



The McNair Mission

Summer 2009 Edition

The McNair Graduate Opportunity Program Official Newsletter
Recognizing outstanding student achievements and accomplishments

Director's Letter

By: Matt Pearcey, Ph.D.



Congratulations to the 16 ISU McNair Scholars, who finished their summer research projects (see their names on pages two and three). This eight-week activity is an essential part of the "McNair experience." It is intended to provide scholars with a glimpse into what research would be like at the graduate level. It is often frustrating for scholars because the time line is so fast and they may not have all the research skills necessary to be self-directed. However, with the help of dedicated and accomplished faculty/research mentors, each student has their own personal guide on how to conduct research and how to present it in a formal setting.

As an opportunity for students from around the country (as well as our own ISU McNair Scholars) to showcase their hard work, we will be holding a research conference in October 2009. The theme for this year's 9th Annual National McNair Research Conference is, "Getting What You Came For." The title of our conference comes from the book of the same name by Dr. Robert Peters. This book and the conference will highlight skills which will be useful to graduate students: quality research presentation skills, networking, eliminating or reducing academic procrastination, and the celebration of intellectual assertiveness. McNair Scholars have undoubtedly spent countless hours and many sleepless nights writing research proposals, papers, and projects. We hope this conference will give them an opportunity to showcase their skills and meet other rising scholars.

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Current Scholars & Mentors

Sasha Edwards
Mr. Chavez Phelps
"Critical Examination of "No Child Left Behind"

Logan Fulford
Dr. Allan Albig
"Angiostatic Potential Lumican Fragmentation"

Jennifer Hale
Ms. Beverly Bitzegaio
"Females in Technology & Under Represented Fields"

Tammi Hodge
Dr. Lisa Phillips
"Stereotypes in Commercials pertaining to African Americans"

Cheyenne Jackson
Dr. P. Kevin Bolinsky
"Use of Meditation in treating eating disorders"

Katrina Jackson
Dr. Elonda Ervin
"African Americans Portrayed in American Films"

Darnequea Johnson
Ms. Deb Barnhart
"Examining the Attrition Rate of African American Students in Nursing"

SharCarre' Johnson
Dr. Jennifer Ryan
"Human Behavior & Music"

Shannon Kendrick
Dr. Brendan Corcoran
"Middle East"

Shanel Poole
Dr. Jennifer Grimes
"Juvenile Delinquency"



2008-2009 McNair Graduate Opportunity Cohort

Back row left to right: ShaCarre' Johnson, Cheyenne Jackson, Tammi Hodge, Logan Fulford, Katrina Jackson, Jennifer Hale, Emily Pugh, and Kevin Whitehead.

Front row left to right: Mary Weldon, Shannon Kendrick, Asia Smith, Darnequea Johnson, and Chiffon Warner.

Not pictured: Sasha Edwards, Ron Taylor, and Shanel Poole.

The 9th Annual National McNair Conference: Getting What You Came For...

The National McNair Conference will be held here at ISU on October 15-16, 2009. Various universities from the Mid-West region, as well as several others institutions around the nation will be sending McNair Scholars. At this conference scholars will have the opportunity to showcase their research project. The conference keynote speaker this year is Dr. Tara Ruttley, who is the Associate Program Scientist for the International Space Station at NASA. Dr. Ruttley received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, with an emphasis in Biomedical Engineering from Colorado State University (CSU), and her PhD of Neuroscience at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Other highlights for the conference include Dr. Joseph Ferrari, who is a nationally recognized renowned expert in procrastination, and is currently a professor at DePaul University. Dr. Ferrari will be presenting a workshop on academic procrastination.

In addition, Ms. Scotia Brown a community social worker and mother of two former McNair Scholars will be speaking at our luncheon. Lastly, Carmen Corez, a recent alumna from University of California- Davis and NSF recipient will be a featured speaker.

If you are interested to be a participant/ presenter at the National McNair Conference, please follow the conference link provided below to register.

<http://www.indstate.edu/mcnairsch/conference.htm>

Current Scholars & Mentors

Emily Pugh
Dr. Jennifer Latimer
"Ocean Anoxic Events"

Asia Smith
Ms. Sheri Walters
"ACL Injuries on Athletes"

Ronald Taylor
Dr. Tony Rathburn
"Comparison of different size
fractions of Living
Foraminifera"

Chiffon Warner
Dr. Deb Worley
"The Effectiveness of the
McNair Opportunity
Program"

Mary Weldon
Dr. Jennifer Grimes
"Progress/Change to Laws
due to Alcohol/ Drunk
Driving"

Kevin Whitehead
Dr. Mary Howard-Hamilton
"How does Foreign Study
impact someone's Career/
education"

The Ronald E. McNair Graduate Opportunity Program celebrates its 10th year!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the McNair Scholars Programs existence here at Indiana State!

Thousands of scholars from around the country have benefitted from this program. Each program offers multiple services to students annually to include tutoring, faculty mentoring, academic research training, visitations to potential graduate institutions, social skills enhancement, academic advisement, assistance with the graduate school admission process, and many other important activities. The McNair program at Indiana State University has produced more than one hundred graduates with an average GPA of well over 3.5. Additionally, we currently have more than 15 graduates in master's and PhD programs around the nation.

Please join us on September 16th at 4:00 pm in Dreiser 203 for our 10th Annual Open House. At this event we will have McNair alumni, and current McNair Scholars. We would like to invite potential McNair Scholars as well as faculty, staff, and campus community members. Take an opportunity to celebrate with us past and current McNair Scholars' accomplishments. Refreshments and hors d'ouvres will be served.

Recent McNair graduates: The low down on their first year of graduate school...

Michael Cameron, Cassie Gray, and Paulina Ballesteros had this to say:

-After 1 year of graduate school how was your experience?

MC: "My first year of graduate school was fairly calm, my classes were very engaging, and I learned a tremendous amount. My second semester was significantly harder in terms of course load; however I was still able to do well."

CG: "It was very productive and I learned a lot. I'm very glad I decided to go elsewhere, to another university to continue my education - I had to prove myself all over again and I learned so much more if I had stayed at ISU. It was a lot of work, had to keep very motivated and on top of things all the time - definitely had to prioritize and deal with less free time."

PB: "I grew a lot both personally and professionally. I learned a lot more about this field and all that it takes to be a school psychologist. I had my moments where I was overwhelmed with all the requirements and due dates, but now looking back on that, all it took was more planning to overcome the stress."

-Was graduate school what you expected?

MC: "Graduate school was what I expected; it's very similar to undergrad and a bit dissimilar as well. I was not a fan of night classes at all throughout my undergrad, however my program is 100% night classes here. I had to adjust to that schedule, which wasn't too much of an issue."

CG: "Grad school is pretty much what I expected, mostly because I was involved in research projects for the last 3 years of my undergrad, and that's really what grad school is all about. So I knew what to expect, I just didn't realize how hard the work would really be."

PB: "Graduate school is what I expected it to be, and better. My professors were really concerned about students and if they us struggling, they come to aid the cohorts helping us with our confusion.."

-What advice would you give for current scholars about the summer research internship? What struggles/obstacles occurred?

MC: "I would strongly encourage students to learn quantitative research methods and to seek out research topics with datasets available for analysis. Collecting data is time consuming and sometimes unreasonable, given the short summer program and the lack of availability of contacts needed to collect data. Had I chosen a topic with data already available, I could have learned a lot more about data analysis and SPSS, both of which are essential to graduate school."

CG: "Keep with it! Find ways to stay motivated so you don't get burnt out and so you can stay focused and enthusiastic about what you are doing. Don't give up. It's worth it in the end."

PB: "Your mentor has so much information to help you, so make sure to ask them for as much help as possible! My mentor helped me throughout my summer research, which fueled my interest even more. The only struggle I would say is that sometimes I felt I had too much information and not enough space to talk about it. So having to narrow down the information, can be hard, so make sure to summarize very well"

Honorable Mentions:

Congrats to Ron Taylor and Shanel Poole, who will be studying abroad this upcoming semester! Ron will be studying in Turkey, while Shanel is off to Mexico!

Also congratulations to Tammi Hodge, who received the Focus Indiana scholarship for \$1000 and Shanel Poole who was a recipient of the Indiana Black Expo Circle City Classic Scholarship for \$1,000!

This year's Richard G. Landini Outstanding Junior Award goes to Logan Fulford! Great job Logan, you truly deserve this honorable award, as you have demonstrated in many ways of what outstanding means!

Recent Conference Presenters:

Logan Fulford and Danielle Hoepfner recently presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin- LaCrosse. In addition, Ron Taylor and Emily Pugh presented their research at the Geological Society of America (GSA) which was held in Rockford, IL.

Experiences at GSA:

Emily: "I was very nervous to be a part of an undergraduate research showcase because I had never attended a GSA meeting before. I felt intimidated by my peers and the fact that many scientists would also be at the meeting. However, my experience at the meeting was very positive. My colleagues were nice and encouraging. As the day progressed, my nervous feelings diminished and I became more comfortable in the conference environment."

Ron: "I was able to meet various professionals from professors at regional universities to professionals in the areas of geosciences that were interested in my research. The conference was a great place to meet and network with people and institutions that can possibly help me in my future career."

McNair Alumni currently in graduate school:

Elaina Ateke- Howard University- Ph.D. - Clinical Psychology
Paulina Ballesteros- New Mexico State- Eds - School Psychology
Kelly Bates-Oglesby- Indiana State University- Ph.D. - Curriculum and Instruction
Charles Brown- Ohio State University- MD- Osteopathic Medicine
Michael Cameron- University of Nebraska- Omaha- M.A.- Public Administration
Ruben David- Chicago school of Psychology- M.S.- Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Katie Dieter- Indiana University- Bloomington- Ph.D.- African-American and African Diaspora Studies
Crystal Dilosa- Roosevelt University- M.A.- Public Administration
Jaquita Ewing- Central Michigan University- M.A.- Education (instructional)
Cassie Gray- Louisiana State University- M.S.- Geology/Geophysics
Tasasha Henderson- DePaul University- M.A.- Communications
Danielle Hoepfner- Indiana State University- M.A.- Criminology/ Criminal Justice
Thomas Holloman- Indiana State University- M.A.- Fine Arts
Lindsay Huddleston- Duquesne University- M.A.-Music Technology
Bobbie Jackson- Indiana State University- M.A.- Public Administration
Darrick Lowe- Ball State University- M.A.- Public Administration
Danielle Pernell- Indiana University- Bloomington- M.A.- Recreation
David Searles- Florida Atlantic University- M.A.- Hospitality
LaShaunda Smith- Indiana State University- M.A.- Public Administration
Kylei Tumey- University of Oklahoma -M.A.- Anthropology
Kalisha Turner- St. Louis University- M.A.- Higher Education
Nia Weeks- Indiana State University- M.S.- Human Resource Development
Jameelah Williams- University of Indianapolis- M.S.- Physical Therapy
Christina Zimmerman- Indiana State University- M.A.- Criminology/ Criminal Justice

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