

# Summer Research Institute



## McNair Newsletter

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



*Pictured Above (top 1 to 1) Rhetta Seymour, Karen Stone, Lynn Vaughn, Vanessa Enriquez, Alecia Eubanks, Karie Stewart, Andrea Amieri, Byron Blackburn, Naketa Ross, Folasade Ajayi, Krystelle Jean-Michel, Donald Hughes, Toya Wilson, and Frank Palmer.*

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Summer Research Inst.	1
Summer Research Photos	2
GRE Tips	3
Funding Resources	3
Alumni Corner	3
Poetry Corner	4
Fall 2007 Calendar	4

## 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*

# Summer Research Institute continued

## STUDENT PROJECTS:

Folasade Ajayi

Health Care Management "Barriers, Beliefs, & Stigmas of Black College Students on HIV Testing"

Mentor: Cheryl Presley, Student Affairs

Andrea Arneri

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

Sociology, "A Study of the Disparity in Crime Rates in Baltimore, Maryland in the Early 1990s"

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 Arneri

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**

## 2007 Summer Research Institute Photos



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## Corner

## Smart Money Resources

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

Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Graduate School App. Program <http://http://www.cic.uiuc.edu/Diversity.shtml>

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:

Petersons Guide <http://www.petersons.com>

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>

U.S. News Graduate School Rankings [http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex\\_brief.php](http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex_brief.php)





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*Preparing Scholars  
for Graduate  
Studies.*

# Accepting Applications Now!

Be a McNair Scholar

[www.siu.edu/~mcnair](http://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

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