


The Challenger

Special Alumni Edition

The Newsletter of the MU McNair Scholars Program

Summer 2013

MU McNair Grant Renewed!

On October 1, 2012, the MU McNair Scholars Program grant was renewed by the U. S. Department of Education allowing us to serve 28 students per year until September 2017.

The past few budget battles have placed TRiO programs, which McNair is a part of, on the chopping block. During the “Fiscal Cliff” negotiations in March 2011, TRiO programs were looking at an 8% reduction in funding. This crisis was averted but another one, “Sequestration”, was right around the corner. During Sequestration, which went into effect March 2013, TRiO Programs were cut by 5.2%.

In all, Congress has one budget line item for all eight of the federal TRiO programs. The Department of Education is able to allocate where exactly that funding is spent amongst the programs. During this renewal the department opted to remove \$10 million dollars from the McNair Scholars Programs and use it to offset cuts to other TRiO programs. This resulted in only 158 McNair Programs being funded, down from 200 funded programs during the last grant period. Now almost 1,000 fewer students are being served by McNair nationwide.

So what can previous McNair Scholars do?

- Tell your congressman about the importance of funding TRiO programs.
- Talk to your congressmen about the effectiveness of McNair and TRiO programs.
- Let people know you are a McNair Scholar by placing it on your curriculum vitae.
- Participate in our annual follow-up surveys.
- Consider joining the National Trio Alumni Association: <http://www.trioalumni.us>.
- Get your doctoral degree.



Above: McNair Director Dr. NaTashua Davis congratulates scholar Jeremy Clincy at the conclusion of the 24th Annual McNair Scholars Conference and Luncheon.

Below: McNair Scholars pose in the Infinity Room in the House on the Rocks during the WAEOPP McNair retreat in Wisconsin last October.



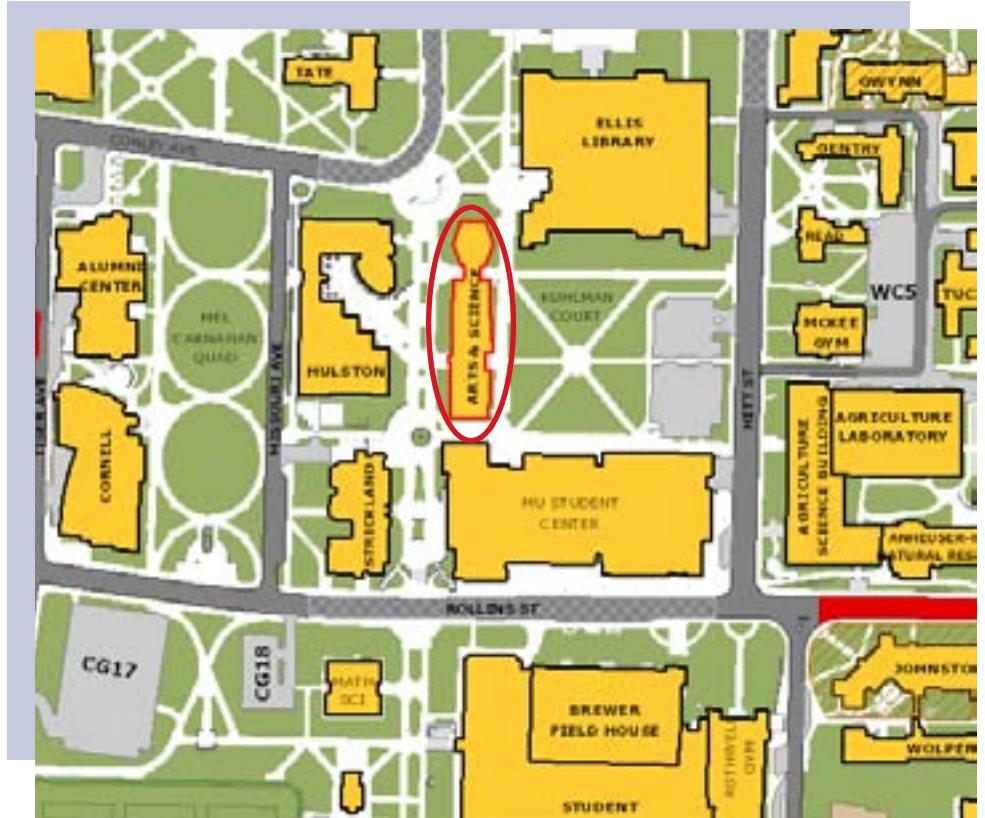


Close to the Heart of Mizzou

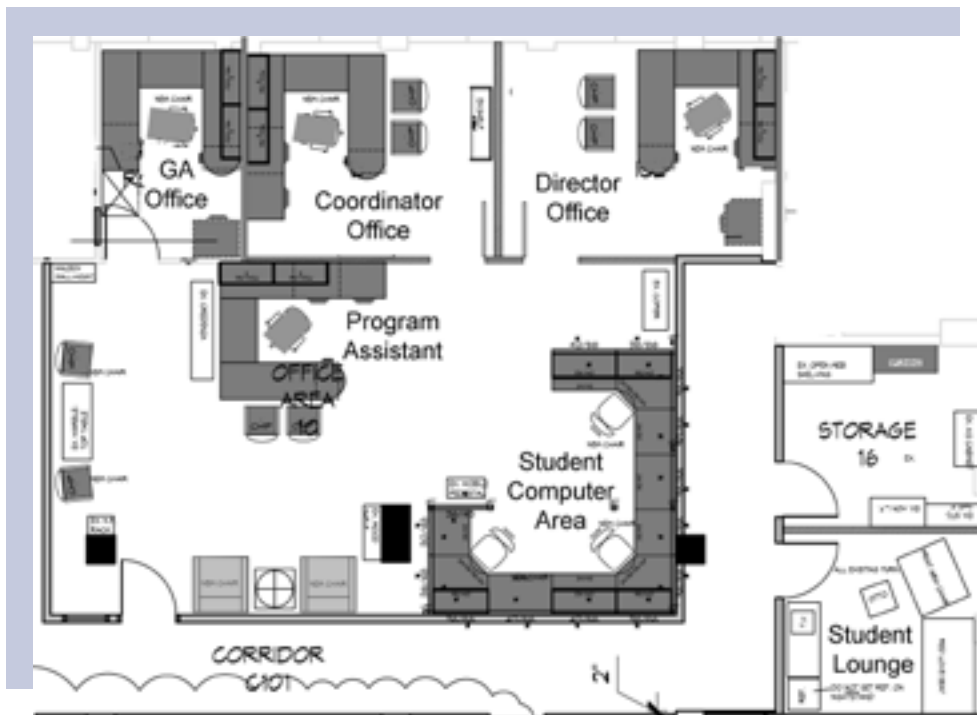
On June 10, 2013 after more than 10 years in Clark Hall, the McNair Scholars Program office has moved to **10 Arts & Science Building**.

Located in half of the former computer lab, our newly remodeled office suite gives us ample room to serve students. Students are able to use our scholar resource area as well as a lounge where scholars can study, watch makeup workshops or just relax.

While we no longer have a large conference room for our workshops, we're right next door to the MU Student Center (formerly Brady Commons) and will host many events in this recently constructed building.



Arts & Science Building is just north of the MU Student Center. We're located in the south end of the building.



Our new office layout provides more open space for greater interaction.

McNair Office Timeline

- 1989: Housed with Learning Center in Arts & Sciences Building as one of the founding 14 McNair Scholars Programs
- 1994: Joined Graduate School. Offices moved to 210 Jesse Hall
- 1996: Moved to 431 Lewis Hall
- 1998: Moved to 536 Clark Hall
- June 2013: Moved to 10 Arts & Sciences Building



Where Are They Now?

For more on updates on past MU McNair Scholars, including over 115 doctoral degree holders, please visit:
<http://mcnair.missouri.edu/wherearethey.php>

1989 - 1990

Heidi (Davis) Waldo received her Master's in Health Administration from Missouri State in Dec. 2011.

Associate Professor of Biology, **Dr. Robert Villa**, directs the Honors Program at Lynn University.

1990 - 1991

Dr. Michael Barnett is a Professor in the Management and Global Business Department and Vice Dean for Academic Programs at Rutgers Business School.

Dr. Candace Korasick is an Adjunct Professor for the University of Missouri and Stephens College.

1992 1993

Chanel Watkins is starting a PhD program in Rural Sociology at MU this fall.

1993- 1994

Ralph Groom recieved his Master's in Social Work from St. Louis University last August.

1994-1995

Dr. Mary Clark is the Director of Ademic Advising at Houstonic Community College.

Michelle (Newhart) Walker continues to pursue her PhD in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

1994-1995

Dr. Susan (Dixon) Renoe is the Director of the Broader Impacts Network here at MU and instructs MU McNair Scholars in the Preparing to be a T.A. class.

After recieving her PhD in Pyshcol-
ogy last summer, **Dr. Susan Eckerle
Curwood** is now the Manager at the
Centre for Addiction and Mental
Health in Waterloo, Ontario.

1996-1997

Amy Dill looks to complete her PhD
in Classics/Archaelogy at Florida
State soon.

Dr. Rick Hendrix received his PhD
in Petroleum Engineering this past
May from the University of Missouri
Science & Technology.

1998-1999

Terry McClure earned his MA in
Risk, Health and Public Policy from
Durham University and now works
for the City of Boston as an Emer-
gency Management Analyst.

Also in Boston, **Ebony Reed** is an
Assistant Bureau Chief for the As-
sociated Press.

Shani Settles expects her PhD in
Women's Studies from Emory Uni-
versity soon.

1999-2000

Dr. Khadar Abdi is a Post-doctoral
Researcher at Duke University in
Cell Biology.

Timika Edwards expects her PhD
in Counseling Psychology from the
University of Georgia soon.

Dr. Joseph Kay is a mechanical
engineer for ThinGap in Ventura,
California.

2001-2002

Thierra Nalley continues to pursue

her PhD in Paleoanthroplogy at
Arizona State University.

Paul Ladipo is the Academic Ser-
vices Coordinator with the McNair
Program at the University of Kansas,
where he also received his Master's
of Education.

Adam Wiewel continues to pursue
his PhD in Anthropology at the Uni-
versity of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

2003-2004

Dr. Crystal Buckner works for the
Food and Drug Administration in
Maryland.

2004-2005

After getting his MA in Latin Amer-
ica Studies and Spanish at University
of Wisconsin Madison, **Christopher
Chable'** is now pursuing his MFA in
Creative Writing at the University of
Missouri - St. Louis.

Venita Cooper is now a Special As-
sistant to the Commissioner at the
Tennessee Department of Education.

Dr. Jenny Flatt is a 4-H Youth Spe-
cialist for the East Central region of
Missouri.

Jamaal Glenn obtained his MBA
from Stanford University this past
June and is now off to Harvard to
pursue his MPA.

Neville Miller is a Meterologist with
KMIZ in Columbia.

Charles Smarr continues to pursue
his PhD in Immunology at North-
western University.

A new dad, **Scott Winton** is prepar-

ing for his next assignment with the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

Carmen Washington is a Research Program Manager for the Institute of Global Tobacco Control at Johns Hopkins University.

2005-2006

Amber McCadney is entering her third year of a PhD program in Counseling Psychology at Pennsylvania State University.

Dan Hannken is the director of a Columbia area prisoner rehabilitation center.

Dustin Langewisch continues in a Nuclear Engineering PhD program at MIT.

Stephanie (Raney) Wisdom got her Master's in Animal Science from Purdue last year and is now the Director of Post-weaning Operations at Illini Farms.

Amber Wiewel is a Research Assistant for the Northeast Amphibian Research Initiative with the US Geological Survey.

2006-2007

Ashley Acevedo is pursuing her PhD in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology at University of California - San Francisco.

Dr. Marcus Adair is performing his residency in general surgery at the University of Toledo.

Bridgette Adams obtained her Master of Economics from Claremont Graduate University last year and now is a Business Administrator with GLOVIS in California.

Amber Bell continues to pursue her PhD in Social Work at the University

of Alabama.

Last Summer, **Michelle Capentier** received her Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University and is now a Law Clerk in New York City.

Here at MU, **Sam Grinter** is pursuing his PhD in Informatics.

Dr. Atim Enyenihi is a postdoc researching cancer cells at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm.

Dr. Stanley Ikpe received his PhD in Electrical Engineering this May from MU.

Tracy Johnson is entering her third year of law school here at Mizzou.

Sara (Mijares) St. John is entering her fourth year of her PhD program in Community and Clinical Psychology at the University of South Carolina.

Njabulo "Jay" Ngwenyama is at Case Western Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Katherine Speichinger is a research specialist for the School of Medicine here at MU.

2007-2008

Here at MU, **David Aguayo** is in a Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis PhD Program.

Valeska Araujo is a Petroleum Economic Advisor in Houston, Texas.

Danielle Graef is entering the third year of her PhD program in Pediatric Psychology at the University of Florida.

Lindsey Lanfersieck passed her defense and is now ABD for her doctoral degree in English from Indiana University.

Miriam Galenas continues to pursue her PhD in Geological Sciences at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Kamara Jones is a press secretary for a US Congressman.

In Detroit, **A. Olga Mafotsing Fapoussi** is a Regional Epidemiologist for the US Center for Disease Control.

Rena Mayes will be defending her dissertation in Counseling Education later this summer at The Ohio State University.

Brittany Smotherson is in South Korea teaching English.

2008-2009

After getting her masters in counseling psychology last year, **Sarah Brandt** obtained her Educational Specialist degree this May from MU.

Last December, **Phuong "Rylee" Do** obtained her Master's in Biology.

In Pennsylvania, **Carolina Ebeid** works for the Stadler Center for Poetry.

This May, **Paul Ferguson** obtained his Master of Construction Management from Washington University.

Christopher Kirendall continues his pursuit of a PhD in Computer Engineering here at Mizzou.

Bryant Harris is a Computer and Electrical Engineer at Statcom Technologies.

Alyssa Hollins is pursuing a Master's in Urban Studies at Fordham University.

This spring, **Janine Ingram** completed her Master's in Speech Pathology here at MU.

Last December, **Lexie Toloan Ly** obtained her Master's in Biology and is now in a graduate program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

After getting her Masters in Counseling Psychology last year, **Ashley McDonald** obtained her Educational Specialist degree this May from MU.

Stephanie Morriss has completed her third year of her PhD program in Plant Biology at Iowas State.

After obtaining her Masters of Public Health last year, **Ashley Price** is now pursuing a PhD in Public Affairs here at MU.

NSF GRFP awardee, **Aaron Rosen-gren** continues his PhD program in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Colorado - Boulder.

Jenniffer Stetler continues her PhD program in Biochemistry here at MU.

An NSF GRFP awardee, **Catera Wilder** continues her PhD program in Biomedical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

2009-2010

Lorien Hayden has completed her first year of a PhD program in physics at Cornell University.

Kelli King is a recruiter and coordinator for healthcare staffing company.

Blossom Nwaneri is pursuing her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from New York University.

Dakota Raynes was awarded a Masters in Sociology at the New Mexico State University at Las Cruces and is entering a doctoral program at Oklahoma State University this fall.

Ryan Torack has completed his

third year of his PhD in Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Ashley Shaw recieved her Master of Public Health from MU this past May and is entering a doctoral program in Nursing here at MU this fall.

Diliana Stoimenova obtained her Master's of Integrative Physiology at the University of Colorado Boulder this past May.

Solida (Wise) Kolasinac is in a Sociology Master's program at Oklahoma State University.

2010-2011

In Kansas City, **Joshua Brinkley** is a Children's Service Worker for the State of Missouri.

Marcone Cangussu has transferred to Austin, Texas to continue his work for the Department of Defense.

William "Joe" Cochran obtained his Master's in Geology from MU this May and is off to Virginia Tech to pursue his PhD.

Shane Hoffman obtained his Master's in Mass Communication from Oklahoma State University this May.

After getting his Master of Music this fall from Mizzou, **DJ Jordan** is now an adjunct professor at Central Methodist University.

Here at MU, **Calvin Lewis** is pursuing an MD and PhD in Chemistry.

This May, **Brittany Long** obtained her Master's in Socio-cultural Anthropology at Brandeis University in Boston, MA.

At the University of Iowa, **Long Pei** completed his Master's in Acturial Science this May and will pursue a Master's in Statistics at the same institution.

Shannon Schipper is entering her third year of a doctoral program in Gender Studies at Arizona State University.

Anoff "Nick" Cobblah is a PhD student in Literature at the University of Michigan.

Nicole Hams is in a Biochemistry graduate program at Oregon State University.

NSF GRFP recepiant **Michael McCoy III** is entering his second year of his PhD program in Biological Engineering at Cornell University.

Braydon Medlin is an Associate Search Analyst with InTouch Solutions in Overland Park, Kansas.

Fiona Odu is a Laboratory Temp worker in Kansas City.

Jerry Steward completed his Bachelor's in Biology and is is entering a post-baccalaureate prep program here at MU.

Michelle Tang received full funding to pursue her PhD in Plant Biology at the University of California, Davis next year.

Cameron Williams is entering his second year of a graduate program in Sociology at Loyotal University.

See Yang is in a Master's program in Agricultural Economics here at MU.

Si Yol Yi is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins Unviersity in Environmental Engineering.

2011-2012

Brittany Bennett has accepted a position at Edward Jones in St. Louis, MO as part of their Rotational Development Program.

Darnell Cage will be pursuing a law degree part-time at St. Louis University this fall and will be a Structural Engineer for Boeing in St. Louis.

Tim Cunningham entered a fully-funded Master's in Business Administration program here at Mizzou.

Gerald Mitchell is entering his second year of a PhD program in Sociology and Personality Psychology here at MU.

Akia Parks will attend Georgia Tech and Emory where she will pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering.

Bethany Henry is in the second year of a Master's in History program at the University of Arkansas.

Damir Kolasinac is entering his second year of a Master's in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University.

Jeneé Duncan is entering her second year of her Master's in Human Development and Family Studies degree at the University of Georgia.

Marc Canellas just received an NSF Fellowship to continue his Aerospace Engineering PhD program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

2012-2013 Graduating Seniors

Antoine Culbreath will be attending Ball State University where he will pursue a Master's in Applied Behaviors Analysis with an emphasis in Autism.

Megan Dowdle was awarded a Biotechnology Training Program traineeship and will pursue her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Stacey Frasher received the Ridgel Fellowship and will pursue her Doctor of Nurse Practice specializing in Family Nurse Practitioner here at MU.

Meron Ghidey is off to Baylor University's Institute of Biomedical Studies to pursue his PhD.

Carmen Harjoe will be attending a Zoology PhD program in Oregon State University with full funding.

Carolyn Lacey is attending the University of Missouri as a graduate student in the Molecular Microbiology and Immunology PhD Program.

In Kansas City, **Carrie McKinley** has accepted a position with Comprehensive Mental Health.

Paulos Mengsteab is off to the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington to enter a postbaccalaureate program in Biomedical Engineering.

Rosalyn Reese is taking a year off before pursuing her graduate degree.

Ashley Schulz is obtaining more teaching assistant experience here at Mizzou before pursuing her Masters of Science in Forestry degree.

Jessica Stokes will be attending the University of Texas-Austin for her PhD in Inorganic Chemistry.

Chad Tucker was accepted into multiple Masters of Music programs and expects to pursue it after taking a year off.

2012-2013 Non-graduating Scholars Summer Research & Internship Plans

Jeremy Clincy is continuing his work this summer in Dr. Sarafianos's lab at MU.

Jale't Hickmon-Rosa is shadowing a School Psychologist in Oceanside, California.

Maranda Johnson is beginning a new research project this summer with her McNair Mentor Dr. Cohen.

Alicia Lorio will be a Research Assistant this summer for Dr. Manfra in the nursing program at Mizzou.

Shelby Manning is interning at Guardian Angel Community Services in Joliet, Illinois as a Sexual Assault Services Assistant.

Emma Rosenow will be participating in a summer Geology Field Camp in Wyoming.

Sital Uprety is conducting research this summer at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

Zachariah Winkler is in Northern Kenya to conduct paleoanthropological work with George Washington University.

A continued congratulations to all 116 of our Doctoral level Degree Holders

Samir Armaly	Barbara Wotherspoon	Martha Crowley	Jacqueline Fairley
Tammy (Workman) Brazeal	Laine Young-Walker	Anthony Iyoho	Odessa Roberts
Edward Blakey	Kimberly Yates	Jennifer (Soto) Meyer	Jarrett Dickerson
Doris Tagg Bowers	Steven Schroeder	Lisa Molix	Jessica Goin
Anthony Campiti	Jerry Bruggeman	Antwaun Smith	Alias Smith
Kimberly Rogers Crouch	Barrington Edwards	Robin Roberts	Lori Wilcox
Kimberly Davis	Dana Duren	Elizabeth Yepez	Brian Sandoval
Kevin Ferguson	Luis Tumialan	Sarita Townsend	Johonna McCants
Will Fortson	Jason Durbin	Botswana Toney	Emily (Broeckling) Lai
Joe Hensley	Starla (Green) Ivey	Blackburn	Candace (Wilson) Korasick
Chery Hendrickson Caster	Jeanette Dunkin	Khadar Abdi	Mary Clark
Paula (Hicks) Schaefer	John Kottowitz	Ryan Brunner	Taisha Jones
Tara Jensen	Jennifer McClain	Eryca Neville	Nancy Olivares
Alexander Julian	Michelle Azu	James Browning	Kara Keedy
Ron Koder	Frank Baker	Jason Steward	Benetta (Fairley) Johnson
Robert Errol Kolen	Susan (Dixon) Renoe	Jennifer Frericks	Robert Mahon
Irene Loe	Gaynell Simpson	Michael Barnett	Paula Boettler
Nicole (Armaly) Lowe	Jason Hans	Melissa Herzog	Atim Enyenihi
Donald Maxwell	Anthony Johnson	Paul Verslues	Crystal Buckner
Rebecca Navarro McKelvy	Ron Irving	Paula Boettler	<u>New Doctoral</u>
Wesley Mills	Leyland Young	Rebecca Lynn	<u>Degrees:</u>
Jason Mitchell	Tracy Fehrenbach	Robert Rodriguez	Jenny Flatt
Donna Nguyen	Douglas Steinley	Ruben Valadez	Lauren Lewis
Mehl Penrose	Christine (Conklin) Souza	Sarah Lancaster	Susan Curwood Eckerle
Aalece Pugh-Lilly	Michael Guzy	Tracy Davis	Rick Hendrix
Kristen Scott	Ebonie Cunningham-	Marcia Chatelain	Joseph Kay
Robert Smith	Stringer	Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote	Marcus Adair
Paul Thompson	Eddie Mallot	Sean Stoneking	Michelle Carpentier
Rustico Ramos	Michelle (Klobe) Strettner	Charlotte McCloskey	
Robert Villa	Richard Boles	Raul Camacho	
	Darla Tharp	Mary Starke	

- ★ As of July 2013, 116 MU McNair Scholars have obtained their doctoral level degree.
- ★ Over 200 MU McNair Scholars have obtained their master's degree.
- ★ For the past 6 years, an average of 7 new doctoral degrees have been granted each year.
- ★ There are currently 46 scholars in doctoral programs and 19 more in master's programs.
- ★ Since last summer, 18 more McNair Scholars have obtained a Master's degree and 7 more have earned a doctoral degree.

For year that each student obtained their doctoral degree and from what institution please visit <http://mcnair.missouri.edu/doctoralobtained.php>.



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