

West Virginia University

# McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

Volume 2 ~ Issue 1

January 2001



The New Year begins with a few words from a few of our scholars...  
Excerpts from student articles:



**Angela Dixon:**

"I want to express my gratitude to the McNair Scholars Program for allowing me the opportunity to attend the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association's 75<sup>th</sup> annual national convention... This was my first experience in participating in such an event... I do feel overall that I have benefited from this experience. I have not only gained a better understanding of what it means to be a speech-language pathologist and a researcher, but I also now have a better understanding of how broad the possibilities are for me in my field."



**Melia Atwell:**

"Before attending the Ohio State trip for the McNair Scholars program, I was not considering the university a possible place to study law. During my visit, however, I began to be persuaded otherwise. After my visit, I was convinced that Ohio State would be a worthwhile institution in which to refine my education... I am glad that I had the opportunity to visit Ohio State."



**Sheyi Ojofeitimi:**

"I had the privilege of attending the American Academy of Physical Therapy's annual conference held in Atlanta, GA... This was the first opportunity I had to attend a conference that specifically catered to my professional and social needs... I met seasoned African American physical therapists who offered me opportunities for clinical internships, financial and post-graduate advice... I would strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them by the McNair Scholars program. If it were not for the McNair Scholars program at WVU, I would never have had considered going to the conference. My sincere thanks to the staff of West Virginia University's McNair Scholars Program. You're the best!"



**Gmelyn Link:**

"October 27-29 I had the great opportunity to attend the Compact for Faculty Diversity Conference. Mainly for doctoral students, the conference was a chance for graduate students and prospective graduate students to network with professionals in their field. As one of few McNair students invited to the conference, it was just an honor to be among so many minority students that were interested in the same goal as I, earning a Ph. D... Being able to interact with other McNair scholars, I was able to exchange ideas on research projects and ways to improve my project. It also was a lot of fun."



## Birthdays

January:	Troy Christman	1/18
	Sheyi Ojofeitimi	1/27
February:	Gabrielle St. Leger	2/3
	Jonathan Smith	2/16
April:	Angela Dixon	4/4
May:	Sam Heastie	5/4
June:	Adriana Hardy	6/10
	Tiyonna Jenkins	6/13
July:	Blaise Kapombe	7/1
	Kevin Taylor	7/1
	Jodi Heffinger	7/25

August:	Melia Atwell	8/30
September:	Michael Kapombe	9/28
	Katrina Bragg	9/30
October:	Dr. Mei	10/6
	Mandi Frederick	10/19
	Georgia Mullens	10/24
	Dr. Masilela	10/27
November	Deidre Paige	11/13
	Matthew Smith	11/17
December	Jacqueline Bass	12/12
	Andrena Mendez	12/27
	Todd Moser	12/9

### ***TRIO Announces Study Abroad Opportunity***

#### **Shared Journeys: Multiculturalism in Europe**

A three-week Accredited Study Tour at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and the University of Liverpool, England will take place June 8-July 1, 2001.

Application deadline is February 1, 2001.

Funds may be available.

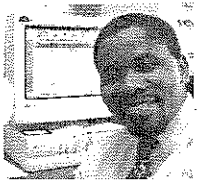
Contact Dr. Betty Mei for more information at: [bmei@wvu.edu](mailto:bmei@wvu.edu) or call 293-4316

### **McNair Research Conference in Puerto Rico October 5-7, 2001.**

An opportunity for McNair Scholars to travel to Puerto Rico to present their research. The Top 2 competitive papers will be selected. Selection criteria will be provided at a later date.



A list of institutions that offer fee waivers for McNair scholars and McNair specific fellowships can be found at:  
<http://www.rochester.edu:80/College/McNair-Program>



## Director's Corner

Calvin O. Masilela  
Associate Professor of Geography

New Year Greetings! As we step into a new century, let's reflect on our accomplishments and challenges during the first year of the McNair Scholars Program and catch a glimpse of what's ahead.

Despite a late start and insufficient staffing last year, the program was able to sponsor 19 WVU undergraduate students to become 1999-2000 McNair Scholars. All 19 students participated in the Summer Research Internship in which they began conducting their own research. Of the 19 scholars, 3 are currently enrolled in master's programs. Five more scholars will be graduating in May 2001. The program staff is in the process of reviewing applications and selecting new, bright individuals to become 2000-2001 McNair Scholars. Some of the challenges we faced and overcame last year were due to inexperience. Nevertheless, the program staff is ready and confident to embrace what's ahead in the year 2001.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals whose names are printed in this issue of the newsletter. These individuals include first the program staff whose dedication to the program is insurmountable. Not only do we work hard as a team to ensure the program's success, we have fun working hard together. Secondly, I'd like to thank the faculty mentors

who volunteer their time and effort in providing academic and career guidance/counseling to our scholars. They are making a difference in these young people's lives. Among all the teaching, research, and service responsibilities of being faculty members, these mentors agree to meet with the scholars individually, meet with the program staff, and complete administrative tasks for the program. We applaud your efforts! Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the newly formed advisory board. These members (the names you see below) again, are volunteering their time in participating in the new McNair Scholars selection process. How we appreciate all of you! Without you, the program's success would be diminished. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Finally, to our McNair Scholars, as we commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Challenger tragedy on January 28, 2001, let us remember Dr. Ronald E. McNair's legacy. With your hard work and our service, you can become an American hero just as Dr. McNair.

### WVU McNair Scholars Program Advisory Board Members

**Dr. Ken Martin**

Director of Community, Economic and Workforce Development

**Dr. Jeff Petersen**

Professor of Chemistry

**Dr. Julio Davalos, Professor**

College of Engineering and Mineral Resources

**Dr. Nick Evans**

Director of Undergraduate Academic Services

**Dr. Keith Garbutt**

Director of University Honors Program

**Barbara Copenhaver-Bailey**

Student Support Services  
TRIO Program Director

**Dr. Katherine Bankole**

Director  
Center for Black Culture and Research

**Dr. Cheryl Torsney**

Professor of English

# Calendar of Events for



## Spring Semester:

Jan. 13      GRE session (Quantitative)  
Sat.          Room 120 White Hall  
9 a.m. to noon      Breakfast served

Jan 27      GRE session (Analytical)  
Sat.          Room 120 White Hall  
9 a.m. to noon      Breakfast served

Feb. 1      Deadline for Study Abroad  
Thurs.      Opportunity in Europe  
                June 8 - July 1, 2001  
                (see Dr. Mei for Information)

Feb 9      Manuscripts due at University of  
Fri.          Maryland for March presentations.

Feb. 17      How to Make Presentations/  
Sat.          Social Etiquette  
10 a.m. to noon      Place TBA

March 3      Mock Presentations  
Sat.          Place TBA  
10 a.m. to noon

March 7-10      University of Maryland  
Wed. to Sat.      McNair National Conference

March 11      Dinner/Dance Theatre of Harlem  
6 pm

April 7      Cultural activity- Japanese  
Sat.          cooking demonstration  
11:30 a.m      Place: Hibachi Japanese  
                Restaurant

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