Each year the SIUC McNair Scholars Program sponsors a Summer Research Institute (SRI). For eight weeks, students engage in a series of workshops that instruct them on the research process, professional development, and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). All activities are designed to strengthen students’ skill sets and prepare them for graduate study. This year, ten of our scholars worked diligently with their faculty mentors and the McNair staff to complete their research projects.

The summer began with an intensive orientation week that included workshops on understanding the research process, research methods, and investigating and selecting a graduate school. Students also participated in exercises that focused on goal setting, team building, and positive affirmations. The week ended with students stretching their limits by navigating the high ropes course at A Touch of Nature.

Once through orientation, students spent the rest of the summer studying for the GRE and completing their research projects. Two of our graduate advisors, R. Lynn Vaughn, (English Literature, MA Student) and Frank Palmer (Psychology, PhD Student), led review sessions on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE in conjunction with aiding students with their research. Jason Dickson (Mass Communications, MA Student), our third graduate advisor, worked closely with the scholars to improve their research, presentations, and professional skills.

In addition to studying for the GRE, students prepared for our 4th annual Research Symposium, where each scholar gave a 12 minute PowerPoint presentation highlighting their research findings. Students also submitted a final research paper. Six of the best papers will be published in the McNair Journal.

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Message From Julia

The start of a new semester is exciting. You will meet new faces and learn new concepts. You will have a fresh start as you work towards your goal of completing your degree. So in the spirit of new beginnings, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of our McNair Scholars, past, present, and future, to think about where you are and where you want to be. Dream BIG, yet act in small ways every day to make your vision a reality. Dr. Ronald McNair said that “before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one.” Well, what’s your dream? Who will you inspire with your vision? How will you be a catalyst for change in your own life or in the lives of those around you? I encourage each of you to dream BIG and take each day to do something to bring that dream to life. Envision your future, make a plan, stay focused, and you are on your road to success!

Ho’omaka Hou – New Beginning
STUDENT PROJECTS:

Folasade Ajayi
Health Care Management “Barriers, Beliefs, & Stigmas of Black College Students on HIV Testing”
Mentor: Cheryl Presley, Student Affairs

Andrea Arnieri
Philosophy, “The Preservation of Dignity for Pediatric Cancer Patients through Respect for Intelligence”
Mentors: Pat Manfredi & Andrew Youpa, Philosophy

Vanessa Enriquez
Zoology, “Gene-environment Interactions: Can Polymorphisms of the Serotonin 5-hydroxy-tryptamine transporter (5-HTT) gene be linked to depression in Ethnicities of African Americans and European Americans, Age Groups, and Sexes?”
Mentors: Jodi Huggenvik, Physiology & Rheeda Walker, Psychology

Donald Hughes
Mentor: Timothy Clark, Sociology

Krystelle Jean-Michel
Psychology “Help Seeking Attitudes Amongst African-American College Students”
Mentor: Ezemenari Obasi, Psychology

Krishna Pattisapu
Speech Communication, “Beyond Essentialism: Re/presentations of Interracial Relationships in Paul Haggis’ Crash”
Mentor: Naida Zukic, Speech Comm

Naketa Ross
Psychology, “Factors Contributing to College Retention”
Mentor: James Scales, Career Services and Social Work

Karie Stewart
Biological Sciences, “Does the RNA chaperone Hfq protein play a role in the stress response in Francisella Tularensis, a potential bioterrorism agent?”
Mentor: Kelly Bender, Microbiology

Karen Stone
Rehabilitation Services, “Investigating the Efficacy of the Picture Exchange Communication System in Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities”
Mentor: Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Rehabilitation Institute

Toya Wilson
Health Education, “Barriers to physical activity and healthy eating habits for adolescents at risk for type 2 diabetes: A needs assessment,”
Mentor: Sharon Peterson, Food & Nutrition

This year, the following students were recognized at our awards ceremony:

1st Place: Vanessa Enriquez
2nd Place: Toya Wilson
3rd Place: Andrea Arnieri
Honorable Mention: Krishna Pattisapu & Karie Stewart.

We also recognized the outstanding job done by all of our mentors especially Sharon Peterson and Kelly Bender who each received an Outstanding Mentor Award.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.  
Lao Tzu
Smart Money Resources

Explore the following websites to find out about fellowships, assistantships and other ways to fund graduate school:

- Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) [http://www.dfi.siu.edu/appinfo.htm]
- Fastweb.org Scholarship & Fellowship Database [http://www.fastweb.com]
- Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship for Minorities [http://national-academies.org/fellowships]
- National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (GEM): [http://www.nd.edu/~gem]
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program [http://www.nsfgradfellows.org]
- Project 1000 [http://www.asu.edu/project1000]
- SMART Scholarship for Service Program [http://www.asee.org/smart/]
- Southern Regional educational Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars [http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/dspindex.asp]
- SIUC’s Proactive Recruitment of Multicultural Professionals for Tomorrow (PROMPT) [http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/prompt.htm]
- SIUC’s Graduate Dean’s Fellowship [http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/prompt.htm]

Graduate School Resources

Explore the following resources to find out more about graduate school admission requirements, financial aid, GRE, and lots more:

- Grad School Information [http://gradschools.com]
- Princeton Review Online [http://www.princetonreview.com]
- All About Grad School [http://www.allaboutgradschool.com]
- Web US Higher Education [http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ]
- My College [http://www.mycollegesearch.com]

Test Taking Tips for the GRE

By R. Lynn Vaughn

Learn 10 words a day for 30 days. Make your own flashcards or buy a flip book to help increase your vocabulary. If you are feeling adventurous, make yourself a podcast of vocabulary words. Check out the master wordlist posted on our website: www.siu.edu/~mcnair.

Read, Read, Read. Reading the newspaper or your favorite author will help increase your reading speed and comprehension.

Memorize the directions for each section. Save time on the test by knowing what to do in each section.

Know where you stand. Visit the Educational Testing Services (ETS) website at www.ets.org. They offer several services that can help you prepare for the GRE. Use Score It Now to find out how your doing on the essay and use the PowerPrep software to take the GRE Practice Test. This will help familiarize you with the test format and show you where you can improve.

Basic Math. Fill in key steps to your review with a high school math textbook. If you are still confused, ask your math whiz friend to help you with the tough problems.

Practice, Practice, Practice. There’s no way around it, you have to time yourself with each section by using previous tests. Check out the review sections at www.number2.com.

Alumni

Good Luck to Danita Little, who began a Masters Program in Urban Planning & Policy at UIC. She will be a graduate assistant in the Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy.

Congratulations to Debo Osisanya, who began a Masters Program in English at Governor’s State University.

Best Wishes to Gabriel Smith (MS), who accepted a position working with John Deere in Dubuque, IA.

Cheers to Latoya Williams, who began her Master’s degree in School Counseling at Indiana State University.

Good Luck to Danita Little, who began a Masters Program in Urban Planning & Policy at UIC. She will be a graduate assistant in the Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy.

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Accepting Applications Now!

Be a McNair Scholar

www.siu.edu/~mcnair

Deadline: October 19

Poets Corner

**THE PRODIGAL SON**

By Donald Hughes

Cracks in the sidewalk, my path broken
Living life day by day in the gray ghetto
Lots to say, my voice unspoken
Black and white images becoming crystal clear
I cry for help, and yet no one hears
Each day I fear death drawing nearer, then nearer, then near
I must get out
I must unbind my tongue, my soul must shout,
my mind, my lungs
My heart, my soul, my love, my all
I am here lord I hear your call
Save me!
Give me back the spirit of prodigy that you once gave me
I want to live again, I hate what I have become
I am a shell of my former self
The Prodigal Son

**CRICKET**

By Krishna Pattisapu

Odd weekends after the divorce,
I stayed with my father
in his new apartment on the edge of town,
down the road that bent
from highway into cornfield,
bright parade
of meadows that flattened into clichéd expanses at harvest.
Late April meant
slinging small rocks, Sunday afternoons spent
with the colonists’ game – a game he played
but did not accept,
called *Vitidandu* in his native tongue.
My dark body carved crop circles of blond meadows as
I ran bare-ankle past the bases,
shuffled through tall weeds near
the woods in search of him,
starved
with his absence long before it began.

Schedule of Events 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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| August | 27  | 1st McNair All Scholars Meeting  
Engineering Building Room 131, 5-7pm |
| September | 11 | McNair Informational Session  
Mississippi River Room, 5-7pm  
Student Center |
| | 17 | McNair Informational Session  
Mississippi River Room, 5-7pm  
Student Center |
| | 17-20 | GRE Prep  
5:00-6:50pm  
Lindegren Hall Room 133 Cost $10.00 |
| | 17 & 18 | Resume Blitz, Career Services  
Woody Hall B 204 9am-4pm |
| | 18 | Bare Bones Fall Workshop 6-8pm  
Graduate School Admissions  
Student Center Video Lounge |
| | 22 | McNair Fall Retreat 9am-4pm  
First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall  
310 S. University Avenue |
| | 24-27 | GRE Prep  
5:00-6:50pm  
Lindegren Hall Room 133 Cost $10.00 |
| October | 24 | Big 10 Grad School Expo  
Purdue University |
| | 25 | REACH Award Workshop, 2-3pm  
Woody Hall C-227 |
| October | 2 | Chicago Area Grad School Fair  
UIC Pavilion, 3-7pm |
| | 4 | Joan Higginbotham, 7:00pm  
NASA Astronaut & SIUC Alumna  
SIUC Arena |
| | 12-13 | (ILSAMP) Student Conference  
Glenview, IL |
| | 16 | Grad. & Professional School Fair  
SIUC Career Services  
9am-12pm  
Student Center Ballroom B |
| | 22 | Etiquette Dinner 5:30-7:00pm  
Old Main Restaurant, Student Center |
| November | 2-4 | 16th Annual National McNair Conf.  
Delavan, WI |
| | 3 | End of the Year Meeting, 5-7pm  
Location: TBA |