



THE MCNAIR CHRONICLE

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McNair Scholars Program

This program is federally funded by the United States Department of Education in the Amount of \$258,469.

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McNair Awards Banquet Recognizes Graduates

By Robert Rodriguez
McNair Project Coordinator

On May 5, 2005 the McNair Scholars Program celebrated its Annual Awards Banquet at the Adams Alumni Center. The event was attended by McNair Scholars and their families, University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Dr. Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, Senior Vice-Provost, Dr. Fred Rodriguez, Interim Dean of the School of Education, and McNair Scholars Program Staff. While the Annual Banquet is traditionally a special event for the graduating Scholars, this banquet was particularly special as it was the first time a former Scholar who has earned the Ph.D. came to address the attendees. Dr. Ahmad Khalil, the second KU McNair Scholar to earn the doctorate gave inspiring advice to the current generation of McNair graduates.



The 2005 KU McNair Graduates.

The banquet also included a special recognition for McNair Academic Services Coordinator Tanya Kooi, who is leaving the University of Kansas after eight outstanding years of service to join her husband, Dr. Christopher Morphew, and her family in Athens, Georgia. The 2005 McNair graduates are: **Katherine Acosta; Karina Amante; April Bradshaw; Jamey Brannon; Mulubrhan Misgana; Melanie Privat; Jecarma Newton; Eliticia Vieyra; Travis Watkins; and Meklit Zetawos.**

Four Scholars received special awards for their accomplishments. Continued on Page 3

Tanya Kooi Bids Farewell To McNair

By Linda LaPierre
McNair Office Manager

Saying good-bye can be hard, but actually putting it into words is even harder. After eight years of loyal and dedicated service to the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Kansas, Tanya Kooi will bid farewell. Tanya's husband, Dr. Christopher Morphew, has accepted a position at the University of Georgia as an Associate Professor in the Institute of Higher Education. Tanya is both nervous and excited about the move to Athens, GA. She said she is looking forward to living in the south, and living in town for a change, as they currently live in the country. She expects it to be a fun adventure for their family. Upon getting settled in their new house in early June, Tanya plans to spend time at home with their children, Tony age 4, and Sammy age 2.

Tanya wants to express her gratitude to all of the McNair Scholars for eight great years and for making this job so rewarding and interesting. Tanya's last day in the office was May 20th, 2005. However former scholars and colleagues are more than welcome to contact her at tanyakooi@yahoo.com.



Tanya Kooi

McNair Mentor Accolades



David Braaten, Associate Professor of Geography, in collaboration with Prasad Gogineni, Professor of Electrical Engineering, was awarded a \$19 million grant by the National Science Foundation to establish a new Science and Technology Center on the KU Campus. The award is the largest the University has received to date.



Nyla Branscombe, Professor of Psychology, Presented "Collective Guilt and Prejudice Reduction" in Canberra, Australia at an international conference on November 7, 2004.



Jim LaPoint, Associate Professor of Health, Sport and Exercise Science has been named The National Federation of High Schools Official Association Kansas Boys Soccer Official of the Year for 2004.



Larry Martin, Senior Curator at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, participated on a team of scientists conducting DNA analysis of bison and co-authored "Rise and Fall of the Beringian Steppe Bison" which appeared in the Nov. 26 issue of *Science*.



James Orr, Professor and Chair of Biology, received the Ned N. Fleming Trust Award for distinguished teaching, scholarship, and service.



Congratulations Professor Lopez & Family

Congratulations to McNair Mentor Dr. Shane Lopez, Associate Professor of Psychology & Research in Education, and spouse Allison on the birth of their son. Parrish Joseph Lopez arrived on March 15 and weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz.



Scholar Achievements



Jamey Brannon, graduating McNair Scholar, will attend Fort Hays State University's Counseling Psychology graduate program.



Eboney Crawford received the Student Achievement Award from KU's Black Faculty and Staff Council and has been awarded the Midwestern Regional Scholarship from Zeta Phi Beta sorority.



Jacob DuChane received a Department of Design Scholarship and had two ceramics pieces accepted in the Department's juried exhibition. The works were on display this spring in the Art and Design Gallery (see picture below).



Madinah Hazim, former McNair Scholar, has been awarded the Educational Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship is provided by the Educational Opportunity Community.



Eliticia Vieyra, graduating McNair Scholar, will attend Columbia University's Master of Social Work Program.



Travis Watkins, graduating McNair Scholar, hosted the SUA Poetry Slam Finale on May 4th in the Kansas Union Hawks Nest. Watkins was also featured in a special SUA Poetry Event on May 7. Watkins has won several awards for his poetry and will participate in the Teach for America program beginning this fall.



Meklit Zetawos, graduating McNair Scholar, will attend Wichita State University's Physician's Assistant program.

Scholars Attend Maryland Research Conference

By Jacob DuChane
McNair Scholar

The chance to visit Washington D.C. for free is an opportunity that many people would have a hard time passing up. And for good reason, too! When I was selected to attend the Maryland conference and tour D.C., I thought I had landed a great vacation and an extended spring break. Much to my surprise the conference was not a vacation. Now that doesn't mean we didn't have fun. Instead the conference was more of a life-changing event, which reaffirmed my academic goals and inspired me to try harder. On the trip, we toured the Holocaust Museum, Vietnam Wall, F. D. R. Memorial, and several others. I was most impressed with the F. D. R. Memorial because it had such a strong sculptural significance. The site seeing was awesome, but for me, the best part of the trip was the conference.

At the conference there were many successful people who gave amazing speeches, the most impressive of which was when Ms. Gwendolyn Boyd spoke. Her speech had such enthusiasm and touched so many people that the audience erupted with a standing ovation when she concluded her speech. Her words were full of encouragement and praise. She inspired me and showed me what was possible when giving a speech. I will take that night with me for the rest of my life in the hopes of one day inspiring someone in the future just as she has inspired me.



Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver poses with KU McNair Scholars April Bradshaw, Mulubrhan Misgana, Project Coordinator Robert Rodriguez and Jacob DuChane.

Alicia Ito Ford to Complete Ph.D. Internship

By Alicia Ito Ford
McNair Program Assistant

Only 794 miles; that is the distance from Lawrence to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I will be moving at the end of the summer. To complete the requirements for the Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology I will spend one year as a Neuro/Gero/Health Psychology Intern at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, which includes the Veteran's Administration and University of Michigan hospitals. Although I am not looking forward to the cold weather, I know the thought of soon being called "Dr." will keep me warm!

Serving as the Program Assistant for McNair has been a wonderful experience. I have enjoyed getting to know the Scholars and look forward to hearing about their successes in graduate school and beyond. Luckily, I am not leaving yet—I will be working full-time during the Summer Research Internship—so Scholars, continue to stop by for help or just to chat. Best wishes to all.

<u>Upcoming SRI Dates</u>	
Mon., June 6	Checks disbursed Potluck Picnic, Centennial Park
Tue., June 7	GRE Diagnostic, 1-3:30, Kaplan office
Wed., June 8	Colloquium, 1-4, 201 JRP
Thur., June 9	GRE Prep, 1-3:30, 201 JRP
Fri., June 10	Mentor-Scholar Contracts due

McNair Banquet

Continued from page 1

The LaTina Sullivan Memorial Award for an unwavering commitment to helping others, good citizenship, and social responsibility in her actions and research went to Katherine Acosta. **The Eagle Award for Leadership** for a strong leadership presence at the University of Kansas was presented to Travis Watkins. **The Ronald E. McNair Challenger Award** was given to Jamey Brannon for her diligence and commitment to research and learning. Finally, **The McNair Spirit Award** was presented to Jecarma Newton for best demonstrating the "McNair spirit" in her scholarly presence at the University of Kansas.



Chancellor Robert Hemenway and former KU McNair Scholar, Dr. Ahmad Khalil.

The University of Kansas

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Scholar Spotlight: Ebony Crawford

By Alicia Ito Ford
McNair Program Assistant

Looking for a word of encouragement or a smile? Then you should seek out Ebony Crawford, who joined the McNair Scholars Program this spring. This busy psychology major always tries to maintain a positive attitude and carries a list of inspirational quotes to keep herself motivated. One of her favorites, by Maya Angelou, reads, "If I am not good to myself, how can I expect anyone else to be good to me?"

Outside of the classroom, Ebony spends much of her time dedicated to diversity issues. She is a member of the Diversity Peer Education Team (DPET), works at the Multicultural Resource Center, and was recently named Student Coordinator for the Colors of KU diversity retreat. To relax, she likes to draw and particularly enjoys sketching scenes from photographs.

Ebony is participating in this year's Summer Research Internship and will be working with Professor Chris Crandall to research ethnic and gender differences in body image. After graduating from KU, Ebony plans to attend graduate school for a Master's degree in Nursing, with a specialization in psychiatric care. She hopes to provide services in a hospital or clinic that serves low-income patients.



Ebony Crawford