. He told me about his work in organic chemistry, and the work with chiral amines. We discussed how he is trying to synthesize complex stereochemical structures using different methods. He also discussed the method of separating enantiomers to make drugs more effective in our body. He also showed me the inside of his labs, and the different machines that they use. I enjoyed seeing the Gas Chromatographs. They were different from the one I had used at UND, and he also showed me their mass spectrometers and how they were identifying the amount of each enantiomer in their samples. I also loved to see their automate hexane dispensers.

After my time at the U, I took the light rail to the Mall of America and got dinner at Chipotle and then went to the AirBnb in downtown St. Paul where I spent the night.

In the morning on August 7th I took the light rail back to the campus. It was my birthday and I was thrilled to be back there. I was happy to get free coffee from the Caribou Coffee shop that’s on campus and attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The posters helped me understand what building my own presentation is going to be like. I got to meet many McNair students from the University of Minnesota and what their research looks like. My favorite presentations were about locating the part of the brain that humans recognize pitch and harmony, and about how certain diets and genes in rats can affect insulin resistance. I am excited to reread the abstracts and I hope these researchers get to publish many pages about their interesting topics.

I am very grateful that McNair could allow me to attend this workshop and research conference. I feel so much more confident in what I need to accomplish before my graduate school applications, and what the application process looks like. I plan to apply to the U of M when I am the right stage in my education for it. I am excited for the journey to grad school.

Alaura Anderson

U of M Interdisciplinary Recruitment Day for Graduate Studies & Diversity Programs

While attending the U of M Interdisciplinary Recruitment Day for Graduate Studies & Diversity Programs, I was informed on programs that are present at the University of Minnesota, particularly within the Graduate School Diversity Office, that piqued my interest. One program was the Community of Scholars Program (COSP) which aims to create an institutional environment that supports the academic and professional success of Native American graduate students and graduate students of color. COSP assists students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) to develop supportive relationships with advisors; build a sense of community; and pursue research, teaching and community engagement opportunities within and outside the Twin Cities area.
There are also Travel Grants for COSP - up to $1,000 per student are provided to support travel to conduct research or to present at a conference. All travel grant recipients participate in a fall research symposium to showcase their work to the University community. Individual Consultations with the COSP director on academic, professional, and personal matters is available by appointment. (Cori Bazemore-James - Office: 612-624-9447 & Email: cosp@umn.edu or cbazemor@umn.edu).

One of the programs at the University of Minnesota that I was interested in was the DOVE Fellowship, which is awarded to first-year students from underrepresented groups and provides a stipend, tuition, and subsidized health insurance for one academic year. Prospective students must be nominated by an eligible graduate program. Students who wish to be nominated should contact their Director of Graduate Studies in advance. Recipients of the DOVE Fellowship are encouraged to participate in the GSDO Summer Institute (July-August) to prepare for their graduate experience. At least two fellowships are awarded to McNair Scholars.

While at the University of Minnesota Interdisciplinary Recruitment Day for Graduate Studies & Diversity Programs, they also informed us on important application guidelines and tips on how to pay for our graduate education which I found very helpful.

During our lunch break, after the graduate student panel, we got to sit and talk to the graduate students and ask some more questions that we may have had. It was nice to get some information from actual graduate students who attend the University of Minnesota which was unfiltered and uncontrolled by the people who put on the Recruitment Day. More information is available on funding at the U of M in the McNair office.

During my trip to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, I attended a variety of conferences that regarded my pursuit to graduate school; as well as exploring around the metropolitan area to gain some familiarity of urban Minnesota. By being a part of the McNair Scholars Program, I discovered the endless opportunities and benefits it carries out with me beyond undergraduate school.

Initially, I met at the forum at U of M’s Memorial Union where I had the chance to listen to professors and graduate students from a variety of departments such as the Department of Communication Studies, where I was able to acquire knowledge on ways to utilize my background in English and Literature along with my familiarity with Physics. Not only was I able to visualize my potential academic career, but also my professional career. For many years I was given the impression that the arts and sciences are not compatible and cannot be interdisciplinary. Low and behold, I learned that there is a focus on Science Writing and Journalism that can be found in the Department of Communication Studies.

Ashly Hanna

Jaycee Anderson

On Friday, October 25th, I attended the University of Minnesota at Twin Cities Diversity Recruitment Day for perspective graduate students from 10am to 4pm. This opportunity gave me the chance to tour the university and be informed of the possible graduate programs to consider. Upon arriving, I did not think this school was a fit for me because there were no programs in the fields, Criminal Justice or Tribal Policy, that I am interested in. The recruitment team proved me wrong and that there is a chance of attendance at this university. I learned useful tips while taking my next steps to apply for graduate programs: Get to know the professor(s) at the university of interest and their research instead of the program, often times they will allow you to expand your graduate program studies to connect with what you are interested. The U of M offers amazing opportunities for funding in the programs they presented in: Department of Writing Studies, Anthropology, Communication studies, Cultural Studies & Comparative etc. The recruitment day also offered a student panel that gave different perspectives of graduate student life, the various challenges they were facing and encouraging words to continue with higher education. The professors overall were very open about student life at the campus and offered me great tips. I may not feel that this university is for me but this opportunity was enriching and worth the drive. The tips and conversations with the professors helped me restructure my future opportunities and gave me helpful insight of what graduate school is like. The one on one conversation with Dr. Kat Hayes, Associate professor of Anthropology, was truly sincere and a wonderful opportunity to talk about research topics and what we both are interested in. After the recruitment day, I was able to check out the American Indian Center at the U of M and met attending students and got to play American Indian Lacrosse with them, it was rejuvenating to meet other students. They told me about their student involvement at the university and connectiveness with other indigenous students. Overall, the trip to the U of M was very well worth it.
Not only that, hearing the reality of what pursuing a high level education is really like from actual graduate students at UMN was helpful beyond words. For example, I did not know students with special accommodations and disabilities had the option to take the GRE (graduate required exam) that accompanies their special circumstances. In addition, I learned that by being in McNair, we have the opportunity to submit applications for free, summer internship programs, fellowships and scholarships that are specific for us, and more.

The remainder of the trip, I used my free time to venture around the city with some of my peers and visited the Native American center, Guthrie Theater, Gold Medal Park, and Birchbark Books. The bookstore, Birchbark Books, was a sentimental and a highly anticipated visit since I had the privilege to meet the owner and author of Poets of New Nations, which I learned about in my English course last year, and met at the UND Writers Conference.

Overall, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Graduate School Recruitment Day was beneficial for me as a McNair Scholar because it prepared me ahead of time by learning about different opportunities and accommodations that McNair provides as well as meeting and getting familiar with different departments and students. On top of that, the entirety of the trip was not only educational and informative, but also enjoyable. My fears and insecurities about attending graduate school were relieved. I am a lot more confident and prepared in my future academics.

Amanda Saligumba

Western Michigan University’s International Congress on Medieval Studies

I left for Kalamazoo on Wednesday morning at roughly 1 a.m. with my friend Mark. The train ride was about eighteen hours including a two-hour layover in Chicago. It is my opinion that Chicago has a lovely train station. I wasn’t able to get as much homework done on the train as I had hoped due to the lack of Wi-Fi and decent reception which would have allowed me to use my hotspot.

In the interest of being completely honest, this experience was intimidating, to say the least. Because of this, I acted a bit more shy than usual. Other than that, I had a great time at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. I hung out with Mark for the most part. I often joked that I was following him around like a lost puppy, but honestly did feel like that on occasion.

Thursday was the first day of the conference and Mark and I kicked the day off by attending the bookfair. After that, we attended a roundtable discussion on Arthurian taboos. Richard Severe’s paper, “It’s Not Gay If It’s in a Threeway: The Bromance in Arthurian Literature,” was definitely one of my favorites. After this we attended a session on topics in hagiography.

On Friday, we attended a session sponsored by the International Hagiography Society on discourse in anchoritic texts. We also attended a business meeting for the Society for the Study of Homosexuality in the Middle Ages with Dr. Sauer. After lunch, we also went to another session sponsored by the International Anchoritic Society. I was completely lost during one of the papers and I honestly thought that I was stupid. Apparently, the paper made absolutely no sense. I felt much better after this revelation. That night, Mark and I went to dinner with Dr. Sauer and some her friends at Zooroona. The food was amazing. Unfortunately, it’s all the way in Michigan.

Saturday morning, we went to panel on queer pedagogies. Later that day, we went to a session on Gower. I was lost throughout the entire session because I have yet to read Gower. After that, I went to a roundtable titled, Queer Anchorites and Hermits. Dr. Sauer and Mark presented and felt I could follow along for the first time during the entire conference. Chelsea L. Skalak’s paper, “Asexual Subjects and Queer Futures,” was especially interesting. I regret not asking her questions afterwards.

Overall, I learned a lot from attending this conference and I look forward to attending more in the future.

Emily Severinson
Last year at the National Wildlife Society Conference, I was happy whether I talked to 100 people to 0 people. This year, I made it a mission to talk to as many people as possible. As for possible graduate school professors, I talked to Dr. Merkle from the University of Wyoming, Dr. Millspaugh from the University of Montana, Dr. Bishop from the University of Montana, Dr. Ranglack from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Dr. Little from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Dr. Walter from Penn State University. I had previously looked at Dr. Little and Dr. Walter’s lab and reached out to them before the conference to see if they would be interested in meeting and they said yes. I had individual meetings with them and we talked about similar interests and any possible openings in their labs. The rest of the meetings were either from me approaching the professor or them approaching me at my poster session.

All of them focus on spatial ecology. Dr. Ranglack spoke about his similar research with bison and that he has a masters position in the works with looking at bison behaviors in regards to spatial ecology in Oklahoma, just needs to secure funding. Dr. Merkle and I also talked about bison and that he is studying the bison reintroduction in Banff National Park in Alberta Canada. Dr. Millspaugh advertised that he was looking for a masters student to study the migration routes of pronghorn in western Montana. Dr. Bishop looks at ungulate spatial ecology. Dr. Little and I talked about his future masters position also studying pronghorn home range and migration in western Nebraska. And Dr. Walter looks at black bear spatial ecology in Pennsylvania.

Other than graduate school professors, I also talked to students from undergrad to graduate. I got to attend the student chapter leaders lunch due to me being an officer for the UND student chapter of The Wildlife Society. I talked to other officers from Tarleton State University and from Purdue University. We talked about scenarios in our club such as losing members and how to raise money and shared ideas back and forth to each other. I also talked to a Ph.D. student from the University of Georgia about my research at the poster session, where I presented my bison research. He was looking at white-tailed deer fawn success after birth and tracking them with radio telemetry collars. I went to talks that mostly focused on spatial ecology, which luckily there were everyday.

In the future, I am going to reach out to all of the graduate school professors and reconnect with them. For the others that I did not reach out to before, I want to attach my resume and transcripts so they have that easily accessible. I want to make sure that with the ones that said “stay in touch”, to actually keep in contact with them. To be able to stay in the know with new positions and projects in their lab is very important to me. Right now I am more leaning towards Dr. Ranglack and Dr. Little, just because I talked to them the most and felt more connected to them, but only time will tell where I end up going.

Jaylin Solberg

This year I was fortunate enough to travel to Reno Nevada to attend the joint Fisheries and Wildlife national conference. I was also lucky enough to present my undergraduate research, for my research I was estimating color morph mate preferences in Lesser Snow Geese using drone imagery. What surprised me is that all the other presenters were either master, PhD students or even professors, to be able to present as an undergraduate at a conference this size is an experience of a lifetime. It was an absolute amazing experience to travel and network with people all over the country doing all kinds of research. I even had the chance to meet professionals that were studying reptiles. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend this national conference and hope to go again.

Emmalee Woods
Missouri was no misery! I had the opportunity to attend the McNair Heartland Research Conference; it was an event filled with networking, learning, and restoration. After arriving at the hotel and checking in, we walked as a group to Barnes & Noble. It was nice to walk along the street and see the cute coffee shops. They were places I’d like to hang out and study if I were to live in the city.

The conference activities started that evening. Throughout the weekend we were encouraged and mentored by the key speakers. The speaker on Friday evening after dinner was no exception. Dr. Lara Chatman spoke of following your passions, making sure that you are happy with where you are, even though we are planning for a happy future. She also spoke about being in Upward Bound and how, as a child, she was somewhat embarrassed to tell people she was in UB, because of the implications on being from an impoverished background. She encouraged us to not hold shame within ourselves about where we come from. This was an important message for me to hear. I hold a lot of guilt in the idea of, "Why me? Why am I receiving this support? I’m not worthy of this." It was comforting to know that it’s a common thing among people from my background and reaffirm the idea that we are deserving of help.

I ran into Dr. Chatman on Saturday and told her how her message resonated with me and thanked her for speaking. We connected a bit and talked about the places I am considering for graduate education; Dr. Chatman is just starting a McNair program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. NCSU is serendipitously the only college in North Carolina listed on Peterson’s Guide to Graduate Education as having a PhD program in Chemical Engineering. She gave me a business card and I look forward to reaching out with questions about the campus.

On Saturday, I attended many student sessions. My favorite session included three presenters. One research project was determining if size of wheat particles effects the industrial production of bread. The presenter went through her statistical processes and guided us along the process very well, even though we weren't knowledgeable in her field. This presentation gave me a better idea of what I should account for when speaking to a general audience. The next presenter discussed his findings on what factors influence the tenderness of beef. He used different cuts of meat, with varying sarcomere length (units of muscle), fat content, and protein content. It was interesting to see how he used the various tools to measure and define what makes a piece of beef “tender”. The last presenter of this session used an infrared (IR) camera to determine whether cows were bruised and needed extra trimming. This reminded me a lot of the project I’m working on, determining the heat loss of buildings on campus using IR cameras. She used the same technology, and the same principles, to do research in a completely different way! I can get stuck in this idea...
that I’m "Pidgeon-holing" myself by doing research in areas that I don’t want a career in, but everything I do now, has a much broader application. This project reaffirmed my wanting to diversify in my education and reminded me that there is so much I can achieve with a chemical engineering degree.

Another session I attended, was filled with other engineers. It was nice to listen and talk to other people in my field. The presentations were on poly-ethylene glycol (PEG), and remodeling an airfoil from the 50's. Two presentations were from the same school, and had the same overseeing mentor. They discussed the use of PEG in biological applications, when heated with an infrared laser. They hadn't done many trials yet, but hoped to research this more and present again at next year's conference. The airfoil presentation was given by an aeronautical engineering student. He discussed the issues with an old airfoil, how he made it more accessible and rebuilt it, and how he tested it in a wind tunnel. I asked if he was able to test it under various pressures, and if that affected its functionality. He was able to apply vacuum to his testing chamber and stated that the airfoil still did well.

Saturday night after dinner, we had a wonderful presentation by Dr. Tara Ruttley. As she described her struggles and successes in life, I heard a lot of my own story. She delivered newspapers to pay for school, she even had to leave school, she was unsure of what she wanted to do. Dr. Ruttley did find her way, though. It was awesome to hear her story, and that she also had identity issues, and believed that she might not be good enough. She has now worked for NASA in many different roles and finished her PhD in Texas while working for them. I, more recently, got to meet one of her coworkers who went to UND!

On Sunday morning, we had a presentation by Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas. He continued the theme of acknowledging that we have great opportunity ahead of us, and to not be captured by imposter syndrome. He talked about growing up on a small island, and that he based his thesis and dissertation on his experiences. Though it may be more difficult to personalize in hard sciences, observing the universe and describing how it works is the basis of research. It gave me many ideas about how I can use my past to strengthen my research in the future.

Thank you, so much to McNair program, for providing me with opportunities as amazing as this. Thank you to Jill, Patrice, the student presenters, and the McNair Heartland Conference Council.

Alaura Anderson

The McNair Heartland conference in Kansas City was the first conference I have ever attended. I learned a lot about how conferences are structured and what to expect when presenting at a conference. I attended several presentations and learned a lot about different research other McNair scholars are conducting across the US.

One of the more interesting presentations I attended was on how MRI scans can be used to help understand and prevent opiate overdose. I also attended several physics presentations. Many of the physics presentations were beyond my knowledge but were still very interesting. I learned about how dark matter is detected in our solar system and how Jupiter and dark matter protect and have formed our solar system and life as we know it. The most important lecture I attended was on finance. I learned that if I end up working for a university, I could get my student debt forgiven after 10 years of loan payments. I also learned that once I am finished with school I have one year before I have to start paying back student debt. This is important incase I decide to take a gap year at some point during my education.

There were three speakers during the various meals throughout the conference. The first speaker spoke at the opening dinner. To be honest, I was not impressed with her. The opening speaker spent most her time promoting her personal Instagram, twitter, and LinkedIn page. She also told the students to interact with her on the Whova app so she could win some type of an award for having the most interactions. I got nothing out of her speech. The second night there was an amazing speaker who was a former McNair scholar. She talked about her experience working for NASA. She designed work-out equipment for astronauts which was sent to space for various missions. During graduate school she was pregnant and had children. At times she was stressed out and overwhelmed but never gave up; her story has truly inspired me.

I was most excited for the graduate school fair. Sadly, I was not impressed. None of the schools present had any forensic science related majors. I was hoping to reach out and connect with at least one school but I was unable to do so. Overall, I really enjoyed the conference. I met other students from across the United Stares and chatted about my interests and learned about theirs. I am so grateful to McNair for funding the trip and to Jill taking us to the conference.

Christine VanBrocklin

While attending the 2019 McNair National Research conference in Kansas City. I felt eager and excited. It was truly humbling to see so many scholars of various races present research they were interested in. However, even though I did not get to present myself, it was still a very enjoyable experience to attend. I attended every session that varied from peer-mentor programs to criminal justice. I found that this conference lacked a lot of area and additional outreach for criminal justice. For me individually, I really had very little outreach since my
research is focused around Native Americans which I saw no representation here for that. This is no problem. I am excited to advocate more Native American representation in future conferences. I attended presentations that helped me as an individual with my own peer-mentor program and also learned outside information about injustice in the criminal justice perspective. I even attended a session I had very little knowledge about that expanded it in ways not imaginable because the research made it easy to follow along and understand.

Of course the speakers that were at the breakfasts and dinners were very motivational and inspiring. The NASA former McNair scholar kept the audience's attention and had a very impactful life history. The last day's speaker was so extremely moving that I could have cried afterwards. The conference had energy that left me eager to finish my independent research so I too can present like them next year. Oh, the food was yummy!

Ashly Hanna

We flew to Kansas City, Missouri on Friday. When we got to the hotel, we were not able to check in right away because they had too many late checkouts. While we were waiting for our rooms to become available, we walked to Barnes and Noble and browsed. Once we able to check-in, we were able to get ready for the opening banquet. I must say that I was not expecting them to split us up according to discipline. It truly caught me off guard. Unfortunately, the English table was full, so I sat at the Arts and Humanities table. I really enjoyed listening to the speaker talk about how McNair helped her succeed and how she was able to start a McNair Program at her University. After dinner, I went to the grad school fair. Most of the schools there didn’t have what I was looking for. However, I enjoyed learning about the University of Chicago.

On Saturday, I presented on Chaucer’s *The Second Nun’s Tale*. The other students in my group presented on different media, such as literature and music, affects aggression, as well as Chicano art in Kansas City. In hindsight, I probably should have prepared a PowerPoint. However, very few scholars used them while presenting in Kalamazoo. This was further complicated by the lack of a podium or a table for one to sit or stand at while presenting. I ended up standing in front of the audience, reading my paper off of my laptop. I was slightly distracted while presenting due to the leaking ceiling. I was able to answer some really good questions.

That night, our speaker was a former McNair scholar and she now works for NASA. We went to the dance, but we quickly realized that it wasn’t that interesting, so we called it a night. The next morning, we had another speaker and he was definitely my favorite. He talked to us about how we should never give up no matter how tired and discouraged we may become. Keynote speakers rarely resonate with me, but he did. We flew back that day and I had a really good pizza melt at the airport in Kansas City.

I am truly thankful that I was given the opportunity to attend this conference. Though I am in no way comfortable with public speaking, I enjoy taking advantage of these opportunities because I know that gaining more experience with this will only help become more comfortable with it. Also, it’s always nice to be surrounded by other students who are also academically driven and have similar goals. Finally, I’m glad that I got to know some of my fellow McNair scholars at UND.

Emily Severinson

During the McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, I attended various talks both in my discipline and in fields outside my focus. At these research talks I learned about the topics peers in my field were currently researching, varying between experimental and theoretical research. These topics included study of black matter in our solar system, the practical use of apps when studying the universe in order to comprehend data easier and faster, and the theoretical resistance of an infinitely long wire in a repeating cube pattern.

At these talks I met many people who shared my interests in the field and were willing to discuss with me various topics we were learning at our various universities. We discussed our interests in pursuing grad school, what our future career plans were, and what kind of research topics we wished to pursue in the future. The conference served as a good opportunity for me to practice discussing my own interests and sharing what knowledge I knew with my peers, while also being able to ask important questions and learn things I originally didn’t have access to.

The conference also had a wide variety of speakers, all of which had very interesting stories about their unique experiences in their fields of work. One personal favorite was hearing from the director of research in microgravity at NASA. She talked about her experience from working as an undergrad in engineering, doing work in biology, how she helped develop exercise machines for astronauts in space, and how she got herself to her current position in NASA. Her speech was really encouraging and showed a possible path into the future that one could take to achieve their goals. It made clear that pursuing higher education was well worth one’s time.

Jacob Nelson
The time has come and gone in a flash (as I suspected it would) but I will never forget the memories made along the way.

This past summer I was an RTA (Resident Tutor Advisor) for the UND Upward Bound Summer Program where I have worked with some of the best people. This program provided me the opportunity to work with one-of-a-kind students that I otherwise would never have met. UB has not only given me the chance to help & guide these young individuals but to learn & grow with them as well. I've learned so much about myself and others through this experience. I have learned how to be more selfless, giving, & nurturing and I have become a better leader, friend, counselor, & role model because of it. I also became the best of friends with people that I would otherwise never have gotten to know. It has been a rollercoaster of emotion but I wouldn't trade this experience for the world.

Missing the kids already. I can't wait to see the amazing things that they will accomplish within the next year & beyond!

The future isn't set in stone and there are so many opportunities that await me, but I'm hoping that it's in the cards that I'll be able to work with these kids & be a part of this program again. If not, I know everything works out the way it is meant to be & I am all the better for it.

To conclude, if you know me you know that I'm not a big fan of photos of myself. But I found this photo that a student took of me with the UB camera & it makes me so happy. I'm glad that I'll always have this photo & many more to remember just how awesome this summer was.

Thank you❤️

Jaycee Anderson’s Upward Bound Experience

Since graduating I have started my research for my PhD program. I have been studying the alpha1A adrenergic receptor as an undergraduate and it looks like I will continue to study it for my PhD. As soon as I began this summer, I ended up with a shipment of 80 mice that I have been carrying for and treating with a drug. The goal is to run these mice through mazes and other behavioral tests to see how the drug affects their anxiety, depression, and cognitive abilities after they have been on the drug for a certain amount of time. Since it is a lot of mice, I have a few undergraduates that I am mentoring in a summer REU program helping me set up and run the tests. They have been a lot of help! Since I have been doing my best to teach them what I know about neuroscience and my research, it is odd now being in the teacher's position rather than the student's!

My plans for fall are to continue my research (hopefully) which may have to halt for a bit while I undergo lab rotations alongside with my classes. I haven't thought too much about fall since I have been busy in the lab lately. If anything, I am excited to study the subjects that my research will be on since I didn't learn too much about neuroscience as an engineer. So that should be a big help!

Jason Power

2019 McNair Graduate Begins Ph.D. Research

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Jason Power

Since graduating I have started my research for my PhD program. I have been studying the alpha1A adrenergic receptor as an undergraduate and it looks like I will continue to study it for my PhD. As soon as I began this summer, I ended up with a shipment of 80 mice that I have been carrying for and treating with a drug. The goal is to run these mice through mazes and other behavioral tests to see how the drug affects their anxiety, depression, and cognitive abilities after they have been on the drug for a certain amount of time. Since it is a lot of mice, I have a few undergraduates that I am mentoring in a summer REU program helping me set up and run the tests. They have been a lot of help! Since I have been doing my best to teach them what I know about neuroscience and my research, it is odd now being in the teacher's position rather than the student's!

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Jason Power
Recharging for the School Year

After a long day of exams and homework I wander around campus playing Pokemon Go. Pokemon Go is an augmented reality mobile game that combines the real world and gaming. Players encounter Pokemon in real locations which are then caught and trained. The game connects many players through "Raid Battles" where players can use their Pokemon to take down legendary Pokemon and have a chance at catching them. The game has connected me with many players and given me the opportunity to play across the world. This summer I traveled to Chicago Illinois for two days to play for Go Fest Chicago in the iconic Grant Park with several friends. The park was decorated with different habitats including a spooky forest, fairy garden, sandy desert, and a lake habitat. As we walked the park I encountered my favorite Pokemon while enjoying the company of my friends and the beautiful scenery of Lake Michigan.

After I attended Go Fest Chicago, I traveled to Germany with friends to attend Go Fest Dortmund. While in Germany, I met trainers from across the world. I became friends with trainers from Spain, Israel, Canada, Germany, Ireland, and the UK. We shared and traded Pokemon with each other, showed off our coolest catches, chatted about our favorite parts of the game. One of my favorite memories is meeting a group of local players in Frankfurt and raiding with them while we explored the city. We played our way through the local shopping mall, train station, and a few parks. My Germany trip concluded with attending "Go Fest Dortmund" with four friends. As we caught Pokemon we explored Westfalenpark which is a German Rosarium. The park was filled with beautiful roses, trees, wildlife; most notably the flamingos snacking the ponds. We also had the opportunity to trade Pokemon with other trainers and show off our best Pokemon in trainer battles. Overall, Go Fest Dortmund was a success and I ended up leaving with new friends, some rare Pokemon, and the mythical Pokemon Jirachi.

Leaving Germany was not easy but I came back excited to resume my studies. I think it is vital for students to have a hobby or get-away they can use when school feels overwhelming. For me, my way to unwind has been Pokemon Go and I plan on using it in the future whenever I need a break from the real world.

Christine VanBrocklin

Welcome New Scholars

Hi, I'm Alaura Anderson. I'm a junior in Chemical Engineering here at UND, and I love it. I am seeking to get my PHD because I want to become a professional researcher. I'm very interested in modifying bacteria for agriculture, or new ways of carbon fixing to promote plant growth! I own five succulents and am working on expanding my little garden of herbs and pansies. I also would love to develop new ways to modify plastics and recycle petroleum products. Engineering helps me plan for larger scales of my research and I hope to change the world for the better!

Boozhoo! Jayce Anderson nindizhinikaaz. - Hello! My name is Jaycee Anderson. I am a proud Anishinaabekwe, belonging to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and I am from Manvel, North Dakota. I am currently a sophomore pursuing an education in American Indian Studies and English. I plan to get my Master's and Ph.D. in English with a focus on contemporary Indigenous literature - my research also reflects this. I hope to become a professor at an institution that serves most, if not all, Indigenous students as it aligns with
my desire to give back to Indigenous communities. I am also interested in leadership positions that provide opportunities for Native and non-Native students to learn and think about Indigenous knowledge in creative, transformative, and critical ways while being respectful of Indigenous peoples’ cultures. I am determined to take advantage of the educational opportunities that were denied to my ancestors while reclaiming and reconnecting with my culture so that I may pass that knowledge on to future generations.

Hello my name is Mohamed Mohamed. I am currently a junior at the University of North Dakota studying chemical engineering. I was born in Somalia but migrated to the U.S. at the age of seven. After a brief two year stay at California my family moved to Minnesota where we have resided ever since. Growing up my earliest interest in school were the sciences and math. This eventually led me to pursing a degree in chemical engineering. As I progressed through my undergraduate, I began to have more interest on the research side of things. This in turn lead me to doing an REU over the summer at the University of Kansas. It was through this experience of doing research full-time for 10 week that cemented my interest towards a career as a researcher. Thus I am excited by the opportunity to join the MacNair program and continued learning and exploring new ideas.

Hello my name is Linnya Sanders. I am from West Fargo, North Dakota. I am Sophomore at University of North Dakota majoring in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. I hope to pursue a masters and Ph.D. in psychology after graduating in 2022. My mentor is Dr. Tom Petros. As I am just starting with the McNair Program, I am not decided on my research at this time but will be pursuing something with psychology. Though I do enjoy learning about behavior and perception in psychology. I am thankful for the McNair Program as it has allowed me to grow in my education.

Greetings! My name is Amanda Saligumba and I am currently a junior majoring in English, pursuing a minor in Astrophysics, and will be receiving a certificate in Spanish. I was born in Manila, Philippines and raised there for half my life until I moved to America and spent the other half of my life in central Minnesota. My cultural transition from South-East Asia to America sparked my love for learning languages and literature, which led me to pursue a degree in English. As for my passion of Physics, I have always loved science and the enigma of the cosmos. My interests in English and sciences become interdisciplinary when focusing on the theoretical aspect of physics, which I aspire to become a science writer.
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Words for Wits

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

1) Horologium a. extravagantly enthusiastic; ecstatic.
2) Usageaster b. audacity; nerve.
3) Rhapsodic c. strangely diabolical or cruel; monstrous: a ghoulish and questionable sense of humor.
4) Oppidan d. extremely small; tiny; diminutive.
5) Chutzpa e. an irrational or disproportionate fear of cheese.
6) Turophobia f. a timepiece, as a clock or sundial, or a building supporting or containing a timepiece.
7) Lilliputian g. of a town; urban.
8) Ghoulish h. a self-styled authority on language usage.

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