



Summer 2009

"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.

Jason Lovera has completed his first year of a doctoral program in English from St. Louis University.

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.

1990-1991

Dr. **Michael Barnett** is now a tenured Professor of Strategy at the Said Business School at the University of Oxford.

Wendy Brownell received her Master's in Secondary Education-Spanish at Missouri State University last summer.

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

1991-1992

Dr. **Ronald Koder** is an Assistant Professor in Biophysics at City College of New York.

Sharra Powell, received her MA in Education at Benedictine University last May.

1992-1993

Dr. **Dana Duren** is currently an Assistant Professor at the Lifespan Health Research Center at Wright State University.

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

Dr. **Robin Roberts** directs a rehabilitation hospital in the Philadelphia area.

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

1993-1994

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

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

Dr. **Martha Crowley** is an Assistant Professor in the De-

partment of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University.

Antonnette Gibbs is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Broward Community College in Florida.

Dr. **Jack (Eddie) Mallot** started a tenure track position in Anglophone Literature at Arizona State University.

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

Paula Hicks Schaefer is now an associate professor of law at the University of Tennessee.

1994-1995

Loretta Colvin is a nurse practitioner at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mary Clark is now pursuing her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport.

Stephen Johnson is a pastor at Colfax United Methodist Church in Washington.

David "Chip" Kemp is a crop insurance agent for the Southeast Missouri area.

Nancy Luaces is pursuing her MA in American History and Politics from Ohio Dominican University.

Shelli (Newhart) Walker is in her 3rd year of a PhD program in sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

1995-1996

Dana Gibson Carter, is a licensed clinical social worker for Rainbow House here in Columbia.

In Canada, **Susan Eckerle Curwood** is an advocate on poverty reduction efforts and in her third year of her doctoral program in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Jonathan Herbert serves as an instructor at Ozark Technical College and runs the Springfield Theatre of the Oppressed.

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** is now an Asst. Professor of medicine at the University of Colorado.

Amy Dill is expecting to complete her PhD in Classics/Archaeology from the University of Texas and is the editor in chief of *Studies in Mycenaean Inscriptions and Dialect*.

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

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.

Tiyonda Valentine-Cook obtained a Master's in Allied Health Management at Washington University in December.

1997-1998

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

In May 2008, **Tammy Dunn** received her M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Hunter College.

Dr. **Charlotte McCloskey** is a post-doc fellow at the Kansas City Veteran's Association and an adjunct prof. at KU.

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

Last July, Dr. **Benetta Fairley** received her PhD in Counseling & Educational Psychology at the University of Indiana.

Lee Francis received his Master's in Education in May 2008 from the University of 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.

This May, **Odessa Roberts** received her JD from NYU.

Dr. **Lisa Molix** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tulane University.

Ebony Reed was named a New York Times/National Association of Black Journalists 2009 Leadership Fellow and 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.

Last May, **Shani Settles** obtained her MA in Women's Studies from Emory University and is continuing for a PhD at the same institution.

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** is in a tenure track faculty position at the University of Oklahoma in the History Department.

Dr. **Jacqueline Fairley** received her doctorate in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech this May.

Dr. **Melissa Herzog** is now a faculty member with Mizzou's HDFS program after working in MU's autism center.

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

Emily (Broeckling) Lai is expecting her doctorate in education at the University of Iowa.

2000-2001

Kristopher Brown is an Investigator Specialist for the Inspector General's Office for the City of Chicago and a new father.

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

Soros Justice Fellow **Johanna McCants** continues to pursue her PhD from the University of Maryland.

Justin Phillips obtained his Master's from University of Akron and now

works for Apple, Inc.

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

Dr. **Darla Tharp** recently received her PhD in Biomedical Sciences here at MU.

Brian Sandoval is finishing his dissertation for his PsyD at Forest Institute of Professional Psychology.

2001-2002

Jarret Dickerson received his J.D. from New York University this past May.

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy is a Humanities Librarian at Miami University in Ohio.

Taisha Jones is finishing 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.

Thierra Nalley continues to pursue her doctorate in Paleoanthropology at Arizona State University.

Alias Smith is expecting his PhD in Microbiology/Parasitology at UCLA this summer.

Dr. **Sean Stoneking** is a resident in Anesthesiology at St. Louis University.

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

2002-2003

Kandace Callwell is expecting her MA in counseling this summer.

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

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

Amy Glasgow is now pursuing her doctoral degree in Industrial Organization at the University of North Carolina.

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

Jarrett Medlin is the editor of *St. Louis Magazine* in St. Louis, MO.

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

Adam Wiewel is pursuing his PhD in Anthropology at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Amber Walker is an environmental educator in Illinois.

2003-2004

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

Crystal Buckner is in a PhD. program in Ruminant Nutrition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dana Givens received her MA degree in HDFS in May 2008.

Tiffany Julian has taken a sabbatical from graduate school at Indiana University and is working for the US Census Bureau.

Brian Johnson has entered an MBA program at Ohio State University.

Angela Pashia, is here at MU pursuing her PhD in Anthropology

After receiving her MS in Education from Mercy College, and an MA from Fordham University, **Nikki Strong** now teaches high school in New Haven, CT.

2004-2005

W. Ryan Beumer is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Marshall, MO.

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

After obtaining his MA from the University of Wisconsin, **Christopher (Walters) Chablé** is studying the Mayan culture through the University of North Carolina's study abroad program.

Melanie (Evans) Baxter is a genetic counselor at Barnes-Jewish hospital in St. Louis.

Jenny Flatt received her Master's degree in English in December 2007.

Jamaal Glenn is assisting start-ups in New York City before pursuing his MBA.

Neville Miller is now a weather anchor for an ABC affiliate in Charleston, SC.

Mark McClendon is a structural engineer with Graef, Anhalt, & Schloemer and Assoc. Inc. in Chicago

Karen Mitchell is a Convergence Journalism Assistant Professor with the University of Missouri.

Charles Smarr continues his doctoral program in Immunology at Northwestern.

Michael Talley is a post-graduate fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Scott Winton obtained his Master's in International Public Policy at Georgetown University this past May and is interning with the U.S. embassy in Madrid.

Carmen Washington is currently pursuing her second Master's degree at the University of Washington and is a Injury Prevention Graduate Intern at Public Health Seattle King County.

2005-2006

Maegan (Reagan) Cooper is pursuing her MA in Education at Missouri State University and teaching high school Latin.

Amber McCadney is entering her second year of a graduate program in Counseling Psychology at Oklahoma State University.

Daniel Hanneken obtained his MSW and has now created a company based off of his thesis.

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

At Columbia University, **Victoria Okoye** continues to pursue her Master's degree in International Affairs and Urban Planning

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

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

Josh Livingston obtained his MSW from Boston University and is a site coordinator with the Abyssinian Development Corporation in New York City.

After obtaining her MHS degree, **Melanie SanMiguel** is a Speech Language Pathologist at *Belle Center* in St. Louis.

Dawn Shoemaker is a Speech Language Pathology Fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, after earning her MHS degree.

Andrea Shaw is a social worker for a hospice agency in Osage Beach, MO.

2006-2007

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

Amber Bell is completing her Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Arkansas next May.

This fall, **Michelle Carpentier** is entering law school at Northwestern University.

Sam Grinter is continuing his studies at MU in an Informatics PhD program.

Stanley Ikpe is now in his second year of his PhD program in Electrical Engineering at MU.

Lauren Lewis is entering her second year of a MD program at George Washington University.

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

At the University of Missouri, **Enjoli Sims** is in her second year of the Teaching Fellows program pursuing her Master's in Education.

Mary Stillwell received her CPA in December and now works for the Veteran's Hospital in Columbia.

Katherine Speichinger is in her second year of a PhD in Molecular/Cellular Biology at the University of Illinois.

2007-2008

This fall, **David Aguayo** is entering the Counseling Psychology graduate program here at MU.

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 Yopez
Sarita Townsend
Botswana Toney Blackburn
Khadar Abdi
Ryan Brunner
Marcia Chatelain
Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote
Sean Stoneking
Charlotte McCloskey
Raul Camacho
Mary Starke
Jacqueline Fairley
Odessa Roberts
Jarrett Dickerson

Atim Enyenihi is entering her second year of her PhD program in Chemistry at the University of North Carolina.

Valeska Araujo will be in a graduate economics program at Duke University after finishing her internship with the FDIC.

Michelle Clark has been awarded the Ellis-Jones Scholarship and full departmental funding to Rush St. Luke Medical School in Chicago.

With full funding and a Ridgel fellowship **Tracey Latimore** is pursuing her doctorate in School Psychology here at MU.

Miriam Galenas will pursue her doctorate in Geological Sciences at the University of Maryland-College Park with a full time graduate assistantship.

Kamara Jones is at The Ohio State University studying African American and African Studies.

Amelie Olga Mafotsing Fopoussi has been awarded partial funding at the University of Michigan for a Master's in Public Health with the concentration on Epidemiology and a certification in International Health.

Gates Millennium Scholar **Renee Mayes** is finishing her Master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Diana Ortiz is working with a non-profit environmental organization and applying for graduate school.

Tamela Smith is in her second year of a doctoral program in Biological Anthropology at Arizona State University and was awarded a \$30,000 NSF fellowship.

Brittany Smotherson is in a master's program in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) here at Missouri.

2008-2009

Sarah Brandt will be teaching 3rd grade in Portland, Oregon while attending a one year Master's program in Elementary Education at Oregon State University.

Phuong "Rylee" Do will pursue her Master's in Biology here at MU with a fully funded assistantship.

Carolina Ebeid will begin her work as a Fellow at the James A. Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas in Austin.

Paul Ferguson will pursue a dual Master's degree in Architecture and Construction Management at Illinois Institute of Technology.

Miriam Galenas will pursue her doctorate in Geological Sciences at the University of Maryland-College Park with a full time graduate assistantship.

Danielle Graef has been admitted with full funding to the University of Florida's Clinical Psychology Program with a concentration in pediatric psychology.

Lindsey Lanfersieck is attending Indiana University with a McNutt Fellowship to pursue her MA/PhD in English.

ToLoan Ly will pursue her Master's in Biology here at MU with a fully funded assistantship.

For more on the 2008-2009 Scholars see our [April 2009 Challenger Newsletter](#)
