

West Virginia University

# McNair Scholars Program

Newsletter

Volume 4 ~ Issue 1

April 2003

## Welcome 2003 McNair Scholars!!!

Congratulations to our McNair Summer Research Interns. They will be participating in the six-week program from May 19 through June 26.

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Tochukwu Aguoji	Management/Marketing	Elmont, NY
Nicole Bono	Exercise Physiology	Morgantown, WV
Jon Bosley	Environmental Geoscience	Durbin, WV
Amber Davis	Psychology	Charleston, WV
Donald Hill	Finance	Westover, WV
Adrian Thompson	Psychology	Apopka, FL
Daniel Trejo	Regents BA	Morgantown, WV
Rose Mazza	Foreign Languages	Clarksburg, WV
Patricia Underwood	Art Education	Morgantown, WV
Brianne Williams	MAE	Hyattsville, MD
Christopher Williamson	Political Science	Dingess, WV
Jonathan Young	Economics/Political Science	Charleston, WV



## Congratulations to Graduating Seniors



**Seema Aggarwal** – graduating with a B.S. in Public Health  
**Katrina Bragg** – graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry  
**Christa Dotson** – graduating with a B.A. in Psychology; attending WVU Law School in the fall.  
**Wenda Harris** – graduating with a B.A. in English; attending Ohio State University in the fall for master's in English Education.  
**Clifford James** – graduating with a B.S. in Computer Engineering and Computer Science  
**Anna Stasick** – graduating in August with a Regents B.A. degree  
**Jennis Taylor** – graduating with a B.S. in Economics; attending George Mason University for Ph.D. program in Economics in Fall  
**Gina Zirilli** – graduating with a B.A. in Communication; attending Ohio State University in the fall for master's in Journalism and Communication.



May graduates at the McNair Graduation Dinner

A very special THANK YOU to the faculty mentors of the Scholars named above: Dr. Ruth Kershner, Dr. Bjorn Soderberg, Dr. Christina Adams, Dr. Kathleen O Ryan, Dr. Ann Paterson, and Dr. Russell Sobel.



## Director's Corner

Anita G. Mayer  
Director, McNair Scholars Program

# TRIO

RONALD E. McNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

I recently returned from a long overdue vacation. My civic obligations and my coworkers; my computer and my cell phone; and yes, even my family, were banished to the back-burner for one grand week. Of course my family snuck into the forefront of my thoughts every now and then, typically when I experienced something I thought they would really like. Yet, more so than even my family, I thought about my McNair Scholars. I thought about them collectively and one at a time, as I approached each new place, event and experience. I could not get them off of my mind....

Traveling throughout much of Nevada, Utah and Arizona, my thoughts wandered, seemingly systematically towards Jodi's determination to develop effective forest management techniques as I looked out over the fire-scarred mountaintops in Arizona. Gina, I thought to myself, would have been on overload over the abundance of graphic advertisements depicting women in sexually explicit roles in Las Vegas, reminding me of her keen interest in the psychosocial effects of the exploitation of sexual relationships in the American media. Crossing the barren land on the Navaho Reservation in Utah, I was comforted knowing that Seema cares enough about the underrepresented to seek and speak as necessary; that Angela is passionately concerned about the health and welfare of every child and that Laura is determined to ensure that all children are able to find pleasure and comfort in literature. Passing through one struggling small town after another, I was encouraged that Lauren is determined to discover the key to supporting the American Dream of sustaining small community businesses with the support of small community banks and that Gino is committed to developing support programs to ensure that the Hispanic population becomes successful in our country where higher education and opportunities for career advancements are human rights, not privileges.

Back to work with my cell phone strapped to my hip and my fingers glued to the keyboard, I am comforted in knowing that those we select to pass the torch to our best, our brightest and more importantly, our most passionate – are willing and motivated by the challenges that lie before them. To our past, present and future McNair Scholars, thank you.

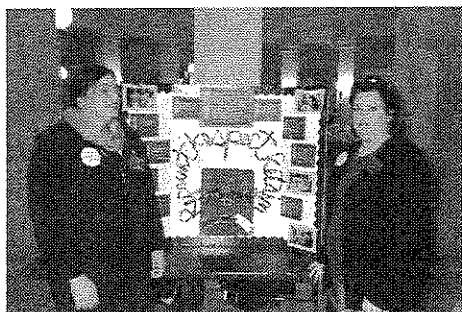


### "And the Award Goes to":

**Jennis Taylor** received the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation Award from the WVU College of Business and Economics. This award is given to academically outstanding students in the college.

**Gabe Tapia** received several scholarships for the 2003-04 academic year including a scholarship from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Albert Lee Sturm Scholarship, and the MEAEOPP Scholarship. In addition, Gabe also won the 2003 WVU Claude Worthington Benedum Lecture essay competition. His essay entitled "Jaundiced Yellow: A Creative, Historical Perspective on 9-11 and Iraq" was selected as the top Grand prize winner. Last but not least, Gabe won Undergraduate Researcher of the Year at the WV EPSCoR conference held in Charleston, WV. Way to go, Gabe.

**Angela Schaffer** was selected by the School of Nursing as the Outstanding Junior Student of the 2002-03 academic year. She also was the recipient of the Hazal A. Johnson Scholarship. In addition, Angela's poster presentation won second place at the Unity Day Conference in Charleston, WV, in February. The theme of the conference was Recruit, Respect, and Retain in relation to the Nursing profession.

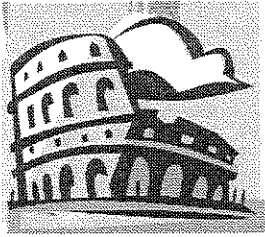


Angela Schaffer pictured on left.

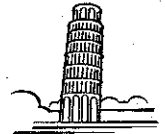
**Lauren Pizza** received a Global Education Opportunities grant to study abroad in Italy in the fall semester 2003.

## Study Abroad in Italy

by Jennis Taylor



My semester in Italy, while academic in purpose provided many opportunities to travel. I had three long weekends and two 10-day travel breaks. This schedule enabled me to get a taste of Europe and fueled my desire to return in the future for further exploration of the unique and varied societies that are found on this continent. I spent my first travel break touring Italy with a classmate from Taipei. We explored Naples, wandered the ancient streets of Pompeii, strolled through the pretty little town of Sorrento and hiked all over the Isle of Capri. We spent three days in Rome and Vatican City and threw coins in the Trevi Fountain to ensure our return. On the way back to campus we stopped in Pisa for an afternoon. On my next long weekend I decided to travel alone and found myself on a bus through the beautiful mountains of northern Italy and Slovenia talking to a young lady from Maribor, Slovenia. She had visited NYC and LA and was anxious to hear about little Morgantown. I spent Halloween in Ljubljana while local children paraded through the square in their costumes, candy buckets in hand. I went to Amsterdam & Brussels for my last long weekend. Amsterdam proved to be a successful and efficient free market economy. I set out on my own to visit the Van Gogh museum and the house where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazi's. Throughout the semester, I was able to take daytrips to Venice and some of the little towns near my campus. I wove my way through the narrow alleys of Venice, visited the hometown of Canova, stood on Juliet's balcony, entered the anatomy amphitheatre where the first human dissections occurred secretly in the name of science yet still outlawed by the church and stood in the classroom where Galileo once taught. While I do not want to diminish the importance of the class work that I completed during the semester, the lessons that I learned off-campus have proven to have a greater impact on my intellectual development than any homework or exam. I recommend that every student participate in a study abroad program that encourages independent travel and a fair measure of immersion into another culture. You have to go to grow!



Keep up the good work Scholars! We're proud of you!

**Laura Steele** presented her research "*Elementary Students' Written Responses to Poetry: Exploring the Concepts of Entertainment and Empathy*" and **Angela Derk** presented her research on "*International Students' Attitudes Toward American Education at West Virginia University*" at the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) meeting in February at Hilton Head, SC.

**Seema Aggarwal, Christa Dotson, Angie Derk, Wenda Harris, Jodie Hoover, Gabe Tapia, and Gina Zirilli** presented their research at the SUNY Binghamton McNair Conference in April.



**Gina Zirilli** presented her research "*Sex on TV: A Content Analysis of Television's Sexual Relationships*" at a poster session at the Eastern Communication Conference in Washington D.C. in April.

### Alumni News:



Serena and Paul

2001 Scholar **Serena Gibson** (pictured on left) and **Paul Joslin** were married in February 2003. Serena will be attending Appalachian State University for a master's program in Clinical Psychology in the fall.

**Gino Degregori** (2001 Scholar) will tie the knot with **Kelley Sturm** on July 9. Gino is a graduate student in the WVU Software Engineering master's program.

**Jonathan Smith** is graduating on May 18 with a master's degree in Journalism from WVU.

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## *Summer Research Internship*

May 19 – June 26	2003 Summer Research Internship
M W	Research Methods class – Allen Hall 712
T TH	Research Writing class – B&E 366
F	Seminars – Allen Hall 712
June 6	University of Pittsburgh Campus Visit
June 18-20	Washington DC Cultural Trip and Campus Visits
June 26	Research Symposium/Closing Banquet

### McNair Conferences:

July 10-13	University of Tennessee – Knoxville McNair Conference
August 1-3	Penn State McNair Conference

### Campus visit:

August 4	Ohio State University Campus Visit
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