

EMU McNAIR CHALLENGER

September 2014 Edition



Welcome Back,
McNair Scholars!

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Announcements, Events and Reminders

- ◆ McNair Fall semester
Research Seminars begin
October 3rd
- ◆ EMU Study Abroad Fair
in the Student Center
(10:00-2:00)
October 7th
- ◆ Cultural Event: EMU
Production of Marlowe's
Doctor Faustus
October 11th

A Summer of Public Health

This summer, two of our EMU McNair scholars, **Shahana Ahmed** (Biology) and **Mikki Smith** (Social Work), had the opportunity to be a part of the University of Michigan's Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP). The FPHLP consists of a ten-week residential internship through the U of M School of Public Health, designed to increase student's awareness of public health issues through mentorship, field experiences, and workshops given by public health professionals. **Shahana** and **Mikki** shared their experiences, below.



The 2014 University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders cohort.

Redefining Summer Fun by Shahana Ahmed

Summer. The season of fun, sand, and laughs under the sun. It's the ultimate relaxation for stressed-out college students just finishing their finals. Yet for me, this was a summer that opened my eyes and brought me one step closer to my future.

At the beginning of June, I was selected as an intern at the Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP). FPHLP is a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funded program, designed to encourage underrepresented college students to consider careers in Public Health. This 10-week residential program/internship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, began in late May and gave me the privilege to be mentored by professors and administrators from the U of M School of Public Health. The program also placed each member of our cohort in organizations in the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Flint, Chelsea, and Detroit, to work in public health settings.

I worked at the Great Lakes Commission in Ann Arbor, an agency that promotes the systematic and integrated development and conservation of the water and natural resources of the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River, along with the surrounding areas and wildlife. I learned a great deal about resource conservation in our region, and its application to human populations.

Ultimately, my time at FPHLP allowed me to grow as an individual, and assisted me in my preparation for graduate school. I made lots of new friends from across the country, met many Public Health professionals, and enjoyed a meaningful and fascinating experience with other future graduate school students.

McNair Scholars, *do* apply to be a part of the 2015 FPHLP cohort!

A Learning Summer

by Mikki Smith

Let me offer one word to describe the Future Public Health Leaders Program (FPHLP): *Amazing!* I am still in contact with the staff from the U of M, the CDC, as well as the preceptor of my internship. My internship with Wayne State University's Volunteers, Administrators, and Coaches (VAC) program has been extended, allowing me to continue to work with young people in Detroit, MI. During my internship I assisted with the writing of a community assessment of Black life in Genesee County with my second preceptor in Flint, MI. (I actually worked in two locations!). Many of my questions are being used in the assessment; I'm excited to see the results!

With the help of the FPHLP program, I have finally begun to narrow down what I plan to do with my academic future. I met with people involved with public policy, leading me to research what aspects of policy I'd like to study in order to be a stronger advocate for those living in under-resourced communities.

Now that I've seen the effects of policy from the community perspective, I'd like to learn about it from the perspective of legislators. I plan to use the relationships I built during the program to seek future internship or shadowing opportunities.

The FPHLP was definitely a great learning experience for me, and I gained more than I ever hoped for. I encourage McNair scholars to apply. You'll be taken out of your comfort zone, but in the end, you'll be glad!



< Shahana (far left) and Mikki (center) with members of their cohort.

Scholars from around the country enjoying their time with the FPHLP. >



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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The Influence of Cockpit Weather Automation on Pilot Perception and Decision-Making in Severe Weather Conditions, Kryn M. Ambs, Dr. Philip Tartalone, Faculty Mentor

African American Male Inclusion, Involvement, Perception and Achievement at Predominantly White Institutions, Brandon J. Britt, Dr. Toni Stokes Jones, Faculty Mentor

Evaluating the Relationship Between Malignant Self-Regard and Achievement Striving, Carly D. Evich, Dr. Steven Huprich, Faculty Mentor

Innovative Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention-Intervention of African-American Adolescent Girls, Brialle D. Ringer, Pamela Landau, Faculty Mentor

The Influence of Early Life Conditions on Social Perceptions of Women in the Workplace, Jazmin J. Rodgers, Dr. Natalie Dove, Faculty Mentor

Examining Neural Synchrony in Autism During Resting State with Magnetoencephalography (MEG), TyRonda D. Smith, Dr. Renee Lajiness-O'Neill, Faculty Mentor

Examining Undergraduate Attitudes Towards Bisexuality and Bisexual Individuals, Charae A. London-Terry, Dr. Jeanne Thomas and Dr. Yvette Colón, Faculty Mentors

DART-MS Analysis of Historic Tobacco Pipes to Investigate the Preservation of Nicotine Residues, Sylvia A. Torres, Dr. Ruth Ann Armitage, Faculty Mentor

Seven McNair Interns and one Cadet have been published in the 2014 *McNair Scholars Research Journal*.

Enjoy their work at: <http://commons.emich.edu/mcnair/>

Congratulations!

New Scholars Watch

Once again a new academic year is upon us, and with that brings the addition of new scholars to the EMU McNair Family. This month "The Challenger" will feature three of our newest family members!

Dominique Canning grew up in Traverse City, Michigan, with a sister and three brothers. Before transferring, she studied music at Northwestern Michigan College. Now an Honors College sophomore at EMU majoring Linguistics with a minor in Queer Studies, Dominique balances schoolwork with a job in the Office of Research Development. In the future, she hopes to be able to study the relationships between gender and language around the world. A self-proclaimed nerd, in her free time she likes to learn different languages and watch shows on Netflix. Welcome to McNair, Dominique!



Yolanda Trentadue was born in Medellin, Colombia. She is half Columbian, and half Czechoslovakian. Yolanda speaks Spanish, Czech, English, French, Greek and Latin. She is a double major in French and Classical History. Yolanda went to a language high-school in Prague, the Czech Republic, and studied intensive English and French. In Prague she married an American and moved to the US, where she lived in Illinois, and California before finally settling in Michigan. Yolanda hopes to become a professor and learn as many world languages as possible. Among her wide variety of interests she enjoys, history, art, speech, Biology, meeting people from different cultures, reading, drawing, walking in nature, going to the movies, and helping people in need. Welcome, Yolanda!

Gloria Tonks is currently a senior from Chicago, Illinois, majoring in Social Work. She is expecting to graduate in August 2015. Gloria would like to pursue her MSW in New York City, but is unsure of whether she will concentrate in theory or clinical practice. She wants to work with women and teen populations, change the way sexual education is taught, and empower women to accomplish more than society has assigned to them. When she isn't on campus, Gloria's either hanging out with her students from the "Amp'd" afterschool program, discovering new foods with friends, or playing guitar. Welcome to McNair, Gloria!



Who is McNair? What is McNair? *We are McNair!*

Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21st, 1950 in Lake City, SC. He attended North Carolina A & T State University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude, with a B.S. degree in Physics in 1971. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of 26, Ronald E. McNair received his Ph. D. in Physics. Dr. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics while working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory. He was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978, and served as a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger. Tragically, on January 28th, 1986, Ronald E. McNair and the rest of the seven-person Challenger crew died in an explosion shortly after take-off.

To honor the numerous achievements and the legacy of Dr. McNair, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program was begun in 1989 to offer support services to high achieving students on their quest to attain a doctoral degree. Eastern Michigan University is one in a highly elite group of institutions selected by the U.S. Department of Education to host a McNair Program. The ideal McNair Scholar is goal-oriented, disciplined, creative and inquisitive. McNair Scholars enjoy learning and are willing to listen and grow through their interaction with their mentors, advisors, and peers. Membership in the McNair Scholars Program is challenging, but the rewards are great. Congratulations, McNair Scholars. You're the pride of our staff, your professors, and Eastern Michigan University.