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McNair Scholars Program
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Washington D.C. through the Eyes of an Artist

By Jo Marie Hart
McNair Scholar

Over spring break I had the privilege of presenting my research at the University of Maryland McNair Research Conference along with four other KU McNair Scholars: April Adkins, Carol Delgado, Courtney File, and Eve Lane. This was my first visit to the Washington D.C. area. Being in that fast-paced international city was invigorating. As an artist my senses were overwhelmed with new information. As the group went to all the regular tourist attractions, I always seemed to be straggling behind, trying to take in as much of my surroundings as possible. I was even amazed at all the different languages I heard just walking from one block to the next.

I was excited to be in a city with so many internationally known art museums and galleries. I had dreamt of the day I would finally arrive, and I wanted to see as much as possible in the short time we had. I was amidst the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, all the Smithsonian Museums, the Dupont Circle Galleries District, and so many more. I could have spent days just in the National Gallery of Art!

Seeing paintings in person that you have only seen in books or on slides is always a breathtaking experience. It is hard to put into words, but I was in heaven. At the National Gallery of Art I was standing in front of paintings by all the modern masters. I spent most of my time in the East building because it held all the contemporary work. I had never seen the work by Salle, Kiefer, Close, and Fischl in person. I was shocked by the mere size of some of the works, 10 ft by 15 ft. They swallowed me whole.

My favorite exhibition was called “Places of Their Own” at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This exhibit was focused on two of my all time favorite women painters: Georgia O’Keefe and Frida Kahlo. I had never seen a Kahlo in person. I was in heaven amidst so much beauty by both artists; and for their works to be together in one show, I was amazed. It is so hard to put into words the emotional and sensory overload I experienced; it was pure eye candy.

Some of the other exhibits, museums and galleries that I thought were fantastic were the Activism Art Gallery at Dupont Circle, where I saw a new Hung Liu painting (an artist from my research project); The September 11 Photo Project at Arlington National Cemetery, and the entire Holocaust Museum.

I want to thank the McNair Scholars Program for this incredible experience, especially our Project Coordinator, Robert Rodriguez for dragging us all over Washington D.C. to make sure we got to see as much as possible.
Malik Abdul-Aziz
a former McNair Scholar and graduate of the University of Southern California Film School, won his “first big award” in February. His short film “Peeping Tom” was named Best Short Film at the Hollywood Black Film Festival, a definite triumph.

Shawn Arellano
a former McNair Scholar, was awarded a three-year National Science Foundation fellowship to study marine biology at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Elizabeth Boldridge
served on committees helping to raise record public support for KU Endowment’s “KU First” fund-raising campaign. She has also received a graduate teaching assistantship for the clinical psychology program at KU.

Aron Carlson
was cast as two different characters in the KU University Theatre production of “Othello” which played six times during March in the Crafon-Preyer Theatre.

Massimo Ferrara
was awarded the Allen S. Wilbur Scholarship by the KU Honors Program. The $9,500 for fall 2002 and spring 2003 will cover graduate tuition and fees to study sociology at the master’s level at KU.

Jo Marie Hart
was accepted into the KU-Kansas City Art Institute Juried Student Exhibition at the “Museum Gallery” in Lawrence’s I-70 Business Center, shown during March this year. She won an Honorable Mention from the jurors for a ceramic piece called “Memoir II.”

Madinah Hazim
a 2001 McNair journalism graduate, is now editor of the Topeka-based Kansas Lottery’s colorful newsletter “Retailers!”

Eulalio Muñoz
who graduates this summer, was awarded a McNair Fellowship to the University of Texas Austin where he will begin graduate school in the fall.

LaTasha Reed
has been accepted into the KU School of Nursing in Kansas City.

Michael Stewart & Felicia Mitchell
were honored at the Big XII American Indian Leadership Conference at Nebraska this spring. Michael won the award “Big 12 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year” and Felicia won the “Big 12 Outstanding Junior of the Year.”

Scholars Recognized at Annual Banquet
By Robert Rodriguez
Project Coordinator

Over the past several years, the Annual McNair Scholars Program Awards Banquet has become a crowning moment for graduating KU McNair Scholars. This year was no different. Among the highlights of the 2002 edition of this recognition banquet were touching remarks by Chancellor Robert Hemenway and School of Education Dean Angela Lumpkin. Former Scholar Jennifer Ivie also presented reflections of her experience as a McNair Scholar and the various ways in which the Program has impacted her life.

The twelve Scholars recognized at the banquet were those who graduated in December 2001, or will graduate in either May or August 2002. In honor of their participation in the Program, each Scholar received a framed certificate and a light-blue honor cord to be worn over their gown at commencement ceremonies. Additionally, each Scholar’s name appears on a plaque hanging in the first floor hallway of Joseph R. Pearson Hall, home of the KU School of Education. The Scholar’s names and majors are as follows: April Adkins (Psychology), Elizabeth Boldridge (Psychology), Aron Carlson (Philosophy, Theater and Film), John Davidson (Anthropology, Biology), Carol Delgado (Sociology, Anthropology), Bonita K. Hanni (Fine Arts), Sara Interiano (Spanish, Latin American Studies), Sheri Johnson (Social Welfare), Eve Lane (African & African American Studies), Eulalio Munoz, Jr. (American Studies), Donneta Pickens (Health, Sport and Exercise Science), and Breanne Potter (Psychology).
Graduating Scholars Receive Special Awards

At the 2002 McNair Scholars Program Awards Banquet, four special awards were presented to outstanding Scholars. The LaTina Sullivan Memorial Award was presented to Donneta Pickens, a Scholar who demonstrates an unwavering commitment to helping others, good citizenship, and social responsibility in her actions and research. This award was established in memory of former McNair Scholar and KU student LaTina Sullivan who passed away in 1997. The Eagle Award for Leadership was presented to Sheri Johnson, who clearly demonstrates a strong leadership presence at the University of Kansas and shows through her actions a real concern for furthering the ideals of the University and higher education. The McNair Spirit Award was presented to Carol Delgado, who best demonstrates the “McNair spirit” in her scholarly presence at the University of Kansas. She has been diligent in participation at McNair activities and possesses a strong scholarly work ethic. The Ronald E. McNair Challenger Award, awarded to Eve Lane, recognizes the achievements of a scholar who, because of her diligence and commitment to research and learning, gives promise to a successful academic career. This award honors Ronald E. McNair who died on the Challenger space shuttle in 1986.

Kansas McNair Journal

April Adkins, Massimo Ferrara, Eulalio Munoz, Courtney File, Jo Marie Hart, and Sheri Johnson have been selected to summarize their research from last summer for inclusion in the next Kansas McNair Journal. The journal is published by the McNair Scholars Programs at KU, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University.

Summer Schedule 2002

- **May 31**: Kick-off BBQ (5:30 p.m.) Centennial Park
- **June 3**: First Stipend/Room & Board Checks Distributed
- **June 4-18**: GRE PREP (Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00)
- **June 4-17**: McNair Colloquia (Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00)
- **June 28**: Rough Draft of Research Paper Due
- **July 1**: Second Stipend/Room & Board Checks Distrib.
- **July 4**: No Class (Independence Day)
- **July 26**: McNair Research Symposium
- **July 31**: Final Draft of Research Paper Due
- **Aug. 1**: Third Stipend Check Disbursed
- **Aug. 23**: Fourth Stipend Check Disbursed

McNair Mentors & Staff Accolades

**Giselle Anatol**
Assistant Professor of English, accepted a faculty position at Spelman College, a small liberal arts college for women and one of the nation’s historically Black institutions of higher learning.

**Carlin GTA Awards for 2001-2002**
Bradley Carter and Christine Robinson were both recipients of this award, honored at the Graduate School awards ceremony and commencement ceremonies on May 19 at Memorial Stadium. Carter, a former McNair tutor, studies humanities and Western civilization. Robinson, former McNair co-mentor for Vickey Kennedy, focuses on women’s studies at KU.

**Vincent Edwards**
McNair’s Office Specialist and student worker will be awarded his B. S. in journalism this spring from KU.

**Chico Herbison**
Former McNair Director, now KU Assistant Professor in African and African-American Studies, received the Hobart Jackson Service Award for outstanding service toward African and African-American students at KU from the Black Faculty and Staff Council at the awards banquet on April 6th.

**KU’s Employee Recognition Ceremony**
Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka, McNair Scholars Director and TRIO Programs Director, was recognized for 15 years of service to the University at the recognition ceremony on May 2nd. Robert Rodriguez, McNair’s Project Coordinator, and Tanya Kooi, McNair’s Academic Services Coordinator, were recognized and given pins by Chancellor Robert Hemenway for 5 years of service.

**McNair Collaborators**
Michele Eodice, KU Writing Center director, and Cindy Pierard, instructional support coordinator with the KU libraries, have created Weblio- graphy, a Web site for the National Teaching and Learning Forum. The site can be reached through the NTLF’s site at www.ntlf.com and contains links to plagiarism discussions.

**Cornel Pewewardy**
Assistant Professor of teaching and leadership, has been appointed to a national research team by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the Office of Indian Education, to investigate how American Indian teacher and leadership prep programs contribute to the development of practices that integrate language and culture into K-12 schools. The 3-year study will track approximately 400 teachers and will continue research on language and culture, in response to the American Indian and Alaska Native Education Research Agenda, which the U.S. Department of Education recently released.

**Michael Stewart**
McNair’s Graduate Assistant will be awarded his M.S. in Indigenous Studies from KU at this spring’s graduation ceremonies. He plans to return to his Choctaw tribe in Oklahoma to reconnect and plan his future goals.
Two years ago, I received in the mail a letter and a starry, pink flier for the McNair Scholars Program. I read the flier twice, thinking the program sounded too good to be true. Paid research? Room and board? Help getting to grad school? I thought some fine print must have been deleted accidentally, such as "applicants should saw off their right arms and bring them to 305 JRP."

Circumstances precluded me from applying, but last January I came across that pink flier—which I've held onto all this time. A senior graduating this December, I'm now a McNair Scholar looking forward to the Summer Research Internship.

I've only been part of the program for a few months, but my life is already changed. Just knowing that someone cares about people like me, who face social or economic disadvantages in seeking higher learning, casts a happy light on the hard work I've done thus far. And this summer, I'll have funding to complete a project I've been planning for years. Along the way, I'll receive guidance in hammering out a plan for graduate school. And perhaps most importantly, I've met caring, sincere human beings who share a desire for the success of McNair Scholars.

In fostering that success, the program demands a lot of time and effort from its Scholars. But after attending the recent awards banquet, I knew that time and effort is met with great reward. And, oh yeah, I still have my right arm.