McNair Scholar Julie Krupa graduated from EMU in April, 2012 with a major in Criminal Justice. Her McNair research paper, which was also her Honors Thesis — “Innocent Until Proven Guilty: The Representation of Wrongfully Convicted Women” — focused on the exoneration of innocent women through the use of DNA evidence. With the support of her research mentor, Dr. Donna Selman, Julie was accepted into a Master’s program, with full funding, at the University of Central Florida. Julie’s successful completion of her Master’s and acceptance into SIX doctoral programs (and five more offers of full funding!) should be encouraging to all of her fellow McNair Scholars!

Julie believes that engaging in rigorous research is the key factor to success in graduate studies. She stresses that it’s critical to use the skills you learn in the McNair Program, such as (1) creating a research proposal, (2) applying for research funding, (3) working on grant-funded projects, (4) conducting active research, and (5) to knowing how to write scholarly articles for publication.

The most important aspect of the application process is time management. Having the support of professors is essential, and it’s imperative that you give your professors time enough to prepare strong letters of recommendation. “Many professors have connections to other schools,” Julie added, “[which] could help you in the application process, as well.” In addition, it is incredibly important to pay attention to the requirements for application submission. Julie recommends having a good writing sample and personal statement that can be tweaked for each individual program.

Choosing a supportive mentor, as well as building positive relationships with several professors in your department also helps during the application period. “I have a good mentor who was able to guide me through the entire process and provide many new experiences for me.” Julie added that “being open to new experiences helps you build your self-confidence, learn new skills and make new connections,” all of which prepare you for the next giant step in your education. Julie reiterated that having a strong relationship with a mentor who understands your strengths and weaknesses is a key factor in becoming a successful researcher in your field.

Julie is currently engaged in research on “delinquent female trajectories and their associated risk/protective factors.” She plans to submit an article for publication at the end of this month, and hopes to focus her doctoral research on the juvenile justice system. Though Julie hasn’t revealed which of the six doctoral programs — Indiana University (Bloomington), the University of Washington, Sam Houston State University, Michigan State University, the University of San Francisco and the University of South Florida — she’ll actually attend, she hinted in an email that she might be returning to Michigan!
EMU to ATL: Alternative Spring Break Adventures

Guest Writer: Ms. Brialle Ringer

Each year Eastern Michigan University’s VISION Center takes groups of eager students on Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips in the effort to “raise awareness and educate students about social issues by sending them on a quality Alternative Break that will inspire them to reach out and become a leader and/or helper in their own community” (EMU ASB VISION Mission Statement).* This spring McNair Cadets Brialle Ringer and Simone Tisder took part in a trip to Atlanta, Georgia. Brialle was eager to write about her experience:

“The week I spent on Alternative Spring Break in Atlanta was life changing. I couldn't have asked for a more rewarding experience. We were in Atlanta to provide access to healthy food for people in poverty, or a current state of homelessness. There has always been a special place in my heart for the homeless, so I was very excited to work on this issue, which is sadly so prevalent in Atlanta. We worked with two nonprofit organizations, Open Hand and Cafe 458. During the time we spent with Open Hand we packaged over 2,000 meals! Cafe 458 made us feel right at home with their southern hospitality and we absolutely loved working with them. They care so much for each of their individual clients and treat them with the utmost respect, which is how every person in a current state of homelessness should be treated.

“This trip showed me how much change a small group of people can make when they put their minds to it. I have been motivated by the atmosphere of love in Atlanta to find service opportunities within my community and continue to make a difference. I was taught by Open Hand and Cafe 458 to look at it like this: If I don't help, who will? It’s so easy to turn a blind eye to the less fortunate once we experience some privilege, but it’s just as important to care about social issues that don't affect us, as it is to care about the ones that directly impact us. Martin Luther King Jr. was raised wealthy in Atlanta in comparison to other African Americans of his time. However, this did not stop him from fighting for equality for the working class and poverty. He had a dream of justice and equality and the spirit of Martin Luther King and his dream is still very alive in Atlanta; a spirit you can't help but be inspired by. Dr. King once said, ‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.’ On that note, I encourage you to fight for what you believe in and promote justice every day.”

*(https://www.emich.edu/vision/programs/alt_breaks.php)

A Summer of Excellence

EMU McNair Scholars don’t stop doing incredible things just because the school year has come to an end. Take a look at these Scholars’ summer plans:

**Shahana Ahmed**- Future Leaders in Public Health Program, University of Michigan- Ann Arbor

**Brandon Britt**- Ohio State University SROP

**Jazmin Rodgers**- University of North Carolina-Charlotte SROP and University of Chicago Booth School of Business SROP

**Mikki Smith**- Future Leaders in Public Health Program, University of Michigan- Ann Arbor

**Tiffany Browne** – EMU Summer Incentive Program

Hello to GRAD SCHOOL!

**Doctoral Programs**

**Julia Krupa**: Michigan State University, Indiana University, the University of South Florida, Sam Houston State University, the University of Washington, the University of San Francisco.

**Master’s Programs**

**Carmen Grange**: Eastern Michigan University

**Charae London-Terry**: University of Pennsylvania (also accepted at Columbia and Syracuse);

**Briana McCoy**: UCLA

**Marcia Molett**: University of Maryland, (also accepted at Florida International University)