

Congratulations to our Graduate Degree Recipients!

Bibiche Botembe - M.A. in Counseling Psychology at Argosy
Dustin Burgemeister - M.A. in Exercise Science at St. Scholastica
Quyen Duong - M.A. in Statistics at St. Cloud State University
Christina Hodge - M.A. in Sports Psychology at the U of Denver
Daniel Plunkett - M.A. in Counseling Psychology at St. Thomas
Demaya Riddley - M.A. in Ed. Leadership at Hamline University
Nardos Tesfadlidet - M.A. in Social Work at Augsburg College
Mai Nhia Thao - M.A. in Asian Studies at the UW - Madison
Mai T Vang - M.A. in Social Work at the UMN - Twin Cities
Sandy Yang - M.A. in Marriage & Family Studies at St. Mary's U

St. Olaf McNair Results

St. Olaf McNair Scholars enrolled in or have earned their M.A. degree **52%**

Scholars who are enrolled in a Ph.D. program **10%**

McNair Summer Research 2013

Name	Mentor	Research Topic
Gabriella Coll	Matt Rohn	<i>Flaten Art Museum's Native American Art as a Collection</i>
Lansa Dawano	Anne Walter	<i>Preparing Bridge Students to Conduct Quantitative Research Projects</i>
Chiamaka Isiguzo	Jay Demas	<i>The Impact of Contrast on Non-Visual Photoreceptors</i>
Britt Letcher	Ted Thornhill	<i>Racism and Bilingualism in the American Job Market</i>
Erick Marigi & Guttu Maskalo	Kevin Crisp	<i>Progress Towards the Development of Wireless, Passive Electrophysiological Instruments</i>
Amanda Moua	Devyani Chandran	<i>National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Impact on Black Men Who Have Sex with Men</i>
Zoey Slater	Jim Farrell	<i>Marketing the Environment and Sustaining St. Olaf</i>
Melissa Songpitak		<i>Conducted research at the UMN - Twin Cities Neuroscience Department</i>
Zoua Xiong	Jeremy Loebach	<i>Training and Rehabilitation Program for New Adult Cochlear Implant Users</i>



Left: McNair Summer Researchers with McNair staff, Janis, Melissa and Heather

Middle Right: Dr. Devyani Chandran visits with former McNair mentee, Pa Ku Lee, and 2013 mentee, Amanda Moua and daughter. We thank Devyani for her support of McNair and wish her the best of luck as she leaves St. Olaf!

Top Right: Dr. Kevin Crisp, in his 6th summer mentoring for McNair, poses with his research team and McNair mentees Guttu and Erick.

Bottom Right: McNair staff visit with Olaf McNair alum, Quyen and Kristell, as well as UMN McNair alum Blanca.



Meet the McNair Class of 2015

Student Name and Major

Sheridan Blanford - Sports Management	Hawera Butta - Biology	Lacey Etkorn - Math/Environmental Studies
Paoge Moua - Psychology/Asian Studies	Abdi Musse - Biology	Sievhong Pen - Biology
Carlos Rivera - Chemistry/Math	Michele Severson - Biology	Alex Thompson - Psychology
Pader Vue - Psychology	Chad Wagner - Psychology	

Alumni Spotlight



DUSTIN BURGEMEISTER

I received my M.A. in Exercise Science in 2010.

Highlights of Grad School: Small class sizes, one-on-one attention.

Challenges of Grad School: Workload.

Employment: Strength & Conditioning Coach at Functional Fitness

Future Plans: Attain a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology and teach at a small college.

DANIEL PLUNKETT

I received a M.A. in Counseling Psych in 2013.

Highlights of Grad School: Practitioner oriented training, class schedule created to accommodate full or part-time employment, and the opportunity to study abroad in Singapore.

Challenges of Grad School: Lack of diversity and cost

Future Plans: In addition to starting my new job, I am in the process of acquiring my professional licesure and applying to Ph.D. programs.



COURTNEY PAYNE

I am currently working on my Ph.D. in Rehabilitation at Southern Illinois University.

Highlights of Grad School: My program is very supportive and non-competitive. There are also lots of opportunities to work on research with multiple faculty members.

Challenges of Grad School: Coursework is demanding. It can be stressful to balance classes, work and research.

Employment: Teaching Assistant & full-time student

Future Plans: My main focus right now is to work on my thesis regarding attitudes towards disabilities, but I am also interested in a side project on spirituality and healing. I also got engaged this year and plan to be married in 2014.



QUYEN DUONG

I received my M.A. in the spring of 2013 and moved to Oklahoma to complete my Ph.D. in Biostatistics.



Alumni: Degree Watch

We are proud of our McNair alumni and wish them the best as they pursue their graduate school goals! Listed are alumni who are either beginning or are near completing graduate degrees.

Brenda Ascencio - University of Redlands M.A. in Management

Olya Borichevska - Georgetown M.A. in Statistics

DeMico Davis - Loyola M.A. in Public Policy

Quyen Duong - University of Oklahoma Ph.D. in Biostatistics

Juan-Ita Effiom - UW-Madison M.A. in Occupational Therapy

Aaron Harcus - CUNY Ph.D. in Music Theory

Zach Hylton - UMN M.A. in International Development

Eric Khuong - M.D. in New York

Anne LaRoche - UW-Milwaukee M.A. in Library Information

Paj Ntaub Lee - MSU Mankato M.A. in Education

Pa Ku Lee - Augsburg M.A. in Social Work

Essa Mohammed - Mayo Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences

Dorjee Norbu - M.A. in Biomedical Sciences

Tendor Norbu - UMN M.A. in 2nd Languages & Culture Ed; ESL

Courtney Payne - Southern IL University Ph.D. in Rehabilitation

Gina Plotz - St. Scholastica M.A. in Life Sciences Secondary Ed.

Althea Speaks - Marquette University J.D.

Choua Vang - UW-River Falls M.A. in Counseling Psychology

Chue Vang - UMN M.A. in Counseling Psychology

Phoua Xiong - UMN M.A. in Family Social Science

Serena Xiong - UW-Milwaukee Ph.D. in Public Health

Betty Yang - St. Mary's M.A. in Non-Profit Management

ESSA MOHAMED

I have been working at the National Institute of Health and am beginning my Ph.D. at Mayo Graduate School studying liver cancer and hepatitis in immigrant populations.

Highlights of Grad School: Endless opportunities and resources to conduct research on diseases.

Challenges of Grad School: Sometimes mentors are clinicians and too busy to meet. Establishing the mentor-mentee expectations is a must.



ALTHEA SPEAKS

I am working on my J.D. at Marquette University.

Highlights of Grad School: Being taught a different way of thinking. Meeting some of my favorite people. Being elected Treasurer of the Law School's student government.

Challenges of Grad School: The number of hours spent studying, and competition among my peers, but I am definitely adjusting.

Employment: Legal aid for a law firm assisting with disability benefits and workers compensation. Extern with the WI Department of Justice.

Future Plans: Considering International or Business Law, focusing on antitrust litigation.

Additional Updates? Email hindersc@stolaf.edu to be included in the next issue!

Also, to keep posted of McNair happenings, check us out at wp.stolaf.edu/mcnair/ or www.facebook.com/stolaftrio.mcnair/