

**Fall Announcements**

Where oh where has the summer gone! Just a reminder, classes begin on August 18, and the first McNair class also begins that day. Class will meet from 5-6pm every Monday in room 202 in the Student Services Center.

2009 McNair Summer Research Institute — The McNair program staff will be seen at various campus locations throughout the fall semester to recruit for the 2009 summer internship. Your help is sought in identifying and referring eligible students to the program staff. Application deadline is December 31, 2008.

**2 0 0 8 S U M M E R R E S E A R C H I N T E R N S H I P**

Nineteen WVU McNair Scholars attended the 2008 University of Buffalo National McNair Scholars Conference at Niagara Falls, NY on July 17-20. Some thirty-nine colleges and universities from as far away as Texas and California were represented. Three 2007 scholars, Adam Cagle, Adrienne Gauna, and Jesse Potts presented their research findings. 2008 scholar Deanna Hoard found the whole affair very rewarding. "The experience of attending the conference is great and will be absolutely invaluable when we are expected to present next year. The lunch and dinner speakers were extremely good. Their points ranged from practical advice for graduate school and careers to their own inspirational stories and encouragement. Finally, this conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from all over the country and further existing relationships with other members of our cohort." Scholar Luisa Padilla commented, "I would like to thank you for giving me the support I need to become a better person. Through the conference, I was able to gain a clear view about the 'world of research' and how to become a future researcher in the medical field."

The 2008 McNair Summer Research Internship was held from May 19 to June 27. During the six weeks, the scholars learned about the ins and outs of graduate level research, proper etiquette, interviewing and presentation skills, as well as prepared for the GRE. The McNair Scholars Program staff would like to thank Dr. Julie Patrick, Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield, Dr. Betty Mei for guest lecturing, and doctoral student mentors: Cyprien Lokko, Damien Arthur, Katrina McCoy, Lani Browning, and Anna Stasick for providing guidance and support to the scholars to help them complete their research proposals. The

internship also included several graduate school campus and cultural visits (see p.2 Summer Travel). The internship closed on June 27 with the scholars presenting their research proposals during the day and an evening banquet celebration with families and faculty mentors.

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

The 2008 McNair Scholars were busy travelling throughout the summer internship. On May 28, they visited the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museums, and toured other parts of the city. In mid-June, the group visited Washington D.C. area schools: American and Howard Universities, and the University of Maryland. While in D.C., the scholars toured the Library of Congress, the Congressional mall and Chinatown. On June 29, the scholars travelled to the Ohio State University to tour the campus and meet with OSU faculty and graduate students. Not only did the scholars have fun travelling and sight-seeing, but they also learned a lot from the campus and cultural visits to better prepare themselves for the graduate school application process.

**UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO CONFERENCE  
OTHER NEWS  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**

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WVU McNair Scholars pictured at the OSU Cultural Center

**Chelsea Derlan** — 2007 McNair Scholar Chelsea Derlan was selected to participate in the “Summer Research Experience Program for Underrepresented Undergraduates Interested in Studying At-Risk Youth” at Arizona State University in Tempe. During the eight-week program, Chelsea attended classes focusing on the graduate school experience and graduate level research methodologies. As part of her internship, Chelsea developed a research manuscript entitled *The Association between Ethnic Identity, Self-Esteem, and Depressive Symptoms among at-risk Mexican-Origin Pregnant Adolescent Females*. In addition, she participated in a longitudinal study working with bi-lingual and Spanish-speaking Mexican children. She had this to say about the experience. “I am very grateful that the McNair Program staff encouraged me to pursue an internship at another university because I was able to study and discuss many multicultural research topics with peers and professors who share a common passion for cultural issues.”  
Good job Chelsea!

**Nicholas Fagundo** — 2008 McNair Scholar Nicholas Fagundo left the country in late July to study abroad in Mexico. He will return to us in December. Good luck Nick!

**Mariana Freitas** — 2008 McNair Scholar Mariana Freitas studied abroad in Taiwan during the first part of the summer. “My study abroad experience in Taiwan was more than I could have hoped for. Not only did I learn a great deal about the language and the culture, I also saw some incredible sites and made fabulous memories with friends.”

## A L U M N I N E W S

### Congratulations to Recent Graduates!

**Kelly Hale** (2006) graduated from WVU with a Master's in Professional Accountancy (MPA) in May and completed a graduate certificate in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation in June. Kelly will be moving to Pittsburgh, PA, to begin working for the KPMG accounting firm in September; and plans to pursue her Ph.D. in about two years.

**Heather Washington** (2005) successfully defended her master's thesis in July, and will begin her Ph.D. program in Sociology at the Ohio State University in the fall.

**LaNelle Barber** (2004) graduated with a master's degree in Industrial Relations from WVU on August 8. LaNelle plans to work in the field of Human Resources after graduation and continue to pursue doctoral education in the near future.

## S U M M E R T R A V E L

2007 Scholars, Jesse Potts, Adrienne Gauna, and Adam Cagle (L to R) proudly hold their Certificates of Achievement after presenting their McNair research at the U of Buffalo conference.

Scholars posed in front of the conference center at Niagara Falls, NY

### WVU Hosting DSU

The WVU McNair Scholars was not the only group traveling during the summer. Delaware State University (DSU) McNair Scholars also visited WVU in June. Dr. Jonathan Cumming, Assistant VP for Graduate Education, and the WVU McNair Scholars Program hosted the visit. The DSU scholars were greeted by Dr. Cumming and learned about graduate programs offered at WVU. They also visited the departments of their choice, met with graduate faculty, toured the campus, and rode the PRT. Scholars from both universities enjoyed the networking experience and learned about each other's research projects.

**Dr. Cumming greeted DSU McNair Scholars during their visit to WVU**

### D R . J E N N I S B I S E R

Dr. Jennis Biser (center) pictured with her husband Dwayne Biser (L) and Dr. Mei (R) after speaking at the McNair banquet. Dr. Biser, a 2001 WVU McNair Scholar, received her Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University in January, 2008, and is currently an assistant professor of Economics at North Carolina A&T State University. She is also the second WVU McNair alumna to have received a doctorate.

WVU McNair Scholars visited the city of Pittsburgh

## S U M M E R R E S E A R C H P R O P O S E D

<u>Scholar</u>	<u>Faculty Mentor</u>	<u>Proposed Research</u>
John Armour Virtual Reality	Dr. Sandy Baldwin	<i>Second Life</i> as Narrative/Game and the Role/Intent of the Resident in
Ashley Barnes	Dr. Joseph Scotti	Risky Behaviors as a Function of Academic Stress
Jessica Domer <i>State of Virginia</i>	Dr. Ellesa High	Ecocriticism, Postcolonialism, and Thomas Jefferson's <i>Notes on the</i>
Nick Fagundo	Dr. Ryan Claycomb	Shadows, Hysteria, and the <i>Blind Owl</i>
Deanna Hoard	Dr. Cari Carpenter	Sherman Alexie's True Diary and American Indian Literary Nationalism
Jeff Mahaney	Dr. Beverly Hinton	Aristotle's Conception of Substance and Matter
Sunny Narayanan	Dr. Peter Gannett	An Examination of Aptamers and the Chemotherapeutic Drug Cisplatin
Robin Nelson	Dr. Karen Weiss	College Students' Perceptions of Abusive Behaviors
Luisa Padilla Changes in	Dr. Corrie Mancinelli	The Use of Biofeedback to the Tongue to Improve Balance and Postural
Norly Prucien Treadmill Running	David Donley	Subjects with Dizziness Related to Migraine Headaches Exercise Training Intensity during Deep Water Running Compared to
Rita Snyder	Dr. Erin Cassese	Gender, Discussion Networks, and Political Motivation
Jennyerin Steele	Dr. Leslie Tower	Effects of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence on Adult Women
Brandon Thomas	Jan Boyles	Effects of Product Placement in Reality Television on Young Adults
Kayla Tutalo	Dr. Melanie Booth-Butterfield	College Students' Perceptions on Doctor-Patient Communicative

Relationships

Yolanda Wiggins Dr. Rachael Woldoff Black Collegians in Appalachia