



McNair Newsletter

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A Chemistry Conference with Chasity Love

In April, I attended the American Chemical Society conference in New Orleans. Attending this conference was an excellent experience for me because this conference was not just statewide; thousands of people from around the world were attending. I was excited to be in New Orleans and able to present at a conference that is so well known in my field. All I could think about is how many undergraduates would love to be in my shoes. If someone told me a couple of years ago that I would be attending an ACS conference in New Orleans, I would have thought they were joking. Even though I attended a couple of conferences before this one, nothing compared to this because this was the conference that everyone hopes to present at and attend one day.

While attending the conference, I presented a poster based on my

research study: "DFT Studies of Small Copper Clusters." I got a lot of feedback on my research from professors from all over the world and a lot of suggestions on what I should do next. While in New Orleans, I attended a banquet ceremony to receive the \$500 travel award I was awarded from the National Science Foundation. I also got the opportunity to attend presentations that were given by well known chemists and meet some of the faculty members of colleges that I am considering attending when I choose a PhD program.

After watching oral and poster presentations, I got a chance to explore some parts of the city. I visited areas that were affected by Hurricane Katrina, as well as downtown tourist areas .

Chasity Love
2007-08 Scholar

From the Director

As you can see, we have put together the first McNair Scholars' newsletter of the year. We are truly excited about keeping you informed on everything our Scholars are doing. Our Scholars are genuinely involved in their research and it is our hope that this newsletter will convey their passion as well as their dedication to achieving their educational goals. I hope you enjoy reading about our amazing Scholars and all of their accomplishments!

Dr. Julia Spears



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POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

2008 Summer Scholars



Raquel Brown
Biological Sciences
Mentor: James MacLean

Research Project: "RhoX Gene Expression During the Ovarian Cycle"



Conisha Brownlee
Food and Nutrition
Mentor: Sharon Peterson

Research Project: "Assessment of College Students' Food Choices when Comparing their Home Choices to the College Campus Choices"



C. Grant Cox, III
Art - Painting
Mentor: Najjar Abdul-Musawwir

Research Project: "Recycled - Repurposed - Revalued"



Jonaté Govan
Health Education
Mentor: Mark Kittleson

Research Project: "Understanding Binge Drinking Among Football Players at a Midwestern 1AA"



Jennie Irwin
Rehabilitation Services
Mentor: D. Shane Koch

Research Project: "The Matrix Model of Hope: Does Attendance Affect Employment After Treatment?"



Mickey Johnson
History
Mentor: Ras Michael Brown

Research Project: "A History of Swimming Pools from 1949-1975: How Racism has Impacted Municipal Space"



Vernon Johnson
Healthcare Management
Mentor: Mark Kittleson

Research Project: "Communication Breakdown: A Critical Assessment of Type 2 Diabetes Education Efforts Directed Towards African-American Students at a Midwestern University"



Chasity Love
Chemistry
Mentor: Lichang Wang

Research Project: "The Effect of Support ZnO on the Structure and Properties of Cu Clusters"



Levell Mables
Marketing
Mentor: Suzanne Nasco

Research Project: "Examining Consumer Perceptions of Saluki Athletics"



Monica Mason
Journalism - News Editorial
Mentor: Novotny Lawrence

Research Project: "Narrow Casting or Narrowly Casting?: A Qualitative Analysis of Marketing Strategies Used on a Popular Social Networking Website Facebook"



Sarah Owusu
Physiology
Mentor: Buffy Ellsworth

Research Project: "Expression of the Foxd1 Gene in Pituitary During Embryonic Development"



Aléc Perry
Communication Disorders and Sciences
Mentor: Shawna Pope

Research Project: "Assessment of Cross-Cultural Adaptability of Graduate Students in Communication Disorders and Sciences"



Kandace Vallejo
History
Mentor: Kathy Hytten

Research Project: "Perceptions and Reflections of Democracy: A Qualitative Study"



Stacie Wallace
Psychology
Mentor: Rebecca Weston

Research Project: "'Perceptual Play': An Investigation of the Perception and Motive of Playful Aggression in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships"



Rescued

By: Donald Hughes

Though Julia and Rhetta are angels, McNair is not God, they are not blessing you

They are here to rescue you from the land of the destitute to plans you are destined to

And if these five steps you follow through, Dr. (Who)? Is how they will be addressing you.

Step 1: What to study?

You can be a philosopher who sifts queries and quandaries
You can check how the earth in a fault zone lifts after tsunamis
You can study how the a war in Iraq flips war to Iranis
Or how poverty is passed on through bad shifts for poor mommies

Step 2: The Summer Institute

As a researcher, this is the time for you to find you
Take pictures in your mind that this cohort binds you
But, let this short time always remind you
That you are never alone there's always someone behind you

Step 3: GRE

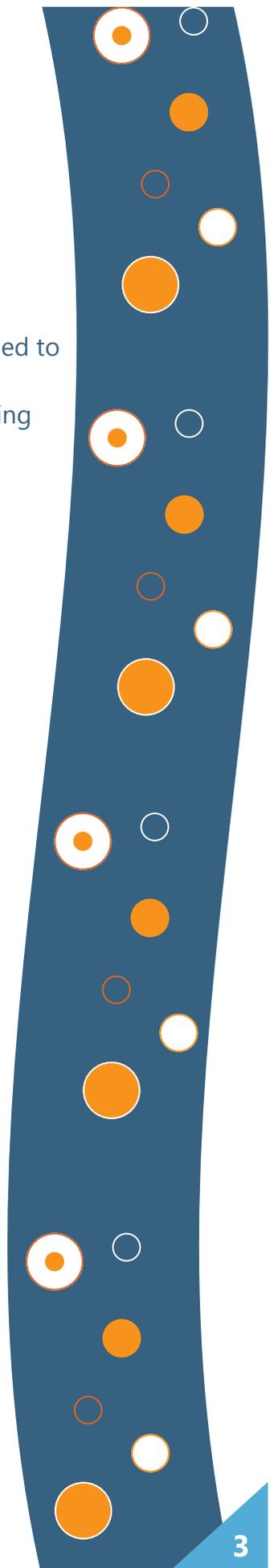
Perhaps, nothing instills more fear than a standardized test
I know how you feel; it's natural to be stressed
Don't worry, through McNair's help, you're going to do your best
But the night before that anxious day be sure to get some rest

Step 4: Grad School Apps

Remember applying to McNair?
Application, Personal statements, transcripts, taxes, recommendations
It's pretty much the same situation,
Multiply that six times and wait in anticipation

Step 5: Cross those T's and Dot that I

The main event, accepted to five schools
Full fellowships but be careful of time rules
I know this is a lot and by now your mind's full
But take these tools with you; they are more precious than fine jewels



2008

Summer Research Institute



From left to right: Stacie Wallace, C. Grant Cox, III, Monica Mason, Chasity Love, Michael-Ann Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Raquel Brown, Jonaté Govan, Jennie Irwin, Aléc Perry, Director Julia Spears, and Conisha Brownlee

Every summer for the past four years, the McNair Scholars Program's offices erupt in a flurry of activity in preparation for the Summer Research Institute (SRI). This year, with fourteen scholars and fourteen different research projects, it's no different. The research projects to be presented at this year's Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium will come from eight colleges including the College of Science, Agricultural Sciences, Education and Human

Services, Liberal Arts, Allied Health, Business, and Mass Communication and Media Arts. Along with preparing for their presentations and possible publication of their research, scholars are required to attend six weeks of GRE Preparation training. Although the SRI requires a strenuous effort from each individual, each scholar works side by side with their faculty mentors, graduate assistants, and program directors.

Aside from the research and GRE Prep training, the McNair Scholars Program does its best to facilitate a fun and relaxing environment. This year's activities included the High Ropes Course at Touch of Nature and a scavenger hunt conducted here on the SIU campus. Every activity, while geared towards providing a fun break, also works to draw the scholars together as a cohort. As Jonaté Govan, a McNair scholar and SIU football player, points out, "I think it's a good opportunity for teambuilding. I feel like I'm part of a team, and that's great."



Writing for Graduate School

In just a few months, many of you will begin preparing graduate school applications or writing graduate-level papers for the first time. Here is a list of things to consider as you begin those writing projects:

1. Always Keep your Intended Audience in Mind
 - Who will be reading your application/paper? What expectations do they have?
2. Consider your Intended Purpose
 - Does your paper or personal statement convey your purpose?
3. Proofread! Proofread!
 - Have your faculty mentor or someone in the writing center take a look at your paper or personal statement.

From left to right:

Chasity Love, Stacie Wallace, Jennie Irwin, Elizabeth Patterson

2008 REACH Award
Winners



Jennie Irwin received \$1500 to work with her mentor Dr. Shane Koch from the Rehabilitation Institute on her research, entitled "Enhancing Treatment Outcomes for Methamphetamine Abusers Utilizing Contingency Management Techniques."

Chasity Love, a McNair Scholar from the Chemistry Department received \$1475 to work on her research, a "Study of the Adsorption of Small Copper Clusters on the Surface of Zinc Oxide" with her faculty mentor Lichang Wang from Chemistry.

Elizabeth Patterson, working with her mentor Buffy Ellsworth from the Physiology Department, received \$1449 for her research in Biological Sciences: "Discovering the Role of Forkhead Transcription Factor Foxj1 and its Role in Pituitary Development and Maintenance."

Stacie Wallace, a McNair Scholar in Psychology, received \$1500 for her research "'We Were Only Playing': An Exploration of Playful Aggression and Gender and Its Impact on the Initiation of Aggression" to be conducted under her faculty mentor Rebecca Weston from the Psychology Department.

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.

2008 McNair
Graduates



From left to right: Karie Stewart, Vanessa Enriquez, Naketa Ross, Donald Hughes, Mickey Johnson, and Krishna Pattisapu

- **Andrea Arnieri:** Accepted the position of Leadership Consultant for her international fraternity, Alpha Gamma Delta.
- **Vanessa Enriquez:** Will attend Colorado State University to pursue a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology where she has been awarded a Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship.
- **Donald Hughes:** Will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to pursue a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning where he has been awarded a McNair Graduate Fellowship.
- **Michael-Ann Johnson:** Will attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to pursue a M.A. in History.
- **Krystelle Jean-Michel:** Will attend Western Michigan University to pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.
- **Krishna Pattisapu:** Will attend Southern Illinois University Carbondale to pursue a M.A. in Speech Communication.
- **Naketa Ross:** Will attend the University of Arizona to pursue a M.A. in Public Administration.

- **Karen Stone:** Will attend the Rehabilitation Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale where she will pursue a M.S. in Behavioral Analysis and Therapy.
- **Karie Stewart:** Has applied to the Master's in Biological Science Program at the University of Illinois Chicago and Chicago State university. She has also applied to the Master's in Public Health Program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Reflections of a McNair Scholar

By: Krishna Pattisapu



In the past two years, my journey as a McNair Scholar has been one of realizations, triumphs, transitions, and choices. As a member of the program, I have come to understand the issues that students from underrepresented backgrounds face in their daily academic lives. I have grown to appreciate deeply the value of the alliances that form between students as we navigate the obstacles that stand before us. Along the way, I have enjoyed small triumphs that reinforce my confidence in the possibility of bringing my visions to life. I have struggled through transitions that have threatened my sense of security and forced me to rethink the paths I follow. And I have been faced with difficult decisions that without the undying support of my McNair Scholars family, I may not have had the courage to make it.

But all of this *almost* didn't happen.

I learned of the McNair Scholars Program as a junior. I met with Julia early in the semester to discuss possibilities for involvement with the program. I was instantly excited about the opportunity to join a program that promotes diversity and the advancement of underrepresented students into graduate education. I received the application packet and took it home (with good intentions to return it). But, in what has always been my self-defeatist mode of thinking, I allowed what I *knew* would be a wonderful opportunity to sink further and further into the stack of papers on my desk. By November, I assumed I had ruined my chances of acceptance altogether until one morning, in line at Starbucks, Julia confronted me and encouraged me to complete my application. That small gesture set into motion what has become one of the most important and valuable experiences of my life.

Being a McNair Scholar has challenged me in almost every capacity. Where I was weak, I grew strong, and where I was strong, I grew stronger. Of course, there have been times throughout the process when I felt overwhelming self-doubt begin to creep up on me again, but my McNair Scholars family has helped me to chase it away. In my fellow Scholars, I have found both beautiful diversity and reflections of myself. There is a sense of comfort in knowing each of us, in our own right, has overcome obstacles that hinder our paths to personal success. My fellow scholars are some of the most intelligent, creative, and driven people I have ever met. They are counselors, comics, superheroes, mothers, role models, survivors, and friends. My life would not be as rich without each and every one of them. Each of us has a brilliant future and I hope that later in life, we can look back and realize that we served as stepping stones for one another along the way.

Our advisers are two of the most compassionate, supportive, and strong-willed women I have ever known. I am in constant awe of the love they have for each and every one of their students. Every day, they instill in me a desire to carry on the mission to bring justice to the students society expected wouldn't succeed. My mentor has been the constant voice in my head assuring me that with passion and dedication, I can achieve greatness. She has given me the invaluable gift of faith in myself. I can wish for nothing more in life than to someday be for future generations of students what these women have been for me.

When I look back on the past two years and think of how they would have been had I not become a part of the McNair Scholars Program, I am deeply saddened. I am reminded of the importance of challenging myself in every aspect of my life, to set the bar higher than necessary and never second guess the decisions I make. I have learned to respect and admire myself as someone who has beat overwhelming odds to get to where I am today. I can say that for the first time in my life, I am genuinely proud of myself. And I owe it all to the people in this room. They have helped me to realize the endlessness of my potential, to *own* the triumphs I earn, to find beauty and inspiration in the changes my life endures, and to count on myself to make the best choices for me. But most of all, the McNair Scholars family has helped me to

Scholar Accomplishments

2006 Scholar



Krystelle Jean-Michel

Council for Opportunity in Education's 2008 International Leadership Training Program in Liverpool, England

2007-08 Scholar



Mickey Johnson

Published an article entitled "A History of Municipal Swimming Pools from 1908-1956: How Swimming Pools Helped Define American Culture" in *Legacy: A Journal of Student Scholarship*

2005 Scholars



Antonio Rodriguez

Received an Internship with the National Science Foundation (NSF)



Christine Goldstein

Conservation Resource Specialist, Clifty Creek Watershed Group



Toya Wilson

Received a Vince Demuzio paid governmental Internship for undergraduate SIUC students interested in professional careers in politics and with state governments

2004 Scholars



Maria Guerrero: National Labor Relations Board, Washington D.C.



Deanese Williams: 2yr. Residency Program Chicago Tribune-Herald



Sydney Dillard: Ministry of Education Talent Cultivation Project of Taiwanese Literature, History, and Art in Globalization



Carl Alexander: Structural Engineer, Employed by Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC. Assigned Project: Yucca Mountain Project

2003 Scholar



Kandace Fisher

Housing & Environmental Design Specialist at the University of Missouri, St. Louis Extension

2006 Scholars



Chasity Love

With her mentor, has an article under review for publication.



Stacie Wallace

Accepted a position as a TA for a Psychology 102 class here at SIUC.

Overseas with McNair

“The Most Memorable Experience of my Life!”

By Jennie Irwin

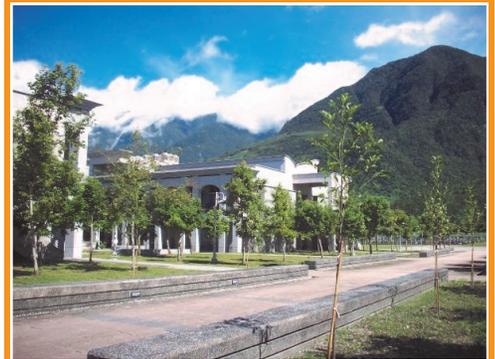


Going to Finland was an amazing experience that will stay with me throughout my entire life. Not only did I get to experience a new country, but I was able to travel and see for myself what the rest of the world had to offer. I was able to inexpensively travel to Ireland, Germany, Sweden, England, and Italy. My experience turned other people's stories into a reality through my own eyes and perspective. I went to Finland in the middle of the winter and the days were dark and cold. The first word I learned there was "kiitos" which means "thank you." As my Finnish got a little better, I would try to fit in with a Finnish accent while speaking. That did not last long because the Finns picked up that I was only able to say one sentence and could not carry on a conversation! It was interesting to experience what it was like to be an American in another country. My best friend and I made fools of ourselves everyday. . .so much that we always had a good story to tell! I roomed in a building with students from all over the world. I became best friends with a girl from Belgium and a guy from Mexico. Becoming best friends with them was an amazing cultural learning experience. Overall, if I could do it again, I would in a heartbeat! My study abroad experience was one of the more educational and memorable experiences in my life!

Sydney Dillard in Taiwan



Sydney (far right) with new friends



The view outside Sydney's Dormitory

“Experiencing Culture”

By Krystelle Jean-Michel



As a first generation, low-income, minority student from the inner city of Chicago, the opportunity to study abroad does not present itself very often. Upon receiving information about the International Leadership Training Program I was motivated to take part in such a life altering experience. My time spent in Liverpool, England was an enlightening experience where I learned things about the culture that would not have been possible in a classroom setting. Most of my days started with insightful lectures on topics ranging from racism to union labor organizations. On weekends we had scheduled field trips to London, Amsterdam, and Antwerp. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the experience was visiting the other cities, getting a feel for the locals, and fully immersing myself in the cultures. I think this opportunity has enabled me to gain a new perspective about myself and some of my biases. Most importantly it has given me an insatiable appetite for knowledge of cultures. I highly recommend other scholars to take part in future COE Leadership Programs. It's an opportunity of a lifetime that should not be passed up.