

# McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

Volume 3 ~ Issue 2

August 2002

*The 2002 McNair Summer Research Internship* began on May 20 and successfully ended on June 27. McNair Scholars presented their research proposals at the WVU McNair Symposium from 9-4 on June 27 and celebrated the completion of the six-week internship with families and friends at the evening closing banquet. Dr. Larry LeFlore, Extension Professor and Director of Center for 4-H & Youth, Family, and Adult Development, was the keynote speaker for the evening. Here is some feedback from participants about the summer internship:

*"It was a wonderful experience and I gained so much from it. Thank you!"*

*"The program is awesome!"*

*"Great program and great staff!"*

The McNair program staff would like to thank all students, summer faculty: Dr. Cheryl Torsney and Dr. Justin Boyce, graduate mentors: Dessie Mandalasi, Jesse Menarde, Anne Njoroge, and AnaGloria Rodriguez, as well as faculty mentors in making the 2002 Summer Research Internship a success.

<u>2002 Scholars</u>	<u>Faculty Mentors</u>	<u>Research Titles</u>
Seema Aggarwal	Dr. Ruth Kershner Dr. Irene Tessaro	HIV/AIDS in Women: A Study of The Bungoma District of Western Kenya
Amisha Dean	Dr. Joseph R. Scotti	An Examination of Stress Levels in College Student Athletes and Non-athletes
Christa Dodd	Dr. Christine Adams	Behavioral Problems Among Pediatric Burn Patients
Wenda Harris	Dr. Kathleen Ryan	"Come kiss and be kissed": Caribbean Culture in Zora Neale Hurston's <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
Jodie Hoover	Dr. Amy Hessel	Climatic Influence on the Fire History of Ponderosa Pine ( <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> ) Forests on the East Slope of the Cascades in Washington State
Teresa Jones	Dr. JoNell Strough	The Influence of Peer Relationships, Media Influence and Racial Identity on African American Females
Lauren Pizza	Dr. Heather Hulburt	Community Bank's Influence on Rural Development: A Case Study of Clay County, West Virginia
Stefanie Puher	Dr. Ed Keller	A Comparative Study on the Relationship of Major Cardiovascular Diseases and Lifestyle Factors between the Twentieth Century and the Year 2000 in Preston County, West Virginia
Angela Schaffer	Dr. Kari Sand-Jecklin	An Examination of the Impact of First Clinical Experiences on BSN Students' Perceptions of the Nursing Profession
Laura Steele	Dr. Judy Abbott	Elementary Students' Written Responses to Poetry: Exploring the Concepts of Entertainment and Empathy
Gabe Tapia	Dr. Michael Mays	Patterns in Systems of Congruence Relations
Gina Zirilli	Dr. Brian Patterson	Sex on TV: A Content Analysis of Television's Sexual Relationships



## Director's Corner

Anita G. Mayer  
Director, McNair Scholars Program

# TRiO

RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Every job has its perks. Some jobs offer flextime; others offer cushy offices and great parking spots. The McNair Scholars program offers a rather unique perk. This perk cannot be counted, nor spent nor sold. You cannot drive it, eat it or live in it. It will retain and increase in value over time, and can be given away over and over again. Whether staff, faculty, student or volunteer, anyone who so wishes can partake of the McNair perks, anytime, anywhere.

The perk I speak of is far more precious than any you might find elsewhere. It is the gift of discovery and the opportunity for learning. It is the 13 Schools and Colleges of West Virginia University; a Doctoral/Research University-Extensive classified by the Carnegie Institute for the Advancement of Teaching. It is twenty-some scholars researching what is and what might become. It is discovering the effects of poetry on children, forest fire management, equitable hiring practices in high technology, learning curves of bi-lingual children, managing digitizers, understanding stress in student athletes and examining trends in wartime censorship.

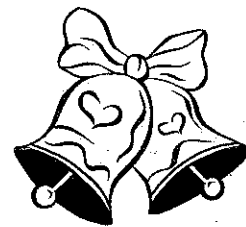
The McNair perk is the gratification of unlocking the hidden, the unknown, the unfamiliar and the unrevealed. It is the philosophy that *greatness is learned*, and that great learning takes place in an atmosphere of discovery. No greater gift exists than that of knowledge and discovery. No greater student body is as deserving as the past, present and future students of the West Virginia University Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

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## Good news from the WVU McNair Family:

Wedding Bells: July - Christa Dodd (2002)  
August - Angela Dixon (2000)  
Gabe Tapia (2002)

Engagements: Serena Gibson (2001)  
Gino Degregori (2001)



First McNair baby arriving in September. Proud parent: Angela Derk (2001)

# Congratulations!

## Summer Travel:

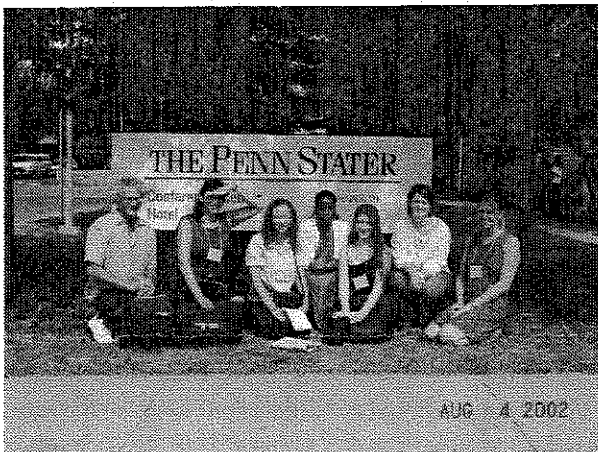
WVU McNair Scholars traveled to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in July and Penn State in August for the national McNair Conferences. Gino Degregori, Serena Gibson, and Jonathan Glover presented their research at the SAEOPP/UTK Conference held July 11-14. All of them worked hard in preparing for the oral presentations. **Congratulations** to Gino who received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Humanities/Education category of the student oral presentation competition. Anna Stasick presented her research at Penn State McNair Conference held August 2-4. Here is what students said about their conference experience:

### SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Scholars Research Conference

*"At the McNair Conference I enjoyed myself tremendously. It was wonderful to be around a large group of scholars who were very passionate about their research and their particular fields. I learned a lot about taking the GRE...I would strongly encourage McNair Scholars to attend as many conferences as possible. You will make lasting friendships and learn skills that you will use as you pursue graduate studies. You will be encouraged by the attitudes and professionalism of all those scholars in one place and you will learn a lot about yourself, your peers and your field."* Jonathan Glover

*"It was really an experience to meet everyone and feel a part of something. The guest speakers were fabulous and really inspirational. I loved having a chance to see other students' presentations. The seminar about taking the GRE was very beneficial. I am really glad that I decided to attend this conference. It was overall a good time and a great learning experience."* Serena Gibson

*"Attending the SAEOPP conference was valuable for me...Since this is the first conference I have attended, I discovered many subtle points about the conferencing experience in general: dress code, etiquette, how to network, what activities to expect, etc. This information will no doubt boost my confidence level when I attend further conferences throughout my academic career."* Gabe Tapia



Scholars and staff at the Penn State McNair Conference



Along with other WVU McNair Scholars, Gino Degregori displayed his award at the SAEOPP/UTK McNair Conference

### Penn State McNair Conference

*"The trip to the Penn State McNair Conference was time well spent...I found the keynote speaker to be especially interesting and able to provide much needed details about the process of applying to graduate school. My fellow McNair Scholars' presentations were very interesting."* Christa Dodd

*"The presentations gave me an idea of where I should be with my own research project. The presenters also gave me ideas on how to improve and where to find pertinent information on my topic. It was a great opportunity to network with my McNair peers...Thanks for giving me the opportunity to explore my options and expand my horizons."* Wenda Harris

# Fall 2002 Tentative Program Schedule

August 22	GRE Analytical Tutorial
September 13-14	Canaan Valley Trip
October 8	SPSS Workshop
October 15	SPSS Workshop
November 12	Writing a Purpose Statement
December 7	Graduation Dinner

Are you eligible to become a McNair Scholar?

- full-time WVU student
- 3.0 GPA or above
- US citizen or permanent resident
- first-generation college student with financial need or member of an underrepresented group in graduate studies
- a desire to obtain a Ph.D. or Ed.D.

If you check YES to the above list, apply at the Program Office at 710 Allen Hall.

A warm welcome to our new graduate assistant, Eunice Rohrer, a 2001 McNair Scholar, who will begin her Master's studies in Journalism at WVU this Fall.



Alumni News: if you are an alum. How of any alumni news, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the program staff at 304-293-4316 or e-mail news to Dr. Mei at [bmei@wvu.edu](mailto:bmei@wvu.edu). A link to the alumni page can also be found on the WVU McNair Scholars Program website.

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