



THE MCNAIR CHRONICLE

Lawrence, Kansas

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University of Kansas McNair Scholars Program Staff Directory

Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka
Director

Tanya Kooi
Project Coordinator

Robert Rodriguez
Academic Services Coordinator
McNair Chronicle Editor

Ruth Herpich
Office Manager

Rochelle Votaw
Graduate Assistant

Vincent Edwards
Student Assistant

This program is federally funded by the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$224,130.

KU McNair Scholars Recognized at Annual Banquet

By Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka
Director of Educational Opportunity Programs

As we are about to conclude the 1999-2000 academic year, it is of utmost importance that we take stock of what we have accomplished. Based on the analysis of the program's accomplishments, it is reasonably safe to say that the University of Kansas School of Education McNair Scholars Program had a successful year. Kudos to the staff, Tanya Kooi, Robert Rodriguez, Ruth Herpich, Rochelle Votaw, and Vincent Edwards. The staff provided high quality activities and programs to the scholars throughout the year.

It is indeed a joy to see the fruits of hard work, dedication, and commitment of the scholars. All scholars who were scheduled to graduate from the University of Kansas in December 1999



McNair Scholars Karen Boyd (left) and Simmie Berroya (right) with their math tutor Jennifer Wheeler (center).

and August 2000 have successfully done so. Through the effort of the McNair Scholars Program staff, all graduating scholars were presented with a light blue honor cord at the McNair Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet which they wore on their graduation gowns during commencement exercises. The purpose of the honor cord was to signify the scholars' status as McNair Scholars Program participants. Certainly, this was a fitting tribute to our scholars who

have worked hard to realize their dreams of earning a college degree. Attaining the baccalaureate degree is the first step on the journey to obtaining the doctoral degree. We believe that the scholars are well prepared for the second leg of their journey.

To the scholars we simply say, congratulations and best of luck in graduate school. Remember that once a TRIO student, always a TRIO student, or more specifically, once a McNair scholar, always a McNair scholar. We look forward with much anticipation to receiving an invitation to your doctoral hooding ceremony and graduation.



Holly and Eve Lane are sisters and McNair Scholars.

KU TRIO Programs to move into renovated hall



An artist's rendition of the renovated JRP Hall.

In the fall of 2000, the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Kansas will relocate to the newly renovated Joseph R. Pearson (JRP) Hall.

All KU TRIO Programs housed in the School of Education will relocate to JRP in the coming weeks. The program's new address is:

**University of Kansas
McNair Scholars Program
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
1122 West Campus Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66045**



Scholar Spotlight

Ahmad Khalil

Ahmad's interest in biology began at a young age. At thirteen, he was diagnosed with Favism. Though he recovered quickly, the experience sparked his interest in the biomedical sciences.

Recently Ahmad, a native of Syria, was accepted to the University of Florida School of Medicine where he will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences.

Ahmad entered the KU McNair Scholars Program in 1998. "With the tremendous help of the McNair staff I was able to complete a research proposal and began a research project with Dr. Doug Ruden. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the McNair Staff for their tremendous help which made it possible for me to achieve my academic goals," Ahmad said.



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.

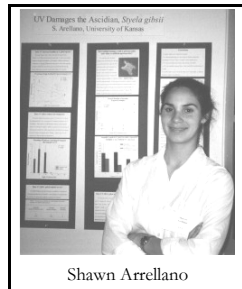
Are you a former KU McNair Scholar?

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*.

Two KU Scholars present research in Denmark

By Shawn Arrellano
McNair Scholar

From June 5 to 9, 2000, aquatic scientists from across the world gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark, to share ideas and experiences. The American Society of Oceanography and Limnology (ASOL) conference was held abroad for the first time and appropriately entitled, "Research Across Boundaries." Among these scientists were two University of Kansas McNair scholars, Aurora Marín and myself. We were two of about 60 undergraduates, graduates, professors, and researchers chosen to



Shawn Arrellano

participate in the ASLO Minorities Program. The Minorities Program, funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) grants written by Dr. Benjamin Cuker of Hampton University, is geared toward exposing minority students to a scientific conference as well as giving them the opportunity to present research and make contacts with other professionals.

Each student in the program was grouped with a mentor with similar interests. The groups attended, discussed, and evaluated seminars. Though there was a special Minority Program student presentation section of the conference, students were not required to present. However, Aurora and I gave both oral presentations and poster presentations. Aurora presented her work entitled "The Environment of a Permian Vertebrate Burrow Community in



Kansas" and I presented my research entitled "UV Damages the Solitary Ascidian, *Styela gibbsii*."

For me, the ASLO 2000 conference was among the most valuable experiences of my scientific career. The oral presentation helped me learn to explain my thoughts articulately and concisely, and the poster presentation gave me the opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with established scientists. Besides being a valuable experience, the ASLO 2000 conference was a great opportunity to see Denmark (and Sweden!), to make new friends, and to have a lot of fun.

McNair Staff Profile: Vincent Edwards

Vincent Edwards began working for the KU McNair Scholars Program in the fall of 1998. A Journalism student, Vincent comes from the "Air Capitol of the World," Wichita, Kansas. Vincent has been involved in many activities while attending the University of Kansas.

Vincent serves as the president for the Diversity Peer Education Team, and is the treasurer for both the Inspirational Gospel Voices and Amanzaa, a journalism organization mostly comprised of minorities. His plans for the future include going to law school and starting a law



Vincent Edwards is the KU McNair Student Assistant.

asked him what his favorite part about his job is, he would tell you it's the people. "The diversity of personalities among the staff and students brings excitement and fun to the work environment each day," said

Vincent. Vincent enjoys the fine arts, having played the trumpet since the 5th grade and singing in various groups, concerts, shows, and churches for the last 6 years. If you

Vincent. In addition to his work for the McNair Scholars Program, this summer he will also work for the KU Upward Bound/Math Science and Talent Search summer programs.

Former Scholar Update: Malik Abdul-Aziz

Malik Abdul-Aziz, a 1999 graduate of the KU McNair Scholars Program, recently completed his first year of graduate school at the University of Southern California.

Malik is a student in the Peter Stark Producing Program. This summer, Malik has received funding to produce a film written by another KU McNair Scholar at USC, Aaron Thomas. Malik also began an internship at Columbia Pictures in June.

Reflecting on his first year of graduate studies, Malik says, "Graduate school is a different experience from my undergrad years—I'm like an old wise-man among young students."

Trying is the first step toward success

By Donneta Pickens
McNair Scholar

My heart is pounding and my body is aching. The track looks bigger than usual today and doubts about my training begin to fill my head. I'm terrified that I may start my race too fast and not be able to finish; however, I'm also terrified not to try and live life wondering what could have been. As I get into my blocks I realize that I'm out of breath, and a sense of panic is coming over me because I have to run 400 meters. The gunshot is ringing in my ears and the race has begun. I can't see or hear anything. I'm only focused on my running and breathing. The questions of finishing are gone, and now I'm only determined to finish strong. Everything around me has stopped and my will to finish takes control.

Through my experience of running and competing, I have become a stronger person. I have repeatedly had to compete even when I have doubts about my body's physical ability due to injury or my overall training preparations. Sometimes I have been successful and sometimes I have not, but each time I have tried. After each competition, I walk away with more confidence and the realization that this is the type of feeling that I want whenever I attempt to reach any goal or overcome any obstacle. In academics and employment, there have been and will continue to be times when I may not feel prepared, but I have learned that the first step in preparation is trying. Only through trying does preparation, confidence and success arrive.



Tim Kochanski is conducting his second SRI.

McNair Scholars Prepare for the 2000 SRI

Seventeen University of Kansas students are participating in the 2000 Summer Research Internship: Gbaike Ajayi*; Andreana Albott; Shawn Arrellano; Simeona Berroya*; Shelly Bointy; Karen Boyd*; John Davidson; Carol Delgado; Belinda Hinojos; Twilah Kiel*; Tim Kochanski*; Eve Lane; Holly Lane*; Aurora Marin*; Donneta Pickens; Jesse Summers*; Jamie Thomas. Scholars marked with a "*" are conducting their second SRI.

Five KU McNair Scholars earn prestigious scholarships

Five KU McNair Scholars received prestigious scholarship awards to culminate the 1999-2000 academic year.

The KU Department of Sociology awarded **Karen Boyd**, Kansas City senior, the Harley S. Nelson Scholarship and the Marston P. McCluggage Scholarship.

Former Scholar **Michele Garrett** received the Grace M. Phinney Scholarship from the

School of Education.

Madinah Hazim, Topeka senior, received the Oscar and Ethel Stauffer Scholarship from the School of Journalism.

Holly Lane, St. Louis senior, was selected as the recipient of the Hollander Family Foundation Award for her outstanding work in Fine Arts.

Wichita junior, **Donneta Pickens**, a current KU McNair

Scholar, received the John A. and Nancy P. Rodgers Scholarship for deserving students in the School of Education.



Donneta Pickens is researching at the KU Medical Center this summer.



Dr. Cornel Pewewardy

Mentor Accolades

Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, a former McNair mentor and Assistant Professor of Teaching and Leadership at KU, was named the 1999 Wordcrafter of the Year by the Wordcraft Circle of Native American Writers and Storytellers. He was selected for this award based upon his lifelong commitments and contributions to ensuring that the voices of Native writers are heard throughout the world.

Dr. Lisa Stehno-Bittel, associate professor in the Physical Therapy Education Department received the "Investigator's Research Award" for the KU Medical Center. She is also in the second year of a 1.2 million dollar NIH grant. This summer she will serve as a mentor for Donneta Pickens.

Professor Tanya Hartman from the department of Fine Arts received a Gretchen Von Budig award for teaching excellence in the fall 99 semester. Last year, she received an award for teaching excellence at the graduate level by the KU Center for Teaching Excellence. This summer she will serve as a mentor for Holly Lane for the second time.

Last August, former mentor **Dr. JoAnn Browning** travelled to Turkey to study the moderate-to-highly damaged structures resulting from the massive earthquake that occurred in Anatolia on August 17, 1999. Dr. Browning served as a mentor to Michael Bell last summer.



University of Kansas
McNair Scholars Program
408 Bailey Hall
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Phone: 785-864-3412
Fax: 785-864-0399
Toll Free: 877-842-5232

Email: mcnair@raven.cc.ukans.edu



We're on the Web!

www.soe.ukans.edu/aep/mcnair/

Ruth Herpich leaves the McNair Scholars Program after five years of service



Ruth Herpich

Ruth Herpich, the KU McNair Scholars Program Office Manager for the past five years, will be leaving this summer to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design.

Ruth has been taking courses while working, but has decided to become a

full-time student again.

"I hope to complete the degree in three years," Ruth said. Being a student and taking care of her twelve year-old daughter Stephanie will keep her busy.

"I will be almost busy enough that I won't miss McNair too much, although the change in lifestyle from working to studying will be a challenge," Ruth said.

The entire TRIO staff at KU would like to thank Ruth for her many years of service and wishes her the best of luck as she returns to the classroom.

Fourth Annual McNair Heartland Research Conference to be held in Kansas City

The Fourth Annual Ronald E. McNair Heartland Research Conference will be held at the Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel on September 22-24.

The conference is co-sponsored by the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Kansas and the McNair Central Achievers Program at Central Missouri State University. Carl McNair, brother of the late Ronald E. McNair,

will be one of the featured speakers.

Scholars from the Midwest and other regions of the United States will present the research projects they conducted through their respective programs.

For more information about participating in the conference and/or to register, please call Dr. Maggie Stone at (660) 543-4061 or send an email to: mstone@cmsu1.cmsu.edu.



Carl McNair