Welcome New Scholars for 2009-2010!

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program would like to welcome its new scholars for the 2009-2010 academic year. The incoming scholars bring to the program new experiences, academic rigor and scholarly research possibilities. They come from a wide variety of disciplines strengthening the diversity of the program and showing the importance of diversity in academic work and scholarly research. The scholars will carry on a long, successful history of McNair Scholars and we look forward to working with them in the program.

So here are the new McNair Scholars for the 2009-2010 academic year:

- Barbara Amoah - Psychology / Pre-Med
- Sydney Barker - Aerospace Engineering
- Bryce Collins - Business Administration
- Logan Haines - Speech Language Pathology
- Kristen Halcomb - Dietetics
- Jessica Lawson - Biology
- Jessica McGroarty - Urban Planning
- Aisha Nuhu - Biology / Pre-Med
- Sweta Patel - Biomedical Engineering
- Brandon Styles - Psychology

We are very proud of the new scholars and are excited to begin our journey with them Fall Quarter 2009.

McNair Scholars Gain from Summer Research Internship

This summer, seven McNair Scholars participated in the Summer Research Internship Program. For eight weeks (June 22nd - August 14th), McNair Scholars conducted research within their academic discipline under the supervision of their faculty mentors. The scholars utilized this experience to develop research skills, expand their knowledge of and contribute to their disciplines, and improve on their technical writing and presentation skills. Research topics ranged from the study of social exclusion as a precursor to aggression to the study of upper body muscle fatigue to the writing of a memoir. The McNair Scholars will have the opportunity to present their research at the National McNair Scholars Conference in Delavan, WI in November.

During the eight week period, the scholars also attended weekly seminars on subjects ranging from writing personal statements to GRE preparation and study practices. The purpose of the seminars is to help McNair scholars learn about the graduate school application process and the requirements for applying to graduate...
McNair Scholars Gain from Summer Research Internship

school. The main goal is to help scholars create a competitive application portfolio that includes strong letters of recommendation, personal statements, competitive GRE scores, and a CV that includes a substantial amount of quality research experience. The seminars are a great compliment to the research experience the scholars gain during the summer.

In addition to the research experience and seminars the students visited four graduate schools, touring the campuses and meeting with academic deans, program directors, faculty members and graduate students. The scholars visited The Ohio State University, University of Kentucky, Vanderbilt University and Tennessee State University. They had the opportunity to visit graduate programs and ask questions about the requirements of the academic programs to get in, expectations of the programs once the student was accepted, the life of a graduate student, and ways to fund their graduate education. The scholars gained a lot of insight about the graduate school application process, as well as a broader understanding of research and the demands of graduate students.

Through their experiences during the summer research internship, the scholars have improved their research skills, gained a better understanding of the importance of research in their academic work, and have developed a strong foundation for creating a competitive graduate school application.

The summer research interns learned through their experiences the difference between being a good student and a great scholar. Through their research experience, summer seminars and campus visits, they are on their way to becoming great scholars. The successes of their work during the summer internship shows they are well-prepared for the demands of graduate school.

We would like to present our Summer Interns and recognize the major accomplishments they have achieved over the summer.

Summer Interns and Titles of Their Summer Research Projects

Tiffany Arnold- "Correlates Between Alcohol Consumption and Cognitive Somatic Anxiety"
Derrick Cannon- "Muscular Strength Recovery Time After Upper Body Fatigue Among General Non-Athlete Population"
Sonya Hickson- "Age As a Predictor of Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior Among Children of Substance Abuse Parents"
Brittney Hudson- "An Investigation of Two Blood Parasites, Plasmodium and Haemoproteus in Podarcis Muralis"
Candace Kraft- "A Memoir..."
Brittany Rogers- "Analyzing Behavioral Components of Male Batters through Empathy Scales and Assessing the Effectiveness of Batter Prevention Programs"
Josselyn Taylor- "The Odd Man Out: Social Exclusion As a Precursor to Anger and Aggression"

"Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one."
-Dr. Ronald E. McNair
McNair Banquet Honors the Many Successes of McNair Scholars and Their Faculty Mentors

The evening of May 27, 2009 was a memorable night for McNair Scholars, old and new, as they were recognized and honored by University of Cincinnati faculty and staff and the McNair Scholars Program for their successful work and research within the program, their acceptance into the McNair Scholars program and acceptance into graduate school programs. Speakers for the evening were Dr. Caroline Miller, Dr. Robert Zierolf, and Dr. Farrah Jacquez. The Honorable guest speaker was Dr. James Mack.

All the speakers highlighted the importance of the program and the value of the experiences of the scholars for their professional and academic careers. They commended the scholars on their academic rigor and intellectual creativity, while also challenging the scholars to further pursue their academic interests in graduate school, noting that the scholars would be a great addition to any graduate program to which they applied.

Each of the incoming summer interns were introduced with their faculty mentors and had the opportunity to present and discuss their summer research projects. Also, the new scholars were introduced and recognized for their acceptance into the program. Finally, the seniors were recognized for their success within the program and many were recognized for their acceptance into graduate school programs.

Recognition was also given to the faculty mentors for their dedication to foster the intellectual, personal, and professional development of the McNair Scholars. The faculty—student mentor relationship is a key aspect to the McNair Scholars Program and the program is greatly appreciative of the work done by the faculty mentors.

Overall, it was a great evening of recognition for all of those involved with the McNair Scholars Program. We look forward to the upcoming year and all of the successes of our scholars and mentors.

Our 2008-2009 Graduated Seniors

Daniel Baum-
He attends The Ohio State University’s PhD program in Sociology.

Sandra Dunkin-
She attends Case Western’s PhD program in Sociology.

Angela Fox-
She attends The University of Cincinnati’s Masters program in The Counseling Program.

Michael Johnson-
He is currently looking at PhD programs in the field of Psychology.

Akosua Karikari-
She plans to gain employment in the field of nursing.

Demetrius Martin-
He will teach middle school Language Arts and has applied to Masters programs in education Administration.

Robin Wright-
She attends The University of Cincinnati’s MD Program in the College of Medicine.

"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
About the Program:

The Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Program is named after Dr. Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986) who was America's second African-American astronaut in space and was killed in the Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986. Dr. McNair, despite having come from a low-income household, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina A & T University in 1971. Just five short years later, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. McNair was the first in his family to graduate from college and obtain a doctorate.

To carry on the legacy of Dr. McNair and help students like him, the Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate Achievement Program is one of the Federal TRIO Programs designed to assist undergraduate students that come from low-income households, are first-generation college students, and/or are members of an under-represented ethnic group in graduate school. The program helps high-achieving undergraduate students prepare for doctoral studies and careers in research and/or the professoriate by providing a wide variety of services and opportunities for the students: finding faculty mentors; developing research opportunities; providing seminars on the graduate school application process and requirements, research methods, and writing personal statements; GRE test preparation; and, financial support for graduate school applications, test prep and test fees.

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