



## MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# 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



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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