

Congratulations to 2015-16 McNair Graduates!



Brittney Bridger-Burton earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in May 2016. She has accepted an internship for Summer 2016 with Valmont Industries of Lincoln, Nebraska.



Kaylor Caldwell earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in December 2015. Kaylor will pursue a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



Dina Morales earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in May 2016. Dina will continue to work with the Minority Health Disparities Initiative.



Adrienne Ricker graduated in May 2016 with a dual bachelor's degree in geology and biological sciences. Adrienne has accepted an offer from the University of California, Santa Cruz Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences Ph.D. program. She was awarded the Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship. She was also selected to participate in a Summer 2016 internship at Ashfall Fossil Beds.



Scholars Accept Summer Research Opportunities



José Lemus is participating in the Carnegie Mellon Summer Institute in Public Policy and International Affairs. He was among 20 students selected to receive intensive training in a variety of topics including policy, leadership, communication, and quantitative skills. The goal of the institute is to provide an opportunity to develop the skills needed for admission into the nation's top policy programs.

Zully Perez Sierra was accepted to Michigan State University's 2016 Summer Research Opportunities Program. Zully is working with Dr. Kirk Dolan, Department of Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering. Their research involves a kinetic study of degradation of anthocyanins in cherry juice at different constant temperatures, and also a nonisothermal experiment.



Mentors Honored at McNair Recognition Reception

We gather annually for the McNair Reception, not only to recognize the graduating seniors, but also to highlight the accomplishments of all McNair Scholars, and to show our appreciation to the friends and family members who support our program. The McNair Recognition Reception also provides the opportunity to thank our faculty, postdoctoral, and graduate student mentors who've made special contributions to the program over the past year.

Dr. Laurie Bellows, Director of the McNair Scholars Program and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, thanked all faculty, postdoctoral and graduate student mentors for their inspiration, commitment, patience, and support of our Scholars. She affirmed, "Our scholars are able to 'see further'—as Sir Isaac Newton once noted—because they've stood on the shoulders of these giants."

2016 Faculty Mentor Appreciation Award



Nicole R Buan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biochemistry

This year's recipient of the 2016 McNair Faculty Appreciation Award was Dr. Nicole Buan, Associate Professor of Biochemistry.

Dr. Buan has mentored two McNair Scholars and has encouraged other faculty members to mentor McNair Scholars through her Twitter feed. Her mentees describe her as a dedicated, incredible role model and motivator.

Brandi Russell affirmed, "Dr. Buan encourages all of our lab members to grow as researchers.

She gives us the opportunity to solve issues on our own by challenging us to think in a different way through our lab and individual meetings."

Megan Smith added, "Dr. Buan is definitely one of the reasons I plan to pursue a Ph.D., and why I added my microbiology double major. She supported my applications to McNair and the Beckman Scholars Program. She also suggested I apply for the ASM fellowship and helped me come up with my own research question and methods for the ASM abstract. "She's always willing to help with whatever I need."



Megan Smith, Dr. Nicole Buan, and Brandi Russell

2016 Graduate Student Appreciation Award

The recipient of the 2016 Graduate Student Appreciation Award was Zachary Stewart, who recently received his Ph.D. in agronomy & horticulture.

As a doctoral student, Zachary guided Zully Perez Sierra on two of her research projects and served as a recommender for her Summer Research applications. As a result, Zully was accepted into the Michigan State University 2016 Summer Research Opportunities Program.

In addition to reviewing Zully's work during the McNair Summer Research Experience, Zachary also reviewed her poster, which she presented last November at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students conference in Seattle, Washington.

Zully noted, "Zachary also attended meetings with my advisor to design a new experiment."

Dr. Bellows added, "He is an effective mentor and coach. Zachary shared his skills and expertise, as well as his enthusiasm for learning. He is an excellent leader and an exemplary graduate student."

Dr. Lance Pérez, Dean of Graduate Studies, addressed the McNair Scholars, mentors, family, and friends to the annual McNair Recognition Reception.

In his remarks, Dr. Pérez discussed the McNair mission of attracting promising UNL undergraduate scholars whose enthusiasm and achievements continue to propel them toward attaining their dreams. He emphasized that the Office of Graduate Studies considers it an honor to support and encourage McNair scholars to achieve their academic goals.



Zachary P. Stewart, Ph.D.
Agronomy & Horticulture



Dr. Zachary Stewart & Zully Perez Sierra

Special Thanks to the faculty, postdoctoral, and graduate student mentors who contributed their time and expertise to work with McNair Scholars during the McNair Summer Research Experience and who continue to support the Scholars' research and graduate application efforts. Your support is invaluable to the success of our program.

Jacht Produced McNair Videos Launched

The McNair Scholars Program helps high-achieving students from first generation or underrepresented communities prepare for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Our Scholars are bright, hardworking, inventive, leaders in and out of the classroom. What else makes UNL McNair Scholars unique? Our students are motivated, passionate, and determined to achieve their goals. They have a deep sense of pride and purpose. They make the most of every opportunity McNair has to offer. They foster a network of support, and thrive in a community of like-minded individuals.



"If I were to give advice to an incoming McNair Scholar, it would be push past the doubt and realize that you are more capable than you believe." – **Morgan McCain** <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-morgan>

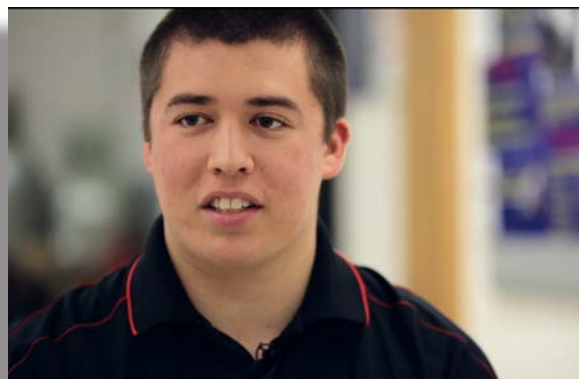
Don't take our word for it - let our Scholars tell you! We've just launched a series of new McNair videos. Featured in these videos are five of our McNair Scholars and alumni discussing what it means to be a part of the McNair Scholars Program. To learn about the opportunities our community offers, visit <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-students>



"I don't think I would be going to graduate school if it hadn't been for the McNair Program giving me the resources. What was really key into getting into graduate school was having that early research experience which made my application competitive." – **Brittany Brakenhoff** <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-brittney>



"The McNair Program is what really solidified my belief that I can handle graduate level work and research. Getting into the McNair Program was one of the biggest things that I've ever done and one of the biggest things I'm most proud of." – **Marco Gullickson** <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-marco>



"The McNair Program has provided me with a lot of opportunities I wouldn't have initially gotten just taking courses here as an engineer, or any other student really." – **Daniel Rico** <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-daniel>



"The community here is very welcoming but also supportive to help you grow as a scholar. McNair has helped me keep searching for what my desire is for a career." – **Zully Perez Sierra** <http://go.unl.edu/unlmsp-zully>

These videos were created and produced by the Jacht Ad Lab, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications student advertising agency. Although student run, Jacht is not a class project. The organization takes on external clients and projects, such as campaign development and branding. For more information, visit <http://jachtadlab.com/>

Garfields Conduct Graduate Research in S.W. Ethiopia

To borrow a quote from Robert Frost, Zach and Melissa Garfield “have taken the road less traveled” in their academic careers. After graduating high school, Zach found his college classes left him uninspired. So he, along with his wife Melissa, set off on a different path. The couple relocated to Japan, where they lived in the remote Japanese forests of Nikko, volunteering with the World-Wide Organization of Organic Farms. During their service, they visited the bustling cities of Bangkok and Chiang Mai, fostering their interest and need for cross-cultural understanding, and passion for anthropology.

The Garfields returned to UNL in 2008 with a clear direction and renewed commitment to academics. They developed a UCARE project with Dr. Ray Hames, UNL Department of Anthropology, who introduced them to cross-cultural research using the electronic Human Relations Area Files (eHRAF), a digital collection often utilized in comparative studies. In 2009, the couple was accepted into the UNL McNair Scholars Program, which launched their research interests.

As McNair Scholars, Melissa focused on how women achieve status in traditional societies, while Zach concentrated on status and prosociality in egalitarian societies. The couple’s efforts were rewarded with acceptance for both into Washington State University’s Anthropology Ph.D. program, where they are currently students. Zach continues to use eHRAF to conduct cross-cultural studies testing theoretical models of leadership with his advisor Dr. Ed Hagen.

“Because of the skills in cross-cultural research I developed as a McNair scholar, I was able to be involved in and initiate a number of side projects during my first few years of graduate school,” Zach noted. These projects include first authorship on a soon to be published book chapter and a co-authorship on a publication testing models of suicide against the ethnographic record.

Zach’s present research focuses on the evolution of leadership and strategies of leadership and followership in small-scale societies. “I’m especially interested in how leadership functions in egalitarian societies where there are no inherited wealth or status differences and leaders have to earn and maintain their position by the graces of the community,” shared Zach.

Last summer, the Garfields were able to study the Chabu, a forager-horticulturist group who live in the Sheka forest, a remote area in southwest Ethiopia. The Chabu formerly maintained a nomadic hunting and gathering lifestyle, however since the 1990s, they have lived in permanent villages, growing crops such as maize and wild yams, while maintaining traditional hunting practices utilizing dogs, spears, and snare traps to catch wild animals.

Even though linguistic and genetic evidence suggests they are significantly distinct from other ethnic groups, the Chabu are not recognized as such by the Ethiopian government. “Those of us working with the Chabu are actively trying to remedy this problem,” assured Zach, “Their language and their culture are highly endangered as government and economic enterprises continue to develop an interest in their land.”

Across Ethiopia, local governments employ a system of ‘neighborhood administrations’ called the Kebele system. The

Kebele system involves remote indigenous communities, such as the Chabu, electing local leaders to serve various functions within the community and to act as a liaison between the people and the local government as needed. The Chabu appreciate this structure and believe their locally elected leaders are good for the community. “My research focuses on understanding how this government imposed system of hierarchical leadership functions in the context of the otherwise egalitarian social structure of the Chabu and how traditional leadership processes are adapting to and interacting with this new system of locally elected leadership positions,” Garfield explained.

After coordinated planning with Dr. Barry Hewlett, a member of Zach’s Ph.D. committee, and Dr. Samuel Jilo Dira, a recent graduate of WSU who also studies the Chabu, Garfield along with Melissa, arrived in Ethiopia to join their research assistant Dr. Kibebe Tsehay Taye, a linguist who studies the Chabu language. They spent three days on crowded public buses to reach a remote market town. The team then hired a truck to drive them to where the road ends and the rough 6-hour hike to the Chabu village of Jifor begins. Despite being avid hikers and campers, Zach described, “We were not prepared for the arduous hike, where we were climbing and descending significant elevation through the dense, humid, tropical forest.”



Zach Garfield conducting focus group interview with Chabu elder males.



Melissa Garfield interviews a highly respected Chabu elder female.

Before the team was able to reach Jifor, a conflict arose. Guerrilla rebels had broken into and liberated a prison, killing many government police. The team had to wait nearly two months before the conflict died down. “If anything we learned the value and necessity of being flexible when conducting fieldwork in remote places of the developing world,” Zach affirmed.

Working with the Chabu has been both rewarding and humbling for the former McNair scholar.

Zach’s first fieldwork consisted of conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with the Chabu on understanding and defining cultural models of leadership; that is, what the Chabu think about leadership and how leadership works. The Chabu in Jifor do not speak English and few speak Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. Dr. Kibebe was instrumental in recruiting a Chabu research assistant to provide Chabu to Amharic translation, with Dr. Kibebe translating from Amharic to English. Having completed the preliminary fieldwork, Zach is prepared to return to Jifor for data collection. The Chabu said Garfield and his team were like family to them now, and they would be looking forward to seeing them again.

Garfield reflected, “Perhaps the most exciting time we had with them was the night we broke out the glow-stick bracelets we brought. Everyone loves glow sticks, and they were certainly new to the Chabu. People of all ages came running to us when news spread of what we were giving out. Never have I seen such pure joy on the faces of so many.”

Zach’s advice to McNair Scholars? “When conducting fieldwork in remote places, bring a bunch of glow-stick bracelets.”

Beals Achieved Healthy Work-Life Balance & her Ph.D.

As a Ph.D. graduate from the University of New Mexico (UNM), Rebecca Beals has become excellent at managing her time. This is due, in part, to learning how to successfully set goals and manage the hurdles of graduate school.

One of the greatest lessons came during Beals' first day of McNair Scholar orientation. "We were required to draw out a 'map' or 'path' of where we were at that moment, and where we wanted to be at the end of graduate school (Ph.D.) Then, we filled in the path with all of the milestones we would need to complete along the way. I embedded that thinking in my mind as I worked through graduate school and broke up each year with what I needed to do that year and that semester, to make it to my ultimate goal of being an employable Ph.D."

Focusing on short-term goals for the semester and larger goals such as her comprehensive exams and proposal defense, she organized all of the tasks on a large white board. Beals kept the checklist visible in her office, helping her to focus on the overall big picture and allowing her to check off the more manageable, smaller tasks. She noted, "I would plan a celebration every time I completed a goal and made a big deal about being able to check off tasks. This kept me positive and motivated."

Beals knew graduate school was going to be demanding and was ready for the challenge. However, she wasn't prepared for the emotional demands, in terms of imposter syndrome, managing perfectionism and being away from friends and family. Going through the process, however, she learned that the reward that comes from completing another requirement far outweighs the work. She affirmed, "Nothing feels greater than that moment when you complete that last big hurdle of the dissertation defense. It was one of the most powerful moments in my life."

Beals has had to become excellent at balancing her academic work and personal life; she and her husband welcomed a new baby girl the fall semester prior to her dissertation defense. She says the best advice she ever got came from a pro-family, female professor in her department who said that having a baby in the last year of the program was the best time to do it.

Beals shared, "I would have struggled if I had chosen to time my decision earlier. Waiting until I was done writing worked very well for my husband and I."

One of the most important things for Beals was finding faculty members and graduate students who supported her decision to start a family. She is especially thankful to her supportive husband, her parents, faculty, and friends for their continuous help.

To help McNair Scholars achieve a healthy lifestyle balancing life and graduate school, Beals advises that students should pay attention to the things that make them happy outside of academia. She also suggests avoiding academic burnout by taking time out every day to focus on other things, such as family and hobbies.

"Never let your fears of doing 'one' or the 'other' stop you from doing both. It is entirely possible to do both and be happy," encourages Beals.

Beals started graduate school being funded as a graduate assistant who graded papers and proctored exams. Once completing her Master's degree at UNM, she became a teaching assistant, which allowed her to gain teaching experience as the primary instructor for various sociology courses. She then received a research assistantship with her primary advisor, which paid for all of her research and living expenses the last three years of her program.

Due in part to her work as a program evaluator for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, Beals was able to pursue both her academic work and program evaluation while working towards her Ph.D. She recently presented her research on "*Identity Development and Transformative Organizational Culture for Underrepresented Students and Women in STEM*" at a conference in Washington, D.C. Next up is a paper presentation at the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Seattle, Washington in August 2016. Beals has an upcoming publication from her doctoral work, and is currently weighing the options between producing her remaining work as a book manuscript or multiple journal articles.

Looking towards the future, her plans as a Ph.D. graduate are flexible. Beals has developed a variety of skills to market herself in a variety of environments. Her main focuses will be college teaching, academic research, and program evaluation. This will allow Beals to move into either a sociology related field or an education related field doing either academic research, practical research, or teaching. Currently, she has a five-year post-doc with the UNM and Arizona State University, where she'll continue her research while finishing her publications and navigating the job market.



Rebecca Beals discussed her research at the Louis Stokes Alliance Symposium Q & A session.

McNair Alumni Co-author Publications

McNair Alumni who have co-authored recent publications include:

Rebecca Beals – Beals, R.A. and Ibarra, R. (Forthcoming 2017). "It was a Whole New Environment" – Multicontextuality as A New Framework for Access and Assessment of Underrepresented STEM Students." Chapter 2 in *New Directions in Hispanic Student Assessment and Academic Preparation*. Eds. Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr., Laura J. Rendón, Gary Francisco Keller, Alberto Acereda, Estela Bensimón and Richard J. Tannenbaum. SUNY Press, Albany, New York.

Zachary & Melissa Garfield – Garfield, Z. H., Garfield, M. J., Hewlett, B. S. (In press, 2016). A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Hunter-Gatherer Social Learning. In eds. Hideaki Terashima, Barry S. Hewlett, *Social Learning and Innovation in Contemporary Hunter-Gatherers: Evolutionary and Ethnographic Perspectives*.

Syme, K.L., **Garfield, Z. H.** & Hagen, E. H. (In press, accepted manuscript). Testing the bargaining vs. inclusive fitness models of suicide behavior against the ethnographic record, *Evolution and Human Behavior*. doi: 10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2015.10.005.

Honors, Awards, and Leadership Activities 2015-16

M McNair Scholars continue to make an impact on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus and in the community through their leadership roles and volunteerism. This is a partial listing of their honors, awards, scholarships, and leadership activities:

Myrianna Bakou – Arts & Sciences Ambassador; Pound Residence Association Liaison; Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA); and Omaha North High School student mentor; and Prairie Schooner Intern.

Kyly Baxter – William H. Thompson Learning Community; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; Susan T. Buffet Scholarship; and Upward Bound Leadership Board student worker.

Brittney Bridger-Burton – 2015-16 UCARE award; Fall 2015 College of Engineering Dean's list; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics team leader.

Kaylor Caldwell – Law and Public Policy Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU); Nebraska College Preparatory Academy mentor; Susan T. Buffet Scholarship; William H. Thompson Scholar; Culler Middle School Community Learning Center academic enhancer.

Jazmin Castillo – IANR Research award; Global Internship Award; Scarlet Guard Board of Directors; Study of the U.S. Institute on Civic Engagement Ambassador; School of Natural Resources Ambassador; and the International Partners program.

Amanda Dale – 2015-16 UCARE award; Fall 2015 College of Arts & Sciences Dean's list; Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women Student Chair; Men @ Nebraska Organization Vice President & Peer Educator; Psychology of Gender Student Organization President; The Women's Center volunteer; Prevent Peer Educator; Psi Chi member; Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society; and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

Shimin Deng – William H. Thompson Scholar; Math Scholar; Eastman Scholar; Fall 2015 Teaching Assistant for Math 101; and Belmont Elementary after-school activities volunteer.

Catelyn Evans – OASIS Academic Success Award; Urban League Scholarship; National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) President; 2015-16 Region V Zone Chair for National Society of Black Engineers; elected 2016-17 Region V Vice-Chair for National Society of Black Engineers; Core Team Member of Young and Unashamed; BOSR and Multicultural Center Employee of the Month; and Malone Center tutoring volunteer.

Jaquelin Garcia-Castorena – IDEa Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) research fellowship; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; and Education Quest Student Ambassador.

Jackie Hernandez – Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; Society of Women Engineers; and Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Scholarship.

José Lemus – Innocents Society; 2015-16 UCARE award; Summer 2016 UCARE Award; Carnegie Mellon University PPIA fellow alternate Summer 2016; William H. Thompson Scholar; Nebraska Appleseed Intern; President of Omicron Delta Epsilon Economic Honor Society; W.E.B. Du Bois Honors Society; Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society; University Programming Council member; Economics Undergraduate Advising Committee.

Jarold McWilliams – Regent's Scholarship; Honors Textbook Scholarship; David & Freda Wolf Scholarship.

Andreas Miles-Novelo – 2015-16 UCARE award; Ruth Levington Scholarship; Men's Club Lacrosse Team; and National Society of Collegiate Scholars member.

Dina Morales – Susan T. Buffet Scholarship and Mexican American Student Association.

Zully Perez Sierra – Honors Program; Fall 2015 College of Engineering Dean's list; 2015-16 UCARE award; William H. Thompson Learning Community Member and Math & Science Tutor; American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) 9/11 Community Service Day Volunteer; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Treasurer; Society of Women Engineers; AIChE Minority Scholarship; Susan T. Buffet Scholarship; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; John & Nancy Dunn Scholarship; James Blackman Scholarship; Milton E. Mohr Research Scholarship; Fall 2015 ABRCMS Conference Travel Award; Peoples City Mission server; and Lincoln Boo at the Zoo.

Sara Reyes – Fall 2015 College of Arts & Sciences Dean's list; and 2016 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Diversifying Clinical Psychology Weekend.

Adrienne Ricker – Honors Program; 2015-16 UCARE Award; Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Character Council; Undergraduate Research Ambassador; College of Arts & Sciences Student Ambassador; University of Nebraska State Museum Student Ambassador; Students of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (SEAS) Social Media Chair; Neihardt Honors Hall Resident Assistant; National Residence Hall Honorary; and Dinosaurs & Disasters Biome Recognition volunteer.

Daniel Rico – 2015-16 UCARE award; IANR Research award; Undergraduate Research Ambassador; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; American Meteorological Society; Susan T. Buffet Scholarship; Buffet Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence; Donald F. Mildred Topp Othmer Engineering Scholarship; and Reach the World Correspondent Member.

Alicia Michelle Rogers – 2015-16 UCARE award; Fall 2015 College of Arts & Sciences Dean's list; A. & M. Waters Scholarship, 2015–2016; Biosciences Opportunities Preview Program (BOPS) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (October 2015); Spring 2016 Teaching Assistant for Biochemistry 321; American Society for Virologists; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine; Lincoln Young Professionals Group; First Husker Mentor; First Generation Advisory Council undergraduate advisor.

Kimberly Ruiz – Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Peer Mentor; Lambda Theta Nu Fundraising Chair; and planned the Spring 2016 Latina Youth Leadership Conference for middle school girls at the UNL East Campus Union.

Brandi Russell – Honors Program; Dean's Scholars in Experiential Learning (DSEL); Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society; Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society; YWCA Take a Break program volunteer; elementary school pen pal; and the UNL rowing team.

Elliot Sandfort – Fall 2015 College of Engineering Dean's list; Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies; UNL Aerospace Club Secretary; Children's Museum volunteer to spread awareness of engineering at UNL.

MaLeaha Semerad – Fall 2015 College of Education and Human Sciences Dean's List; William H. Thompson Scholar; and WHT Community Service Learning Committee

Megan Smith – 2015-16 American Society for Microbiology grant; 2015-16 UCARE award; Microbes Rock! volunteer at Dinosaurs and Disasters at Morrill Hall; and Omaha Benson VEX Robotics Middle School Competition judge.

The McNair Program is a focused, comprehensive program that provides much more than advice on how to prepare for entrance to a graduate program. Participating Scholars become an integral part of a learning community, receiving support from each other, McNair Program staff, UNL faculty, and other resources as they develop the research skills they need to prepare for the next stage in their educational careers.

Scholars Report Research Findings at Conferences

McNair Scholars disseminated their research findings at numerous local, regional, and national conferences:

Brittney Bridger-Burton – Bridger-Burton, B., Cole, K. (2016, April). *Modeling of Methane Tank Depressurization in Cold Weather*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jazmin Castillo – Castillo, J., Snyman, A., Carroll, J.P. (2016, March). *Estimation of Distribution and Abundance of the Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, Botswana*. Presentation at the Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Kearney, Nebraska.

Amanda Dale – Dale, A. (2016, April). *Affirmative consent: Individual differences in perceptions of sexual assault*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dale, A. (2016, April). *Masculinity and body shame: A comparative path analysis*. Poster presented at the Men @ Nebraska Conference on Men and Masculinities Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dale, A., Longoria, F., Dank, G. (2016, March). *M@N on Campus: Exploring Masculinities Among Leaders at the University of Nebraska*. American Men's Studies Association Annual Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dale, A. (2016, January). *Affirmative Consent and Assault Ambiguity: Effects on Perceptions of Sexual Violence on College Campuses*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 17th Annual Convention, San Diego, California.

Dale, A. (2015, November). *An Exploration of Rape Culture: Gender, Rape Myth Acceptance, and Sexism in Relation to Perceptions of Sexual Violence*. Nebraska Psychological Society Conference, Crete, Nebraska.

Jaquelin Garcia-Castorena – Garcia-Castorena, J., Naik, S., Schwabe, M., Wayne Riekhof, W. (2016, April). *Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate and oxysterol binding proteins are necessary for lysophospholipid transport in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae**. Presentation at the Nebraska Academy of Sciences Spring 2016 Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Andreas Miles-Novelo – Miles-Novelo, A., Riemer, A. (2016, April). *Not as Stressful as you Think: The Effects and Importance of High-Impact Objectification Studies on Participants*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Zully Perez Sierra – Perez Sierra, Z., Viljoen, H., Paparozzi, E., Stewart, Z., Conley, E. (2016, April). *Investigation of a Nanoparticle Delivery System for Micronutrients to Plants*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Perez Sierra, Z., Grobler, A., Viljoen, H. (2015, November). *Modeling Nanoparticle Delivery of TB Drugs to Granulomas*. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Seattle, Washington.

Sara Reyes – Reyes, S. (2016, April). *Predictors of Chronic Stress in Couples*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Adrienne Ricker – Ricker, A., Secord, R., Ferraro, D. (2016, April). *Description of Penny Creek chelonian fauna (Miocene: early Clarendonian), Webster County, Nebraska and comparison to Norden Bridge chelonian fauna (Miocene: medial Barstovian), Cherry County, Nebraska*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jacisin III, J., Whiting, E., **Ricker, A.,** Wallace, J., Head, J. (2015, October). *Neogene Herpetofaunas of the Central Great Plains: Diversity, Modernization, and Relationships to Climate Change*. Poster presented at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 75th Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas.

Daniel Rico – Rico, D., Qiao, W. (2016, April). *Optimal trading strategies of Nebraska's wind energy in the integrated market of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP)*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Rico, D.A., Lorena, C., Carlos, A.V., Antonio, A., Rosales, M., Gabriel, L.M., Francisco, M. (2016, April). *Toward a Drought Seasonal Forecast in the Platte River Basin*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Rico, D.A., Smith, K., Chacon, J., Corzo, G., Francisco, M. (2016, January). *Role of Calibration on Ensemble Streamflow Prediction for Seasonal Agricultural Drought Forecasts*. Poster presented at the 96th American Meteorological Society (AMS) research conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Alicia Michelle Rogers – Rogers, A. M., Poppe, L., & Wood, C. (2016, April). *Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Humoral Immune Response in HIV-Infected Zambian Women*. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Megan Smith – Smith, M., Buan, N. (2016, June). *Interactions between Two Human Gut Symbionts in Coculture*. Presentation at the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Microbe 2016, Boston, Massachusetts.

Smith, M., Cattlet, J., Buan, N., (2016, April). *Physiological purpose of proposed Chondroitin binding proteins in *Methanobrevibacter smithii**. Poster presented at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2016 Undergraduate Research Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Kudos to McNair Alumni

We applaud these UNL McNair alumni who were earned advanced degrees during 2015-16:

Doctoral degrees

Rebecca Beals (McNair Scholar 2007–09) completed a master's degree in sociology in May 2011 from the University of New Mexico, and earned her Ph.D. in sociology from UNM in May 2016. Dr. Beals has secured a 5-year joint postdoctoral position with the University of New Mexico and Arizona State University, where she will continue both evaluation and academic research while finishing her publications and navigating the formal job market.

Alex Goldstein (McNair Scholar 2009–2012) earned an M.D. degree from Paul Foster School of Medicine at Texas Tech University in December 2015.

Alyssa Lundahl (McNair Scholar 2010–2012) Ph.D. earned a master's degree in clinical psychology in May 2014 from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UNL in May 2016.

Brian Shreck (McNair Scholar 2008–2009) earned a Ph.D. in political science from Texas A&M University in December 2015. Dr. Shreck is currently a postdoctoral research scholar with the Department of Political Science and National Wind Institute at Texas Tech University.

Master's degrees

Chabria Dorsey-Easter (McNair Scholar 2001–2003) earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Dakota in May 2016. She is working as a program specialist for *It's My Community Initiative* in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Moses Pacheco (McNair Scholar 2011–2014) earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University in May 2016. He is working as an assistant structural engineer with Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City, Missouri.

Nina Quiñones (McNair Scholar 2011–2014) earned a master's of social work degree from The Ohio State University in May 2016. Nina is working with Reflections Counseling Center of Columbus, Inc.

Kenneth Herron (McNair Scholar 2011–2014) earned a master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Colorado State University in May 2016. Kenneth is currently working on a book and looking for K-12 education positions where he can teach and coach students.

Scholars Complete Theses and Co-author Publications

McNair Scholars who co-authored recent publications or completed a senior thesis include:

Dina Morales – Stevens, J.R., Kennedy, B.A., **Morales, D.**, and Burks, M. (2015). The domain specificity of intertemporal choice in pinyon jays. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3758/s13423-015-0973-6>.

Zully Perez Sierra – Grobler, A., **Perez Sierra, Z.**, & Viljoen, H. J. (2016). Modeling nanoparticle delivery of TB drugs to granulomas. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 388, 85–95. <http://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtbi.2015.10.004>.

Adrienne Ricker – **Ricker, A.**, Secord, R., Ferraro, D. (2016). Description of Penny Creek chelonian fauna (Miocene: early Clarendonian), Webster County, Nebraska and comparison to Norden Bridge chelonian fauna (Miocene: medial Barstovian), Brown County, Nebraska. *Senior Thesis*. Supervisors: Dr. Ross Secord and Dr. Dennis Ferraro, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Alicia Michelle Rogers – Olp, L. N., Minhas, V., Gondwe, C., Poppe, L. K., **Rogers, A. M.**, Kankasa, C., West, J. T., and Wood, C. (2016). Longitudinal analysis of the humoral response to Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus after primary infection in children. Manuscript submitted for publication. *Journal of Medical Virology*, doi: 10.1002/jmv.24546.

Megan Smith – Aldridge, J. T., Catlett, J. L., **Smith, M. L.**, and Buan, N. R. (2016). Methods for Detecting Microbial Methane Production and Consumption by Gas Chromatography. *Bio-protocol* 6(7): e1779. <http://www.bio-protocol.org/e1779>.



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