THE 12th ANNUAL MCNAIR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM.

The 12th Annual McNair Research Symposium was held Wednesday, April 22nd, at Schuman. The evening began with a poster session where Scholars discussed their research with members of the ISU community. The banquet featured a “Research Pitch Contest” of our first-year students proposing research from their in-class projects, a testimonial video of “My McNair Story” by alumni, and awards for McNair Scholars and supporters.

This year’s awards included:
Outstanding Second-Year Scholar: Kevin Quinteros, Senior, Animal Ecology
Outstanding Scholar of the Year: David Montecalgro, Senior, Physics and Astronomy
Outstanding Researcher Award: Amber Hvitso, Senior, Public Service and Administration in Agriculture and Animal Ecology
Lovelace Scholar: Jacqueline Larin, Sophomore, Computer Engineering

Faculty Mentor of the Year: Dr. Donald Sakaguchi, Professor, Department of Genetics, Development, and Cell Biology. Dr. Sakaguchi is the faculty mentor of Debbie Lincow

Graduate Student Mentor of the Year: Alexia Angton, mentor of Celise Christy and Master’s Student in Sociology. Shanise Walker, mentor of Debbie Lincow and Ph.D. Student in Math.
Graduating Seniors! Future Graduate Students!!

We are very pleased to announce that of the 9 graduating seniors, 7 are entering PhD programs, and 2 entering Master’s programs in the fall of 2015!!! This is another great accomplishment in the legacy of the ISU McNair Program.

Graduating seniors and second-year McNair Scholars

- **Celize Christy** has another year and will be applying for grad school entry for fall 2016.
- **Nathalie Fuentes** will begin the PhD in Biomedical Sciences this fall at Penn State University, College of Medicine.
- **Amber Haritos** will be graduating in December 2015 and applying for graduate school entry for January 2016 to study entomology.
- **Christopher Hinojo** will begin the PhD at the University of South Florida in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences.
• **Crystal Jones-Sotomayor** will begin the PhD in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Florida.

• **Jacqueline Larin** spent the year with the 2014 cohort as a Lovelace Scholar working with Dr. Zayira Jordan on a program specific software development project. Jacqueline plans to join McNair officially as a member of the 2016 cohort.

• **Debbie Lincow** will begin the PhD at Yale University in Biological and Biomedical Sciences - Molecular Cell Biology, Genetics, & Development track.

• **Ariana Mora** will begin the Higher Education, Student Affairs Master’s program at Iowa State.

• **Christian Miller** has another year and will be applying for grad school entry fall 2016.

• **Giselle Narvaez** will begin the Master’s program in Anthropology at Iowa State, working with Professor Jill Pruetz studying primate behavior.

• **Kevin Quinteros** will begin the PhD in Genetics and Genomics at Iowa State.

• **Elliott White** will begin the PhD at the University of Florida in Environmental Engineering Sciences.

• **Cimone Wright** will begin the PhD in Computer Science at Iowa State.

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**SCHOLAR SUMMER PLANS**

Our First-Year Scholars have a Busy Summer Ahead.

• **Stanley Barbel** and **David Enciso** are participating in the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) INSPIRE LSAMP Internship. **Stanley** will travel to the International Gemini Observatory in Hilo, Hawaii, and **David** to the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Arizona.

• **Colize Christy** will complete an internship in Rome with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in Uganda with the Poultry Micro-Credit Project.

• **David Montesalegre** will participate in the Summer Program for Interdisciplinary Research and Education Program (SPIRE-EIT) at ISU.

• **Markus Flynn**, **Cierra Hagans**, and **Dhynasah James** are taking summer courses, working on research, and preparing for the GRE.

• **Christian Miller** will be interning with POET Bio-refining in bio-product research and development in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

• **Hieu Nguyen** will be interning for Cargill in Kansas City.

• **Angel Raymundo** will be an undergraduate assistant for the Iowa State Academic Program for Excellence (APEX) summer program.

• **Ronnie Shelly** plans to complete an internship with Escambia County, Florida, in the Planning & Zoning Department.

• **Hovedar Yousif** will be working as a research assistant for Dr. Thomas Harrington in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology.
SCHOLARS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH
Research in the Capitol and the Undergraduate Honors Symposium.

This spring, many of second year scholars presented their research at the Research in the Capitol event in Des Moines and the Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression at Iowa State. These opportunities allow students to discuss their research with diverse audiences in both poster and oral format. Building on these presentation skills is important to the goals of the McNair Program.

Kevin Quinteros presenting his poster at the Research at the Capitol event

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