Summer Research Colloquium
Thursday, July 18, 2024 – Nebraska Union & Gaughan Multicultural Center
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. McNair Research Presentations

Nebraska Union / Heritage Room

Moderator – Sophie Kowalski, M.A., UNL Educational Psychology Ph.D. candidate

Marcus Cureton, Forensic Science
Survey of Over-the-Counter Substance Stability in Animal Tissue
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Murrieta, Department of Forensic Science

Bryan Suriano, Biochemistry & Microbiology
How Human Cytomegalovirus UL4 Controls the Proinflammatory Cytokine TNFSF10 to Control Cellular Functions
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lindsey Crawford, Department of Biochemistry

Maya Tanikawa-Brown, Food Science & Technology
Comparative Analysis of Egg Proteins in a Processed Food Matrix
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Joseph Baumert and Dr. Amanda Ramer-Tait, Department of Food Science & Technology

Cristian Gonzalez, Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Biological Sciences
Applying DMS-MaPseq for Evaluating RNA-Ligand Binding
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joseph Yesselman, Department of Chemistry
MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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Gaughan Unity / Room 212

Moderator – Casey Tisdale, UNL Social and Law Psychology Ph.D. student

Nayla Torres Ruiz, Anthropology, History, & Spanish
Bicultural Identities and Sense of Belonging Among Spanish-English Bilingual Immigrants in Nebraska
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Isabel Velázquez, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

Ash Ballentine, History
The Institute in Basic Life Principles, The Duggars, and Bad Behavior: How Religion, Social Media, and Purity Culture Intersect
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Angela Bolen, Department of History

Symone Parent, Psychology
Influence of Personal Attitudes for Support of Mental Health Services for Prison Populations
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, Department of Psychology

Maab Shogar, Psychology, Community Health & Wellness
The Influence of Essentialist Ideology on Perceptions of Incarcerated Men Who Differ by Race, SES, and Mental Health Status
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, Department of Psychology

Ashley Bruha, Criminology & Criminal Justice
Correlation Between Mental Health Resource Use and Rural Officer Wellbeing in Nebraska
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Trisha Rhodes, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice
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Gaughan Ubuntu / Room 202
Moderator – Hamza Rfissa, UNL Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education Ph.D. student

Taetum Baxa, Biological Systems Engineering
Quantifying microfluidics flow separation through comparative analysis of eNOS phosphorylation
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ryan Pedrigi, Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering

Helen Martinez, Mathematics
Early Forecasting of Student Performance in STEM Using Large Language Models
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mohammad R. Hasan, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Meklit Aga, Psychology, Neuroscience
Age at Brain Injury: Impact on Emotion Recognition and Quality of Life
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathy Chiou, Department of Psychology

Furqan Mahdi, Biological Systems Engineering
Assessment of macrophage presence and phenotypes at different time points in a rat model of disc-associated pain
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Wachs, Department of Biological Systems Engineering