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McNair Newsletter

Issue 3, Spring 2007

Congratulations Seniors !



Folasade Ajayi



Carl Alexander



Ty-Nica Davis



Esteban del Valle



TeSha Dozier



Miranda Griffith



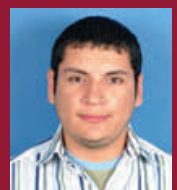
Christine Guerra



Nadia Lopez



Jennifer Musselman



Antonio Rodriguez



Brenda Sanders



Kelly Smith



LaQuita Smith



Amarachi Ukabam



Willie Walker



LaToya Williams

From the Associate Director

As we say farewell to our graduating seniors, I want to congratulate them on all of their accomplishments and wish them the best as they embark upon a new phase in their lives. We have truly enjoyed supporting our senior Scholars as they strive to make their academic dreams come true. They will be missed. In addition, we are pleased to welcome a stellar **new cohort of Scholars**. You can check out these new McNair Scholars on page 4. I would also like to acknowledge our **new staff members**: Rhett Seymour, Assistant Director, joined us in November and Bedford Palmer, our new graduate assistant, who joined us in May. We hope you enjoy reading about the many successes of our McNair Scholars. We look forward to a productive Summer Research Institute and a strong 2007-2008 program year!

Ho'o Hui Pu Ka Kou – Together We Can
Julia Spears, Associate Director



Scholars & Their Plans after Graduation

Folasade Ajayi, Summer '07

Health Care Management

Folasade applied to the following universities: Chicago State, Minnesota, Illinois at Chicago, and Loma Linda in California.

Carl Alexander, Fall '07

Civil and Environmental Engineering; Minor in Marketing

Carl was admitted into the Master of Science Program in Civil Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

Ty-Nica Davis, Spring '07

Communication Disorders and Sciences

Ty-Nica will attend SIUC to pursue a Master's degree in Linguistics beginning Fall 2007.

Esteban del Valle, Spring '07

Art
Esteban will attend the Rhode Island School of Design to pursue a Master of Fine Arts beginning Fall 2007. He is a President's Scholar recipient.

TeSha Dozier, Spring '07

Psychology

Te Sha has been accepted to the MSW program at St. Louis University and is waiting to hear a response from Washington University in St. Louis.

Miranda Griffith, Spring '07

Workforce Education

Miranda will attend SIU Carbondale to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health. She is a Graduate Dean's Fellowship recipient.

Christine Guerra, Spring '07

Political Science and Philosophy

Christine applied to the University of Chicago and SIU Carbondale.

Nadia Lopez, Spring '07

Zoology; Minor in Anthropology

Nadia will attend Northern Illinois University. She is the recipient of the Jeffrey T. Lunsford/Minority Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year and a departmental scholarship.

Jennifer Musselman, Spring '07

Interior Design

Jennifer has temporarily postponed graduate school until after the much anticipated birth of her daughter.

Antonio Rodriguez, Spring '07

Political Science

Antonio will attend SIUC to pursue a Master's Degree in Political Science beginning Fall 2007. He is a recipient of a PROMPT Fellowship.

Brenda Sanders, Summer '07

University Studies; Minor Workforce Education

Brenda will attend SIU Carbondale to pursue a Master's Degree in Workforce Education and Development. She is a recipient of a Graduate Dean Fellowship.

Kelly Smith, Spring '07

Information Systems Technologies

Kelly will move to Dubuque, Iowa, with her husband, to pursue a career

LaQuita Smith, Spring '07

Industrial Technology

LaQuita plans to take a year off and focus on giving back to her community by helping students in math and science.

Amarachi Ukabam, Spring '07

Health Education

Amarachi has applied to the University of Texas at Austin, University of Houston, and Baylor University.

Willie Walker, Spring '07

Industrial Technology

Willie will attend SIUC to pursue a Masters in Manufacturing Systems.

Latoya Williams, Fall '06

Psychology

Latoya applied to the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Indiana State University, and SIUC.

Scholars in Action at the 2007 Undergraduate Research Forum



"One of the great benefits of attending a research university such as SIUC is that undergraduate students who become involved in research activities work in a professional environment that also involves graduate students and faculty, and gain problem-solving experience..."

*Dr. John Koropchak,
Vice Chancellor for
Research and Graduate
Dean*

Each year the Office for Research and Development and Administration sponsors the Undergraduate Research Forum. McNair Scholars are fortunate to have the opportunity to present their research.

1) Antonio Rodriguez describing his research 2) Willie Walker explaining his poster 3) Carl Alexander & TeSha Dozier posing for a group shot 4) Miranda Griffith at the URF 5) Brenda Sanders discussing her research 6) Kelly Smith at the URF 7) Jennifer Musselman discussing her research 8) Estaban del Valle with his mentor 9) Nadia Lopez explaining her research 10) Sade Ajayi presenting her information to the judges 11) Naketa Ross after winning a 2007 REACH award.

Scholar Spotlight: Nadia Lopez



While most students spent their winter break sleeping late and hiding from the cold, I spent my break waking up

at 4 o'clock in the morning to chase monkeys around in a Costa Rican rainforest. This past December, I had the amazing opportunity to spend three weeks conducting research at La Suerte Biological Field Station near the town of Primavera. My research consisted of exploring evidence of sex and age based differences in the activity budget in mantled howler monkeys, a species of New World monkey. There is nothing like hearing the eerie howl of a male howler monkey in the darkness of the forest for the first time, or witnessing the spider monkey swing with such grace and elegance. There were even days when we could see the destructive capuchins right outside our sleeping cabins!

Every morning we stumbled our way through the muddy trails trying to keep up with our guide.

Our eyes focused on the small amount of light coming from our flashlights, while trying not to fall too far behind the others in front of us. As we got closer and closer to the elevated, unstable bridge to cross the river, my heart pounded faster and faster every time. The sounds of the bridge are unforgettable (creek creek) as the rapid footsteps bounced the metal bridge up and down. We seemed like soldiers on a mission, marching into the unknown.

Once on the other side of the bridge, our noses did all the work. The pungent smell of the synchronized excretions of the howlers was our scent to follow in the dark. Our long day of data collection usually ended at noon. We would then run back to the cabins to take a quick, cold shower and head off for lunch. Beans, rice, plantains, and natural juices could always be counted on. Lecture would follow.

As we listened to talks about primates and conservation, the most unusual animals would visit our classroom – bats, lizards, and poison dart frogs. Every day was a

new adventure - new places to explore and new things to discover.

The rainforest is truly an enchanting and captivating place. The biodiversity found in there is unlike anywhere else in the world. I had the opportunity to see truly amazing animals, such as, snakes, macaws, and sloths. While I would like to say that it was immense and that it seemed never-ending, the sad truth is that most of it is disappearing at an alarming rate. As we made our way from the cabins to the main house, you could see a lot of deforestation. It was shocking to see the rainforest being used as cow pastures and as plantations for bananas and pineapple. It made me realize that much remains to be done to protect this fragile, yet vital part of our planet.

This research trip was important because it introduced me to fieldwork and will help prepare me for graduate school. I also learned about myself and other cultures. I learned not only to appreciate what I have here at home, but also value a different way of life. This trip

reinforced my conviction to study wild primates and confirmed for me that I am on the right career path. It was truly a life changing experience. I would like to thank everyone that has supported my dreams to study primates, especially Dr. Susan Ford, Julia Spears, Jose Rebelion, and my parents.

*"Extinction is forever,
endangered means
there is still time"*

A We are please to announce that six (6) scholars will receive their Master's degrees this year.

I Spring 2007

Christine Goldstein in Forestry from SIUC;

Cortez McBerry in Microbiology from SIUC. He will attend the University of Cincinnati to begin his PhD in Immunobiology. He is a recipient of the Yates Scholarship;

Gabriel Smith in Manufacturing Systems from SIUC;

Deanese Williams in Public Reporting from the University of Illinois, Springfield;

C Summer 2007

Kandace Fisher in Design Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison;

Renee Lopez-Smith in Plant Biology from SIUC.

Welcome Ceremony 2007



**McNAIR
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

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TRiO
RONALD E. McNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Issue 3, Spring 2007

Current Scholars



Andrea Amieri comes to us from Palatine, Illinois. She is a senior majoring in Philosophy and Economics in the College of Liberal Arts. Andrea will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor, Dr. Pat Manfredi, Associate Professor of Philosophy.

Byron Blackburn comes to us from East St. Louis, Illinois. He is a sophomore majoring in Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. Byron will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of his mentor Ezemenari Obasi, Assistant Professor of Psychology.



Vanessa Enriquez comes to us from Bolingbrook, Illinois. She is a senior majoring in Zoology with a minor in Chemistry. Vanessa will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor Jodi Huggenvik, Associate Professor of Physiology in the College of Science.



Donald Hughes comes to us from Peoria, Illinois. He is a junior majoring in Sociology with a minor in History in College of Liberal Arts. Donald will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of his mentor Tim Clark, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts.



Jennie Irwin comes to us from Springfield, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Rehabilitation Services. She will participate in the Summer Research Institute next year with the help of her mentor, Dr. Shane Koch, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Institute in the College of Education and Human Services.

Krystelle Jean-Michel comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Psychology. Krystelle will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor, Ezemenari Obasi, Assistant Professor of



Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.



Chasity Love comes to us from East St. Louis, Illinois. She is a sophomore majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Criminal Justice. Chasity will participate in the 2008 Summer Research

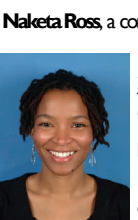
Institute next year with the support of her mentor Dr. Lichang Wang, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, in the College of Science

Levell Mables, a continuing McNair Scholar, comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. He is a junior majoring in Management in the College of Business and Administration. Levell will participate in the Summer Research Institute next year.

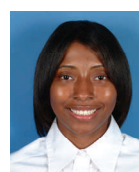


Sarah Owusu comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a sophomore majoring in Physiology with a minor in Chemistry in the College of Science. Sarah will participate in the 2008 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor Michael Sears, Assistant Professor of Zoology.

Krishna Pattisapu comes to us from Mount Vernon, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Speech Communication, specializing in Intercultural Communications with a minor in English. Krishna will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor Naida Zukic, Assistant Professor of Speech Communications in the College of Liberal Arts.



Naketa Ross, a continuing McNair Scholar, comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. Naketa will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor James Scales, Director of Career Services.



Tiffany Sims comes to us from Palos Hills, Illinois. She is a sophomore majoring in Communication Disorders with a minor in Psychology. Tiffany will participate in the Summer Research Institute next year.

Karie Stewart comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. Karie will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor Kelly Bender, Assistant Professor of Micro-biology in the College of Science.



Karen Stone comes to us St. Charles, Illinois. She is a senior majoring Rehabilitation Services in the Rehabilitation Institute. Karen will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor, Ruthanne Rehfeldt, Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Institute in the College of Education and Human Services.

Stacie Wallace comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a sophomore majoring Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. Stacie will participate in the Summer Research Institute next year.



Toya Wilson, a continuing McNair Scholar, comes to us from Chicago, Illinois. She is a junior majoring in Food and Nutrition. Toya will participate in the 2007 Summer Research Institute with the support of her mentor Sharon Peterson, Assistant Professor of Food and Nutrition in the College of Agricultural Sciences



Welcome