

West Virginia University

McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

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On December 1st, the McNair Scholars celebrated the season with a holiday dinner at the Quality Inn. They celebrated the graduation of 2004 scholar, Wayan Rata and then traveled to the Creative Arts Center to see the production of *Miss Saigon*. Wayan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sculpture and plans to attend graduate school for a MFA in the next year. Below are some of the McNair Family Pictures during dinner.



(L to R) Dr. Kristina Olson, Wayan Rata, Program Director Anita Mayer, and Assistant Director Dr. Betty Mei



December graduate Wayan Rata pictured with his faculty mentor (on his right) and parents (on his left)



Open House

On November 14th the McNair Scholars Program held an Open House information session in the Student Union on campus. McNair staff and current scholars were in attendance to welcome future applicants and answer their questions about the McNair experience.



Open House participants listened attentively as information about the WVU McNair Scholars Program was presented.



Director's Corner
Anita G. Mayer
Director, McNair Scholars Program



"Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You're eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky."
Ronald E. McNair

January is an important and exciting month for the WVU McNair program. Mentors are guiding scholars through their research, seniors are meeting deadlines as they apply to graduate programs and staff members are busy recruiting new students to the extraordinary opportunities offered by the program.

January is also the month that we celebrate the life and mission of Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Born on October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina, Dr. McNair was a physicist, an astronaut, a visionary, a saxophonist, an older brother, a husband, a father and a son. He died living out his dream on January 28, 1986 as an astronaut aboard the Spacecraft Challenger on his second mission into space.

Ron McNair did not have parents who went to college, advisors that prodded him or money in the bank to carry him through. He simply had a dream, a goal and a drive to be the best he could be, at everything he had the opportunity to try. It really was that simple for him. It did not matter if he was cooking for his family, teaching karate or flight testing rendezvous sensors and computer programs for NASA; Ron McNair made sure that no moment and no opportunity to achieve went ignored.

Dr. McNair is the inspiration behind countless student achievements. Intelligent and inquisitive, eager and courageous, skillful and focused, Dr. McNair lived his dreams every day. It is our goal that by the guidance offered through the WVU McNair Scholars program, that we assist intelligent students to be inquisitive, eager students to be courageous, skillful students to remain focused, and ultimately to do as Dr. McNair commanded of them - *to stretch their wings and fly to the sky.*

We invite you to visit our program at www.wvu.edu/~mcnair and join us on January 28th as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Ronald E. McNair. In addition, we encourage you to prod a student today!

Seeking 2006 McNair Summer Research Interns
Application Due January 31, 2006 at 109A Student Services Center
Application form available at www.wvu.edu/~mcnair



McNair Fall Features



The McNair Scholars got a little taste of Broadway in autumn as they attended *42nd Street* in October at the Creative Arts Center on the WVU campus. Prior to the show they dined at Ogawa, a restaurant that serves Japanese and Korean cuisine, and practiced their use of chopsticks.



Greta Martin sharing her plate of sushi with fellow scholars.



Pictured from left to right: Ryan Scott, Renee Stasko, Jason Wilkinson, Heather Washington, Ehren Cruz and Natalie Wesley enjoying delicious Japanese cuisine.

Memorable Travel Experience ~ Europe, SREB, OSU

2004 McNair Scholar, **Greta Martin**, studied in Europe last summer with TRIO students from across America through the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE). She attended classes at the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom regarding U.K. social issues and the History of Liverpool. The TRIO group also made excursions to nearby countries such as: Northern Ireland, Germany, Belgium, and Holland. Greta comments, "This study abroad experience has definitely impacted my life. I have learned so much about European culture and history! I feel as though the trip has broadened my horizons educationally, socially and culturally. I encourage you all to enroll in this program."



Greta Martin pictured in Ireland

On October 27, **Ryan Scott**, 2005 McNair Scholar, traveled to Arlington, VA for the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching Mentoring. Ryan's comments included, "There were many reasons I believe this conference benefited me especially. Some of these reasons include networking with various faculty recruiters at colleges and universities around the country, meeting peers who have similar goals as I, and the conference also motivated me to further my education after the undergraduate level."

In November **Heather Washington and Becky Scoville** traveled with Director Anita Mayer to The Ohio State University Graduate School/Professional Visitation Day. The students kept busy with banquets, speakers, and dances as they explored the campus and met graduate faculty. 2005 McNair Scholar Becky Scoville said, "It was one of the most positive University visits I've been to and the level of organization and forethought put into planning the event was evident. I met with five different professors in the fields I'm interested in, and they arranged a teleconference with the one professor who could not be there. I would highly recommend that anyone take this opportunity next year."



McNair Scholar Highlights

2005 McNair Scholar **Leilani Browning** organized a service-learning project for her senior capstone class entitled "I Stand By You." She used the AnySoldier.com site to find military units serving in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Iraq who were in need of items that were often in limited supply at Post Exchange stores. The units Leilani selected were mobile units and medical units stationed far from a large base. She collected supplies from the West Virginia University community during the two weeks of October 3 through October 14. Miscellaneous food and snack items, hygiene products, reading material, games, stationary, and holiday decorations were collected and sent to Marine Corps, Navy, and Army units.

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Melia Atwell (2000 Scholar) received her J.D. from the WVU Law School in May, 2005.

Rose Mazza (2003 Scholar) graduated from WVU in December with a Masters of Arts in Foreign Languages with a concentration in Latin American literature.

John Michael Bosley (2003 Scholar) had gained acceptance and an assistantship into the Ph.D. program of Geography at Oregon State University for fall 2006.

Gino DeGregori (2001 Scholar) became a proud Papa as he and his wife Kelly celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sofia Mae Degregori in July.



Once again we bid a fond farewell, to our Technical Assistant Jerry Wong as he begins graduate school ~ Good Luck!