



# EMU McNair Challenger



October 2019 Edition: Eastern Michigan University McNair Scholars Program



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### The Future is McNair!!

#### Upcoming Events:

**Graduate School Conversation**  
Hoyt Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Classroom  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-7 pm

**"Cabaret"**  
Quirk Theater  
October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

**Late Night at the Detroit Institute of Arts**  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-10 pm

**Thanksgiving Recess**  
November 27<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Team Challenge Papers due**  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Presentations**  
December 6<sup>th</sup>

**Final Exams**  
December 16<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>

## SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES!

In this month's issue, we interviewed **Kai Le** and **Jaylen Taylor** about their Summer Research Opportunity Programs (SROP). Several of our scholars presented their research earlier this year at the McNair Research Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles and the McNair Research Conference in Heartland, Kansas.

### *Kai Le and Jaylen Taylor Discuss their SROPs*



Kai Le

### Hello Kai, where was your Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)?

I participated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program at the University of Michigan, where I obtained an internship at

the Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) Special Victims Unit.

### Who did you work with and what were your responsibilities?

I worked with Marlanna Landeros, MSW. I compiled and reviewed current protective measures and resources that are utilized by the University of Michigan to ensure the safety of trafficked persons on campus and within the local community.

### What was the best and worst part of your SROP?

Best: Throughout my time and interviews with different law enforcement personnel, I observed a lack of knowledge regarding protocol to identify and interact with trafficked persons. For this reason, I recommended that the SVU develop human trafficking identification scenarios for law enforcement personnel. I shared my recommendation with the Director of Security at Michigan Medicine, Brian Uridge, and he agreed with me and just recently, I was asked to come back to present my Heartland oral presentation for the Special Victims Unit.



Worst: Sometimes it was hard to make connections with other scholars in my program, but thankfully I found a close friend, and we helped each other through the program. I learned that one good friend is better than a lot of distant ones.

**Would you advise other scholars to do summer research? Why or why not?**

I would recommend FPHLP to anyone and everyone because I went through so much professional development and learned what community service was for the first time. I got to volunteer at a food bank in Detroit, and I'm so glad I can go back and help out even though my summer program is over.



**Jaylen Taylor**

**Hello Jaylen, where was your Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)?**

Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ.

**Who did you work with and what were your responsibilities?**

Dr. Jeffrey Laskin (Primary Investigator) and Dr. Vladimir Mishin (Mentor). I conducted enzyme kinetic experiments using the Amplex Red/Horseradish Peroxidase Assay.

**What was the best and worst part of your SROP?**

The best part was having the opportunity to learn something new, I had never worked with enzymes before. The worst thing was the weather. The east-coast is very warm and humid in the Summer.

**Would you advise other scholars to do summer research? Why or why not?**

Yes! Summer research is an invaluable tool for undergraduates to gain exposure to professionals in their field and build up their skill sets. Summer research will give you an advantage in the classroom as well by promoting original thought and critical thinking skills. Most importantly you can gain a sense of what graduate school will be like by living on campus, doing research and interacting with current graduate students.



## *Abstracts from the McNair Research Colloquium*

Last month, several of EMU McNair Scholars presented their research at our annual Colloquium event. They also had the opportunity to present at two national conferences earlier this year.

**Desiree A. Drake:** “Exploring the Impact of Interventions in K-12 Schools.” **Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Mentor**

This research will examine how recent disciplinary, mentoring, and testing-based interventions may impact the educational outcomes of youth facing challenges in K-12 schools. In the United States, failing educational systems may unintentionally channel poor and minority youth toward a trajectory that makes them vulnerable to involvement in the juvenile justice system, due to punitive disciplinary policies and practices that push students out of school. This exclusion from school can put students at greater risk of entering the "school-to-prison pipeline," which has garnered nationwide attention and is an issue facing schools across the country (Witt, 2007). The impact of exclusion and harsh disciplinary practices in schools can have devastating consequences for minority youth. This literature review will focus on zero-tolerance policies, the school-to-prison pipeline, negative impacts on student learning, and the impact of mentoring as an intervention with students who may be facing challenges in K-12 schools.

**Jadyn S. Guess:** “Rhetorical Analysis of the Cruise Industry’s Sustainability Practices.” **Dr. David Victor, Mentor**

Cruise Lines International Association (2017) reported that over 26.6 million passengers embark on a cruise annually. It is estimated that by 2026 the global fleet will serve 33.5 million travelers (Cruise Industry News, 2016). As the cruise industry grows, the need for accountability regarding environmental practices has become an issue of utmost importance, particularly over the impact of cruise tourism on coastal and marine environments and local economies (Klein, 2011). This paper will identify the types of pollution created by the cruise industry and offer a rhetorical analysis of the industry’s claim to mitigate pollution through sustainability practices as discussed in their annual reports. Five of the world’s best-known cruise lines (Statista, 2017) will be examined.

**Brianna M. Jones:** “The Impact of Mentoring School-Aged Youth Facing Challenges in school.” **Dr. Celeste Hawkins, Mentor**

According to Owings (1988), the term “at-risk” refers to a student who is more likely to fail in school based on factors such as low academic achievement, attendance, or behavioral issues, however other factors place students at-risk, such as substance abuse, violence, trauma, and involvement with the criminal justice system. This literature review examines the impact of mentoring as an intervention to support students who are facing academic, social, or emotional challenges in school. These students may be at greater risk of entering the school-to-prison pipeline (STPP). With the widespread increase of zero tolerance policies, students are often suspended, or even expelled, at alarming rates and, as a result, miss valuable hours of instructional time). This literature review focuses on zero-tolerance policies, the school-to-prison pipeline, and the impact of mentoring on school-aged youth as an intervention to support those who are facing challenges in school.



**Kai N. Le:** “Barriers to Financial Compensation for Artists in the Recording Industry in a Digital Age.” **Dr. Paul Majeske, Mentor**

For decades, consumers, due to frequent technological advances, have utilized a variety of music-listening processes that have each become obsolete as more easily accessible technologies emerged. This change in music consumption methods is often detrimental to parties in the recording industry. The digitalization of the recording industry has allowed consumers to obtain music through means other than physical purchase, leading to well-documented financial insecurity for artists (Eiriz & Leite, 2017). In 2018, the Music Industry Research Association (MIRA) conducted a survey of 1,227 musicians and found that 61% of the group agreed that their music-related income is not enough to cover their living expenses (MIRA, 2018). For this reason, frequent attempts to deter widespread copyright infringement have been made. However, the aggressive litigation strategy of the recording industry and the development of streaming services as a viable music consumption method have instead decreased sales and negatively impacted artists’ revenue from the recording industry (Fedock, 2005; Marshall, 2015).

**Clayton E. Sigmann:** “Analysis of Causal Factors to Conflict in Africa.”

**Dr. Richard Stahler-Sholk, Mentor**

Africa, a continent of 54 states, has experienced centuries of conflict. This research will analyze the underlying factors present in conflict throughout the continent. Seeking to understand the underlying factors could help prevent future conflict by creating preventive policy. The research will use six case studies based on Algeria, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Liberia, and Sudan to discuss the effects of colonialism and intrastate and ethnic conflict and to identify the deeper structures behind such conflict. This research will discuss the positive role of post-conflict governance and sustainable human development in post-conflict society (Ogbaharya, 2008).

**Anthony D. Terry:** “Veterans' Path to Reintegration.” **Dr. Ellen Koch, Mentor**

Military service members transitioning to civilian life in general, and college specifically, may experience significant difficulty losing their individual identity as a service member. Past research has shown that there are a number of challenges in transitioning, including finding a home, reintegrating with family, and dealing with new disabilities (Brunger, Serrato, & Ogden, 2013). This project reviewed how veterans’ sense of identity can change throughout the process of reintegration into civilian life and the problems that surround this change, both for veterans and their families. Specific attention was directed to a successful veteran transition to college and strategies for facilitating effective educational achievement for veterans.

**Cyril K. Yancey:** “Cyber Security: China and Russia’s Erosion of 21<sup>st</sup> Century United States’ Hegemony.” **Dr. Richard Stahler-Sholk, Mentor**

With Russia and China emerging as challengers to U.S. hegemony, the use of cyber warfare could tilt the current balance of power in either of their favors. Using various methods, hackers can acquire sensitive information and destroy online infrastructures. In the development of cyber warfare, China has become a seasoned veteran with computer virus operations dating back to 1997<sup>14</sup>. Russia has emerged as a cyber aggressor, as seen in Russia’s cyber attacks on several countries in the last decade. This paper argues that, with the growth of foreign cyber technology, the probability of cyberspace being used as a military front by state or non-state actors against the United States increases.





## *National Research Conference Presentations*

We are SO proud of our EMU McNair Scholars who have presented their research over the summer!

### *McNair Conference at the University of California Los Angeles*

EMU McNair Scholars in front of the Powell Library on the UCLA campus.

Pictured (from left to right):

**Anthony Terry,**

**Zarre'a Mason, Desiree**

**Drake, Clayton**

**Sigmann, Cyril Yancey,**

**Brittney Robinson, and**

**Jadyn Guess.**



A visit to Santa Monica Pier!

Pictured (from left to right):

**Chris Phanord,**

**Anthony Terry,**

**Cyril Yancey,**

**Desiree Drake,**

**Zarre'a Mason,**

**Brittney Robinson,**

**Jadyn Guess,**

**Clayton Sigmann, and**

**Kimberly Brown.**



## *McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas*



McNair Scholars in Heartland, Kansas. Pictured (from left to right):  
**Brianna Jones, Anthony Terry, Desmine Robinson, Cyril Yancey, Kai Le, Brittney Robinson, and Clayton Sigmann**



**Cyril Yancey** following his presentation, "Threats to Cybersecurity and Current Chinese Power Relations."



**Clayton Sigmann** following his presentation, "Analysis of Causal Factors to Conflict in Africa."