

TopScholarStories: *Issue – January 2020*

News of our Top Scholars and Alumni:

Carolina, 1801, Horseshoe, McNair and Stamps Scholars

National Fellowships and Scholar Programs

South Carolina Honors College, University of South Carolina

DeSaussure Room 328 ■ www.sc.edu/nfsp - NFSP@sc.edu

Current Scholars:

McNair Scholar and Drum Major Kelley Powell – in action!

. . . . Enjoy this clip of Kelley in action at a football game!

https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=qJKUT_79PYw

Stamps Scholar Robbie Pokora’s father, Rob, featured in People magazine

. . . . **Rob Pokora received life-saving help from an unexpected person: his son’s teacher.** When Pokora was placed on the kidney transplant list in 2015, he didn’t want anyone to know or think of him as sick. He turned down his son’s offer to host a find-Rob-a-kidney fundraiser and said no when his wife suggested an Instagram page. He wouldn’t even allow them to send a letter to friends and family asking for a kidney or prayers. Carrying on, he went to dialysis at 5 a.m. and made it to work on time.

<https://people.com/human-interest/south-carolina-teacher-gives-kidney-to-student-dad/>

Carolina Scholar to present research at Harvard

. . . . **Andrew Bennett ('21)** will present his research at Harvard's National Collegiate Research Symposium to be held next month. He works in the lab of Dr. Carolyn Banister in the College of Pharmacy. For more information about the conference, see the link below:

<https://science.fas.harvard.edu/national-collegiate-research-conference>

Alumni:

McNair Scholar alumni Jonathan Keefe report research results

. . . . **Keefe is a neuroscience graduate student at UC-San Diego in psychology.** He writes “I have my first pre-print up on BioRxiv! In this manuscript, we attempted to test whether voluntary and involuntary attention have similar or distinct effects on visual cortical processing. We find that both typical voluntary attention cues (central, predictive) and involuntary attention cues (peripheral, random) elicit lateralized changes in alpha activity and slow potential shifts over visual cortex (amongst other cool findings). In short, voluntary and involuntary attention have the same effects upon visual cortical processing!”

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2019.12.12.874818v1>