

McNair Scholars Program

NEWSLETTER

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

WELCOME 2006 McNAIR SCHOLARS!

The 2006 McNair cohort was welcomed on March 24th during the annual orientation session. Past scholars and the McNair staff greeted nine new scholars as they begin their academic progression with the McNair Scholars Program. Congratulations to Sewit Araia, Lauren Dembeck, Heather Gomez, Kelly Hale, Lenin Leon, Ian Lutz, Nnenna Minimah, Alee Robins, and Tembele Yangandawe! Good luck to a productive summer internship!



Dr. Mei describes program mission



Anxious and attentive incoming scholars in attendance

WVU McNAIR RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The WVU McNair Scholars Program hosted its inaugural research conference on April 1, no fooling! The 2006 McNair Research Conference was a success as McNair Scholars from Concord University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Ohio University, and our beloved McNair Mountaineers presented the research they have assiduously conducted over the past year. The two-day event also allowed for a cultural dining experience at Hibachi Restaurant, where several scholars could be seen catching shrimp with their mouths like professionals while others were dazzled by the flames of Japanese dining. Thank you to all attendees for your educational dedication and involvement in our first ever research conference!



Ohio U McNair Scholars and Director Dr. Ray McKerrow



IUP Director Dr. Calvin Masilela (center) and McNair Scholars

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2006 MAY GRADUATES

The 2006 McNair Graduation Dinner was held at Café Bacchus on April 30. Nine McNair Scholars graduated from WVU and now begin their post-baccalaureate endeavors. We are very proud of you and wish you the best of luck in the future. This is what a few of our graduates will be doing in the fall:

Leilani Browning – Master’s studies in Gerontology at Ball State University

Greta Martin – Master’s studies in Social Work and Public Administration at WVU

Katrina McCoy – Ph.D. studies in Clinical Psychology at WVU

Ryan Scott – Master’s studies in Communication Studies at WVU

Heather Washington – Ph.D. studies in Sociology at Ohio State University



Graduating McNair Scholars in attendance with staff (L to R):

Director Anita Mayer, Lelaini Browning, Heather Washington, Renee Stasko,

Graduate Assistant Angela Derk, Ryan Scott and Katrina McCoy.

Graduates not pictured: James Greene, Greta Martin, Jeremiah Samples and Natalie Wesley.



Katrina McCoy and faculty mentor Dr. William Fremouw



Heather Washington and faculty mentor Dr. Rachel Woldoff

WEEKEND OF HONORS

The 2006 Weekend of Honors ceremony honored several McNair Scholars for their academic dedication. Josh Austin (2005 McNair Scholar) and Jeremiah Samples (2004 McNair Scholar) earned the James F. Dent Scholarship while Alee Robbins (2006 McNair Scholar) received the Hodge Religious Studies Scholarship. Katrina McCoy was designated as an Eberly Scholar as well as the Outstanding Senior for the Psychology department. Greta Martin and Leilani Browning were also named as outstanding seniors ~ congratulations to all of you!



Dean Mazey with Alee and Josh



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

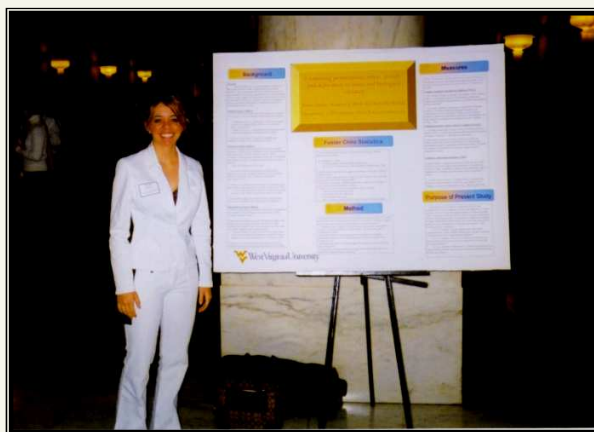
The West Virginia University McNair Scholars Program has enjoyed a very productive and rewarding spring! We held our first WVU McNair Scholars Research Conference on April 1, which included presentations from McNair Scholars attending Concord University, Ohio University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as scholarly presentations by students in the WVU Minority Doctoral Programs. It was a success in many ways. Stay tuned as this may become an annual event!

Five of WVU's McNair Scholars were recognized during the April 22nd WVU Arts and Sciences Annual Awards and Honors Recognition Ceremony. Katrina McCoy, selected as outstanding senior in psychology and as one of twenty-five recipients of the prestigious Eberly Scholars Award for outstanding academic achievement was honored for success in her research: *Relationship Between Thinking Style, Illegal Behavior and Sensation Seeking Among College Students* and we are proud to say that she will begin working towards her Ph.D. in psychology at WVU this fall. Greta Martin, outstanding senior in social work will begin her graduate studies in the fall, also at WVU, in social work. Greta was an Upward Bound student, a Student Support Services student and ultimately, a WVU McNair Scholar. We have no doubt that Greta knows a good thing when she sees it! Two of our scholars, Joshua Austin and Jeremiah Samples were awarded the James E. Dent Scholarship for academic achievement in political science and Alee Robins was awarded the William W. Hodge Chemistry/Religious Studies Scholarship for her outstanding academic achievements in religious studies. In addition, we are proud to announce that Leilani Roberts-Browning who will begin her graduate studies at Ball State in the fall, received the outstanding senior award for her academic work in gerontology.

We could not be more proud of our scholars. Once again, our hats are off to you! Congratulations to all of our scholars, past and present, for all of your achievements. You have accomplished what Dr. McNair hoped you would. You reached for the stars and you *are* soaring!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY IN CHARLESTON

Leilani Browning and Renee Stasko presented their research to legislators at Undergraduate Research Day in Charleston, WV, on February 1. Leilani discussed information regarding oral health while Renee shared data regarding issues facing foster care children at the Capitol. Way to spread the researched word ladies!



Leilani Browning (L) and Renee Stasko (R) proudly presented their research at Charleston, WV

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ALUMNI NEWS

- **Brianne Williams** (2003 Scholar) is making Dr. McNair's legacy proud as she earned a \$5,000 Virginia Space Grant Consortium Scholarship from NASA for her Ph.D. studies at Old Dominion University. Brianne also won an outstanding student award in experimental methods with a grade point average of 3.78. She earns her Master's degree in August and will continue in education to pursue her Doctorate in Aerospace Engineering.

- **Anna Stasick** (2001 Scholar) graduated from WVU with a Master's degree in Public History and a certificate in Cultural Resource Management in May 2006; and plans to begin doctoral studies in the fall.

- Wedding bells have been ringing for **Eunice Rohrer** and David Wine along with **Jennis Taylor** and Dwayne Biser. Eunice and Jennis were members of the 2001 McNair Scholars cohort. Congratulations!!

- **Angela Schaeffer** (2002 Scholar) is now working in the neonatal intensive care unit at Ruby and studying to take the Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) exam while she anticipates research publication in a Nursing Education journal. Good luck with the CEN!

- **Teresa Jones** (2002 Scholar) is in the Peace Corps in Riobamba (Latin America) helping the people, while learning to speak Spanish and dance the meringue!

2006 Summer Schedule

May 22	First day of Summer Research Internship
May 25	University of Pittsburgh Campus Visit
June 7-10	Cultural Trip to Washington, DC and Campus Visits
June 29	Research Symposium and Induction Dinner (Guest Speaker Mr. Carl McNair)