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

Congrats to Our Fall 2013 McNair Graduates!

Paul Fowler III

Paul, a history major, joined the McNair Scholars Program in Spring 2012. Since then, he has worked with Drs. Jennifer Weber (2012) and Clarence Lang (2013), studying the migration of fugitive slaves to Kansas and African-American community and class formation in Lawrence, respectively. Paul is the recipient of the Nicole Bingham Memorial Scholarship and the Undergraduate Research Award. In graduate school, Paul plans to study African American history, specifically issues regarding civil rights, community & class, education, and political activism.

Jon Nelson

Jon, who will be receiving his B.A. in sociology, with departmental and university honors. Jon joined the McNair program in Spring 2013. During his time as a McNair Scholar, Jon worked under Dr. Robert Antonio on a project that studied farmers’ attitudes towards the environment and climate change. Jon is the recipient of the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Betty Wahlstedt award for excellence in the social sciences, Gillman Scholar, and a National Merit Scholar. In graduate school, Jon will pursue a Ph.D. in environmental sociology, specifically farming & food systems.

Tyler Wieland

Tyler will be obtaining his bachelor’s degree with departmental honors in atmospheric science and minors in mathematics and journalism. Tyler joined the McNair Scholars Program in the Spring of 2013. As a McNair Scholar, Tyler worked with Dr. Nathaniel Brunsell on studying the effects of urban landscape on thunderstorm development. Tyler is a Hixson Scholar, and a recipient of the Undergraduate Research Award. In graduate school, Tyler plans to study the mechanisms governing atmosphere-surface interactions in order to understand how perturbations to the atmosphere are potentially mitigated or amplified by feedbacks within the system.

Louisa Hussein

Louisa joined KU McNair Spring 2013. She will be graduating with degrees in psychology and applied behavioral science. As a McNair Scholar, Louisa worked with Dr. Claudia Dozier in a project dealing with selective mutism in children, a disorder in which certain social situations cause people to be unable to speak. Louisa is the recipient of three certifications: First Aid & CPR (2012), Service Learning (2012), and the Research Experience Program (2013). In graduate school, Louisa plans to continue studying applied behavioral science.

KU McNair Graduates—we want to hear from you! Update your information at mcnair.ku.edu – Click People—Former Scholar tab
Scholar Achievements

Clint Jensen, Greg Ervin and Josh Russell were named the first Research Leaders for the Center of Undergraduate Research. As research leaders, these scholars help mentor undergraduate peers by assisting them in finding a faculty advisor, and holding office hours to answer questions about research. They also assist with the annual Research Symposium conducted by the Center.

Taylor Broadhead and Eder Davila Contreras were admitted to the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program at KU.

Greg Ervin and Tyler Wieland received the Undergraduate Research Award for the Fall 2013 semester.

Jamie Bost, M.A., Computer Programming
Dagoberto Heredia, Jr, M.A., Counseling Psychology
Kimberly Moore, M.S.E., Higher Education Administration
Whitney Morgan, M.A., in Urban Planning
Adam Nicholson, published his undergraduate work in the Journal of Undergraduate Research.

Dr. Belinda Hinojos: McNair Alumna Earns Ph.D.

Dr. Hinojos earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August. Currently, she works as a psychologist in the Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as the Latino Outreach Specialist and serves as the liaison for TRIO programs in helping students that are underrepresented in higher education.

McNair Staff: Farewell to Chelsie Bright, M.S.

The McNair Scholars Program bids farewell to Chelsie Bright, M.S., who served as the McNair Graduate Assistant. The McNair Staff is grateful for her valuable contributions over the past two years. Chelsie has served as a writing coach, instructor, presenter, and adviser. She has initiated and designed various workshops including the Graduate School Application Course, Graduate Student Mentor Program, and has helped various students with their graduate school applications. Chelsie’s enthusiastic and supportive demeanor and her commitment towards student’s academic success will be missed by Scholars and fellow colleagues.

Scholar Research Reflections

I am continuing my work in herpetology under the direction of Dr. Rafe Brown at the Museum of Natural History. The focus of my research involves looking for discrete, non-overlapping morphological differences between populations of a Southeast Asian tree frog, Rhacophorus appendiculatus. Together, with molecular data, mating call analyses, and morphological characters, we will be able to statistically test and determine species boundaries between different populations R. appendiculatus. This will allow me to determine if any of these populations represent new evolutionary lineages warranting species recognition.

Working on this project, I have gained the skills that have helped me become more independent as a researcher and in laboratory environments. This has allowed me to expand my knowledge of frog anatomy, laboratory techniques, and the natural history of R. appendiculatus.

I would advise future McNair Scholars to find a mentor who is willing to help them acquire the necessary skills and methodology that are important to becoming an independent member of a research lab.

My research is about the effects of urban landscape on thunderstorm development. Because urban landscapes and the number of people who live in these areas continue to grow, the effect of unnatural landscapes becomes more pronounced.

My project concentrates on the effect the Kansas City urban area is having on the initiation and enhancement of thunderstorms.

Research is difficult, time consuming and stressful. However, the end results can be very rewarding. Overall my research projects have taught me more than any class ever could. I have obtained real-world skills and knowledge that will advance my future.

Find something you love and go with it. Research is not always easy, but if you surround yourself with a strong network of advisers and peers the daunting task can be overcome. Research previous studies and reports and build a unique research project and you will carry it through to completion.
McNair Scholars Study Abroad

Cassandra Osei, a junior majoring in History and Latin American & Caribbean Studies, was given the opportunity to study abroad in Brazil, but needed $3,850 to cover expenses. With the help of an online fundraiser, Cassie surpassed the amount needed and will leave for Brazil over Christmas Break. We asked Cassie to describe her upcoming experience.

"For five months (January 1st to June 1st, 2014), I plan to study abroad in Brazil. I will be living in Salvador, Bahia, a city well-regarded for its rich history, vibrant local culture and African heritage. I will be going through CIEE Study Abroad (my university currently does not have a semester program for Brazil), and will study at Universidade Federal da Bahia and Universidade Católica do Salvador. Not only will I be studying Portuguese language and Brazilian culture, but I will also be conducting research on Afro-Brazilian women's organizing. It will supplement research I have already conducted on black women's organizing in the United States, specifically black feminist organizing in the 1970s. I am excited and blessed to be offered the opportunity to enhance my undergraduate studies, especially in a year Brazil will be front and center on the international stage."

McNair Scholar in Graduate School

We asked Paige, a first-year graduate student at Brandeis University, to pass on some advice to current and future McNair Scholars:

**Things that would be beneficial for scholars who haven't completed their bachelor's:**
When applying to/choosing programs, don't be afraid to think about what you want and need. Graduate school is too much work and too much commitment to not let yourself be happy. Also, if it doesn't work out like you expect, don't worry. There are many paths to a PhD. There are students between the ages of 21 and 60 in my program.

**Surprises you've encountered during your first semester:** You will learn an exponential amount very quickly. Don't lose faith or get discouraged; there's a reason you got in and even if the others in your cohort have a better foundation in your field than you, it might not stay that way for long. There's a learning curve, but you're gonna be brilliant. Just give it time.

**Anything else you would like to share:** Another thing: make friends. And not just wave-across-campus-friends. Make good friends. They are just as important to your success as your own study habits. Let yourself be supported and be supportive. Also: pick an adviser that is invested in you. It makes all the difference.
In 2013, KU McNair Scholars attended the 17th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference in Kansas City, MO. Scholars presented their research to students, colleagues, and staff from Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska McNair Scholars Programs. Students also listened to a faculty panel that featured McNair alumni. The panel provided students with valuable information on applying to and completing graduate school. Scholars also visited various graduate programs at the Graduate School Fair, and received information on applying to graduate programs. John Augusto, Assistant Vice Provost, Center for Undergraduate Research at KU, gave an inspirational talk to students and encouraged them to be proactive in seeking and maximizing growth opportunities. Dr. Augusto referred to the book *Making Hope Happen* written by a former McNair–Faculty Mentor Shane J. Lopez, Ph.D.

(R to L) Kasabi Chinonge, Eric Rivera, Kristina Van Anne speaking with a graduate school representative from a University in Texas.

Front Row (Left to Right): Danielle Siebert, Jeffery Durbin, Joshua Russell.
Back row: Kristina Van Anne, Kasabi Chinonge, Tyler Wieland.

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