



McNair Spotlight

Winter 2008 - 2009

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Far-Reaching Recognition for 3 McNair Scholars!

Participation in the UVM McNair Program involves scholars in real-world research under the mentorship of a UVM faculty member. The experience provides scholars with an opportunity to submit abstracts to national and international organizations hosting conferences and conventions. This academic year, three McNair Scholars were selected for presentations and received national or international recognition.

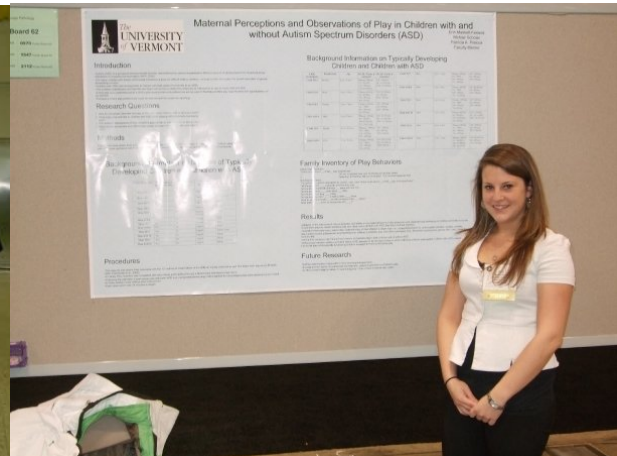


Bridget Kreger '09

Bridget is a Medical Laboratory Science senior in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences originally from Narragansett, RI. She conducted her McNair summer research in 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. M. Ahmad Chaudhry. The title of her research was *Role of micro RNA in cellular responses to ionizing radiation*. In October 2008, Bridget traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to present her research at the 2008 SACNAS Convention (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences). She was recognized as the "Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presenter" by the American Society for Cell Biology. Her cash award was accompanied by an invitation to attend - all expenses paid - the association's national convention in San Francisco in November. At both SACNAS and ASCB, Bridget had the opportunity to meet and discuss her research with experts in the field she plans to enter for post-baccalaureate study.



Bridget Kreger



Erin Maskell-Ferland

Erin Maskell-Ferland '09

Erin is a Communications Science major in the College of Arts & Sciences from Franklin, VT. She conducted her McNair summer research in 2007 under the mentorship of Dr. Patricia Prelock. The title of her research was *Maternal Perceptions and Observations of Play in Children with and without ASD*. In November of 2008, Erin presented her research at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. According to mentor Patricia Prelock, Erin's paper was reviewed by professionals. "This is a real honor for her to have a paper as an undergraduate accepted at our national convention." Erin is currently researching graduate programs and plans a career as a speech-language pathologist.

Sarah Roberts '10

Sarah is a Psychology major in the College of Arts & Sciences from Fairlee, VT. She conducted her McNair summer research in 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Alessandra Rellini. The title of her research was *Sexual dysfunction among female survivors of child sexual abuse*. In February

(Continued on reverse)

Sarah Roberts (continued)

of 2009, Sarah was awarded the prize for Best Essay at the annual conference hosted by the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) in Florence, Italy. According to Dr. Rellini, Sarah's essay competed against other essays submitted by undergraduate and graduate students as well as professionals in the field of sex research.



Sarah Roberts

Alessandra Rellini

The ISSWSH scientific committee reported a record number of submissions were reviewed and Sarah received the first-ever award to an undergraduate. Sarah has begun her research of post-baccalaureate McNair fellowships in psychology for Fall 2010 admission.



Scholar Updates: Where Are They Now?



Jennifer Abustan, 2007 Cohort – University of Vermont Psychiatric Nursing Program
Daniel Aguek, 2005 Cohort – University of Vermont MBA Program & UVM Admissions Asst Director
John Austin, 2006 Cohort - Champlain College MBA Program, Account Rep – Select Design, LTD
Abraham Awolich, 2005 Cohort – Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Government
Bior Kuer Bior, 2005 Cohort – University of Vermont PhD Program in Biology & NEAGEP Fellow
Katie Buss, 2004 Cohort - Colorado State University combined DVM / PhD Program in Animal Sciences
Natalia Fajardo, 2005 Cohort – Researching graduate programs in natural resources, Membership Coordinator – VPIRG
Rachel Fredette, 2006 Cohort – Post-Baccalaureate Medical Lab Sciences Program, University of Vermont
Danilo Frias, 2004 Cohort – Researching graduate programs in business, Senior Business Analyst - Ziff Davis Enterprises
Carla “Willow” Holden, 2005 Cohort – Middlebury College Breadloaf Writing Program
Rajesh Khemraj, 2004 Cohort – Iona College MS Program in Business & Information Technology
Rachel Lacy, 2005 Cohort – Ross University School of Medicine
Jaime Leclerc, 2006 Cohort – Applying to MD/PhD programs for Fall 2010, Cancer research training fellow - NIH, Bethesda, MD
Dominick Lemas, 2004 Cohort – University of Alaska Fairbanks PHD Program in Cell & Molecular Biology
Evan Litwin, 2004 Cohort – Applying to PhD programs for Fall 2009, Employed as Operations Manager – Verizon Wireless
David Lucero, 2006 Cohort – University of Vermont PhD Program in Biology & NEAGEP Fellow
Mellisa Ly, 2005 Cohort - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute PhD Program in Chemistry
Gabriel Mabil, 2006 Cohort - Researching grad programs in Int'l Economics, Americorps Rep - VT Refugee Resettlement Program
Samantha Munro, 2005 Cohort - University of Pennsylvania Law & PhD Program in Philosophy
Desmond Ndzi, 2004 Cohort - Employed as a mechanical engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft, Stratford, CT
Emmanuel Nsiah, 2004 Cohort Post-Baccalaureate Medical Lab Sciences Program, University of Vermont
Beatrice Nyamekye, 2006 Cohort – Applying to JD Programs in DC area, HR Coordinator - Al Jazeera International (USA)
Johanne Osias, 2004 Cohort - Saint Michael's College Masters Program in Clinical Psychology
Kesha Ram, 2006 Cohort – Elected VT State Legislator representing City of Burlington
Heather Taylor, 2005 Cohort - University of California Santa Cruz PhD Program in Computer Engineering
Lisa Weiss, 2004 Cohort – Applying to U Maine grad program in Plant & Soil Sci, Conservation Botanist - Institute for Applied Ecology
Min Zheng, 2007 Cohort – Applying to Yale Sch of Forestry & U Mich Landscape Architecture, Museum Educator – NY Botanical Gardens

