



# THE MCNAIR CHRONICLE

Lawrence, Kansas

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## *KU McNair Scholars attend national conference*

**By T.S. Kochanski**  
McNair Scholar

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Ronald E. McNair Scholars Research Conference and Graduate School Fair in Delavan, Wisconsin, proved to be an important resource for developing the futures of McNair scholars. Some of the valuable elements of the conference included a graduate school fair, excellent speakers and meeting other McNair scholars from around the country. The KU contingent consisted of Kent Bolton, Karen Boyd, Twilah Kiel, Aurora Marin and myself.

The graduate school fair allowed students the opportunity to talk with people from various universities about their respective programs. It provided a forum for making initial contacts with university representatives and the beginnings of many academic relationships.



Twilah Kiel was among five KU McNair Scholars that attended the 1999 National Ronald E. McNair Scholars Research Conference and Graduate School Fair in Delavan, Wisconsin.

Some of the speakers featured recognized important McNair contributors while others focused on preparing McNair scholars for their futures. One lively speaker, Don Asher, for example, after giving a schema of the typical graduate school, discussed choosing the right graduate program. He then provided

essential information for getting over all the necessary hurdles of applying for admission. Asher also offered insights into departmental politics and establishing and maintaining relationships with those departments during the application process.

The final aspect of the conference was meeting the other McNair Scholars. I am certain that some of the names that were swapped will remain in address books under academic contacts for many years, and will likely at some point go under the heading of professor.

The conference was a fitting conclusion to the year's activities in the KU McNair Scholars Program, which prepared me for conducting research and entering graduate school.

## *McNair Scholars accepted to graduate schools*



Michael Bell has been offered a fellowship to study Engineering at the University of Michigan.

As we went to press, no fewer than *seven* KU McNair Scholars had received official acceptance letters from various graduate schools: **Michael Bell** (*Engineering*, Purdue University, University of California–Berkeley, University of Michigan, Illinois University), **Simeona Berroya** (*Communications*, Marquette University, St. Louis University) **Madinah Hazim** (*Communications*, American University, University of Northern Illinois), **Jennifer Ivie** (*Psychology*, University of Kansas), **Ahmad Khalil** (*Biomedical Sciences*, University of Florida), **Robert Loya** (*Public Administration*, University of Kansas), **Aurora Marin** (*Biology*, Indiana University, New Mexico State University, University of Kansas).

### University of Kansas McNair Scholars Program Staff Directory

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Jamie Thomas

## Scholar Spotlight

Jamie Thomas, a recently admitted McNair Scholar, was awarded the Nancy Martin Miller Memorial Scholarship from the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing. The \$400 awards are based on a personal statement of achievements and goals, three letters of recommendation within the department, and financial need. In addition to the financial award, the names of the recipients are engraved on a commemorative plaque located in the department office. Congratulations, Jamie!



### Interested in being a KU McNair Scholar?

Applications are now being accepted for the 2000-2001 academic year. Call (785) 864-3412 for more information.

### Are you a former KU McNair Scholar?

Call us toll free at 1-877-842-5232 and we will include an article about you in the next issue of *The McNair Chronicle*.

## Scholar's paintings featured at KU gallery

Holly Lane, a McNair Scholar in the School of Fine Arts, recently had her paintings featured at the University of Kansas Union Gallery in a show entitled "Figurative Expressions." Her oil on canvas works are abstract compositions constructed with organic forms that are reminiscent of the human figure.



"Figure Study" by Holly Lane

"Bodily awareness reveals itself through my paintings," Holly said. "These paintings not only reference the figure, they also express my psychological state. My focus on the human figure reflects the pre-occupation I have with my own body. I am intrigued by the relationship between the physiological and psychological reactions within it. Images, thoughts, and emotions affect me viscerally. I am also fascinated by the way my body re-

acts, rejects, processes and functions."

Holly's paintings are full of thick layers. These layers are interwoven; one hides behind another while others peak through transparent glazes. Each layer of paint documents her emotional state as of that moment. Each visit to the canvas yields a new entry into

her visual journal.

Holly Lane has been a Ronald E. McNair Scholar since spring 1998. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Chapter and the University of Kansas National Panhellenic Council. She is a 1999 Black Faculty and Staff Council Scholar as well as a recipient of the LaTina Sullivan Leadership Award (named after a KU McNair Scholar who passed away in 1997). Holly will be graduating this May and plans to attend graduate school to obtain a Master of Fine Arts degree. Her long-term goals include maintaining a studio career and becoming a professor to help diversify a university faculty while offering her knowledge and enthusiasm to future artists.

## Rochelle's survival guide to graduate school

### By Rochelle Votaw

McNair Graduate Assistant

1. Read, read, read (you won't get this chance when you're a professor, so take advantage of it now!).
2. Write, write, write (good writers practice).
3. Present at conferences (every chance you get).
4. Create a graduate student support group.
5. Participate in your Graduate Professional Association.
6. Become a Graduate Teaching Assistant (this needs its own survival guide!).
7. Talk with people in your research area and build a relationship with them.
8. Never ever miss a class.
9. Take your coursework seriously. (Do the reading!)
10. Participate in class discussions. (Prof.'s expect it!)

### Former Scholar joins the McNair staff

Rochelle Votaw joined the McNair Staff this semester as a graduate assistant. A former McNair Scholar and 1998 graduate from KU, Rochelle is now a master's candidate in the American Studies Department. Rochelle also works at the KU Educational Opportunity Center and plans to graduate in December 2000.



Rochelle Votaw is the new McNair G.A.

The theme of her master's thesis is female archetypes in Chicana literature. In April she will be presenting at the Mid America American Studies Association conference in Kansas City.

### *Former Scholar excels in graduate school*

**By Akira Yamamoto**

Former McNair Mentor

Our former scholar Tracy Williams is doing very well at the University of Arizona. Last semester she was able to utilize her knowledge of her ancestral language, Oneida, to do projects in her linguistics classes. She was a 4.0 student at AU.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Yamamoto served as Tracy's mentor during the 1997 and 1998 Summer Research Internships.*

### *Kent Bolton wins research award*

Kent Bolton won a top prize at the thirty-first annual Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education Symposium held in Austin, Texas. Kent, a McNair Scholar since last spring, competed in the Association for Computer Machinery Student Research Competition. His poster presentation was selected among the five best. The top poster presenters then gave short oral presentations and Kent was awarded first place and a \$500 prize.

### *Warning: It's never too early to start the graduate school application process...*

**By Aurora Marin**

McNair Scholar


I was repeatedly warned by my dedicated McNair mentors, Tanya Kooi and Robert Rodriguez, about the *time* involved in completing graduate school applications. After going through the process, I don't believe I can warn you enough: Start early!! The process of deadlines, personal statements, recommendation letters, and hundreds of small details that mean so much in the end engulfed me. Though at times I felt like giving up, I learned a great deal about myself, what I want from the graduate school experience, and what I am willing to give to achieve this experience. Throughout this process I had to dig deep inside my mind and heart and determine my true goals and aspirations. I also had to choose where I am willing to live for the next five years of my life. While applying to graduate school I was also thinking about my career goals, because the graduate school I attend will have a crucial effect on my career opportunities.

My advice to anyone considering graduate school is to

search within yourself first and determine how serious you are, because this becomes a lifetime commitment. There is no way to reverse this decision after you have completed your graduate work.

I advise that you begin to think about where you would like to live and what you are interested in mastering because that is what your life will revolve around.


It is only through the help of McNair that I will begin my Ph.D. work in the fall after I receive my B.S. I intensely concentrated on my goals after joining the McNair Scholars program. The program provided the organizational and research skills that made the graduate school application process much easier; however, it was still time consuming and stressful. McNair Scholars, take advantage of the advice and help provided by your program and begin now: research schools you're interested in, look for advisors and contact them, and narrow your research interests, as it will save you in the end.



## Mentor Accolades

**Dr. Susan Williams** was recently honored with the "Student's Choice Award for Outstanding Professor." This award is in recognition for being an outstanding faculty member of the KU Chemical Engineering Department and demonstrating excellence in teaching. It was awarded at the Annual Engineering Expo Awards Banquet on February 27, 2000.

**Dr. Akira Yamamoto** is on sabbatical leave this semester; however he will attend a special week-long symposium on documenting endangered languages in Bad Godesberg, Germany. Then he will travel to Japan to participate in another symposium on documenting endangered languages. In June he will meet with his former McNair mentee Tracy Williams again in Tucson, Arizona, where he will teach a course with the American Indian Language Development Institute and Tracy will be a participant.



### *Scholars Present at KU Undergraduate Research Symposium*

Two KU McNair Scholars presented research projects at the 2000 University of Kansas Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Karen Boyd, a senior majoring in Sociology, presented the research she conducted for the McNair Scholars Pro-

gram last summer. Karen's project is entitled "Legalized Discrimination: Alive and Well in a Kansas Town."

Kristopher Carlson, a recent KU graduate and McNair Scholars Program alumnus; also presented research conducted under the auspices of

the McNair Scholars Program entitled "Combined Methodologies Applied to the Synthesis of Structurally Complex Organophosphorous Compounds."

Kristopher will apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs in August 2000.

### *Former Scholar publishes article in scholarly journal*

Ivory Wallace, a McNair graduate in 1998, published an article with his mentor, Jack Fincham, in the *Journal of Pharmacopidimology*. The article is entitled, "Ticlopidine Compliance Enhancement: A Community Pharmacy Based Study." Ivory is now a pharmacist in Olathe, Kansas.

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## *Jennifer Ivie looks forward to researching in Russia*



*Jennifer Ivie*

**By Vincent Edwards**  
McNair Student Assistant

Jennifer Ivie has applied for a National Security Education Program Graduate Fellowship grant to study during the summer at Gorno-Altai State University. If accepted, she has an opportunity to study in

Russia to examine current databases on water quality and children's learning. According to her mentor, Anne Calhoon, Russia will not present too much of a culture shock for Jennifer. "Jennifer is an excellent speaker, reader, and writer in Russian," said Calhoon.

Jennifer, an Oklahoma senior, has been a McNair scholar since the spring of 1999. The McNair Scholars Program has been helping prepare Jennifer for a future as a professor in quantitative psychology.

"The program has really helped me with graduate

school information and how to get in," said Jennifer.

Jennifer said that she was "completely ignorant" of the graduate school process. "The staff has been there to answer my questions," she said.

Jennifer said she has wanted to teach all of her life. She was first inspired to teach from the birth of her sister. As a child, Jennifer's mother nicknamed her a "surrogate mother" because of her willingness to try and teach her sister everything possible. "I used to teach her to tie her shoes and do her math," said Jennifer.

The senior McNair scholar



shows her love for teaching in many other avenues within the University of Kansas. Jennifer tutors for the Upward Bound program as well as the KU Athletics Department.

Jennifer explains that her spare time is scarce, but when the opportunity comes she plays on the University of Kansas racquetball team.

Jennifer has been accepted for graduate study at the University of Kansas and is awaiting an admissions decision from the University of Oklahoma.