

SYDNEY M. NEAL

Hyattsville, MD 20782 | 443-486-8313 | sydneymneal@gmail.com
(she/her/hers)

EDUCATION

University of Maryland at College Park
School of Public Policy
Bachelor of Arts, Public Policy

May 2024
GPA: 3.86

McNair Independent Research

Project Title: *“Held in Our Hair: Existence within and Resistance against Black Hair Politics”*

Project Title: *“Mapping Racialized Reproduction Practices and Policies in the United States: An Expansion of Sartre’s anti-Semite and Jew”*

Awards and Honors:

UMD McNair Program Outstanding Oral Presentation Award of Excellence

July 2023

CIVICUS Excellence in Teaching Award

May 2022

Rawlings Undergraduate Leadership Fellows Program

April 2021- May 2022

McNair Fellow

2022-

Distinguished Deans List

Fall 2020-

Gladys Noon Spellman Scholarship Award

April 2020

Delegate Jackson Undergraduate Scholarship Award

April 2020-

PRESENTATIONS

Neal, Sydney M (2023, August 1) *“Mapping Racialized Reproduction Practices and Policies in the United States: An Expansion of Sartre’s anti-Semite and Jew”* [Oral Presentation with PowerPoint Slides]. National Ronald E. McNair Conference, University of California, Los Angeles

Neal, Sydney M (2023, July 7) *“Mapping Racialized Reproduction Practices and Policies in the United States: An Expansion of Sartre’s anti-Semite and Jew”* [Oral Presentation with PowerPoint Slides]. The University of Maryland Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Neal, Sydney M (2023, July 7) *“Mapping Racialized Reproduction Practices and Policies: An Expansion of Sartre’s anti-Semite and Jew”* [Poster Presentation]. The University of Maryland Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Neal, Sydney M (2022, July 8) *“Held in Our Hair: Existence within and Resistance against Black Hair Politics”* [Oral Presentation with PowerPoint Slides]. The University of Maryland Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

College Park, MD

Undergraduate Member, SPP NASPAA Accreditation Self Study

September 2022-May 2023

- Selected by Associate Dean Nina Harris to represent undergraduate students
- Provide the basis for undergraduate inputs to NASPAA for accreditation purposes, meet the University self-study requirements and also provide input in the context of the School's strategy and vision
- Created focus group and survey questions as pertained to student experience including academics, extracurricular opportunities, relationship with advisors, sense of community, and access to SPP resources.
- Conducted listening sessions both in person and virtually to collect data needed for the study
- Wrote narrative for the final report around aspects of the student experience including academic affairs, advising, student life, school climate and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
- Collaborated with a team of researchers, faculty, and peers

Principle Investigator, Ronald. E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
2023 *University of Maryland*

May 2023- August
College Park, MD

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sangeetha Madhavan

Title of Project: "Theorizing Racialized Reproduction through an expansion of Sartre's anti-Semite and Jew"

- Invited to return for 6-week intensive program (30+ hours of research per week) to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies
- Awarded \$2,800 stipend
- Conducted an independent research project centered in a theoretical expansion of the framework presented in Jean-Paul Sartre's *Antisemite and Jew*, used to evaluate racialized reproduction policies and practices in the United States. The 6 central practices/policies in the research are: the forced reproduction of enslaved women, the use of eugenics and forced sterilizations after 1865, the legalization of abortion, contraception, artificial reproductive technologies, and the birthing experience.
- Wrote an academic paper based on the findings of research
- Presented twice findings at the University of Maryland College Park
- Attended graduate school preparation course and research methods course, as well as served in a mentor role for first year participants

Undergraduate Research Assistant, School of Public Policy

University of Maryland

College Park, MD

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Katrina Walsemann

October 2022- April 2023

- Archival data collection and review for a project examining state and local-level variation in educational contexts and cognitive functioning.
- Conduct literature reviews and prepare data documentation reports and code books
- Collaborate with a team of researchers, faculty, and peers

Principle Investigator, Ronald. E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
University of Maryland

May 2022- August 2022
College Park, MD

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michelle Rowley

Title of Project: "Held in Our Hair: Existing within and Resisting Against Black Hair Politics"

- Selected to participate in a selective 17-person, 6 week intensive program to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies
- Awarded \$3,200 stipend
- Conducted an independent research project into the racialization and criminalization of black hair in America, the creation of black hair politics, and the C.R.O.W.N. Act, including a critical literature analysis that cited 50+ sources
- Multidisciplinary research included a policy analysis of the C.R.O.W.N. Act and a formal art analysis of work from artist Alison Saar
- Wrote an academic paper based on the findings of research
- Presented findings at the University of Maryland College Park
- Attended graduate school preparation course and research methods course, as well as monthly cohort events

Research Associate Intern, The CivIC Innovation Center UMD

College Park, MD

and Students Learn Students Vote Liaison

October 2021-May 2022

- Assisted in the development and implementation of a community-focused research project on civic health and policy metrics in Prince George's County
- Acted as CivIC liaison with The Maryland Student Voting Networks to support campuses across the state in getting the support they need to develop quality campus voting plans
- Informed CivIC's direction and actions using my experience and participation in the organization

Maryland Municipal League Fellow

Annapolis, MD

Intern, Annapolis City Manager's Office

June-August 2021

- Researched best practices and crafted a proposal for a community-based gun violence prevention program that was given to the City Manager and the Annapolis Chief of Police
- Assisted in the creation, development, and opening of the Annapolis Office of Community Services
- Wrote and reviewed monthly City Manager's reports for the City Council

**Undergraduate Research Assistant, School of Public Policy
University of Maryland**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Alana Hackshaw

College Park, Maryland
May 2021-September 2021

- Project: “*Black Community, Black Identity and Black Activism: Black Lives Matter and Diasporic Identity*”; examines perceptions about the Black Lives Matter Movement and Black women’s activism among the Black Diaspora in the Us.
- Conducted literature reviews related to diasporic identities, immigrants’ political engagement, and race-based social and political coalitions
- Sourced information about local religious, political, and social services that serve primarily diasporic populations to collect recruitment information
- Annotated audio transcripts from focus group sessions to collect thematic data around identity, perception of other Black groups, Black Lives Matter, Black women and Black men; linguistic data coding

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Maryland College Park,
MD *Department Office Assistant* January 2023-May 2023

- Assist in planning and preparing for department events including guest lecturers, open houses, and research exhibits
- General office work including: organizing files, word processing, greeting department guests, answering phones, coordinating on-campus deliveries
- Assist faculty and staff with projects when needed
- Strong communication, organizational, and community service skills required

Intern, School of Public Policy Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB) Taskforce

University of Maryland

College Park, MD

Chief Diversity Officer: Dr. Alana Hackshaw

January 2022-May 2022

- Execute event planning and coordinate for events hosted by the School’s Chief Diversity Officer and/or the DEIB Taskforce, including the Students of Color Graduation, AAPI Heritage Month programming, and guest lectures
- Draft narrative and conduct data synthesis for the School of Public Policy’s DEIB annual report
- Generate social media content and calendar updates/information for monthly DEIB broadcasts
- Assist in the planning of a multi-year in-house equity assessment to be conducted by the School of Public Policy
- Host weekly office hours for SPP students to utilize to share concerns related to student life and DEIB

Program Director and Staffer

Maryland Leadership Workshops

April 2019-

present

- Advanced Leadership Seminar 2023 Program Director: develop week long curriculum and programmatic events for a residential experiential leadership program serving 20 advanced leaders from Maryland’s high schools. Facilitate a team of 4 staffers in program formation, host weekly team meetings and staff development days. Contact parents and families on behalf of the program and provide feedback on the program and organization and conduct a formal evaluation of staffers.
- Facilitated workshops, activities and events for middle and high school youth in Maryland centered around leadership, diversity, community, and empowerment as a part of our outreach programs
- Served as a team leader and staffer for both Senior High Workshops (SHW) and Middle School Experience in Leadership (MSEL) residential programs

Teaching Assistant, BSCV191 Introduction to CIVICUS
CIVICUS Living Learning Program, University of Maryland
Lead Instructor: Dr. Korey Rothman

College Park, MD
July 2021-December 2021

- Provided guest lecture entitled: “Engaging with Privilege and Power” that centered around a ‘Privilege Walk’ virtual activity and a discussion of power dynamics and identity with a focus on building a multicultural society
- Assist in curriculum and lesson plan development as it pertains to the five pillars of CIVICUS: Community Service Learning, Community Building in a Diverse Society, Scholarship, and Citizenship
- Support grading and monitoring class participation and engagement
- Hosted weekly office hours and provided individual consultations with students regarding course material and assignments
- Developed relationships with students and faculty

The Social Justice School, (SJS)

Fort Totten, District of Columbia

Intern

October 2020-June 2021

- Provide facilitation feedback and programmatic support for the Dream Collab Project
- Conduct research and data analysis of Washington, D.C and SJS school demographics
- Create marketing content and canvass local neighborhoods for the SJS Recruitment Office
- Assist in grant writing and grant review

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Program Planning and Development Chair

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Kappa Phi Chapter

May 2022-May 2023

- Responsible for the oversight of all chapter public-facing programming, facilitated chapter 19 programs through the 2022-23 school year with over 500 total participants
- Organized 5 community service opportunities for chapter members in the local College Park and larger Washington-DC Metro area
- Worked with UMD’s Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life to complete program evaluations and student organization tracking documentation
- Working with chapter members, advisors, guest speakers, university officials to host successful community-based programs

Undergraduate Student Member

First Year Book Committee, University of Maryland

November 2021- Present

- Worked with a group of faculty and staff to select the University’s First-Year Book which is provided at no cost to all first year undergraduate students and applied in the curriculum of introductory classes
- Read multiple books and met with the committee monthly to discuss titles, a needs assessment of the community, and best practices for implementation
- Books selected during tenure on committee: *All We Can Save* (2022), *Smashing Statues* (2023)

School of Public Policy Ambassador

University of Maryland

January-May 2021

College Park, MD

- Gained leadership, public speaking, social media and mentorship experience as an ambassador for the School of Public Policy
- Interacted with prospective and newly-admitted students to assist in SPP student recruitment
- Networked with faculty, staff, alumni, university administrators and parents

UMD Black Student Union

Park, MD

College

Vice President of Student Affairs

September 2021-May 2022

- Ideate, plan and execute student programming and events such as the Big/Little Mentorship program
- Help create and facilitate BSU’s General Body Meetings

CIVICUS

Second Year Peer Guide

University of Maryland, MD

July 2021-May 2022

- Provide small group mentoring for CIVICUS students that includes formal and informal events

VOLUNTEER AND EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland RecWell, Water Safety Instructor

June 2021-Present

- Teach swim lessons to children aged eighteen months to eight years old.

- Created lesson plans and curriculum for private lessons
- Taught group lessons of ten preschoolers, introductory swim classes

Maryland Leadership Workshops, Program Committee Member

April 2019-

Present

- Facilitated workshops, activities and events for middle and high school youth in Maryland centered around leadership, diversity, community, and empowerment

CERTIFICATIONS:

CITI Program- Social and Behavioral Research- Basic/Refresher

March 2022-present

**Special Projects and Affiliations*

Public Pedagogy: Harriet Tubman “Guess Who” Lesson Plan Civic engagement - project designed to apply work done in “Constructions of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community” to a pedagogy project with middle school students and teachers.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Kappa Phi Chapter, Eastern Regional Nominating Committee Collegiate Member

SOFTWARE AND SKILLS

Communication, customer service, community building ideation, organization, passionate, dedicated, team-player

Computer: Canva, Google Docs, MS Office, PowerPoint, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram