What is McNair?

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at Mizzou (McNair Scholars Program) was one of the original 14 programs established and it has been here for 26 years now! This program takes a holistic approach to helping scholars not only applying to graduate school, but also succeed in graduate studies. We are committed to preparing undergraduate students to be successful graduate students. Scholars in the program have the opportunity to participate in research experiences and work closely with a mentor in their field of choice. Through these experiences, our scholars gain a better understanding of the research process and a realization of which path they would like to pursue in order to make their academic and career dreams a reality. In addition to assistance on the graduate application process, scholars also form a cohesive unit which serves them well into graduate school. Many of our former scholars have gone on to pursue and complete their doctoral degree.

Highlighted McNair Event

The first weekend of the semester, Saturday, August 27th, 18 MU seniors attended their first senior retreat of the school year. We were joined with 6 McNair Scholars from Central Missouri University. This marked the second time our two McNair programs have collaborated in conducting this senior retreat.

The retreat featured Dr. Amber Clifford, from the University of Central Missouri, who talked about what to look for in graduate schools and how to contact faculty. Mr. Michael Heppler, from Oklahoma State University spoke on the importance of personal statements, then McNair Scholars from University of Missouri and Central Missouri University at the senior retreat in Boonville along with one of our featured speakers, Michael Hepler (white cap). Specific issues and challenges students may face when writing the personal statement or essay. In addition, Dr. Clifford was able to provide some insights from the faculty perspective regarding these documents. The retreat ended with Ms. Kiera Mann sharing dos and don’ts of interviewing for graduate school along with some tips about preparing for campus visits and what to do after applying to a program.

The scholars gained a lot from this event. “My most memorable workshop was definitely the first senior retreat, it was very insightful and really helped me put graduate school into perspective,” reflected senior McNair Scholar, Chelsea Jones.

Current Scholars’ Section

“McNair has created a diverse, fitting, and supportive community for me. It has allowed me to meet extraordinary individuals who share a passion for research, and push me to succeed. It helped me discover my passion for my field of exercise physiology, and created the opportunity for me to pursue graduate school.”

—Chelsea Jones, 2016-2017 McNair Scholar, Nutrition & Fitness
Advice From McNair Alumni

Try to pursue something you care about. Don't attach yourself to research that you are not excited about just because a professor said yes to mentoring you. You have some agency in this too. –Marcone Cangussu, 2010-2011 McNair Scholar

Dedication and time management are key to a successful experience in the program. It requires a large chunk of your time and easy to get consumed by the numerous extracurricular activities on campus. Take the program seriously and put in the work. You'll be surprised by the fruits of your labor. –Jerry Steward, 2010-2011 McNair Scholar

Message From Our New Graduate Assistant

Hello hello! My name is Jana Robina Onwonga.
I am excited to be part of the McNair staff and I am already enjoying the experience. I am from the greater Baltimore, Maryland area. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, where I had the privilege of being a McNair Scholar during my senior year. Currently, I am a first-year Counseling Psychology doctoral student in Mizzou’s department of Educational, School and Counseling Psychology. Being a McNair Scholar was one of the most enriching experiences of my undergraduate career. A few of the many opportunities the McNair Scholars Program afforded me were: 1) the chance to get research experience by working closely with a faculty mentor in my field of interest, 2) assistance throughout the graduate school application process, and 3) encouragement from faculty/staff and fellow high achieving scholars. McNair has opened many doors for me and is a contributing factor for the position I am in, pursuing my doctoral degree. I am interested in working with underserved communities as it relates to the implementation of successful interventions and reintegrating programs for young adult survivors and victims of complex trauma.

MU McNair Fall Highlights

Preparing to be a TA Class: Some graduating scholars are learning how to be a teaching assistant and meet one hour weekly to discuss how to handle possible scenarios and present using skills they have learned.

GRE Prep Course: This hybrid online and in-person course helped scholars develop test-taking strategies and reviewed the subjects covered by the Graduate Record Examination. Scholars met weekly for five weeks and worked through blackboard through the week. They also received tips and feedback on the analytical writing section of the exam as well as multiple in-person meetings with the instructor, Dr. Julie Melnyk.

Workshop/Seminars: Scholars have participated in several workshops focused on the process of conducting academic research, the graduate school application and admissions process, financing graduate school, and financial literacy to name a few.

Research Proposal and Seminar: Scholars introduced their research question and sketched out a detailed plan as to how they intend to carry out their research or scholarly activity. They then received feedback on their research proposal and are continuing to meet with their mentors and the staff to work on their projects.

Etiquette Dinner: Scholars learned the proper protocol of conference dinners and receptions as well as how to conduct themselves professionally. In addition, scholars learned valuable and practical networking techniques. All while enjoying a great meal at a local restaurant. This event was led by a local business owner who has been trained in etiquette.
The 24th edition of the *MU McNair Journal* is now available online! This journal includes five of the manuscripts from the 2015-2016 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 18 scholars conducting research are also noted.

The Fall 2016 *MU McNair Journal* can be found online at [http://mcnair.missouri.edu/journals.php](http://mcnair.missouri.edu/journals.php). Previous publications are also available online.

Congratulations to everyone selected!