Cheri Westmoreland, the Director of the program, shared that 15 of the 18 alumni from the past three years of the McNair Scholars program will be attending graduate school across the country.

Mr. Charlie Coles—Head Basketball Coach at Miami University Encourage the McNair Scholars to “Just Keep Going!”

On May 17, 2006 the McNair Scholars Program held its “End of the Year Dinner Celebration” at the University of Cincinnati Faculty Club. Over 100 guests, students, faculty mentors and program supporters were in attendance for the event.

The evening celebrated the accomplishments of the scholars. Of the eight graduating seniors, five will be attending graduate school this fall, and two are making plans to apply for next year.

Eight students were accepted to work as McNair summer interns conducting research for eight weeks.

New McNair scholars were also introduced with this year’s class of 14 members marking the largest McNair class.

Head basketball coach from Miami University, Charlie Coles served as the keynote speaker. His brilliant style of story telling engrossed the audience with his main theme of “Just Keep Going”. From his personal experience of suffering two heart attacks, wise cracks about his age, and true love for coaching, he found ways to connect with McNair Scholars continuing their educations and earning a PH.D.

To end the evening, Dr. Cheri Westmoreland, the Director of the program, shared that 15 of the 18 alumni from the past three years of the McNair Scholars program will be attending graduate school across the country.

The goal of the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Cincinnati is to enhance students’ academic experiences by preparing them for success as graduate students. The design of the program serves to inform, encourage, motivate and prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies. After successful completion of their degrees the scholars will become effective faculty members, academic researchers, and professionals in their chosen disciplines.

Stop by our office for more information in 702 Swift Hall, or call us at 556-2665.

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You’re eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.”

Dr. Ronald E. McNair
October 21, 1950 - January 28, 1986
My name is **Rosalynd Mincy** and I am a 4th year Biology major planning to attend medical school and receive a M.D., specializing in pediatrics. My research is in the area of cardiology looking at indicators of heart failure. NF-kappaB, when activated, is a transcription factor that is found to be expressed in increased levels in a failing heart. The research will be looking at the presence of a phosphorylated kinase that participates in activating NF-kappaB in an acute and chronic models. I will first use inhibitors to block the activation of NF-kappaB and then look at acute models and inject the mice with TNF-alpha, which is an upstream ligand that plays a role in activating the NF-kappaB protein, and chronic models with injections of cytokines, including TNF-alpha, Interleukin-1Beta, and Interleukin-gamma. I will be able to look at the presence of this phosphorylated kinase, I-kappaB-alpha, by using an antibody that tags onto this protein. The purpose of this research is to see the difference between the levels of the phosphorylated kinase in acute and chronic models. This information is important to heart failure research because of the possibility of developing a drug to block this kinase to alleviate a failing heart.

My name is **Tanya Moore** and I am a senior Social Work major. My mission is to encourage, promote, and serve families with healthcare and family issues. Currently, I am working on research with Dr. Jennifer Marshall entitled, “Exploring the Utilization of Resources by the Adult Learners”. The research focuses on non-traditional students (25 years and up) and their challenges with technology, the multi-cultural environment, study skills and the lack of understanding the college student’s role. The purpose will be to explore the various resources available for college students and to gauge the adult college student’s success in conjunction with the utilization of campus resources. I will explore if the adult learners are utilizing the campus resources available to them. In addition, examine which resources they use most and if it is contributing to their success as a student. Lastly, inspect why adult learners are not utilizing resources available to them. My future plans consist of working in the community promoting social issues and health concerns with the African-American geriatrics population.

Hi! My name is **Nicole Pederson** and I am a senior majoring in Psychology and preparing to pursue a Doctorate in School Psychology. My research focuses on young adolescents and their views of children. To be more specific I am examining factors influencing young adolescent’s perceptions of a child with a facial scar. There is a significant body of literature showing that children may hold negative attitudes toward a child with a facial scar. However, there is little information examining young adolescent’s perceptions of a child with a facial scar. The social consequences of facial scars are an important area for research. Acceptance ratings reflect attitudes that may influence developing children’s interactions with other children who have facial scars. Children with facial scars may be stared at and face teasing, ridicule, isolation, or be a target of bullying behavior. Also, having a facial scar and facing the social problems related may be a risk factor for psychological problems in adulthood.

My name is **Samantha Maslyn**. I am a fourth year in the Health Sciences program, and plan on pursing a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. My research being conducted this summer investigates a possible improved upper extremity treatment for person’s with stroke. More specifically, the title of the study is, “The Effect of a Constraint Induced Protocol Using Novel Electrical Stimulation System (H200) On Upper Extremity Functional Outcomes: Case Study.” Stroke is the leading cause of disability in the United States; statistics show that every 45 seconds someone in the United States will suffer a stroke. Furthermore, half of all stroke survivors are forced to live with arm and hand dysfunction that compromises performance of valued activities. The H200, an electrical stimulation device, will be investigated to determine changes in motor function of the affected upper limb along with cortical reorganization (fMRI) as a possible option in future treatment of post-stroke injury.
My name is Danisha James a senior in the Communications program with hopes of attaining my Doctorate in Communication or a Juris Doctorate. My summer research project titled, “The Recruitment of African American Students into Graduate Programs of study on predominantly White Campuses”, investigates the college faculty policies and practices in recruiting students into graduate programs. More specifically, attitudes and perceptions toward black undergraduate students will be assessed as well as other factors influencing minority students opportunities for recruitment in graduate programs. In 2005 at the University of Cincinnati African Americans comprised about 7% of the graduate school population while white students represented about 56%. These numbers are staggering; however, they are comparable to several other predominantly white institutions. The recruitment of African American students will be assessed and compared with those for white students.

My name is Anna Barrett and my research is within the field of Sports Psychology. I am a fourth year psychology major and will be applying to graduate school for Sports Psychology in the fall. The title of my research is Optimism, Pessimism, and Perceived Success. The goal of this study is to determine the relation between optimism/pessimism, positive illusion, and perceived performance in Division I athletes. The objective of the study is to determine if there is a correlation between an athlete’s optimism/pessimism level, positive illusion score, and perceived future performance.

My name is Keeyana Hall and a fourth year student in the College of Arts & Sciences majoring in Communication. My plan is to pursue a PhD in Communication. The research that I am conducting this summer will be investigating the perceptions that other cultures have of African American students. The study is entitled “The Perceptions of African American Students on a Predominantly White Campus.” Studies have shown that African American students enrolled in equal opportunity programs on predominately White campuses feel marginalized. A similar study also indicates that African American students openly admitted that they did not feel welcome on their predominately white campuses. Through this research, in relation to UC, it is my wish that university administrators will use the information to assist in their efforts of diversifying campuses across the nation.

My name is Tyrone Collier; I am a senior Philosophy and African American Studies student. Falling under the sub-discipline of the Philosophy of Language, my research consists of investigating to which degree a speaker’s intention can be used as a determinant for the meaning of an utterance. The title is, “The Relevance of Intention in the Context of Utterance,” and I will argue that, in determining the meaning of an utterance, to take seriously the intention of the speaker is often-times a necessary, although perhaps insufficient, condition to be met in terms of general context-dependency.
Everyone involved with McNair throughout my college career has supported me to achieve my goal of attending graduate school.

My name is Sheera Harrell, a 2006 graduate of the University of Cincinnati! I loved being a McNair Scholar because it provided me with research opportunities, mentorship, academic counseling, and growing friendships. Through one-on-one advising sessions and our McNair seminar course, we were encouraged to reflect on and put together our goals of achieving a level of academic success as an undergraduate and further towards graduate school.

Currently, I am preparing for graduate school at the University of Cincinnati for a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Addictive Studies. I look forward to being able to work directly with people with social problems and addictions. Attaining a counseling licensure in conjunction with my degree will enable me to counsel people within the criminal justice system who have issues dealing with addiction. Due to the preparation received in McNair, I am confident that I will succeed in graduate school and begin working effectively in the field.