



Summer 2008

*"Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one."*

Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

# McNair Scholars Program University of Missouri

## Where Are They Now?

### 1989-1990

**LaTia King** is the director of Resource Development with the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation.

**Cynthia Shaw** works as a research assistant in a psychology lab at the University of Iowa.

Living in South Africa, Rev. **LaDonna Sanders** has founded her own non-profit: the South Africa Ubuntu Project.

Dr. **Robert Villa** is currently an Associate Professor of Science, in charge of the Biology Program at Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL.

**Mark Wilkins** is a private wealth advisor and was the 2007 commencement speaker for the College of Arts & Sciences at MU.

### 1990-1991

Assistant Professor Dr. **Michael Barnett** continues to work in the Department of Management and Organization at the University of South Florida.

**Wendy Brownell** is working on a Master's in Secondary Education-Spanish at Missouri State University.

Dr. **Michael Guzy** now serves as an instructor at College of Lake County in Illinois.

**Roslyn Golden Patterson** is a vice president with Uniworld Healthcare.

### 1991-1992

**Kellie (Garrett) Cornley** obtained her MS in Education at Webster University.

Also pursuing her MS in education is **Sharra Powell**, at Benedictine University.

### 1992-1993

Dr. **Dana Duren** is currently an Assistant Professor at the Lifespan Health Research Center at Wright State University and was recently awarded an NIH research grant.

**Bonnie Osborn** is the founder of "WriteAway" a public relations company.

After completing her MBA in 2006, Dr. **Robin Roberts** has now completed a doctorate in physical therapy from Temple University.

**Michelle Walker** has completed her second year of a PhD program in Sociology at CU-Boulder.

### 1993-1994

**Botswana Toney Blackburn** successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded a PhD from UMKC in December 2007.

Rockhurst University MBA recipient **Donna Calvin** is a compliance consultant with Wells Fargo Bank.

Dr. **Martha Crowley** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University.

In addition to being a full-time missionary, **Antonnette Gibbs** is as an Assistant Professor at Broward Community College in Florida.

**Dr. Jack (Eddie) Mallot** is an Assistant Professor of Anglophone Literature at Rhodes College.

Dr. **Wesley Mills** continues to work as a Sports Medicine Physician in private practice in Jacksonville, FL.

**Paula Hicks Schaefer** is in a tenure track Assistant Professor of Business Law at the University of Central Missouri.

### 1994-1995

**Stephen Johnson** has obtained his Master's of Divinity at Claremont School of Theology.

**David "Chip" Kemp** has obtained a second Master's degree, this time from MU.

### 1995-1996

In Canada, **Susan Eckerle Curwood** is an advocate on poverty reduction efforts and pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

After receiving his MA in Theatre in 2007, **Jonathan Herbert** serves an instructor at Ozark Technical College.

Dr. **Jack Kottwitz** is a resident in Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery at the Animal Medical Center in New York.

**Howard Norat** works as a Diet Counselor for a national weight management firm in Florida.

**Amy Rejba** works for the Pelvic and Sexual Health Institute in Pennsylvania.

Dr. **Elizabeth Yopez** is completing an Ob/Gyn residency at the University of Chicago.

### 1996-1997

Dr. **Richard Boles** has completed his doctorate in Child Psychology at KU.

**Amy Dill** is expecting to complete her PhD in Classics/ Archaeology from the University of Texas.

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Dr. **Mary Starke** recently completed her doctorate in Psychology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

**Melinda Theilbar** has obtained her second Master's, this time in Statistics from North Carolina State University.

Dr. **Tracy Fehrenbach** is a psychologist at Kids Hope United in Chicago.

**Rick Hendrix** continues his doctoral work in the selection of sand control for petroleum wells at the University of Missouri-Science & Technology.

Dr. **Christine (Conklin) Souza** is a Visiting Instructor of General Music at the University of Oklahoma.

While working as a manager in Respiratory Care Services at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, **Tiyonda Valentine-Cook** is pursuing a Master's in Allied Health Management at Washington University.

#### 1997-1998

**Amanda (Nichols) Carey** is a Supervisor of Advanced Spanish at Washington University in St. Louis and has founded her own translation company.

**Jessica Goin** continues to pursue her doctorate in Geology at Portland State University.

In May 2008, **Tammy Dunn** received her MA in early childhood education from Hunter College.

**Cynthia Langguth** is a Park Guide for the National Park Services/U.S. Department of Interior.

Dr. **Charlotte McCloskey** received her PhD in Counseling Psychology here at MU.

Dr. **Jason Steward** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Argosy University in Tampa, Florida.

**Brad Waller** is pursuing a Master's in Education from Lindenwood University.

#### 1998-1999

This June, **Benetta Fairley** defends her dissertation in Counseling & Educational Psychology at the University of Indiana.

**Lee Francis** is pursuing a Master's in Education while teaching and serving as the Youth Development Coordinator for the Laguna Department of Education in New Mexico.

Dr. **Jason Hans** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky, Department of Family Studies.

**Kara (Collier) Keedy** continues to pursue her PhD in Immunology at the University of North Carolina.

Now in her second year, **Odessa Roberts** expects to receive her JD from NYU next fall.

Dr. **Lisa Molix** earned her doctorate in Psychology from MU in 2007.

**Ebony Reed** is the Assistant City Editor of *The Detroit News*.

**Sonya Salazar** is a teacher in the Religion Department at Bishop Miege High School in Kansas City.

**Shani Settles** continues to pursue her PhD in Women's Studies at Emory University while serving as a Risk Coordinator at Gwinnett Technical College.

#### 1999-2000

Dr. **Khadar Abdi** is a post-doctoral researcher at Duke University in Cell Biology.

**Ryan Brunner** is closing in on his PhD in Social Psychology at the Ohio State University.

Dr. **Marcia Chatelain** completed her doctorate in History & American Studies from Brown University and is now in tenure track faculty position at the University of Oklahoma.

**Jacqueline Fairley** is expecting to complete her doctorate in Electrical Engineering soon from Georgia Tech.

After completing her PhD of Family Science in 2007, **Dr. Melissa Herzog** is the Project Director of a federal grant in New Mexico.

**Catherine Friends** has completed her bachelor's degree in nursing to go along with her degree in psychology.

**Emily (Broeckling) Lai** continues to pursue her doctorate in education and serves as an Evaluation Specialist in the Center for Evaluation and Assessment at the University of Iowa.

After completing her PhD in 2005, Dr. **Michelle Stettner** is now a post-doc at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

#### 2000-2001

**Kristopher Brown** is an Investigator Specialist for the Inspector General's Office for the City of Chicago.

Dr. **Anthony Iyoho** finished his PhD in Mechanical Engineering in August 2007 at MU.

**Joseph (Haney) Kay** continues to pursue a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at Washington University.

This summer, **Sarah (Hans) Lancaster** will complete her doctoral degree in Agronomy/Pesticide Fate at Texas A&M University.

Soros Justice Fellow **Johanna McCants** serves with the Institute of Community Peace and is expecting her PhD this year.

**Stephanie (Schultz) Piotter** is currently pursuing a MSN from Barnes-Jewish College of Nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner.

**Darla Tharp** is at MU pursuing a doctorate in Biomedical Sciences.

**Brian Sandoval** is working on his PsyD after completing his Master's at Forest Institute of Professional Psychology.

Now a project manager in North Carolina, **Johnissia Stevenson** completed her Masters in Management Information Systems in 2006 from the University of Arizona.

#### 2001-2002

Next May, **Jarret Dickerson** expects to earn his J.D. from New York University.

With one year remaining, **Taisha Jones** is nearly finished with her PhD in clinical psychology from Saint Louis University.

At Case Western Reserve University, **Robert Mahon** continues his journey towards a PhD in Pathology.

In Washington, D.C., **Desiree Mitchell** serves as the Youth Leadership Program Coordinator for the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services.

San Francisco resident **Matthew Moreno** has received his Master's in Counseling Psychology from MU.

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**Kimberly Moore** is a child and family therapist at a residential treatment center in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Thierra Nalley** is close to securing her doctorate in Paleoanthropology at Arizona State University.

**Alias Smith** continues to pursue his doctoral program in Microbiology/Parasitology at UCLA.

Dr. **Sean Stoneking** completed his M.D. from St. Louis University.

American History major, Dr. **Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote**, has obtained her doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

**Havis Wright** is working for The Hartford in New York City.

### 2002-2003

**Clarissa Boyd** has completed her MA from MU in Information Science.

Biomedical Engineering major, **Antonia (Sisneros) Erickson** expects to complete her PhD soon.

School-age speech-language pathologist, **Leslie Fortner** works for the Special School District of St. Louis County and with outpatient clients.

**Amy Glasgow** completed her Master's in Industrial Organization Psychology at George Washington University.

**Paul Ladipo** is at The Ohio State University pursuing a PhD in Molecular Biology.

**Jarrett Medlin** is the editor of *Wichita* magazine in Wichita, KS.

At Polytechnic University in New York **Brandon Tilghman** is continuing his pursuit of a PhD in Biomedical Engineering.

In addition to a full time teaching appointment in the Anthropology Department, **Adam Wiewel** obtained his Master's in the same area at the University of Wyoming in December 2007.

**Amber Walker** has received her Master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from Northern Illinois University.

### 2003-2004

At American University in Cairo, **Kimberly Adams** received her Masters's in Political Science this May.

Last summer, **Crystal Buckner** completed her Master's in Ruminant Nutrition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is now pursuing a PhD in the same field.

**Venita Cooper** is in law school at the University of Chicago.

HDFS student **Dana Givens** is pursuing her MA at the University of Memphis.

At Indiana University, **Tiffany Julian** continues to pursue her PhD in Sociology.

After receiving her MA in Anthropology from the University of Virginia, **Angela Pashia**, is back at MU pursuing her PhD in the same field.

**Nikki Strong** received her MS in Education from Mercy College, and an MA from Fordham University.

### 2004-2005

**W. Ryan Beumer** recently returned to Columbia, MO to open his own business, Creative Touch Landscaping.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis **Tiffany Butler** received her Master's in Counseling Psychology this May.

**Christopher (Walters) Chable'** has completed his second year of an English PhD program at the University of Wisconsin.

**Melanie Evans** continues to work on her doctorate in Genetic Counseling at Johns Hopkins University.

Finance Major, **Jamaal Glenn** is working for JP Morgan before pursuing his MBA.

KMIZ Weather Anchor **Neville Miller** has obtained a Master's in Atmospheric Science from MU.

**Mark McClendon** has received his MS in Civil Engineering from MU and is working at Graef, Anhalt, & Schloemer and Assoc. Inc. in Chicago as a structural engineer.

This past spring, **Karen Mitchell** joined the MU School of Journalism's Convergence Faculty as an Assistant Professor.

**Charles Smarr** is in a doctoral program in Immunology at Northwestern.

**Michael Talley** has obtained his Master's in Public Health Administration from St. Louis University and will begin

a post-graduate fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

After completing his internship with the U.S. State Department, **Scott Winston** will return for his second year of a Master's program in International Public Policy at Georgetown University.

After completing her MSW from the University of Washington in June, **Carmen Washington** is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health at the same institution.

### 2005-2006

**Genny Asher** has completed her Master's of Social Work at MU.

This fall, **Amber McCadney** will begin a graduate program in Counseling Psychology at Oklahoma State University.

This May, **Daniel Hanneken** obtained his MSW at MU and will be pursuing his PhD this upcoming fall.

**Sharla (Marshall) Taylor** has obtained her MS in Personal Financial Planning at Texas Tech University.

At Columbia University, **Victoria Okoye** is pursuing her Master's degree in International Affairs.

**Evelyn Okunbor** continues her pursuit towards a Master's in Counseling Psychology at the University of Memphis.

**Dustin Langewisch** has successfully completed his first year of a PhD program in Nuclear Engineering at MIT.

**Josh Livingston** obtained his MSW from Boston University and works for Freedom House, a non-profit organization on education policy reform

This May, **Melanie SanMiguel** received her Master's of Health Science from the University of Missouri.

Also receiving her Master's of Health Science this May is **Dawn Shoemaker**, from the University of North Carolina.

**Andrea Shaw** obtained her MSW from University of Illinois-Chicago in 2007 and is now a social worker for a hospice agency.

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## A Continued Congratulations to all our Doctorial Level Degree holders

**Samir Armaly**  
**Tammy (Workman) Brazeal**  
**Edward Blakey**  
**Dodie Tagg Bowers**  
**Anthony Campiti**  
**Kimberly Rogers Crouch**  
**Kimberly Davis**  
**Kevin Ferguson**  
**Will Fortson**  
**Joe Hensley**  
**Chery Hendrickson Caster**  
**Paula (Hicks) Schaefer**  
**Mary Hough**  
**Tara Jensen**  
**Alexander Julian**  
**Ron Koder**  
**Robert Errol Kolen**  
**Irene Loe**  
**Nicole (Armaly) Lowe**  
**Donald Maxwell**  
**Rebecca Navarro McKelvy**  
**Wesley Mills**  
**Jason Mitchell**  
**Donna Nguyen**  
**Mehl Penrose**  
**Aalece Pugh-Lilly**

**Kristen Scott**  
**Robert Smith**  
**Paul Thompson**  
**Rustico Ramos**  
**Robert Villa**  
**Barbara Wotherspoon**  
**Laine Young-Walker**  
**Kimberly Yates**  
**Steven Schroeder**  
**Jerry Bruggeman**  
**Barrington Edwards**  
**Dana Duren**  
**Luis Tumialan**  
**Jason Durbin**  
**Starla (Green) Ivey**  
**Jeanette Dunkin**  
**John Kottowitz**  
**Donald Schindler**  
**Jennifer McClain**  
**Michelle Azu**  
**Frank Baker**  
**Susan (Dixon) Renoe**  
**Gaynell Simpson**  
**Jason Hans**  
**Anthony Johnson**  
**Alan Deffenderfer**

**Ron Irving**  
**Leyland Young**  
**Tracy Fehrenbach**  
**Doug Steinley**  
**Christine (Conklin) Souza**  
**Michael Guzy**  
**Eddie Mallot**  
**Michelle (Klobe) Strettner**  
**Richard Boles**  
**Martha Crowley**  
**Anthony Iyoho**  
**Jennifer (Soto) Meyer**  
**Lisa Molix**  
**Antwaun Smith**  
**Robin Roberts**  
**Elizabeth Yezepz**  
**Sarita Townsend**  
**Botswana Toney Blackburn**  
**Khadar Abdi**  
**Ryan Brunner**  
**Marcia Chatelain**  
**Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote**  
**Sean Stoneking**  
**Charlotte McCloskey**

### 2006-2007

**Ashley Acevedo** has completed her first year at the University of California-San Francisco's doctorate program in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology.

**Bridget Adams** is employed with Delotte & Touche in St. Louis, MO.

This fall, **Amber Bell** will pursue her Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Arkansas.

**Michelle Carpentier** is a research assistant at the University of Chicago.

**Sam Grinter** is continuing his studies at MU in a Master's program in physics.

After receiving his Bachelors degree in December 2007, **Stanley Ikpe** is now pursuing his PhD in Electrical Engineering at MU.

In the fall, **Lauren Lewis** will begin her MD program at George Washington University.

**Sara Mijares** successfully completed her first year of a PhD program in Community and Clinical Psychology at the University of South Carolina.

**Njabulo Ngwenyama** has completed his research fellowship at the National Institute of Health.

At the University of Missouri, **Enjoli Sims** has been admitted to the Teaching Fellows program to pursue her Master's in Education.

**Mary Stillwell** continues to pursue a Master's degree in Accountancy.

The University of Illinois awarded **Katherine Speichinger** a full fellowship to pursue her PhD in Molecular/Cellular Biology.

### 2007-2008

**David Aguayo** will continue his research with the MU Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (MUURS) during the summer of 2008.

This summer **Tracey Latimore** will be studying abroad in Spain.

**Miriam Galenas** is spending the summer of 2008 at NASA's Johnson Space Center as part of the Lunar Planetary Institute's Summer Internship Program.

**Kamara Jones** received a full fellowship to study African American and African Studies at The Ohio State University.

Gates Millennium Scholar **Renee Mayes** will be attending the University of Maryland-College Park to pursue a Master's degree in School Counseling.

**Diana Ortiz** will undertake a field project in animal behavior and conservation in the Catalina Islands.

This fall, **Tamela Smith** will pursue a PhD in Biological Anthropology at Arizona State University, which awarded her the Graduate College Doctoral Enrichment Scholarship.

**Brittany Smotherson's** summer plans include participating in the EMERGE summer research program here at MU.

**Jennifer Stetler** will be continuing her research endeavors with Vanderbilt's Summer Academy.