

McNair Scholars Smart News

October 2013 Newsletter



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Announcements, Events and Reminders

- ◆ Undergraduate Research Stimulus Award **DEADLINE October 31st**
- ◆ "Fiddler on the Roof" **October 18th 9:00 pm**
- ◆ McNair Lecture with Dr. Mark Jackson **October 21st Time: TBA**
- ◆ McNair Lecture Series with Ms. Cynthia Van Pelt **November 11th Time: TBA**
- ◆ McNair Scholars Meet and Greet **Time & Date: TBA**

McNair Scholar Takes Flight



The McNair Scholars Program encourages students to spread their wings and take flight towards their futures. One EMU McNair Scholar is taking this message literally! Junior **Kryn Ambs** is an ambitious young woman taking steps to earning full pilot's qualifications through the Aviation Technology Program here at Eastern.

Kryn always knew that she wanted to fly; her ultimate goal is to become an astronaut. Kryn studied Physics and Astronomy before joining the Aviation Technology Program. Her current research project, with Dr. Philip Tartalone, is on *The Influence of Cockpit Automation on Pilot Perception and Decision Making in Severe Weather Conditions*.

The purpose of Kryn's research is to assess how pilots rely on automation in the cockpit. Through cooperation with Garmin engineers who are developing better cockpit equipment, Kryn plans to assess whether pilots will be more or less likely to fly, if they know severe weather conditions are approaching. Kryn is hoping to be able to work with various aviation centers and interview a number of pilots over the next two years. She's currently conducting her research with the Cessna 172.

Kryn is very excited to begin work on her project this semester and is hoping to present in the Undergraduate Symposium here at EMU in the Winter of 2014. She is also taking flight lessons at the EMU Eagle Flight Center at Willow Run Airport, as the first step in her goal of pursuing graduate studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. Though she is the only woman in most of her classes, Kryn isn't hesitating to seek her dream of one day orbiting the earth. In fact, she finds that being one of the few women in her program only makes her work harder.

She is working four jobs to pay for her flight lessons, while taking a full load of classes. She is also a conversation partner with an international student, and serves as the president of MOST, the McNair Student Organization. Kryn belongs to the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol, and Women in Aviation International with the Yankee Ladies at the Yankee Air Museum. We are very, very proud of Kryn!!

Qualitative or Quantitative: Which Study is Right for You?

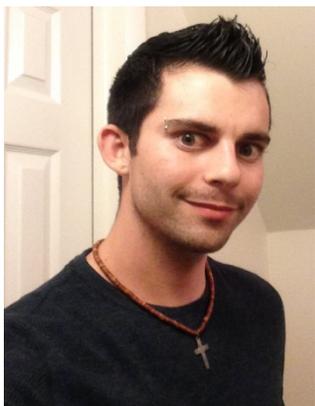


Senior scholar **Chris Haskin** is engaged in a quantitative research project entitled the *Determination of Concentration of Green House Gasses at EMU*. Using a process called *Gas Chromatography*, Chris is conducting his research with Dr. Gavin Edwards. When asked about what it takes to complete a quantitative research project, Chris said simply, “lots of trial and error.” Collecting numerical data is one of the cornerstones of a quantitative research project; working with machinery in order to get detailed results is not a process that happens quickly. Chris advises those of you wanting to conduct quantitative research projects not to become discouraged. You may need to conduct an extensive literature review before creating a methodology and carrying out your experiment, but it pays off when data starts rolling in. Sometimes, as is the case with Chris’ project, the same tests can be run for years after the original project is completed. If you enjoy developing hypotheses, working with numbers and having a project that may be duplicated by others for years to come, quantitative research may be for you.



Senior scholar **Tanjare McKay** conducted qualitative research for her project, *Female Self-Objectification: The Causes, Consequences and Prevention*, with Dr. Karen Saules. Like Chris’ quantitative study, Tanjare’s qualitative project began with a literature review. Unlike the numerical data that forms the basis of quantitative research, however, Tanjare is more concerned with responses to human experience, feelings and perceptions about human life. Tanjare results reported on a range of recent academic articles on her topic, and is currently expanding her research to a survey for EMU students. Tan must receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before administering the survey, and then she hopes she’ll get a large number of responses! Qualitative research can also lead to follow-up studies, particularly if you’d like to expand your research to include different groups. If you find analyzing human responses enjoyable and challenging, conducting qualitative research may be ideal for you.

New (to EMU) Scholars Watch



We would like to continue our “New Scholars Watch” with a feature on our very own Graduate Assistant, **Adam Natoli**. Adam was born and raised in New Jersey, between Princeton and Trenton. He grew up playing ice hockey and never imagined attending college. After graduating from high school, Adam went to Canada to play hockey with the Niagara Ice Dogs. About a month later he suffered a concussion and had to stop playing. The mishap was extremely discouraging, but giving up is not his nature. Instead, he registered for courses at a local community college, failed three, but earned an “A” in Psychology.

Adam started taking more Psychology classes and began to apply himself to school. Eventually, he transferred to Rider University as a Psychology major. While at Rider, Adam became a McNair Scholar, completed *three* research projects (published twice and presented twice), and graduated *Summa Cum Laude* (3.8 GPA) with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Sociology.

After graduation, Adam volunteered with a grief support program for children who have lost a parent or sibling. He also visited and interviewed with Doctoral programs for admission in Fall of 2013. Adam was admitted to two Masters programs, waitlisted for a Doctoral program, and admitted to one other Doctoral program. He decided his best “fit” was with the Master’s program here at EMU, working in Dr. Huprich’s lab. The summer before moving to Michigan, Adam continued to volunteer, helped out with Rider’s McNair Scholars Program, and worked full time. Adam is preparing to apply to EMU’s Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology! Welcome, Adam!!!