

West Virginia University
McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

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The 2004 McNair Summer Research Internship began on May 17 and successfully ended on June 24. After receiving intensive research training during the six-week program, McNair Scholars presented their research proposals at the WVU McNair Symposium on June 24. The scholars then celebrated their hard work with families and friends at the Historic Hotel Morgan during the evening closing banquet. Dr. Cheryl Torsney, Associate Provost for Academic Programs, and Ms. Wenda Harris, a 2002 WVU McNair Scholar, who recently received her Master's degree in Education from Ohio State University, were the guest speakers for the evening. The McNair Program staff would like to thank our summer instructors, Dr. Julie Patrick and Dr. Lisa Weihman, as well as the graduate student mentors: Ras Acolatse, Angie Derk, Christine Lokko, Jeannie Underwood and Amy White for their significant roles in the Program. Here is some feedback from participants about the summer internship:

"This program has forced me to address... my life's focus... Thank you."

"It was a wonderful and enriching experience."

"I would recommend this program to everyone."



McNair Scholars Visiting Pittsburgh, PA



Students Enjoyed Chinatown in D.C.

Summer Travel:

WVU McNair Scholars have been traveling all around the region. On June 4, the scholars visited the University of Pittsburgh and Phipps Conservatory. In mid-June, they traveled to the Washington D.C. area to investigate graduate schools including: American University, Howard University and the University of Maryland at College Park. Finally, in July WVU McNair Scholars traveled to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville for the SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Scholars Research Conference. All of the scholars worked diligently on their research and presentations, which was exemplified by Chris Williamson and Patricia Underwood winning 1st and 4th place presentation awards respectively. Chris won 1st place out of 44 Social Science presenters with his work entitled "School Consolidation in Six Southern West Virginia Counties: A Policy Analysis of School

Consolidation and Educational Achievement.” Patti won 4th place out of 23 Humanities/Education presenters with her work entitled “Critical Inquiry: Looking Beyond the Surface.” An extra special thanks to their faculty mentors, Dr. Robert Dilger and Dr. Victoria Fergus. Student comments can be found on page 3.



Chris Williamson and Patricia Underwood with their UTK Presentation Awards. "It was a great honor and made all the months' of research worthwhile," Chris. "It's indeed quite an honor," Patti.



McNair Scholars at UTK Conference

2004 Scholar	Faculty Mentor	Research Title
LaNelle Barber	Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield	The Impact of Religion on Coping With Stress: A Look at the Non-Traditional College Student
James Greene	Phylissa Mitchell, J.D.	Religious Socialization and Its Effects on Moral Decision Making
Xinhuang Huang	Dr. Nigel Clark	Emission of Oxide of Nitrogen (NOx) from Heavy- Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles
Deana Kleine	Dr. Todd West	Foliar Application of Different Concentrations on WV 63' and Beefsteak 'Trust' Lycopersicon Esculentum (Tomato) Cultivars During Growth and Direct Spray on Fruit After Post Harvest
Michelle Mantooth	Dr. Julie Patrick	Effects of Spaced Retrieval Treatment on Alzheimer's Patients' Memories
Greta Martin	Dr. Nancy Lohmann	International Students' Attitudes Toward Their Social and Academic Experience at West Virginia University
Katrina McCoy	Dr. William Fremouw	The Relationship Between College Students' Self-reported Illegal Behavior and Criminal Thinking Style
Christopher Monk	Dr. Stanley Cohen	Effects of Music on Cognitive Physical Performance
Brittany Morgan	Dr. JoNell Strough	Jealousy in Romantic Relationships in Relation to Perceived Attractiveness and Extraversion in the Other Partner
Wayan Rata	Kristina Olson	Animation, Anime, Comics, and Manga: Earning Their Place in History
Tenishia Rhodes	Dr. Kirk Hazen	Powell and Campbell's Classifications: A Comparative Analysis of Two North American Indian Languages
Linda Riddle	Allison Helm	Sculpture: The Birth of Public Works of Art
Amy Ritterbusch	Dr. Jamie Jacobs	Effects of Gender Differences on Street Children in Bogotá, Columbia
Jeremiah Samples	Dr. Jason Parker	The Tragic Sideshow: The Covert Bombings of Cambodia and the Political Ramifications for the US Presidency
Natalie Wesley	Dr. Richard Riley	The Impact of Home Buying and Refinancing on Retirement Planning



Michelle Mantooth presenting her research on Alzheimer's Disease



2004 McNair Scholars and staff after Research Symposium



Director's Corner

Anita G. Mayer
Director, McNair Scholars Program



The beauty of McNair is self-evident to those who have the pleasure of working with the program. Yet, there is a value to McNair far beyond the success of the students the program serves. McNair raises issues that one cannot help but consider when assessing carefully, the larger populations of undergraduate students attending our institutions of higher education.

McNair serves students who have the *capability* to be successful in doctoral studies but who run a high risk of never reaching their full academic aptitude. The success of McNair to replenish our halls is brought to fruition by the support of the US Department of Education (DOE), the Council for Opportunities in Education (COE), the institutions of higher education that house and support the programs on a day to day basis, and the staff, committed to pursuing and ensuring the success of others.

There is another population of students emerging on our campuses that, in the "blink of an eye", could miss the opportunity of a lifetime - the opportunity to attend graduate school. An unprecedented number of students are entering our halls, optimistic of receiving their undergraduate degrees. More and more college students are first generation, income-eligible and underrepresented on campus. In Appalachia, a large minority (although not by definition) of undergraduate students on college campuses are Caucasian, income eligible, first generation students. In other areas, the escalation of students entering and graduating from four-year degree programs might come from the Hispanic population, the African American population or the Native American population. Whatever the population, campuses have an obligation and a necessity to ensure that undergraduates have the information necessary to make the choice of whether or not to attend graduate school.

We know the curriculum like we know the back of our hand. Test prep, the application process, the personal statement, interview skills, letters of reference, and how to financially survive graduate school are areas of information that students need in order to successfully prepare for graduate school. For all intents and purposes, promoting this information is good for both the students and the campuses. Schools that host workshops for undergraduates interested in learning more about graduate school know of the need and the value in sharing these processes with students campus-wide. Undergraduates are so interested that they will fill the seats of workshops even during "dead week". Remember that for many of these students, this is the opportunity of their lifetime. The knowledge, in and of itself, is empowering and often the turning point for students.

Campuses are recruiting unprecedented numbers of undergraduate students. At the same time, McNair is doing what McNair set out to do. Students, who thought they could only imagine themselves with doctoral degrees, have them. The future is safer as a result. Encourage your campus to teach and provide resources to undergraduates about graduate school and everyone comes out the winner.

Students Thoughts on Summer Travel:

The University of Pittsburgh and Phipps Conservatory

"It was extremely helpful in that I learned much about what the school looks for in applications for admission..." **Brittany Morgan**

"I think the trip was very educational and provided bonding time for the group." **Amy Ritterbusch**

DC Area and Graduate Schools

"I very much enjoyed sitting in on their [Howard McNair Scholars'] presentations. It was motivating to see finished products. It also put the McNair program in an augmented light in that I realize how serious others are about the mission of the program." **Wayan Rata**

SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Conference

"Coinciding amidst the level of scholarship and self-motivation amassed by the scholars from all the schools attending the conference left me with a distinct feeling of confidence. The efforts of McNair make success seem unavoidable." **Katrina McCoy**

"It was great to see the research of all my peers, and to interact with such great minds. Also, it reminded me of the great responsibility of being a McNair scholar. For instance, I have the responsibility to utilize the McNair program to its greatest potential so that the program is still around for future scholars." **Donnie Hill**

WVU McNair Scholars Program
Student Services Center
PO Box 6212
Morgantown, WV 26506

600013100006

Anita Mayer, Program Director
Amayer2@wvu.edu

Dr. Betty Mei, Assistant Director
bmei@wvu.edu

Patricia Daniel, Senior Administrative Secretary
Patricia.Daniel@mail.wvu.edu

Joseph Wiles, Budget Manager
Joseph.Wiles@mail.wvu.edu

Angela Derk, Graduate Assistant
Angela.Derk@mail.wvu.edu

Treah Haggerty, Technical Assistant
tboyer@mix.wvu.edu

TEL: (304) 293-4316

FAX: (304) 293-4365

www.wvu.edu/~mcnair

McNair Scholars Program Fall 2004 Schedule

- 8/30 Writing Resumes and Personal Statements – Bluestone Room, Mountainlair
- 9/13 GRE Workshop – Verbal and Analytical Writing – White Hall Computer Lab 1
- 9/20 GRE Workshop – Quantitative – White Hall Computer Lab 1
- 9/27 Diversity Awareness Seminar – Bluestone Room, Mountainlair

Additional activities:

- 10/10-12 WVU Colloquium for Aspiring Minority Doctoral Candidates
- 10/18-22 WVU Diversity Week
- 10/31 – 11/2 Ohio State University Campus Visit



Please note our new campus address!