Front row (L to R): Kierston Woods, Shakira Smith, Rickie Huffman, Milda Mullins, Michelle Watson, Tyree Harmon, Amanda Harker, Angela Martinez, Rachel James, Sherain Thomas
Back row (L to R): Jessica Latham, Michael Powell, Chloe Brown, Jasmine Koech, Roger Jeffreys, Adam Carte, Reeva Morton, Kassey Riffle, and Trinity Howell. (Not pictured: Danielle Orndorff)

## 2012 McNair Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chloe Brown</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Beltsville, MD</td>
<td>Dr. Rachael Woldoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Carte</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Hico, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Ashok Bidwai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Harker</td>
<td>Environ. &amp; Natural Resource Man.</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Wesley Burnett</td>
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<td>Tyree Harmon</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>West Orange, NJ</td>
<td>Dr. Ann Marie Hibbert</td>
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<td>Trinity Howell</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Turtle Creek, PA</td>
<td>Dr. Aaron Metzger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rickie Huffman</td>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>Mannington, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Janet Snyder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel James</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>Crawford, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Avinash Unnikrishnan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Jeffreys II</td>
<td>Forensic &amp; Investigative Science</td>
<td>Pursglove, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Keith Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jasmine Koech</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Burlington, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Natalie Shook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Latham</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Atlantic City, NJ</td>
<td>Dr. Tyler Boulware</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Martinez</td>
<td>Environ. &amp; Natural Resource Man.</td>
<td>Twinsburg, OH</td>
<td>Dr. Kevin Leyden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reeva Morton</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Elliot City, MD</td>
<td>Dr. Cheryl McNeil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milda Mullins</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>Rio, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Bob Britten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Orndorff</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Augusta, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Amy Fiske</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Powell</td>
<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
<td>Hagerstown, MD</td>
<td>Dr. John Kuhlman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kassey Riffle</td>
<td>Sociology and Anthropology</td>
<td>Weston, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Renfrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shakira Smith</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Morgantown, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Ian Kellem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherain Thomas</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Oak Hill, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Julie Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Watson</td>
<td>Child Development/Family Studies</td>
<td>South Charleston, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Janie Leary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kierston Woods</td>
<td>English/Chinese</td>
<td>Fairmont, WV</td>
<td>Dr. Elizabeth Juckett</td>
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Congratulations to our December 2011 and May 2012 Graduates

We also congratulate the May 2012 graduating class on their success and future studies.

Beginning in Fall 2012, many of our graduates will be enrolled in graduate studies:

**Sunny Narayanan** (2008) received a graduate assistantship to attend the Biomedical Sciences doctoral program in the School of Graduate Studies at the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

From 2009:
**Rosalinda Desrochers** received a teaching assistantship to begin the master’s program in Sociology at WVU.
**Marlenea Morgan** has been accepted into the WVU History department for her master’s studies.

From 2010:
**Michele Kelly** completed the 5-year program in Secondary Education and received both her master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the WVU College of Human Resources and Education.
**Namratha Sastry** has been selected as a NIH Undergraduate Scholar who will begin her two-year internship at the National Institute of Health.

From 2011:
**Joy Cox** has been granted the Thurgood Marshall Academic Scholarship to begin her master’s studies in Communication at the University of Missouri at Columbia.
**Mikhael King** received the K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship to attend the master’s program at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
**Ciera Nicholson** began her master’s studies in Counseling at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in June.
**Shawnna Mullenax** has been appointed to a Teaching Assistant position while attending the doctoral program in Political Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Congratulations to our December 2011 graduates on their achievements. Their graduation banquet was held on December 4, 2011.

**Jeanette Sanchez** (2009) will be attending the master’s program in criminal justice at John Jay University in fall 2012.

**From 2010:**
**Sherline Montoute** will begin her master’s studies in Public Health at Downstate Medical Center in New York City.
**Hellen Nditsi** will be studying for dual master’s degrees in Social Work and Public Administration at WVU.

**From 2011:**
**Kristen Meadows** is working as an intern in FL, and will be applying to graduate school upon completion of the internship.
**Juan Franco Coronado** began his master’s studies in Horticulture at North Dakota State University in January, 2012.


Not pictured: Michele Kelly

From 2011 (cont’d):
**Andrés Romero** has been awarded the Dean’s Diversity Fellowship to attend the doctoral program in Anthropology at Wayne State University.
**Tandra Sias** received a Teaching Assistantship and will begin the master’s program in Child Development and Family Studies at WVU.
University of Maryland National McNair Conference

McNair Scholars from both 2010 and 2011 presented their research projects at the University of Maryland McNair Conference in March 2012. This was the first time most of the scholars presented research at a national conference. The experience was invaluable as expressed by the scholars:

“It was at the conference that I realized that we were truly respected ‘scholars’ whose research and academic devotions were worthy of acknowledgement.”  - Andrés Romero

“The University of Maryland Conference was extremely helpful in advancing my knowledge and preparing me to become a graduate student. This conference provided us with a nice start into professional conferences and allowed for us to get a taste of what is to come.”  - Tandra Sias

“The discussion of the tragic event that took Dr. McNair’s life inspired me to carry on his legacy. The discussions at the conference made it seem possible to reach such success as Dr. McNair. I am eager to carry on this type of enthusiasm throughout my advanced degree pursuit.”  - Matthew Bologna

2012 SUNY Buffalo National McNair Conference

For the 2012 WVU McNair Scholars, this was the first national conference they had ever attended. All of them enjoyed the conference experience.

Adam Carte expressed, “I had an absolutely amazing time at my first McNair Conference. Between viewing many interesting presentations, listening to prestigious speakers, networking with other scholars, and enjoying the beautiful Niagara Falls area, the trip seemed to fly by.”

Shakira Smith appreciated the opportunity to “interact with, support, and grow from so many young and diverse intellectual minds.”

Chloe Brown said, “The passion that is so evident within everyone at the conference has opened my eyes in knowing that I belong amongst these people and in the area of research. I am so grateful to have been offered such an amazing opportunity to become a McNair Scholar.”

Penn State Campus Visit

The 2012 McNair Scholars visited the Penn State campus in June. Scholars had the opportunity to tour the campus, visited departments and laboratories, met with graduate faculty members, and learned about the graduate school application process. The scholars had a great day of visit thanks to the Penn State McNair Scholars Program director and her staff members’ warm welcome and efforts in coordinating the visit.
The 2012 McNair Summer Research Internship was held from May 21 to June 29. During the six weeks, the scholars learned how to carry out graduate-level research projects, proper etiquette, interviewing and presentation skills, and also prepared for the GRE. With the help of the McNair Scholars program staff, Dr. Betty Mei, Research Methods instructor Dr. Julie Patrick, and doctoral student mentors: Leilani Browning, Thomas Keopuhiwa, Sunny Narayanan, Britta Nelson, and Tomorrow Wilson, the summer research internship was a success. Special thanks also go to guest lecturers: Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield, Dean Keith Garbutt, Steve Riffon, Dr. Joseph Scotti, Dr. Dan Vasgird, and Dr. Keith Zullig for sharing their expertise on the subjects of graduate school applications, funding for graduate studies, applying for prestigious scholarships, interviewing skills, and research ethics. The McNair staff is always indebted to our faculty mentors who dedicate their time in guiding the scholars’ research. When asked to give feedback on the summer internship, scholars said:

- “Amazing! Intensive, but well worth it. I very much appreciate the opportunities of this program and resulting opportunities because of this program.”
- “I am very honored to have had this opportunity and I know it will benefit me and help me reach my goals. McNair is great!”
- “Thank you all for an amazing six weeks!”

Farewell to McNair Graduate Assistants

Thomas Keopuhiwa who served as a graduate assistant for the WVU McNair Scholars Program became Dr. K. on July 12. He successfully defended his dissertation entitled “Under the Surface: An Examination of Space, Voice, and Identity in West Virginia University McNair Scholars.” Thomas has been a great help to the WVU McNair Scholars during the past four years tutoring them in math and SPSS, as well as helping them with the IRB processes and polishing their research presentations. Being a member of an under-represented group, he set an excellent example for the scholars, and will be sorely missed. The McNair program staff wishes Dr. K. the best in his future endeavors in his home state, Hawaii!

Leilani Browning, a 2005 WVU McNair Scholar, served as a McNair GA from 2007 to 2012. Lani is also from Hawaii and has left her GA position to focus her efforts in completing her doctoral dissertation. The McNair program staff is indebted to Lani for her tireless efforts in editing the scholars’ research proposals and final papers, as well as the McNair research journals. Lani also kept the McNair office in highly efficient working order. Best wishes in completing the dissertation, Lani!

Left: Lani Browning (far left) pictured with program director, Anita Mayer (far right) and other doctoral student mentors and students at the summer internship closing luncheon.
Alumni News

Joy Cox (2011) received the Exemplar Award from the Eastern Communication Association for her research presented at the Second Annual McCroskey-Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts this April. With the assistance of mentor Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield, Joy’s perseverance and hard work paid off. Joy’s paper, “Relationship Satisfaction and Resilience: Military Couples and Deployment,” which received the highest honor, can be accessed through the Human Communication online journal at:

www.uab.edu/communicationstudies/humancommunication/01_04_2012_Cox.pdf

Proud to Announce

The WVU McNair Scholars Program has been refunded by the U.S. Department of Education for another five years beginning on October 1, 2012. Since its inception on the WVU campus in October, 1999, the program has eight alumni who have obtained their doctorates and 22 more enrolled in doctoral programs currently. WVU is very proud to host this wonderful program that serves deserving first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students. Let’s Go Mountaineers!

Alumni News

Congratulations!!!

Dr. Heather Washington (2005) had successfully defended her dissertation in June, and has been offered a tenure-track faculty position at the State University of New York at Albany.


Vanessa DeCesare (2009) graduated from WVU with her master’s degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology in May.

Catessa Simon (2009) completed her master’s in Nutrition at The Ohio State University in June.

Rita Snyder Furr (2008) gave birth to a son, Robert Douglas Furr, in March, and will graduate in December from Oregon State University with a master’s in Sociology. Rita received the Oregon State University School of Language, Culture, and Society Graduate Research Award for her thesis.

Tomorrow Wilson (2009) completed her master’s degree in Psychology from WVU in May and will be continuing with her doctoral studies in Biobehavioral Health at Penn State University in the fall.

Joy Cox (2011) received the Exemplar Award from the Eastern Communication Association for her research presented at the Second Annual McCroskey-Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts this April. With the assistance of mentor Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield, Joy’s perseverance and hard work paid off. Joy’s paper, “Relationship Satisfaction and Resilience: Military Couples and Deployment,” which received the highest honor, can be accessed through the Human Communication online journal at:

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Joy Cox and Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield showcasing the Exemplar Award received from the Eastern Communication Association
Looking for the Next McNair Scholar

Interested in pursuing graduate school? Want to be a paid research intern?

The WVU McNair Scholars Program will provide you with the necessary research skills and academic resources to get into graduate school. To qualify, you MUST:

- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- be a full-time WVU undergraduate student
- have completed sophomore year by May 2013
- have a minimum CGPA of 3.0 or higher
- and be either a first-generation college student with demonstrated financial need OR a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education as defined by the U.S. Department of Education (African-American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian.)

Application deadline: January 15, 2013

Download application form from http://mcnair.wvu.edu
Call (304) 293-4316 or email: McNair@mail.wvu.edu for questions