26th Annual McNair Scholars Conference

On April 18th, the culmination of over 280 hours of research resulted in oral and poster presentations by the 2014-2015 McNair Scholars. Topics ranged from how student-athletes perceived themselves after a career-ending injury to risk development in type II diabetes. Students also presented on fees associated with investments as well as the different dialects that are present in a small rural Missouri town.

In addition to the oral presentations, the scholars also presented their work in poster form. “I worked hard on my poster,” McNair Scholar, Vaness Cox stated. “It is a great way to visualize my research and show it to a larger audience.”

The conference provided an opportunity for the program and scholars to thank the faculty members for their diligent role as mentors. Mentors not only assist in conducting academic research, they also help scholars navigate the graduate school process. Moreover mentors view this as an opportunity to introduce students to the world of the academia, often going far beyond the traditional student-teacher roles.

“My mentor was instrumental in helping me learn the true depths of what scientific research entails” McNair Scholar Anthony Onuzuikie stated about his mentor Dr. Charlotte Phillips

After submitting a final research paper to the program, five to six scholars will be selected by an editorial review board for inclusion in the twenty-fourth volume of the MU McNair Scholars Journal.
McNair Scholars’ Future Plans

The 2014-2015 McNair Scholars have already made plans for their future. Many are graduating and heading off to graduate school, while those not graduating have lined up their summer and fall plans.

**Graduating Seniors Graduate School Plans**

Keisha Bailey is entering a PhD program in Human Development and Family Studies at Purdue University with a full fellowship.

DaWon Baker is pursuing a Master’s in Sports Business Management as well as an MBA at the University of Central Florida where he was offered an assistantship.

Zakary Beach is interning with the National Institutes of Health this summer and then starts a PhD program in Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania with a full fellowship.

Ariel Blaser is off to San Diego State University to pursue a Master’s degree in Linguistics and a certification in TESOL.

Vaness Cox is pursuing her PhD in Developmental Psychology at the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor.

Marcus Edwards is off to the University of Texas-Austin, where he was awarded a McNair Fellowship to pursue his Master’s in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Clinical Exercise Science.

Ariel Hagedorn is working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist at the MU Hospital before applying to graduate school for the spring.

Kayla Henderson, an NSF GRFP recipient, will be pursuing a Biomedical Engineering PhD at the University of Texas-Austin.

Anastasia Harris will pursue a dual Master’s in Public Health with a concentration in Child Health and Global Health at Boston University next fall.

Lauren Hollins is looking towards a Master’s of Public Affairs for next fall.

Krisstoffer McClellan will be pursuing his Master’s in Student Affairs Leadership next fall at Mizzou.

Katrina Rios will be applying to Master’s of Social Work programs next year.

Emma Rosenow is getting married in August and getting geological experience before applying to graduate school next fall.

**Non-Graduating Scholars Plans**

Shawna Rowe is off to Michigan State University with a full fellowship to pursue a PhD in Plant Biology.

JaLisa Shaw is entering a graduate program in nursing at the University of Oklahoma where she will also be a guidance counselor for Upward Bound.

Sorsha Smith is pursuing a doctorate in classical studies next fall at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Angelique Taylor will intern at Boeing this summer and then enter a doctoral program in computer science at the University of Notre Dame in the fall.

Chanell Washington, an NSF GRFP recipient, will be pursuing a PhD in sociology and demography at Penn State University.

Zachariah Winkler will substitute teach in Independence, MO and enter a teaching certification program.

Tiffany Carsten is tutoring for Mizzou Athletics and taking classes this summer.

Ngan “May” Do is conducting health research in Chile through Harvard’s Public Health Schools’ Multi-disciplinary International Research Training Program.

Storm Ervin is working next fall at the Missouri State Capitol through the Civil Leaders Internship Program.

Brian Gaffigan will be a biological engineer intern with the Environmental Protection Agency this summer.

J. Monroe Gamble is participating in a summer research program in econometrics at Michigan State University.

Anthony Onuzuruike is continuing his research as an EXPRESS intern this summer and next fall at Mizzou.

Tori Rockwell will continue her research this summer with the MU Institute of Public Policy.

Jennifer Shearin is continuing her work on iRest Integrative Restoration as a trainer.

Ron Stuart is attending a geology field camp at the Wind River Basin in Wyoming.
Advice from a Scholar: Marc Canellas

We love hearing from past scholars, 2011-2012 McNair Scholar Marc Canellas recently wrote us and had some advice to give to McNair Scholars:

“I was working with a new student in my aerospace engineering lab here at Georgia Tech last week and realized some of the skills I was suggesting he learn over the summer to prepare for graduate school were exactly the type of skills future McNair Scholars would benefit from. McNair already made me much more prepared than the typical graduate student; I’d like to use this opportunity to give back.

Learn LaTex and JabRef software. LaTex is a free manuscript processing language/software which is the standard for theses, dissertations, research papers and conference submissions in the STEM Fields. Other fields should consider checking out Zotero or EndNote. JabRef is the free reference management software comparable to EndNote and Zotero. Both are available on multiple platforms and take a few weeks to get used to. But the resulting written documents will be well worth the effort!

I remember spending many evenings working with other McNair Scholars on our poster and presentations because we cared deeply about a high-quality product. LaTex has become the standard writing software because it enables writers to create professional typeset and well-structure documents. With LaTex, the content and the format of the document are clearly separated. One can focus solely on the content without bothering about the layout. Overall, learning LaTex has been a valuable skill I’ve learned in graduate school. I wish I had used it when writing my thesis for the McNair Scholars Program.

Learn how proposals are written. External funding forms the financial foundations for research programs at most universities. Learning how to write a grant proposal is a far different experience than writing a thesis. Whereas theses focus solely on academic matters of research such as what is your new approach and what are the interesting results; proposals care just as much about the practical matters of research, such as qualifications, resources, funding, and timelines. Learning these different nuances early can help you be more successful in the long term.

I hope these suggestions are useful. I miss hanging out with the McNair Scholars and each of you.”

Marc Canellas, Aerospace Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Graduate Assistant Heads to Georgia

Our graduate assistant, Marjory Vazquez, has obtained her Master’s in Counseling Psychology and is off to the University of Georgia to pursue a PhD in the same field. For the past two years, Marjory has been leading our McNair Scholar Prep program, an initiative that focuses on introducing freshmen and sophomores to the benefits of graduate education. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. You will be hard to replace!!
Two more Mizzou McNair Scholars received a fellowship from the prestigious National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP). Each will receive three years of support and a $34,000 stipend plus a $12,000 cost of education allowance to their chosen institution.

With the help of the NSF Fellowship, McNair Scholar Chanell Washington is off to Penn State University and entering a Sociology and Demography dual PhD program. She will work with Dr. Valerie King studying how family structure and stability affect father involvement and adolescent well-being.

Additionally, Kayla Henderson was awarded the NSF Fellowship to pursue a PhD in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas, Austin. She will be rotating in the labs in the areas of Biomechanics, Cellular, and Biomolecular Engineering. Her top labs of interest are with Dr. Aaron Baker and Dr. Janet Zoldan both in the area of cardiovascular tissue engineering.