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**McNair Scholars Program Staff**

This program is federally funded by the United States Department of Education in the amount of $271,392 per year.

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**Fall 2011 McNair Graduates Honored**

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**From Left to Right**

Kevin Mohammed, Applied Behavioral Sciences, will be attending Wichita State University for a Masters in Criminal Justice

Reanna Putnam, Sociology, will be traveling to Guatemala for a Spring Language Immersion program and attending graduate school for a Ph.D. in Sociology

Kaitlyn Stone, Microbiology, will be working as a research assistant at a research institute prior to graduate school

Aj Rahman, Civil Engineer, will be attending The University of Kansas for a Masters in Civil Engineering

Jessica Casebier, Psychology and Women & Gender Studies, will be working prior to graduate school

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**Are you a former KU McNair Scholar?**

Please visit our website at: www.mcnair.ku.edu

Visit the “Degrees Earned by Former Scholars” page to ensure your information is correct and contact the McNair Scholars Program at mcnair@ku.edu or (785)864-3412 to update your information.

Also, join our fan page on Facebook @ KU McNair Scholars.
Patrick Miller worked with Dr. Andy Gill in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Together, they worked on an “R interface for reconfigurable computing”. In other words, for hardware to be reconfigurable, the low-level logic used for doing computations is not fixed, it can be changed or “reconfigured” at run-time. This allows writing programs almost directly into the hardware itself, which creates greater efficiency.

As a result of his internship, Patrick learned about the research process, as well as operating systems, communication between software components, and designing software architectures to solve complex problems. This experience helped him decide to pursue further work at the intersection of computer science and statistics in graduate school. Patrick’s advice to students is to avoid taking classes and working while doing an internship. He suggests that the less competing priorities one has, the more likely it is that one’s work can be published at the end.

Melissa Malcolm’s research was conducted under Professor Ernest Jenkins. The general premise of her work was to re-define the word Robber Baron. Using an interdisciplinary approach, she was able to directly correlate modern entrepreneurial business practices with those used in late nineteenth and early twentieth century America.

As a result of her internship, Melissa learned to be flexible and go with the flow, especially when scheduling conflicts occur. Melissa chose to work with Professor Jenkins because of his dedication to students and his research techniques. She recommends developing positive professor relationships early, because they can be very helpful in the future. Melissa feels the internship and the McNair Scholars program has prepared her for graduate studies and feels confident in achieving her long term goals.
Scholar Spotlight: Adam Nicholson

After graduating from Lawrence High school, Adam Nicholson entered the Marine Corp. He spent four years active duty before moving back to Kansas to be near his family and attend college at the University of Kansas. Having been a part of the Lawrence community he feels KU is a great school.

Adam’s research interests are primarily based in inequality studies, specifically poverty and economic stratification. He is also interested in social movements and international development, including the role of NGO’s or Non-profit’s in development. Following completion of his bachelor’s degree, he plans on obtaining a PhD and continuing his research as a professor and working with non-profits and NGOs.

Adam feels that the McNair Scholars program will enable him to be competitive for the best programs in his field. As a first-generation college student he feels that the program will help him navigate the graduate school process much easier than it has been as an undergraduate.

Scholar Spotlight: Reanna Putnam

Reanna Putnam has been with the McNair program since 2008 and is currently in the process of applying for graduate school. She came to the University of Kansas with plans of graduating with a degree in journalism and then entering the work force. However, through her experiences with the McNair program, Reanna’s plans have changed to include attending graduate school in a sociology program with food and agriculture concentrations. She hopes to someday use her research skills in a career in academia, public policy research, or non-profit organizing.

In January, Reanna will be going to Guatemala for a two month intensive language immersion program, which focuses on the political and cultural history of Guatemala and offers opportunities to live in a rural village where she can help with reforestation and gardening projects in the community. Upon returning in March she will pursue a summer apprenticeship at a bio-dynamic farm in Santa Cruz, California.

Reanna’s advice to new and current Scholars is “get to know your fellow McNair scholars and share some McNair love”. Because she is the first in her family to apply for graduate school, as well as the first in her peer group, Reanna shares that “It’s good to come to JRP and have a support system in place, don’t take the McNair staff for granted, they are such an asset.”

Graduate Reflection: Kevin Mohammed

My time at the University of Kansas slowly created a path to something greater than I had imagined. Personally, something was missing when I started KU, but when I became a McNair Scholar I knew I found my answer. As a scholar, I saw a view of academics I was completely unaware of; my ideas about life, work and education changed forever.

My current goal is to pursue the area of criminal justice in my graduate studies. I want to research the criminalization of youth populations, the racialized representation of criminality and how media plays a significant role, and bring new research to the field of criminal justice. I believe I am destined for a PhD; to become a future educator as a college professor and a mentor to students like myself. I also want to pursue a career in federal law enforcement and serve my community as a social advocate for pragmatic change.

My spring plans are to work and prepare for graduate school for fall 2012.

My advice to other scholars is to take advantage of every opportunity and explore various research interests because it opens many doors for your future in academia or your career interest. A student who holds a diverse research background will enhance their graduate school application. I recommend that you attend conferences and symposia because they allow you to meet new scholars and professors from various institutions, and they are designed to help you succeed.

“Anything worth doing, is worth doing poorly until you can master it.” ~ Anonymous
In 2011, 14 University of Kansas McNair Scholars attended the 15th MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, MO. Dr. McGaha-Garnett spoke about the resiliency of McNair scholars and their ability to overcome and withstand life’s challenges and how this translates into their life as a graduate student.

Students also traveled to Buffalo, NY to a National McNair Research conference and cultural exploration trip where they visited graduate programs at the University at Buffalo, NY and met with faculty members.

During both conferences, Scholars presented their research, networked with other scholars, and explored graduate school options. Scholars also attended workshops on the graduate school application process and writing the graduate admission letter.