



The Challenger

The Newsletter of the MU McNair Scholars Program

October 2011

2011-2012 McNair Scholars

A new cohort of bright and talented students have begun their year-long journey with the McNair Scholars Program this fall. The scholars represent diverse fields of interests and under the guidance of faculty mentors with similar interests gain valuable experience in undergraduate research and graduate school preparation.

At the completion of their research internships the scholars will make a formal presentation to faculty, campus administrators, family and peers at the 23rd Annual McNair Scholars Conference on April 21, 2012.



From left to right: Bianca Aaron, McNair Director NaTashua Davis, Brittani Bungart, Caitlin Vore, Carolyn Lacey, Carmen Harjoe, McNair Program Advisor Jeremy Bloss, Akia Parks, McNair Research Instructor LaShonda Carter Boone, Marc Canellas, Brittany Bennett, Tim Cunningham, Roslyn Reese, Antaniece Sills, Damir Kolasinac, Darnell Cage, Megan Dowdle, Gerald Mitchell, Jeneé Duncan, and McNair Program Assistant Darlene Dixon. Not Pictured: Bethany Henry and Danielle Mocker.

Scholar

Bianca Aaron
 Brittani Bennett
 Brittani Bungart
 Darnell Cage
 Marc Canellas
 Timothy Cunningham
 Megan Dowdle
 Jeneé Duncan
 Carmen Harjoe
 Bethany Henry
 Damir Kolasinac
 Carolyn Lacey
 Gerald Mitchell
 Danielle Mocker
 Akia Parks
 Rosalyn Reese
 Antaniece Sills
 Caitlin Vore

Major

Psychology & Journalism
 Business Marketing
 Biological Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering
 Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering
 Business Management
 Biochemistry
 Human Dev. & Family Studies
 Fisheries & Wildlife
 History & Anthropology
 Biological Engineering
 Biochemistry
 Psychology
 Fisheries & Wildlife
 Biological Engineering
 Biochemistry
 Human Dev. & Family Studies
 Environmental Science & Forestry

Faculty Mentor

Alejandro Morales
 Srinivasann (Ratti) Ratneshwar
 James C. Lee
 Gary Solbrekken
 Sergei Kopeikin
 Doug Moesel
 Peter Cornish
 David Schramm
 Carl Gerhard
 Craig T. Palmer
 Sheila Grant
 William Folk
 Laura King
 Matthew Gompper
 John Viator
 William Folk
 Kalea Benner
 Heidi Appel



MKN Heartland Research Conference

McNair Scholars from over all across the country participated in the 15th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, Missouri September 23 to 25. This conference is designed to provide scholars the opportunity to explore graduate programs through a graduate school fair, partake in workshops that will aid in the graduate school process, network and interact with graduate school faculty and administrators as well as orally present their McNair research projects.

Attending from MU were five continuing scholars, Michael McCoy, Shannon Montañez, Fiona Odu, Michelle Tang and Cameron Williams. “My research on the lived realities of middle class African American male’s elicited a great discussion on these realities and how society and research often portrays the ‘deviant’ aspect of identity and experience,” stated sociology major Cameron Williams. “I enjoyed hearing the perspective of my colleagues from different institutions. I’m currently looking into expanding my research to include some angles that were mentioned in our discussion.”

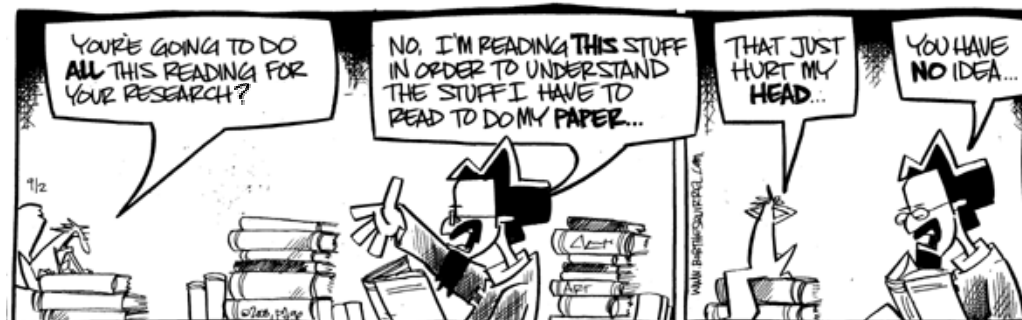


McNair Scholars from left to right, Michelle Tang, Michael McCoy, Fiona Odu and Shannon Montañez pose for a picture before a keynote address at the 15th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference.

The conference also included a workshop on writing the personal statement as well as financial management for graduate school. The scholars were also impressed by the keynote speakers Dr. John Augusto, Assistant Dean in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Kansas, and Dr. Pellom McDaniel, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a former Kansas City Chief. Each speaker discussed what motivated them and helped students see a path for how to be successful in graduate school and beyond.

Review of Literature

On Wednesday, October 12th McNair Scholars submitted their research proposals. Now scholars are hard at work preparing a review of literature. Scholars have already attended workshops discussing how to conduct a literature search and how to use bibliographical software. A final draft of the review of literature is due December 7th.



From: Bob the Squirrel 9/2/08



Notes on Networking and Etiquette

As scholars travel to academic conferences, complete with receptions and multi-course meals, these tips on etiquette are becoming more and more helpful. Below are a few more points that will assist in the ever expanding events scholars find themselves attending.

- Respond to invitations and RSVPs promptly. Even if you're unable to attend, let the person or organization know your intentions.
- Be aware of dress codes for events. Check with someone familiar with the event to know what you should wear.
- Place your name tag on the right hand side of your body. This way when someone shakes your hand, their eye goes straight up your arm to your nametag.
- Avoid discussing politics or other controversial topics with people you've just met. You don't know their entire background and can't be certain that what you say won't alienate them. Keep to safe topics such as the event you're attending.
- When being served at a table, wait for everyone to receive their meal or dessert before you begin.
- When looking at your place setting think of a BMW. The **b**read plate is to your left, your **m**eal plate is in the middle, and your **w**ater is to the right.
- Another tip for place setting: touch your thumb to your middle finger on both hands. This makes your left hand into a "b" and your right hand into a "d". You're now pointing to your bread plate and your drink. Make sure to do this inconspicuously.
- Use your silverware starting with the farthest from your plate. You may have a salad fork, a shrimp fork, and a main course fork. They are placed in order that you will use them. The utensil above your plate is reserved for the dessert.



- When attending a reception where you may have to eat standing up. Hold everything in your left hand, as illustrated above, allowing your right hand free to shake hands with others or to eat. To do this, place the plate between your middle and index finger and your drink between your thumb and index finger. Finally, lay the napkin over your pinky.
- Take smaller than normal bites of food. You're not there to gorge yourself. Take your time eating and use the event for your networking needs.
- Don't overcrowd your plate at buffet meals. Only take enough that you can easily manage.

[Special thanks to Travis Tucker with Bleu Restaurant]

MU McNair Fall Highlights

Workshop/Seminars: Scholars have participated in several workshops that concentrated on the entire graduate school admissions procedure and the process of conducting academic research.

GRE Prep Sessions: Scholars developed test-taking strategies and reviewed the subjects covered by the Graduate Record Examination. In addition, scholars received tips and feedback on the analytical writing section of the exam.

Research Proposal: Scholars introduced their research question and sketched out a detailed plan as to how they intend to carry out their research or scholarly activity.

Senior Retreat: Graduating scholars received in-depth, hands-on assistance in completing their graduate school applications and tips on how to make best use of the process while a McNair Scholar.

Etiquette Dinner: Scholars learned the proper protocol of conference dinners and receptions. In addition scholars learned techniques for networking.

Research Seminar: Scholars received instruction and feedback on the research process and the research proposal.




2011 MU McNair Journal



The 19th edition of the *MU McNair Journal* is now available! This journal includes five of the manuscripts from the 2010-2011 Scholars. The work presented in this journal is the culmination of over 280 hours of research that each scholar conducted. Their final papers were reviewed and selected by an editorial review board for inclusion in the journal. The research titles from all 21 scholars conducting research are also noted.

The Fall 2011 *MU McNair Journal* can be found online at <http://mcnair.missouri.edu/journals.php> or by requesting a copy at the McNair office. Previous publications are also available online.

Congratulations to everyone selected!

	NaTashua Davis	Jeremy Bloss	Darlene Dixon	Heather Gatten
	<i>Director</i>	<i>Program Advisor</i>	<i>Program Assistant</i>	<i>Student Worker</i>
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