

# McNair Newsletter

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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FALL • 2009



# 2009 Incoming Scholars

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## **Marcus Bailey**

Major: Psychology  
Research Interest: Bipolar disorder and adolescents  
Mentor: To be determined

## **Jeanette Coronado**

Major: English for Secondary Education  
Research Interest: Latinos and Education  
Mentor: Kathy Hytten, Chair and Professor, Education Administration and Higher Education

## **Antwan Donley**

Major: Chemistry  
Research Interest: Analytical Chemistry  
Mentor: Mary Elizabeth Kinsel, Associate Scientist, Chemistry

## **Diamond Garner**

Major: Accounting  
Research Interest: Federal taxation  
Mentor: Ray Rodriguez Assistant Professor, Accountancy

## **LaCharles Ward**

Major: Psychology  
Research Interest: African American male identity  
Mentor: Rachel Griffin, Assistant Professor, Speech Communication

## **Nefeteri Williams**

Major: Social Work  
Research Interest: Health care policies an college students  
Mentor: Laura Drueth Zeman, Associate Professor, Social Work

## **Charlie Hope Dorsey**

Major: Speech Communication  
Research Interest: Critical Performance Pedagogy  
Mentor: Elyse Pineau, Associate Professor, Speech Communication

## **Krymese Frazier**

Major: Psychology  
Research Interest: Diversity in the workplace  
Mentor: Peggy Stockdale, Professor and Director of Applied Psychology Program

## **Ashley Jordan**

Major: Psychology  
Research Interest: Student on-campus employment and academic achievement  
Mentor: Meera Komarraju, Assistant Professor Applied Psychology

## **Jere Mitchell**

Major: Sociology  
Research Interest: Juvenile delinquency  
Mentor: Derek Martin Assistant Professor, Sociology

## **Sarah Pitcher** (Not Pictured)

Major: Sociology  
Mentor: Michelle Hughes,

## **Malcolm Slack**

Major: Business  
Research Interest: Financial aid and college preparation  
Mentor: Jim Musumeci, Chair and Associate Professor, Finance

## **Patrick Smith**

Major: Speech Communication  
Research Interest: Performance Pedagogy and Black youth  
Mentor: Elyse Pineau, Associate Professor, Speech Communication



# A Poem by Charlie Dorsey

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Aint nobody in this college got swagger like  
us scholars.  
we the people.  
that don't have the blues  
I  
know you feel it too.  
those indigo  
cobalt, baby blues.  
the color of eyes not yours or mine  
the diffrence between  
"flesh and bone"  
those "inner eyes" according to W.E..B Dubois  
the home sick blues  
the story of the blues  
night till morning  
typing papers  
leaving a trail of poem crumbs  
for you  
to find.  
your way back  
I got you.  
Blacks and browns  
and green  
with envy.  
us.  
No  
the  
ones  
who had ancestors, elders, scholars brought

across on ships.  
we do this for them!  
we stay up late  
"we sing sin"  
"we real cool"...  
Said Gwendolyn, Angelou and Langston .  
They paved this yellow brick road, we walking on.  
it's a long way,  
the journey,  
not the destination.  
degrees of separation  
six feet  
deep  
and  
the doctors.  
in their offices,  
that will have our name on the door  
someday...soon  
so  
refugees  
re imagine  
the possibilities  
the new world  
we ordered.  
papers  
viewed  
by  
the  
pros

of reading  
Keep your heads up  
scholars  
you were long before college  
in the trenches the suburbs  
the eight ward  
re evacuated  
the discipline it takes to finally make it  
the hard work of a hard  
life  
knock  
at the door, don't wait for gate keepers to let us in  
we must break in  
dance off the beat, of our syncopated heart drums  
in sync  
we live in the borders  
crossing deep rivers and streams of our conscious-  
ness  
raise  
your fist and hold your chin high  
cause we will make it someday change is gonna  
come  
sit with we at the round table  
cause this is the renaissance we have been waiting  
for  
today we move  
Forward.

## McNair Scholars Program

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Rhetta Seymour

## Summer Staff

Julia Spears, Former Director  
Craig Engstrom, GA  
Mickey Johnson, GA  
Jose L. Martinez, GA  
Brenda Sanders, GA  
Jonate Govan. Student Worker  
Alec Perry, Student Worker

## Fall Staff

Mickey Johnson, GA  
Conisha Brownlee, GA  
Chad Hoosier, Program Assistant  
Jonate Govan. Student Worker  
Alec Perry, Student Worker

**TRiO**  
RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



Southern  
Illinois University  
Carbondale

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

# Summer Research Institute

For the past five years the McNair Summer Research Institute (SRI) has challenged some of the best and brightest students here at SIU to complete a research project in just eight short weeks. In addition to the research requirements, the scholars chosen to be part of this program also had to complete six weeks of intense GRE preparation classes. Needless to say, this fast pace can challenge the most experienced of academics, but our students faced this challenge head on and the results speak volumes about the dedication and talent of our scholars. We are very proud of each and every one of them.



Top Row: De'Angelo Williams, Sarah Pitcher, Charlie Dorsey, Malcolm Slack, Tamara John, Koleshcia Nelson, Ashley Wilson. Middle Row: Patrick Smith, Krymese Frazier, Jeanette Coronado, Catrina Barber, Elizabeth Patterson. Bottom Row: Nefeteri Williams, Von'Dragas Smalley, Clara Araujo.

This year's SRI culminated in the Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium that took place on July 10th in SIUC's brand new library auditorium. With the help of their faculty mentors and graduate assistants, the scholars presented research from a wide diversity of interests. These included: Speech Communication, Radio/TV, Cinema & Photography, Special Education, Sociology, Finance, Social Work, Biological Sciences, Political Science, Microbiology, English, Secondary Education and Psychology.

Overall, the judges and the audience were thoroughly impressed with our scholars and we want to thank everyone who made this summer an outstanding success. We couldn't have done it without the help of the countless people who dedicated a good part of their summer to our program, thank you!

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:



Dear Scholars and Alumni,

Each year, staff members make a difference in the lives of so many students who are pursuing academic and professional goals. At SIUC, it has been my privilege to have worked with Julia Spears. Under her leadership, the McNair Scholars Program remained visible and connected campus wide. Her positive outlook and enthusiasm created an atmosphere that nurtured and encouraged students to work hard and strive to do their best. She remained committed to her vision that all students regardless of their socio-economic status or ethnicity should engage in meaningful out of class experiences that connect them to the university, develop their self-efficacy, and encourage them to pursue advanced degrees. Julia's compassion towards students reminds me of the young boy in Loren Eiseley tale, *The Star Thrower* (1979) that makes a difference by throwing each starfish back into the ocean one at a time. As an administrator, Julia utilized her experience with non-profit organizations, grant writing, and budgeting to create a successful program. As Julia moves on, we are eternally grateful for her hard work and commitment to make a difference in the lives of others; she will be missed!

Sincerely,  
Rhetta Seymour  
Interim Director

## 2009 REACH Award Winners

The REACH Award is a one-year award available on a competitive basis to undergraduates conducting research, scholarly, or creative projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Awards include a grant of up to \$1,500 to pay for expenses and a 10-hour undergraduate assistantship for fall and spring semester during the award term.



**Krymese Frazier**- received \$1500 to work with her mentor Dr. Peggy Stockdale from the department of Psychology on her research “Construct Validation of the Sexually Harassing Activities Questionnaire”



**Ashley Wilson**- received \$1500 to work with her mentor Dr. Laura Hatcher from the department of Political Science on her research “Neighborhood Tracks: Railroads and the Construction of Space in Chicago (1887-1917)”

## 2009 McNair Graduates

**Raquel Brown:** enrolled in the Master’s program in Molecular & Cellular Physiology at SIUC. She is a teaching assistant in her department.

**Conisha Brownlee:** enrolled in the Master’s program in Rehabilitation Counseling at SIUC. She is a Graduate Assistant in the McNair Office.

**Grant Cox:** is enrolled in the Master’s in Fine Arts Program at the University of Delaware. Grant also received the Rickert Ziebold award.

**Jennie Irwin:** applied to the Master’s program in Rehabilitation Counseling at Columbus State University.

**Vernon Johnson:** is enrolled in the Master’s program in Community Health Education at SIUC. He is a teaching assistant in the Center for Academic Success.

**Chasity Love:** enrolled in the doctoral program in Chemistry at Purdue University. She is a teaching assistant in her department.

**Monica Mason:** is attending the University of Minnesota for a Master’s in Journalism, with a fellowship

**Sarah Owusu:** started the Post-Baccalaureate Research and Education Program (PREP) at the University of Alabama Birmingham.

**Kandace Vallejo:** was accepted to University of Texas Austin for a Master’s in Education, with a McNair Scholars Recruitment Fellowship

**Stacie Wallace:** applied to Psychology programs at DePaul University, and University of Chicago.

**Toya Wilson:** was accepted to SIUC Master’s of Public Health program, with a PROMPT fellowship

# Reflections of a McNair Scholar

by Mickey Johnson

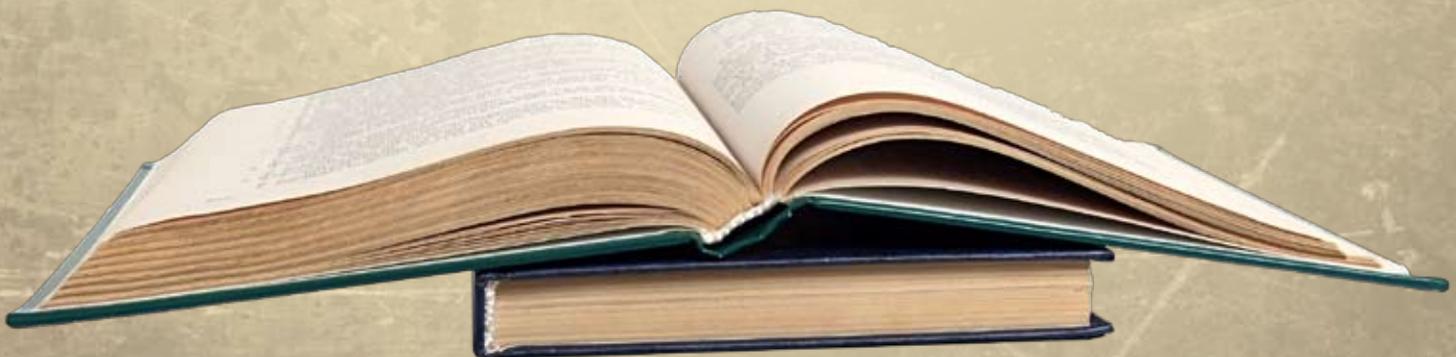


One thing the McNair Scholars Program helped me realize is I truly have potential. There is a school of thought in the world that anyone can be successful if “they” would just apply themselves. However, when conditions beyond a person’s control, tear away the bootstraps of opportunity, human potential can fall victim to circumstance. Now and again people need assistance from others who have traveled similar paths to provide vision, clarity, opportunity, and hope.

When I walked into the McNair office, I completed my first semester at SIU. I was confused about my career goals and graduate school was only a dream. I knew after spend twenty years in the so-called “real world” my only chance for furthered success was with a college degree. People scoffed at my decision to invest my time, money, and energy in history, knowing the opportunities are limited. Still, I found history was the one field that fit and I really enjoyed.

Julia and Rhetta use the McNair resources to create a family environment, build a team, and establish a home away from home for McNair scholars. Our team of scholars are the best and the brightest regardless of background. We know that we can rely on each other to build upon strengths and diminish weaknesses. Whether we are hanging on ropes in the Shawnee National Forrest or we are having difficulty articulating our topic, we know that we can turn to any one of the scholars and they are there. I can always count on a laugh from Grant, Chasity, Sara, or Stacey; deep conversations with Derrick, Lynn, Levell, Kandace, or Rhetta; tons of encouragement from Julia; detailed outlines and fantastic editing from Jim; a bright smile from Krishna, Jonate, Vernon, and Jennie. I love the mouse stories from Raquel. Alec has been very helpful with finding interviews for my project. I admire Conisha and Monica’s work ethic. And everyone thanks Tamara and Moinul for their assistance the GRE prep.

On more than one occasion my cohort and I spoke about how the McNair experience changed our lives. This is not just hyperbole- it is a reality that each one of use shares. The McNair experience brought us all together, proved to us that the only person that can stop us is ourselves, and it provided us with opportunity; something many of us may not have had without McNair.



# Overseas with McNair

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## MONICA

I thought about traveling abroad for some time, and after having researched the many different study abroad programs SIUC has to offer, I decided to apply for the Egyptian Architectural Tour Study Abroad Program. The trip itself was absolutely amazing, but what was even better was being able to experience new culture, food, religion and traditions from several different cities in Egypt. I was able to go horseback riding through parts of the Arabian Desert; I rode a camel around the Great Pyramids of Giza; and I visited several ancient Egyptian temples including Karnak Temple and the Luxor Temple. On our last day in Egypt we were able to visit the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, which is home to the most extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities in the world, but honestly, the best part of the entire trip was being able to engage with some of the people. I encourage everyone to study abroad if the opportunity ever presents itself. If you allow yourself to be open to new experiences, people and cultures, traveling out of the country can change your life, impact your perspectives on the world around you, and most importantly, give you the chance to grow.



## KANDACE

This spring I attended the Nacional Florestan Fernandes, a training school for people involved in social justice movements, located in São Paulo, Brazil. I was selected to participate in a political and economic theory course, organized by the international campesino, or small farmer organization. The course was specifically designed for people involved in creating progressive social change at the grassroots level in their home country, and was made up of representatives from 18 countries. I was selected to represent the US. It was one of the most exciting, most difficult, most challenging, and most rewarding experiences I've had. I spent four months living, studying, and working in a tiny school with a small farm and less than 15 employees. Above all, I learned that my actions do make a difference; they can make a huge difference. Since being home, I carry around with me the things I learned while in Brazil. We can do a number of things in our daily lives that can have a huge effect, simply by living more conscientiously.

permit  
number  
here

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“One isn’t necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.”

- Maya Angelou