

West Virginia University
McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

Volume 4 ~ Issue 3

December 2003



DECEMBER GRADUATES:



Rose Mazza, Adrian Thompson and Jodie Hoover pictured with Betty Mei, Program Manager and Anita Mayer, Program Director

Jodie Hoover – obtained a B.S. in Geography and plans to attend graduate school in fall 2004.

Rose Mazza – obtained a B.A. in Foreign Languages and has received a teaching assistantship from the WVU Foreign Languages Department to teach a course in Italian and begin her Master's program in Foreign Languages in January 2004.

Adrian Thompson – obtained a B.S. in Psychology and will begin his Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology at WVU in January 2004.

Special Farewell:

Georgia Mullens, administrative assistant since the beginning of the Program in 2000, began a new job with the WVU Rural Medicine Center in November. The McNair Program staff and Scholars thank her for the hard work she put into the Program and wish her good luck with the new position.





From our staff to yours: Happy Holidays!
We wish you a great year ahead!



Alumni news:

Jackie Bass (2000) is a Rotary World Peace Scholar studying at the Universidad del Salvador in Argentina and will return to the States for a few months in December. She will complete her third master's degree in 2005.

Serena Joslin (formerly Gibson, 2001) is enjoying her marriage to Paul and also her master's program in Clinical Psychology at Appalachian State University. She'll be doing her master's research on Disney movies. How appropriate for someone from Looneyville!

Brie Frey (2001) is a teaching assistant for the WVU Women's Studies program. She is currently working on her master's in Geography and a certificate in Nonprofit Management.

Jennis Taylor (2001) recently received a graduate research assistantship for her doctoral studies at George Mason University. Jennis wrote to the McNair staff thanking them for helping her develop her 'qualities for success.' In her own words, "Thanks McNair!! My classmates are now coming to me to find out my secrets of success. My McNair upbringing continues to pay! Thank you so much!"

Jennis Taylor with former McNair faculty mentor, Dr. Russell Sobel, pictured in front of the Wall of Honors at the WVU College of Business and Economics. Jennis and 10 other students in the College of Business and Economics were inducted into the PNC Roll of Academic Excellence in October for receiving a 4.0 GPA for three or more semesters during their time in the B&E Department.



Sheyi Ojofeitimi (2000) is a research associate at the Analysis of Dance and Movement Center at the Long Island University in Brooklyn and also an in-house physical therapist for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (AAADT). She had a fabulous experience going on the road with AAADT to Paris and Lyon, France. She also published two journal articles in 2003.

Campus visits:

Nicole Johnson visited **Duke University** on their visitation day on Oct. 26-28.

Ohio State University

Five McNair Scholars: Nicole Johnson, Rose Mazza, Gabe Tapia, Danny Trejo, and Brianne Williams traveled to OSU for their visitation day on November 2-4.

"My attendance at the 33rd GPSVD has been instructive and, most importantly, enjoyable." Gabe Tapia.

"I really enjoyed the visit to OSU...I thought it was very informative and well planned. I enjoyed the entire weekend." Rose Mazza



McNair Conference:

"My attendance at the National McNair Scholars Conference at University of Delaware proved to be a rewarding experience. It gave me a sense of being part of a community of McNair Scholars. I hadn't truly comprehended that before coming into contact with so many others." Nicki Bono

"Watching other students present their research gave me an idea of what to expect in the future." Chris Williamson



Director's Corner

Anita G. Mayer
Director, McNair Scholars Program



My daughter Lauren delivered her first child last Friday. Little Olivia was born five weeks early and measured a tiny 17 inches long. Lauren is totally in love with her new baby. On the second day, they were released from the hospital and on the third day, they reentered as Olivia needed to be "under the lights" for a few days. On the way back to the hospital, Lauren said, "I knew I would love her. But I didn't really know what that meant until now."

We only know what we know, and not until we really know, do we know what we didn't know.

We witness this regularly with our McNair Scholars. Interested students are encouraged to meet with McNair staff as they prepare to apply to the program and all sit for formal interviews. It is easy to see that they are eager to achieve but it is typically with a substantial degree of blind faith. For them, the road to scholarly success is the road less traveled.

New McNair Scholars have what it takes to get into the program. They do what we tell them they must do in order to be successful at the doctoral level and leave in control of their destinies, fully embracing their goals and confident that they have what it takes to achieve. The McNair mentoring, the class time, the research training, and the graduate school preparation provide the key ingredients to success – opportunity, information and experience.

As we enter our second cycle of funding and look forward to the next four years, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters. West Virginia University McNair faculty mentors, tutors, graduate assistants, recruiters, advisory board, instructors and campus wide support systems form the real cornerstones of the program. To all of you, we bestow our gratitude.

Have Fun,
Anita

Our Congratulations to the following Award Winners:

Danny Trejo received the 2003 Share The Vision Award at the 2003 Share The Vision Prevention Conference held at the Charleston Marriott, WV, in October. Danny and his co-founder of the Morgantown Area Youth Services Project, Juinell Riivald, received the award for their work with high-risk youth in the Morgantown area.

From left: Juinell Riivald, WV House of Delegate Cindy Frich, and Danny Trejo at the 2003 Share The Vision Prevention Conference



Patti Underwood was named West Virginia Art Education Association Student Member of the Year 2003. The award was presented at the NAEA Convention in Charleston, WV, in October and was given to recognize the accomplishments of the student member.

Jon Michael Bosley was selected by the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium to be a NASA Space Grant Scholar. He will present his McNair research in a poster presentation in Charleston, WV, in the spring semester of 2004 and his final research report will be published by the Space Grant Consortium.

Correction:

In our last issue of the McNair newsletter, we mistakenly printed that Dr. Ellesa High was Danny Trejo's faculty mentor while in fact Dr. Carol Markstrom is Danny's mentor. Our apology to Dr. Markstrom. Dr. High is a former McNair faculty mentor.

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McNair Scholars Program Spring 2004 Schedule

Jan.	Ski Trip
Jan. 28	Graduate Forum, Mountainlair Hatfield's B
Feb.	Community Service Project
Mar. 8	Mock Presentation
Mar. 18-20	University of Maryland National McNair Conference
April 15	World Music Concert
May	Graduation



**2004 McNair Summer
Research Internship
applications due on
January 31.**