Greetings!

This newsletter will provide you with a unique glimpse into our various McNair academic enrichment and student development summer and fall experiences. Our overall Program goal is to prepare selected eligible students to gain entrance into graduate degree programs and increase the attainment of doctoral degrees by students from underrepresented populations. We aim to ensure a 100% retention and baccalaureate graduation rate of our UD McNair scholars. Key ingredients towards the success of our distinguished scholars are the nourished partnerships with pipeline campus academic and student support service systems. In a spirit of appreciation, this issue is dedicated to our 2012 McNair Faculty Mentors who are featured in this publication.

Federally funded McNair - TRiO programs all over the nation are experiencing budget cuts and news of rescinded grant funding. The University of Delaware’s McNair program was one of very few regional programs to be notified in August that our Program was successfully awarded a renewal grant from the U.S. Department of Education to extend program services for another five years. Our McNair Scholars (past and present) are excited about this good news — the program staff can continue to collaborate with the campus community to recruit talented first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students to participate in our McNair Program which is designed to exemplify “Scholarly Excellence Today, Graduate Success Tomorrow, and Leadership in the 21st Century.” In fact, you can nominate or encourage a current sophomore or junior UD student to become a McNair Scholar today. Gain an overview of eligibility requirements on our website at www.mcnair.udel.edu.

Note: McNair application deadline is December 7.

Within the following pages you will meet the McNair staff and faculty mentors, read experiential learning articles written by a selection of McNair scholars, gain updates on featured McNair Alumni, and note important event/seminar dates. Enjoy this issue.

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**Dates to Remember**

**McNair Application Deadline Extended**
December 17, 2012

**Community Service Project**
December 8th
West End Neighborhood House

**Workshop: I’ve Been Accepted Into Graduate School, Now What?**
Date: December 4, 2012
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
180 S. College Ave.

**McNair Dinner**
Spring Semester Welcome Back and Senior Farewell February 8th at 4pm

**Workshop: Financial Literacy Seminar**
February / March—TBA
180 S. College Ave.

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**McNair Program**
180 S. College Avenue
Newark, DE 19716
Phone: (302) 831-4396
Fax: (302) 831-0341
Email: mcnairscholars@udel.edu
mcnair.udel.edu

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**Find us on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Delaware-McNair-Scholars-Program/261028510597341
Meet the Staff

**Tiffany Scott**, McNair Coordinator

**Name: Tiffany Scott**  
**Degree:** B.A. Political Science & English, Syracuse University, M.Ed. Higher Education Administration, University of Delaware  
**Position:** Coordinator  
**Hometown:** Queens, NY  
**Hobbies:** Writing and advising students on college preparation

- Are you a McNair Scholar; at which university? No
- How are you involved with the community? I volunteer with a community based organization, MACS to assist low income, first generation Delawareans with the college planning process.
- What is the best part about being in the McNair environment? It is wonderful to see the development of the McNair Scholars. I believe McNair Scholars are the most dedicated and well prepared students on campus and it is so exciting to go through the research and graduate school process with them.
- What can we look from you in the future? In the future I plan on publishing my book which will help underrepresented females navigate the college preparation process.  
- What quote inspires you? If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything.

**Chanel Gaither**, McNair Scholars Program  

**Name:** Chanel Gaither  
**Degree:** University of Virginia, B.A. (American Politics and Economics) Harvard - Certificate on College Admissions  
**Position:** Graduate Research Assistant  
**Hometown:** Queens, NY  
**Hobbies:** Cooking, Sewing, Designing and Creative writing

- Are you a McNair Scholar; at which university? No
- How are you involved with the community? Founder of my own nonprofit organization (M.A.C.S) Minorities Achieving Collegiate Success
- What is the best part about being in the McNair environment? The Students
- What can we look from you in the future? Expansion of M.A.C.S and earning a Ph.D in education policy
- What quote inspires you? It is easier to build strong children then to repair broken men.

**Dustin Ramdsell**, McNair Scholars Program Assistant

**Name:** Dustin Ramdsell  
**Degree:** B.A. in History, University of Delaware  
**Position:** Summer Program Assistant  
**Hometown:** Presque Isle, Maine  
**Hobbies:** Reading, Movies, TV, Social Media, Video Games, Technology

- Are you a McNair Scholar; at which university? No
- How are you involved with the community? I was never a McNair Scholar, but I have been learning a lot from the Scholars and staff this past summer and I’ve been enjoying every minute of it!  
- How are you involved with the community? I volunteer at the Food Bank of Delaware when I can and I find myself drawn to social change websites such as change.org to influence positive change through the use of online petitions and social media.
- What is the best part about being in the McNair environment? The best part of being in this environment is being amongst a group of students who are very ambitious, intelligent, and positive. They know what they want and their motivation and commitment inspire me daily.
- What can we look from you in the future? I will be attending Rutgers University for their College Student Affairs program to earn my Masters of Education. I look forward to working as a Hall Director there and helping more students realize their potential.
- What inspires you? “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.” – Marianne Williamson

**Karoline Guerrero**, McNair Scholar and Student assistant

**Name:** Karoline Guerrero  
**Degree:** B.S. in Marketing  
**Position:** Student Assistant  
**Hometown:** New Castle, Delaware  
**Hobbies:** Writing, Music, Movies and TV

- Are you a McNair Scholar; at which university? Yes! I’m a UD McNair Scholar.
- How are you involved with the community? At UD I am the Marketing Events and Multimedia Intern, Career Services Center, the Academic Liaison for UDREAM Advisory Board, Vice President of NABA (National Association of Black Accountants) and a SSSP Peer Mentor for the Student Support Services Program.
- What is the best part about being in the McNair environment? I love the community and family values the McNair scholars have. It is great to be supported and encouraged to research something you are really passionate about.
- What can we look from you in the future? I plan on attending a graduate program in Marketing. I also plan to pursue a career in a corporate setting.
- What quote inspires you? The quote that inspires me the most is “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.”
Elevator Pitch  By Nicole Seymour

The thought of having only thirty seconds to describe goals for graduate school or future employment can be quite daunting. That is why practicing an elevator pitch is very important. An elevator pitch is a short statement or dialogue that is meant to set the person giving the pitch apart from others applying for the same position. A successfully implemented elevator pitch can be the determining factor in any situation. The Ronald E. McNair Scholars had the opportunity to take part in an elevator pitch simulation that was held at least three times during the summer. During the first simulation, each of the Ronald E. McNair empowerment groups practiced their elevator pitches together. We were able to provide words of encouragement, as well as necessary critiques. Critiques coming from peers who want to see you succeed, arguably, have the most positive impact while structuring our pitches. Though a person may already be able to speak confidently about oneself, their achievements, and the graduate program or field of work they would like to enter, once other possible scenarios are introduced into the simulation, it will certainly force the student to always think ahead. Conducting the simulations more than once was necessary because it made the scholars more comfortable and confident. As the scholars continue visiting colleges and research symposiums throughout the year, the value of elevator pitches continues to be matchless.

Writing a Scholar Resume  by Tyler Sharp

During this workshop, we traveled to the Career Services building for a discussion on tips for writing an exceptional scholarly resume for graduate school. We came into the room with copies of our immature scholarly resumes from a previous assignment and we were eager to make them “pop.” How many people know the difference between a resume and a professional resume/Curriculum Vitae? Little did we know how little we all knew about what goes into constructing a scholarly resume. Many of us had inquiries about what information should be presented in a resume and what can be omitted during the resume writing presentation. For example, we learned to let go of high school information and irrelevant work experience. When writing a resume, you realize which experiences, honors, or volunteer opportunities you need to elaborate on, and discover your direction. Additionally, we realized that a final draft does not exist, but only different versions of them. In addition, editing a resume to fit the desired program at each specific school is extremely important. Resumes are essentially YOU in paper form 2-Dimensional, but the information should make YOU appear 3-Dimensional. Furthermore, after writing it, always get a second opinion. Ideally, have people who are familiar with you read it as well as those who are unfamiliar with you. Then, revise and edit the document and repeat! In closing, writing a scholarly resume allows the opportunity to not only celebrate previous achievements, but also to recognize areas in need of improvement as well as possibilities for new experience. What makes you competitive? What drives you? These should somehow be reflected in your Experience, Research, Skills, and Honors/Awards sections. Remember: Never feel inferior, because you did not make it this far without being extraordinary. Write it, always have others read it, revise it and edit. Then repeat!
Symposium Preparation and Tips

Preparing for the Symposium  By Alexandra Davis

Throughout the ten weeks of research, early morning seminars, and mentor meetings with the McNair Scholars program, the experience is filled with a combination of excitement, exploration, and naturally even a bit of stress. Unmatched though, is the anxiety that begins to come over each scholar as August rolls around and we all realize that this is “prime time.” With the symposium drawing near, our chance to present our hard work and our passions had only been days away. But we all realized that there was a cure! We discovered that with the help and support of our peers, this sense of pressure could slowly and steadily be alleviated, even as the days creep closer and closer to August 9th. Practice was the answer. And by practice, we didn’t mean by sitting in front of a computer screen rehearsing a presentation script. Rather, it meant getting up in front our fellow scholars and treating each run-through like the real deal—like we were presenting in a bustling room in Clayton Hall filled with faculty members and our peers. There was no point over the ten-week period that was a better demonstration of the sense of community among the 2012 McNair scholars than the final week, when we shut down the presentation room of the Commons and used it for a week of presentation rehearsals. Each night, without fail, a group of at least five scholars went to the Commons and took the time to practice using the technology and actually talking through the presentation. Slowly, the pressure of a “perfect presentation” began to slip away as we realized how well we really knew our research. The note cards we had written had soon become useless as each utterance of our presentation boosted our confidence a notch closer to perfection. Following her practice-presentation, one scholar, Amber Beaman, stated, “Wow, I just realized that I completely forgot to use my note cards.” In addition to individual practice-presentations, we also held a full dress rehearsal to ensure that we were prepared for every aspect of the symposium, and that there was no room for surprises. In addition to the improvements that came about simply by practicing, we were also able to offer and receive invaluable feedback from one another, which we would have never gained by simply running through our presentations alone. So, as it were the eve of the symposium and in less than twenty-four hours our explorative journey would be complete. There wasn’t a doubt in any of our minds that the McNair scholars would outshine the other presenters because of the relentless preparation time each of us had invested.

McNair Tips  By Ashley Evans

The McNair Scholars program has been one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had. That being said, if there was any one bit of advice I would offer it would be this: expect the unexpected and plan ahead. It is of the upmost importance to actually sit down and write out a schedule for yourself and try your hardest to stick to it. Set up mini goals for yourself so that when the big deadline gets there you’re already done. This definitely cuts back on the amount of stress for your project. It’s also important to factor in a little “oops” time. There will always be unexpected changes doing research and in order to keep moving forward you need to prepare for those bad times. Including just one “catch-up” day every now and then will definitely help you stay on track. If you stay focused, stick to a schedule, and prepare for some unexpected changes your summer will be a success.
Summer Symposium & McNair Research Conference

Melody Yoo presenting research

Graduate School Fair

McNair Scholars having fun at the McNair Conference

Enjoying a meal before the keynote speaker

Omar Duran presenting research

Current McNair Scholars

Alexandra Davis presenting her research

Above: Graduate School Fair

Below: McNair Conference Research Award

Above: Dr. Saunders and Dr. Overby presenting research award to Virginia Tech Student

Dr. Saunders and Dr. Overby presenting research award
McNair Conference

As a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Jason D. Mycoff, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Political Science at the University of Delaware. As my professor for Research Methods for Political Science and my faculty mentor in the McNair program, he encouraged me every step of the way. Dr. Mycoff’s prior work on Voter ID laws provided an excellent foundation for my research. Dr. Mycoff’s research and courses help to prepare his students for conducting groundbreaking research in political science. Dr. Mycoff helped me see how crucial it is to remain as unbiased as possible throughout the process of conducting research. As a leader in his field, it meant so much to me to hear Dr. Mycoff say how pleased he was with my final study results. I am truly blessed to have him as my mentor.
Mentors

Benigno Aguirre
PH.D., Ohio State
Professor
Department: Sociology and Criminology
Research Interest: Collective Behavior/Social Movements, Race/Ethnic/Minority Relations, Qualitative Methodology
Mentee: Quindara Lazenbury

Gretchen Bauer
PH.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
Professor and Chair
Department: Political Science and International Relations
Research Interest: African Politics and Women and Politics
Mentee: Nicole Mozee
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

James C. Galloway
PH.D., University of Arizona
Professor
Department: Physical Therapy
Research Interest: Providing mobility and sociability to kids with disabilities.
Mentee: Arianna Morton
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

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Mentee: Arianna Morton
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Duane C. Cottrell
PH.D., University of North Texas
Assistant Professor
Department: Music
Research Interest: Science of the singing voice and how it applies to choral music
Mentee: Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro

Robert J. Golinkoff
PH.D., Cornell University
H. Rodney Sharp Chair and Professor
Department: School of Education
Research Interest: How children learn their native language
Mentee: Maria Marquez
Photographer: Ambre Alexander

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Theodore J. Davis
PH.D., Florida State University
Associate Professor
Department: Political Science and International Relations
Research Interest: Examining education, poverty, race, and racism as factors impeding African Americans and the African Diaspora’s development
Mentee: N’Kosi Oates

James Hebert
PH.D., University of Wisconsin
Professor
Department: School of Education
Research Interest: Ways to improve mathematics teaching in school classrooms and the preparation of mathematics teachers
Mentee: Amber Beaman
Photographer: Ambre Alexander

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PH.D., University of Wisconsin
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Department: School of Education
Research Interest: Ways to improve mathematics teaching in school classrooms and the preparation of mathematics teachers
Mentee: Amber Beaman
Photographer: Ambre Alexander

Thomas Kaminski
PH.D., University of Virginia
Professor
Department: Kinesiology & Applied Physiology
Research Interest: Concussions, sports-related mild traumatic brain injuries and ankle instability.
Mentee: Ashli Bottino
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson
Mentors

Christopher Knight
Ph.D., University of Massachusetts
Associate Professor with Tenure
Department: Kinesiology & Applied Physiology
Research Interests: Motor unit discharge behavior, The aging neuromuscular system, Neuromuscular adaptations to exercise training
Mentee: Kendall Poole

Shuaib Meacham
Ph.D., University of Illinois
Associate Professor
Department: School of Education
Research Interest: Literacy Education
Mentee: Ellenie Cruz
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

John Koh
Ph.D., Columbia University
Professor
Department: Chemistry
Research Interests: Molecular Rescue of Genetic Mutations, Ligand Receptor Engineering, Spatiotemporal Control of Gene Expression
Mentee: Sharon Song
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Beth Morling
Ph.D., University of Massachusetts
Associate Professor
Department: Psychology
Research Interest: Concept of psychosocial control from a cultural psychology perspective
Mentee: Deangie Davis
Photographer: Evan Krape

Aaron Kupchik
Ph.D., New York University
Associate Professor
Department: Sociology & Criminal Justice
Research Interests: Juvenile delinquency, school crime, juvenile courts and prisons
Mentee: Ashley Evans
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Jason Mycoff
Ph.D., Ohio State University
Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department: Political Science and International Relations
Research Interests: Congress, presidency, and judiciary branches
Mentee: Nicole Seymour
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Chrysanthi Leon
Ph.D., University of California
Assistant Professor
Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Sex crimes and punishments, criminal court reform and corrections, and the sociology of law
Mentee: James Highberger

Cynthia Paris
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Associate Professor
Department: Human Development and Family Studies
Research Interest: Learner-Centered Curriculum
Mentee: Melody Yoo
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson
Mentors

Yasser Payne
Ph.D., City University of New York
Department: Black American Studies
Research Interest: Notions of resiliency with the streets of black America
Mentee: Brooklynn Hitchens
Photographer: Duane Perry

Phillip Penix-Tadsen
Ph.D., Columbia University
Assistant Professor
Department: Foreign Languages and Literature
Research Interests: Contemporary Latin American cultural studies, New media, visual arts, film, and popular culture
Mentee: Omar Duran
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Jeffrey B. Rosen
Ph.D., Wayne State University
Professor
Department: Psychology
Research Interest: Neurobiology of Emotion
Mentee: Andrew Agostini
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Mentee: Andrew Agostini
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

Harry “Tripp” Shenton III
Ph.D., John Hopkins University
Professor and Chair
Department: Civil & Environmental Engineering
Research Interests: Infrastructure and Construction
Mentee: Jordan Wynn
Photographer: Evan Krape

Regina Sims
Ph.D., Howard University
Assistant Professor
Department: Nursing
Research Interest: Influence of cardiovascular risk factors on cognitive function in older adults
Mentee: Tyler Sharp & Natasha Gaston
Photographer: Kathy F. Atkinson

David Wilson
Ph.D., Michigan State University
Associate Professor
Department: Political Science & International Relations, Black American Studies
Research Interests: Political psychology and survey research methods
Mentee: Alexandra Davis
Photographer: Ambre Alexander

Joel Rosenthal
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Assistant Professor
Department: Chemistry
Research Interest: Renewable Energy
Mentee: Stanley Terrell Anderson II
Photographer: Ambre Alexander

Carol Wong
Ph.D., University of Michigan
Associate Professor
Department: School of Education
Research Interest: Education, Psychology, Racial and Gender Identity
Mentee: Anh Nguyen
Photographer: Ambre Alexander
Outstanding McNair Faculty Mentorship Award  

By McNair Staff

McNair faculty mentors are important members of the McNair team. Each year, McNair Scholars are asked to nominate faculty mentors for the “Outstanding McNair Faculty Mentorship Award.”

Criteria for nomination and selection were based on several mentoring qualities:

- Helped McNair Scholar(s) better understand the importance and process of undergraduate research;
- Enhanced the educational and personal growth of McNair Scholar(s) towards the pursuit of graduate degrees;
- Was enthusiastic, supportive, available and accessible to the McNair Scholar(s);
- Above and beyond supporter of the McNair Scholars Program.

This year four faculty mentors were selected as award recipients.

Dr. Regina Sims mentored McNair Scholar Tyler Sharp on “Trait Mindfulness and Depressive Symptomatology Relations among African Americans” and also mentored McNair Scholar Natasha Gaston on “Attitudes towards Auditory Health in African American and Caucasian Older Adults.”

Dr. Gretchen Bauer mentored McNair Scholar Nicole Mozee on “The Symbolic Representation of Women by Women in the DE Legislature.”

Dr. Yasser Payne mentored McNair Scholar Brookynn Hitchens on “Brenda's Got a Baby: Single Motherhood in the Streets.”

Dr. Roberta Gollnoff mentored McNair Scholar Maria Marquez on “L2 Acquisition Barriers: Considering Lexicalization Biases.”

Scholar Quotes: Outstanding Mentor Experiences

"Dr. Gretchen Bauer has been a wonderful inspiration in my college career; she has both guided me through one of my greatest accomplishments in college as well as provided me with a significant amount of insight on the global world. I admire her dedication and continuous support and am honored to have worked with her as my mentor."  

- Nicole Mozee

"Dr. Regina Sims has made it her mission to mentor undergraduates and I believe this speaks volumes to her life story and why she is receiving a McNair Mentor award. Mentoring is not something that she had a lot of in the beginning of her education endeavors. My experience with Dr. Sims has reflected her dedication to this mission because she is always available and willing to show me the tools I need to succeed. Dr. Sims attended every single McNair event including being a panelist for the faculty research panel held on June 14. I am inspired by her story, drive, tenacity and “get it done” qualities and I am always ranting to my peers about how great a mentor she is. Two pieces of advice she gave to me were: 1) Try to find a story in non-significant findings and 2) Gratitude - giving thanks for the opportunity and accomplishments already achieved is a good distraction when you are facing challenges."  

- Tyler Sharp

"Since I started conducting research under the guidance of my mentor Dr. Roberta M. Gollnoff, one thing I admire about her is the way she pushes me to believe I can do more than what I think I can. Her encouragement and support has motivated me to conduct research for the past two years now. I thank her for giving me the research experience that is shaping my career goals."  

- Maria Marquez

"Dr. Yasser Payne has been one of the best mentors I’ve had while in college. He has been integral in my development as a scholar and community activist, and has pushed me to pursue social justice for low-income black and brown communities. Dr. Payne is truly a rare individual, and I am blessed to learn and grow beneath his mentorship."  

- Brookynn Hitchens
College Tour by Stanley Terrell Anderson II

During the summer, the McNair Staff here at the University of Delaware was gracious enough to pay for a trip to Maryland and DC to take a tour of the University of Maryland College Park and George Washington University. At the University of Maryland College Park we participated in a graduate admissions information session. When the session concluded, we were given a tour of the campus and had some time to explore the campus and grab a snack if we wanted one. A few scholars ran into a human rights activist and had to exercise their ability to say “no” respectfully.

Our arrival to George Washington was delayed by DC traffic. However, soon after our arrival, it proved to be an enjoyable experience for the scholars. The information session was focused exclusively on financing options for graduate school, which was helpful since the cost of graduate school is immense. The tour that followed also helped McNair Scholars learn about cultural sites and activities for graduate students to explore. We also learned where students majoring in political science and journalism can find opportunities for internships. When the tour concluded, the McNair Scholars departed from GW and proceeded to Dave and Buster’s for dinner and leisure. From doing the Cupid Shuffle in the middle of the dining room, to playing whack-a-mole in the game room, everyone generally had a great time.

Faculty Research Panel by Arianna Morton

The faculty panel was surprisingly very informative and relevant. The four panelists were very professional but also very upfront and real about their own processes. Usually here people advise that one should be 100% ready for grad school before they go and to start preparations way in advance and/or to learn the ins and outs of the application process etc. Although all of these things are more than important, it was refreshing to hear things like, “I had no idea that I wanted to be in my current area of expertise before I had experienced the wrong areas first” or “I just happened to apply for this program, I got in, and I loved it.” The panelists’ advice, stories and experiences definitely put the whole room at ease after showing us that although the application to and the duration of grad school is definitely a competitive process, and although preparation is key, no one knows exactly where their own journey will take them. I was left with the thought that I definitely want to find a professional area that I’m in love with so that I can always be passionate about my job, and it is encouraging to know that there are many people around who have had enough experience to help guide the way.

Karaoke Night by Nicole Mozee

The Fourhands scored a smashing hit with the McNair scholars for their social event. On July 19th, more than half of the students carpooled to Applebees excited to buy half price appetizers and engage in good conversation. More importantly, each McNair scholar was curious to see who would be the first performer for Applebees’ Thursday night karaoke.

Everyone gathered for the event around 9pm, consuming an entire section of the restaurant. Eager orders were placed along with exciting drinks. Then, entered one of the key players of the night, the Karaoke DJ. As he began to set up, the McNair scholars joked about who would be the first to sing and selected a few song books. There were several books to choose from, all consisting of various genres of music and eras. Finally, the anticipation was set at ease with the debut performance of Quindara Lazenbury, Brooklyn Hitchens, and their friend, Rachel Jamison, singing 3LW’s “No More.” The entire restaurant grew with excitement and a wave of performances took hold. The McNair scholars even encouraged children of families in the restaurant to take the mic and showcase some talent. Without a doubt, the Ronald E. McNair scholars created a concert that night in Applebees which every audience member enjoyed.
Seniors Thoughts

Andrew M. Agostini

It’s funny how fast time goes by in college. As a “super senior”, it truly is astonishing to look back four years and still vividly remember moving into Rodney F204. Everything was so new and exciting, because college was what I had been looking forward to since the beginning of my senior year in high school. Throughout the years, it hasn’t been uncommon for people to ask me, “Have you enjoyed college thus far and would you change anything about any of your experiences?” I can honestly say that I have fully enjoyed my time here at UD and I wouldn’t have changed a moment of it. This includes the hard times, good times, and great times. College is a journey of self-enlightenment in which you will find hidden passions. I discovered that my dormant passion was neuroscience and its application to medicine. Thus, the most valuable lesson I have learned in college is to always be wary of those hidden passions and to act on them because they are inevitably bound to your character. Be open to the change and embrace it like a lost brother. Take that extra step into the dark with full confidence in the unseen before you.

Kendall Poole

I will never be able to just briefly describe how much the McNair program here has helped me and how much I appreciate it. Before I applied to the program, I had very little involvement with the school outside of being an athlete. After being accepted and finishing my first summer with the program, I became friends with those who were just as fascinated with research and serving others as I was. I felt like I could do anything afterward, and was inspired by the program to push myself harder and get more involved on campus. Once I became a McNair scholar, I was fortunate to feel like the opportunities available to me now were in my grasp. Attending the annual biomedical research conference for minority students in St. Louis, as well as the college visit to Miami, have meant a lot to me and always will. One day when I finally take the time to look back on what I’ve done, it will be an honor to credit the McNair Scholar Program as one of the main reasons I reached my goals.

Leeah Fayson

Future McNair Scholars, I would just say to really cherish the time that you have in the McNair program. It’s important to make those connections with scholars. This is the perfect networking opportunity and there is none like it! You become someone that others look up to and your professors may look to you to provide leadership within their classes.

So just know that you not only represent yourself, but you also represent the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. Preparing for grad school is stressful!!! But start early! Make sure you take your GRE early enough just in case you want to take it again. Start your application early! Make sure you get them in before the deadline!! McNair is AWESOME and is the reason I am still in school. McNair has provided me with a lot of opportunities like presenting at a national conference and working as an intern with some of the most important individuals in my field of study. It has also cultivated bonds so strong between me and other scholars that are unlike any other. I feel prepared to go to grad school based on my experiences over the past years.
Shantel Campbell Spotlight

During the last half of my junior semester at the University of Delaware McNair Scholars program encouraged me to apply to the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP). On that advice, I applied and was selected to join the program with Stanford University, a participating Alliance institution.

With the guidance of Michal Herzenstein, assistant professor of business administration in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, I was introduced to Baba Shiv, professor of marketing at Stanford, who mentored me throughout the research program.

During my 8 weeks at Stanford, I worked with Shiv to study the differences between responses to scarcity of money versus scarcity of time by designing an online research survey with several scenarios that tackled marketing concepts like mental accounting and variety seeking.

The research study evaluated how consumers will take fewer risks if they lack time or money. As a result consumers adapt to a familiar product, which affects what consumers buy.

I presented research on the affect of scarcity of time and resources on buyer behavior at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium (LANS) at the Hartford Marriott Downtown in Hartford, Conn., earlier this summer.

Through this experience, I was able to learn what it’s like to work with a mentor and to do extensive background research on my topic,” said Campbell. “I also learned the process of actually executing a research project and, finally, presenting that project in a way that those outside my field can understand.”

Alumni Spotlight

Former McNair Scholar Taria Pritchett has started her own blog called, Regal Realness. As a McNair Scholar, she researched and presented findings on the creation and history of Essence Magazine, a premier African American women’s magazine. Her research experiences sparked her childhood dream of creating a space for girls and women of color to recognize their beauty, talents, and worth. As a result, her blog seeks to inspire women of color to become fabulous and empowered. Read her latest post at www.regalrealness.wordpress.com.

Alumni Spotlight

Program: M.S. in HDFS with a concentration in human services University of Delaware Assistantship Location: Hall Director, Residence Life

What are you doing now? I am currently a finishing my first semester as a graduate student at the University of Delaware. My area of interest is risk and resiliency in urban adolescents and I plan on doing research over winter session on a secondary analysis. As apart of my assistantship, I supervise six resident assistants and manage two buildings with over 200 residents.

Any advice you would give to a McNair Scholar preparing to apply to graduate school? I would encourage McNair Scholars to be persistent on their journey to graduate school. If you find yourself locked out of a door, find a way to get in. Do not take “no” for an answer.

How is undergrad different than grad school? The biggest difference between undergrad and graduate school is the workload. I find that even though I may be in class less than I was as an undergraduate, I have a large amount of work outside of class.

How do you feel about the UD McNair grant getting renewed? I think it is great news that the UD McNair grant is getting renewed. The UD McNair program reaffirmed and prepared me for graduate school. I look forward to seeing the work of future scholars at the symposium.
Hello Fellow McNairs,

I’m James Campbell, McNair Scholar from 2010–2012. I graduated from the University of Delaware last Spring and currently attend Rutgers-Camden School of Law. Over the summer, while some of you were busy working on the amazing research projects I saw at the summer symposium, I was taking my first class in Contract law. The pressures of graduate level research were rough in undergrad, but after taking my first law school course, I am grateful for it. Currently in my first year of law school, I’m realizing the major benefits I received from having been a McNair Scholar – how to network with noted professors and colleagues, a wealth of knowledge outside my own field and interests and even how to have fun in a professional manner all have been of great assistance in carving a name for myself in my profession. The biggest piece of advice I can give you, being where I am now, is to fully immerse yourself in EVERY opportunity McNair affords you. From the seminars to the socials, from trips to the movies or the beach to symposiums and lectures, I promise you nothing arranged for you is done in vain. I cannot tell you how happy I am to have made invaluable friendships with the Scholars I participated in the program with as well as the opportunity to work with and get to know Dr. Saunders, Tiffany and Chanel. The three of them have nothing but your best interest at heart. Utilize their expertise to the fullest.

On a final note, to the new scholars, I would like you to know that you have joined the ranks of some of the best and brightest at the University of Delaware. To the returning scholars, I absolutely believe you’ll continue to do great things representing this awesome program. And to the McNair staff, thank you for the great memories and great connections you have left me with. I am profoundly appreciative for the opportunity.

Warmest Regards,

James Campbell

J.D. Student, 2015

Rutgers-Camden School of Law

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Alumni Spotlight

Brenna James, Class of 2012

Program: MA in Political Science and International Relations

Assistantship Location: UD Office of Admissions

What are you doing now?:

A few months ago I returned from Tunisia where I was studying Arabic through the State Department (it was amazing)! Now, I am taking classes on Islam in politics, international relations theory, and political statistics and quantitative methods. I am in the process of trying to decide what topic I would like to explore for my long Master’s paper; perhaps US public opinions towards the Peace Process and US foreign policy in the Middle East. I am also working on several summer internship applications. When I am not in class or reading, I am working in the Admissions Office. I give presentations to high school and middle school students, conduct interviews, read applications, and work on increasing diversity on campus. It is a nice break from the academic side of my life!

Any advice you would give to a McNair Scholar preparing to apply to graduate school?

For those applying to the social sciences or humanities, really spend the time editing your writing sample. This is a critical piece of information that not only shows that you know how to research, but also how open minded you are to theories and practices within your field and how well versed you are in a particular area. For all McNair Scholars: apply to a mix of schools; both those ranked at the very top and some safety schools. It is better to have options!

How is undergrad different than grad school?

I spend less time in class, but have 100 times the amount of reading! My classes are about 10 students so the teachers really push me to be vocal, think critically, and do work beyond what is expected. The grading is also different; a B- is the equivalent of a failing grade and I don't have any final exams. My work is also much more based in previous literature and theory; my classes are geared towards understanding the field and learning how to participate in scholarly debate and inquiry.

How do you feel about the UD McNair grant getting renewed?

So thankful! The McNair program was able to support me not only through finances, but also through an amazing group of scholars who became my best friends. I am glad to hear that others will benefit from this wonderful program and reach their goals of obtaining a graduate education.