

# NARAP Research Associate Alumni

## Where Are They Now?

*By Henry Siccardi, NARAP Alumni Association Coordinator*



### Laquisha Springer

- **School Attended:** Connecticut College – New London, Connecticut
- **NARAP Affiliate Hospital:** Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT
- **Research Associate Year(s):** 2013

### Where is Laquisha now?

Laquisha returned for senior year after participating in the RA Program and spoke with a nurse on campus looking for volunteers for the Medical Reserve Corps. She became a mentor to Laquisha and pushed her to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner, so after graduating she completed the last remaining pre-reqs for nursing. Laquisha did AmeriCorps for one year at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Hartford known as Community Health Services. During that year she applied to Columbia University, where she currently studies nursing. She is now working with an Assertive Community Treatment team with Mental Health Association in The Bronx. Her role is helping prevent hospitalizations for patients with multiple previous psychiatric hospitalizations. Laquisha will complete her Masters to become a Family Nurse Practitioner in December and plans to practice for some time in New York City thereafter.

### What Laquisha says about the NARAP Research Associates Program

“The RA Program was an eye-opener because it was the first time I spent a good deal of time in the Emergency Department. It was useful to get the patient exposure and contact, and good to learn how to discuss patient histories with them and learn to elicit information from them. I think it’s helped me since because having a foundation for interacting with patients and other ER staff broke the barrier that exists before the first time you truly enter the health professions. When I started clinical in nursing school I had some understanding of people’s roles in the ED and how to have positive patient interactions. I always knew I wanted to do something in healthcare, but was initially unsure if I wanted to do research or more direct patient care. I had leaned towards research, which is why I pursued neuroscience as an undergraduate. However, I found I enjoy dealing with patients more than doing bench research, an understanding I attribute to the RA Program.”