Upcoming Events

McNair Visits Les Aspin Center, Washington D.C.

The McNair Scholars Program took nineteen students on a six-day expedition to Washington, D.C. to visit area graduate schools and other significant sites. The trip which occurred in May, was provided with the support of the Les Aspin Center for Government and the Office of the Provost.

This year, McNair scholars visited the offices of Congresswoman Gwendolynne Moore, and met with Senator Tammy Baldwin in person. McNair scholars were also taken on a tour of the United States Supreme Court, and conducted research at the Library of Congress.

The "Les Aspin trip" also provided an opportunity for scholars to visit Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland-College Park, and Howard University. Based on scholars' post baccalaureate interests, meetings were scheduled with faculty at these institutions. In addition, scholars learned about the graduate school application process and received information on funding.

"Visiting graduate school programs in the Washington D.C. area was a phenomenal experience that opened my eyes to the many opportunities available before me," said senior Monica Purifoy. "While attending a graduate school panel at the University of Maryland, I not only found a program of interest but encountered supportive staff, faculty, and graduate students that reassured me of my potential as a future researcher."

"The DC trip overall was great, it was good to visit such a lively city," said senior Laree Pourier. "The most meaningful part of it for me was realizing how committed our EOP/McNair staff is to our academic success. It was the first time we, as a whole group were really able to spend time with staff; that meant a lot."

MU-McNair Scholars participated in a weeklong visit to the Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, D.C. in May. Pictured here are McNair scholars and staff in front of the US Capital building.
MU McNair Summer 2014 Research

A Woman Presidential Candidate: Will the Milwaukee Latino Community Support Her?
Diana Arroyo (Dr. Lowell Barrington), Political Science

The Influence of Multi-Sensory Environment on Physiological Response in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Children with Special Health Care Needs
Rawan Atari (Dr. Amy Van Hecke), Psychology

African American Women’s Perceptions Related to Childbirth Readiness: Centering versus Traditional Prenatal Care
Janelli Barrow (Dr. Karen Robinson), Nursing

Sensorimotor Adaptation of Speech Through a Virtually Shortened Vocal Tract
Brittany Bernal (Dr. Jeffrey Berry), Speech Pathology and Audiology

Alcohol Use Tendencies and Depressive Symptoms: Influences of Acculturation Status, Ethnic Identity and Nativity Status in Mexican American Adults Living in the United States
Claire Bird (Dr. Lucas Torres), Psychology

U.S. Residing Arab Women’s Experiences of Weight Gain and Loss During Childbearing
Ayia Dahir (Dr. Karen Robinson and Dr. Jennifer Ohlendorf), Nursing

Breaking the Cycle: An Examination of Environmental, Cognitive, and Emotional Factors of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization in Adolescence
America Davila (Dr. John H. Grych), Psychology

Predictive Modeling for Finding Cut Off Values of Serum Marker CA 19-9 For the Prognosis of Pancreatic Cancer
Derek Gutierrez (Dr. Mehdi Maadooliat), Mathematics

Why Can’t We Be Friends? Platonic Relationships in Disney Animated Films
Lauren Guzman (Dr. Pamela Hill Nettleton), Communications

Ethnic Microaggressions and Depression Among Latinos: Nativity, Acculturation, and Education as Contributing Factors
Celeste Hernandez (Dr. Lucas Torres), Psychology

Chicago Public Housing Demolitions and Individual Sense of Political Belonging
Connor Hooper (Dr. Amber Wichowsky), Political Science

Contraction-Induced Arousal on Recent Memory in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis
Nailah Johnson (Dr. Alexander Ng), Exercise Physiology

The Influence of Faith on the Psychosocial Well-Being of Mexican Americans
Edwin Medina (Dr. Ed de St. Aubin), Psychology

Applying John Hagan’s Power-Control Theory to Gender Differences with Drug Abuse
Christina Nelson (Dr. Darren L. Wheelock), Criminology and Law Studies

Hollywood and the Mammy: Enduring Stereotypes for African-American Actresses
Anna Ogunkunle (Dr. Pamela Hill Nettleton), Communication

Cultural Integrity and American Indian Higher Education: The Voices of Four Oglala Lakota Women
Laree Pourier (Dr. David M. Nowacek), Sociology

Factors that Support College Success for First-Generation, Low-Income, African American Female College Students
Monica Purifoy (Dr. Kevin Tate), Education

Using Humanoid Robots for Reading Comprehension Intervention
Darryl Ramgoolam (Dr. Andrew Williams), Electrical and Computer Engineering

Histological Techniques for the Sex Determination of Skeletonized Human Remains
Kaelin Rapport (Dr. Norman C. Sullivan), Anthropology

MU-McNair Scholars presented their research at the 24th Annual MU Ronald E. McNair Undergraduate Research Symposium in July. Pictured (l-r clockwise) Nailah Johnson, Diana Arroyo, Celeste Hernandez, Lauren Guzman, Ashley Truss, Brittany Bernal, Connor Hooper, Janelli Barrow, Derek Gutierrez, Christina Nelson, Laree Pourier, Kaelin Rapport, Anna Ogunkunle, Rawan Atari, America Davila, Edwin Medina, Claire Bird, Monica Purifoy, Ayia Dahir, and Jessica Sandoval.

Continued on the next page
McNair Welcomes New Graduate Assistant

MU McNair welcomes Stephanie Hood as the new graduate assistant for McNair. Stephanie Hood was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Breaking Bad was filmed, she notes.

She graduated this past May from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in psychology and criminology.

“I was a fellow McNair Scholars at UNM where my research focused on the relapse for alcohol disorder, which I plan to continue to research here at Marquette.”

Currently she is pursuing a Master’s of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in addiction. After graduation, she plans to continue towards her Ph.D.

McNair Summer 2014 Research Continued

Adversarial Allegiance in Sexually Violent Person Civil Commitment Evaluations: An Exploration of Thematic Differences in Wisconsin Evaluations
Jessica Sandoval (Dr. Mary Ann Farkas), Criminology and Law Studies

Factors Determining Recidivism Rates Among African American Juvenile Males
Ashley Truss (Dr. Louise Cainkar), Sociology

McNair Scholars present research at UC Berkeley

Jessica Sandoval was one of four MU McNair Scholars selected to present research the UC Berkeley Conference, August 1-4. Below she reflects on the impact of the trip on her graduate school aspirations.

Attending the symposium at the University of California- Berkeley was an experience I will always treasure. For a few days, I had the opportunity to meet with other McNair scholars from all across the country to share our research and to engage in scholarly discussions with individuals from all different backgrounds and walks of life. I felt a tremendous amount of pride in my work, knowing how much time and effort I had put into my research over the eight weeks of the summer program. Standing in front of other scholars and professionals allowed me to share the passion I have for my research with others. I had the chance to show students, faculty and staff, just why and how much I love my research.

In addition to sharing my research, I also had the opportunity to network and learn more about graduate school. The McNair Scholars Program has presented me with a variety of opportunities to prepare for graduate school and attending the symposium at UC Berkeley was no exception. I visited Stanford University, a place I only ever imagined visiting. I listened to professors and staff from top universities across the United States talk about their respective programs. I heard words of wisdom from guest speakers who explained the application process and encouraged me that I am a student that can be accepted to top programs. The encouragement from those

Continued on the next page

Dr. Tatiana Joseph, MU McNair Ph.D, gives a stirring keynote address at the 24th Annual McNair Undergraduate Research Symposium in July.
Berkeley/Continued

professionals solidified my desire to attend graduate school. Their words will resonate in my heart and mind as I begin applying.

As family and friends continue to ask me about my experiences at UC Berkeley, the best thing I can say is that Berkeley helped me continue to shape my dream; my dream to be a graduate student, a researcher and an individual well-respected in my field. Opportunities are only opportunities unless we as individuals, take them and pursue them. UC Berkeley was an opportunity that I took and I will always cherish it as my first official symposium and my chance to truly begin pursuing my dreams.

McNair Scholars presented at the California McNair Symposium at the University of California Berkeley in August. Pictured seated l-r Monica Purifoy, Diana Arroyo, standing Lauren Guzman, and Jessica Sandoval.

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Preparing Students for Graduate School

The McNair Scholars Program is an Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University. Funding for the program is provided through a grant from the United States Department of Education.

McNair Alumni Degree Update

Bachelor's Degrees
Aisha Bano, Bachelor of Science, College of Health Sciences
Aaron Bledsoe, Bachelor of Arts, Diederich College of Communication
Maritza Contreras, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, College of Nursing
Marlena Eanes, Bachelor of Arts, College of Education
LaTasha Ellis, Bachelor of Arts, Klinger College of Arts and Sciences
Maribel Gamon, Bachelor of Science, College of Health Sciences
Cicely Hunter, Bachelor of Arts, Klinger College of Arts and Sciences
Vanessa Lopez, Bachelor of Arts, Klinger College of Arts and Sciences
Tamiah McCoy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, College of Nursing
Darrielle Mitchell, Bachelor of Arts, College of Education
Tommy Walls, Jr., Bachelor of Arts, Klinger College of Arts and Sciences

Master's Degrees
Vincent Dang, Masters of Science, Marquette University
Gabrielle Gray, Masters of Arts, Marquette University
Shona Hang, Masters of Science in Public Health, University of North Carolina
Christopher Powell, Masters of Arts, University of Illinois–Chicago

Doctoral Degrees
Aaliyah A. Baker, Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mylou Yang, Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Professional Degrees
Luisa Campos, Doctor of Dental Surgery, Marquette University