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Twelve KU Scholars Present Research at Fifth Annual Heartland Research Conference

By Michael Stewart
McNair Graduate Assistant

The University of Kansas McNair Scholars Program, in association with Kansas State University's McNair Scholars Program, co-hosted the fifth annual Ronald E. McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, September 21 - 23, 2001. The purpose of the Heartland Conference is to provide McNair Scholars the opportunity to present their research to fellow Scholars and interested persons.

During the conference, the McNair Scholars and staff heard remarks by Buck O'Neil and Dr. Dolores Cardona. O'Neil, renowned baseball player with the Negro Baseball Leagues and the first African-American coach in Major League Baseball, spoke to the audience about the ways in which a college degree would have positively affected his baseball career.

Cardona, the Director of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Wyoming, spoke to the Scholars, encouraging them to continue their quest for higher education, regardless of the many hardships they may encounter. Conference attendees also heard a panel presentation about the skills necessary for success in graduate school.

The University of Kansas was represented by the following Scholars: Massimo Ferrara, Jo Marie Hart, Jamie Thomas, April Adkins, Sheri Johnson, Carol Delgado, Courtney File, Donna Pickens, Eve Lane, and Sarai Interiano. Also attending were KU McNair Scholars Program staff members Robert Rodriguez, Tanya Kooi, and Michael Stewart. The three-day conference drew McNair Scholars from over eight states. These participating universities came from states as near as Missouri and Nebraska and as far away as New York.

KU McNair Scholars Program Names New Project Coordinator

By Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka
Director, Educational Opportunity Programs

Tanya Kooi, the McNair Scholars Program Project Coordinator for the past three years, has expressed a desire to spend more time with her son. In order to do this, she has requested assignment to a different position within the McNair Scholars Program on a part-time basis. She will now serve as the Academic Services Coordinator. We all owe Tanya a debt of gratitude for all she has done to put the McNair Scholars Program in an enviable position. She is a dedicated and an excellent advocate of equal access for all. I have asked Robert Rodriguez to assume the position of Project Coordinator and he has accepted. I believe that his on the job training, working with Tanya, and his diverse training and professional background will serve the program well.

Robert has served as the Academic Services Coordinator for the McNair Scholars Program since August 1998. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of California, Irvine, in 1994 and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Kansas in 1996. He also recently completed doctoral coursework in American Studies at KU and is presently working on his comprehensive examination.

The staff changes became effective July 1st, 2001.
Scholar Spotlight:
Jo Marie Hart

By Vincent Edwards
McNair Student Assistant

Jo Marie Hart said being cooped up in a van with five people for four days wasn’t such a bad thing.
“\textquote{I got to know the scholars a lot better,}” said Hart.

During the month of August, Jo Marie and two other Scholars journeyed to three different schools in the Midwest. Hart experienced first-hand what these schools had to offer, something she might not have done elsewhere.

\textquote{I wouldn’t get this type of research anywhere else,} said Hart.

But this trip wasn’t the only McNair opportunity that Hart seized. An art major, she explored female contemporary artists with oil painting and painted three self-portraits to complement the McNair summer research internship. She thinks the experience is valuable before she enters graduate school, though she hopes next summer she won’t make the project harder than it should be. She said she really had to “keep on top of things.”

Coming from Kansas City, Hart hopes her only sister will join the program in the future. She said she wants her sister to be a part of a program that helps its students with “everything and anything they need.” She feels the staff and program create another little close-knit family, something she thinks is important in a college environment.

This self-described overachiever said if she didn’t pursue an art major she would look into psychology. In her free time she loves to paint and work with her art. When she gets a chance she loves to boat at the lake or enjoy a nice book. Hart said she is still undecided but she is considering further study at Ohio State University, Indiana University, or Washington State University.

KU McNair Program Participates in Program Evaluation with School of Education Graduate Students

By Tanya Koop
Academic Services Coordinator

During the fall semester graduate students in Dr. Christopher Morpew’s class, Teaching and Leadership 885: Program Planning and Evaluation in Higher Education, have been working with the McNair Scholars Program staff to conduct an evaluation of the program. The course focuses on planning and evaluating programs in colleges and universities.

Within the higher education community, interest in program evaluation and assessment has increased as colleges and universities have come under increasing pressure to demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs and make themselves more accountable to a variety of constituencies both inside and outside the academy. The McNair Scholars Program, a federally funded TRIO program, is required to demonstrate the effectiveness of its program and services and to meet specific performance objectives. Results of assessments are reported to the U.S. Department of Education on an annual basis.

Students in Dr. Morpew’s class are contacting former McNair Scholars, current McNair Scholars, McNair faculty mentors, and student affairs professionals across the KU campus to evaluate the program’s recruitment strategies and quality of the services being provided to program participants. Students in the class will evaluate the results, report findings to the McNair Scholars Program staff and make recommendations for program improvement.

Scholars Tour Midwestern Universities

By Vincent Edwards
McNair Student Assistant

In early August, KU McNair Scholars Eve Lane, Courtney File, and Jon Marie Hart traveled across the Midwest in hopes of narrowing down and finding out more about potential graduate schools. The Scholars’ first stop was in Columbus, Ohio to attend Ohio State University’s Sixth Annual Ronald E. McNair Scholars Summer Visit. While at this event, the Scholars met with faculty in their prospective graduate departments. The Scholars also participated in a financial support workshop as well as a campus tour including a stop at the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center.

The Scholars then traveled to Bloomington, Indiana to attend meetings with faculty representing their particular academic interests at Indiana University. The former Associate Director of the University of Kansas Upward Bound program, Megan Palmer, met with the Scholars and gave them a tour of Indiana University’s campus.

After leaving Indiana, the Scholars made a final stop at Washington University in St. Louis to become better acquainted with its campus and faculty. The Scholars said they enjoyed visiting all of the schools and seeing firsthand what they had to offer. They said they felt the trip was very valuable to them in their selection of a graduate school program. The Scholars said also that the long hours of conversation on the road enabled them to get to know each other better, and that made the trip even more enjoyable.

Are you a former KU McNair Scholar?

Call us toll free at 1-877-842-5232 or send an email to mcnair@ku.edu and we will include an article or an update about you in the next issue of The McNair Chronicle.
Fifteen McNair Scholars Present at KU Research Symposium

By Vincent Edwards
McNair Student Assistant

The University of Kansas McNair Scholars Program held its 2nd annual Research Symposium from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m on July 27, 2001 at the Kansas Union. Each of the fifteen McNair Scholars who had participated in the program’s Summer Research Internship gave a fifteen-minute presentation on the research they had conducted. Two concurrent sessions featured topics ranging from “The Psychological Effects in African-American Children Who Lack Paternal Influence” to “Weight Maintenance: Orlistat vs. Meal Replacements.” The Research Symposium was well attended by many parents, faculty members, mentors, KU administrators and students who gathered to witness the results of a summer’s hard work and research on a variety of topics. At the conclusion of the symposium guests attended a luncheon in the Malott Room. One of the guests in attendance was the new dean of the School of Education, Angela Lumpkin, who welcomed everyone and engaged the audience with a story of encouragement. At the luncheon, Carol Delgado, a McNair Scholar, presented her research on the “Satisfaction and Success Among Hispanic Students” as the final research presentation of the day.

2001 McNair Scholars and Faculty Mentors:

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<tr>
<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Mentor &amp; Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April Adkins</td>
<td>Annette Stanton, Psychology</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Boldridge</td>
<td>Yolanda Jackson, Human Development &amp; Family Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Delgado</td>
<td>Shirley Hill, Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massimo Ferrara</td>
<td>Bill Staples, Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney File</td>
<td>Dennis Jacobsen, Health, Sport &amp; Exercise Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Marie Hart</td>
<td>Tanya Hartman, Art</td>
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<td>Sari Inteniano</td>
<td>Patricia Fumero, History</td>
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<td>Sheri Johnson</td>
<td>Deborah Ortega, Social Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eve Lane</td>
<td>Giselle Anatol, English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eulalia Munoz</td>
<td>Joe Harrington, English</td>
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<td>Donneta Pickens</td>
<td>Tony Clark, American Studies</td>
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<td>Breanne Potter</td>
<td>Leon Greene, Health, Sport &amp; Exercise Science</td>
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<td>Destiny Riggs</td>
<td>Ronald Ash, Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Thomas</td>
<td>Luke Jordan, Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikki White</td>
<td>Jane Wegner, Speech, Language &amp; Hearing</td>
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<td>Virgil Adams, Psychology</td>
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Mentor Accolades:

Deborah Ortega, assistant professor in the School of Social Welfare, has been reappointed by Governor Bill Graves to the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs. Her term will expire in June, 2003.

Assistant professor of education, Cornel Pewewardy, received the second annual Crystal Eagle Award for American Indian leadership at the University of Kansas. Pewewardy also serves as an adjunct instructor for the American Indian Studies program at Haskell Indian Nations University. Recipients of the award, which recognizes demonstrated leadership for American Indian people at the national level, are selected by graduate students in KU’s Indigenous Nations Studies program.

Chair of African and African-American Studies, Peter Ukpokodu, presented the paper “Gule Wamkulu of Malawi and Ozidi Saga of Nigeria: Indigenous Street Theatre as Community Theatre” at the Conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research on Trans-actions: Culture and Performance, held in Sydney, Australia. In addition, Ukpokodu has been appointed as a co-editor of the International African Literature Association’s annual publication.

The W.T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence recognize outstanding teachers and advisers at KU as determined by a seven-member selection committee. The committee’s members include students, faculty and KU alumni. This is the sixth year of the ten-year award program. Former McNair mentors Ann E. Cudd, professor of philosophy, and Cornel Pewewardy, assistant professor of education, received the award this year.

Paul Hanson, assistant professor of chemistry, is serving on the Commission on the Status of Minorities. The recently established commission was formed to study the recruitment and retention of minority students, staff and faculty at the University of Kansas.

Interested in being a KU McNair Scholar?

Applications are now being accepted for the 2001-2002 academic year. Call (785) 864-3412 or stop by the office at 300 Joseph R. Pearson Hall for more information.

Congratulations!

Latasha Reed, McNair Scholar, recently received certification as a Certified Nurse’s Aide and in Adult CPR and First Aid. Congratulations!
Scholars Attend McNair Research Conference in Puerto Rico, October 4-6

By Sheri Johnson
McNair Scholar

While on the plane to Isla Verde, Puerto Rico and the first annual McNair Research Conference of the University of Puerto Rico October 4 - 7, I kept myself busy by looking through the research presentation list for the conference. I was overwhelmed by the number and diversity of topics that were to be presented in a three-day span. It was hard to decide which sessions to attend. Personally, I really enjoyed the research presentations. There were a variety of different subjects including psychology, sociology, economics, cultural studies, and many more. I was amazed to see that there was one other presentation very similar to my own. Also, I attended presentations related to my major (Social Welfare) on topics such as welfare, child abuse and women’s issues. Several presentations related to my social work field practicum, The Peer Program (adolescent counseling and training). These centered around issues such as body image, school violence, and gay and lesbian issues. Lastly, I was able to attend presentations that interested me personally or aroused my curiosity, such as the presentation that discussed male behavioral patterns in public restrooms.

The Graduate School Fair was very helpful and informative. I had the opportunity to find out about schools and programs that I had never before considered. I also got to find out which schools have scholarships, fellowships, and other financial assistance. During the fair, I took the opportunity to invite college recruiters to my presentation as well. Throughout the conference I received positive feedback from fellow McNair Scholars and advisors and the graduate school recruiters.

After attending all the many presentations and dinners, listening to the speakers, meeting with graduate school recruiters, and participating in other conference activities, I had a chance to sightsee in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Puerto Rico is a land of many diverse cultures, histories, and people. I will definitely return to that magical place!