Welcome Back, Scholars!

McNair Scholar Spotlight:

William Trice III

Interview by Iris Vincent

William Trice III walks into the McNair office with a glow of professional sophistication, matched by his uniquely cheerful disposition. Will, who graduated in April, 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Engineering and a minor in Math, has just begun his graduate studies in Physics, where his research will explore the intricacies of quantum entanglement. He doesn’t groan when asked to explain: “It’s about particles, and how a change in one particle can cause an instantaneous change in another particle, regardless of distance,” he states. “Understanding this process will change the world. It will change how computers process information, or ‘think.’ For example, technologies such as those used in self driving cars will be able to interpret situations and react exponentially faster to the road. Computers as we know them will be a thing of the past.”

Will, who hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was an All-State athlete in high school and trained with the EMU track team throughout his undergraduate studies, sometimes running up to 100 miles a week. Still, he found time to tutor in the Math Lab, conduct research under Dr. Ernest Behringer, and to excel as a Pokémon trainer. Will loves to crack puzzles, to compete, and to help others.

Now serving as a Graduate Assistant in Physics, he advises his students, and his fellow McNair Scholars, that if someone has an interest they should give it a try: “Even if you aren’t the best, you should be comfortable with it. Everyone doesn’t know something.” He pauses. “It’s a challenge, not an insurmountable obstacle.”

When asked about his greatest accomplishments as an undergrad, Will says, “Presenting research. Engineering/physics majors don’t have to do research, but McNair got me into it. And it was all valuable for furthering my academic career. Finishing the research may be difficult, though, because there’s always more to be done!”

Though some might be discouraged by this answer, Will adds that a balance between research, personal relationships, and a serious hobby have been instrumental in his life: “As nerdy as I am, I need friends. Friends balance the analytical. I don’t have to think while I’m running. I talk about everything with my friends. If you take things at a solid pace, you’ll find answers or just clear your mind.”

We’re staying tuned for more great things from Will!
Alumni Spotlight: Rebecca Hodge

Congratulations to McNair alumna **Rebecca Hodge** (pictured right), on being named **Hawaii’s 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year!** Rebecca graduated from the EMU in 2011 and went on to graduate *summa cum laude* from the **University of Hawaii Manoa**, with a **Master’s degree in Middle Level Education**. Rebecca is certified both in Michigan and Hawaii, and has taught on both the elementary and middle school levels. She currently teaches middle school science and lives in Hawaii with her husband and new daughter, Alexandria.

Congratulations again, Rebecca!

**Welcome to the McNair Family!**

**Graduate Assistant Greetings!**

The McNair family has gained two new staff members for the 2016-2017 academic year!

Prior to coming to Eastern Michigan University, **Aryka Rice** studied Health Policy and Economics at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. During her time at UM-D, she was involved with many student organizations and maintained on-campus employment in the Community Involvement and Volunteerism Center (CIViC). Currently, Aryka is studying **Higher Education and Student Affairs** at EMU in the School of Education with hopes of one day working in Institutional Research/Assessment or Student Conduct. She enjoys musical theater, watching horror movies, baking, camping/hiking, and traveling. Her favorite quote is “Leave this world a little better than you found it.”–Robert Baden-Powell

**Stacey Guillon** recently moved to Ypsilanti to attend the **Women’s and Gender Studies Master of Arts** program here at EMU. Born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, Stacey previously earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina Upstate. While at USCU, Stacey served as a teaching assistant and tutor, and presented at several academic conferences, including the 2015 Southeastern Women’s Studies Association conference. Stacey hopes to eventually earn her Ph.D. in Women’s and Gender Studies and teach. In her free time she likes to read, spend time with her husband and cats, and explore Michigan. She has also recently discovered the therapeutic benefits of playing with LEGO’s, and hopes to build a Christmas village this year.
New Scholar Watch
Once again a new year is upon us, and with that brings the addition of new scholars to the EMU McNair Family. **Welcome to three of our newest family members!**

**Sam Corano**
Sam is originally from Milan, Michigan. After serving in the U.S. Air Force as an Aircraft Engineer from 2011 to 2015, Sam enrolled at EMU to continue his undergraduate degree. He currently studies **Electronics Engineering Technology, Mathematics, and Physics**. Though he does not have a specific graduate school in mind, he hopes to gather more experience in research during his time at McNair. Sam says he enjoys working with electronics and likes to stay active in his free time. Sam is also a member of EMU’s new **Veteran Student Support Services** Program. Welcome, Sam!

**Natasha Marchese**
Natasha is originally from Des Plaines, Illinois. She served four years in the U.S. Navy in her twenties, after which she worked as a goat herder and cheese maker, and traveled all over the world. She is currently studying **Biology with a minor in Human Nutrition**, and hopes to one day work as a researcher to study the impact of nutrition on the human body at a macroscopic level, as well as to teach. In her free time Natasha loves to hike, camp, read, and hula-hoop. Natasha is also a member of **Veteran Student Support Services**! Welcome!

**Jasmine Stout**
Jasmine is originally from Flint, Michigan. She is currently a junior in the **Social Work** program, and says that she enjoys helping people by advocating for them. Her current goals are to serve as a volunteer in her community, and hopes to eventually attend graduate school outside of the state of Michigan. In her free time Jasmine likes to read and paint, and says she is trying to figure out how to make homework more enjoyable – let us know if you find a solution!

Welcome, Jasmine!

We wish you all a good start and look forward to seeing you at our all-Scholar Orientation on Friday, September 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in 300 Halle Library!