McNair Scholars Program
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An Enlightening Trip to North Carolina

By Kristy Croom
McNair Scholar

I didn’t know what to expect when I was chosen to participate in the North Carolina A&T McNair Scholar Conference. However, as soon as we left Lawrence, I realized that this would be a great trip that I would never forget.

The first night we stayed at a great colonial hotel in Chapel Hill, where we toured UNC Chapel Hill. We also ate at great places and visited the downtown area. It was nice to see another college town that is so different from Lawrence, but still comfortable. The next stop on our college tour of North Carolina was Duke University in Durham. It is the most beautiful university that I have ever seen. We toured the campus and visited a campus museum. After leaving Duke, we were off to Greensboro for the McNair conference.

I really enjoyed the conference, but the greatest benefit came from meeting the students of NC A&T and learning about the rich history of the university and town. It was very interesting to learn about the role that Greensboro has played in civil rights history. The people were extremely polite and helpful. I would love to go back to visit someday. I never would have known the things that I learned on the trip had I not been presented with this opportunity by the McNair Scholars Program. I am really thankful to the McNair staff for allowing me to take part in such an eventful trip. I hope other students get the chance to experience North Carolina in the future.
Chancellor Robert Hemenway has been appointed chair of the commission on human resources and social change for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

Elizabeth Asiedu, Assistant Professor of Economics, was the Keynote Speaker at a USAID-sponsored conference “Globalization, Liberalization, and the Role of Women in Development in Africa in the 21st Century” at Wake Forest University in September 2002. At this conference, she presented a paper entitled “African Women in a Global Economy: Absolute Progress and/or Relative Decline?”


Charles Marsh, Associate Professor of Journalism, presented his paper in March, “Creativity, Associative Ability and Aristotle’s Four Causes,” at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southwest Colloquium, March 7-8 in Little Rock, Ark., where his paper on Aristotelian causal analysis and advertising copywriting was named the outstanding faculty research paper in the open division.

Cornel Pewewardy, Associate Professor, T&L, gave a presentation on “The Use of American Indian Mascots, Nicknames, Logos, and Behavior in Intercollegiate Athletes” for the National Collegiate Athletics Association Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee at the 2003 NCAA annual convention in Anaheim, CA.

Peter Ukpokodu, Professor and Chair of African and African-American Studies, recently received the coveted Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The “Surprise Patrol” handed out 20 $5,000 Kemper Awards for excellence in teaching and advising for 2002. The W.T. Kemper Fellowships recognize outstanding teachers and advisers at KU as determined by a seven-member selection committee. The committee includes students, faculty, and KU alumni. Dr. Ukpokodu and the other 19 winners were honored in a ceremony on September 17 in Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union.

Jamie Thomas: Was accepted to the Ph.D. program in Systems Enhancement Leadership through the University of Kansas. She was also awarded a four-year stipend in the amount of $24,000 per year. The program will emphasize Special Education Law and public policy as well as family centered practice.

Elyse Towey: Had a second son, Jack, on May 29, 2002.
Scholars Prepare for 2003 Summer Research Internship

By Robert Rodriguez
Project Coordinator

Fifteen McNair Scholars are undergoing final preparations for their participation in the 2003 Summer Research Internship. During the months of June and July, the Scholars will be working with KU faculty members on research projects of their choice. For their efforts, each Scholar will receive a $2800 stipend and $1200 room and board allowance. The scholars will present their research at the Annual McNair Research Symposium on July 25.

The 2003 SRI Participants are listed below. Mentors appear in parenthesis.

• Katherine Acosta (Sandra Albrecht)
• April Bradshaw (Chico Herbison)
• Gerardo Castillo (Tanya Hartman)
• Crystal Clark (Leon Greene)
• Chad Clarke (Mary Morningstar)
• Kate Harding (Richard Branham)
• Himee Kamatuka (Chico Herbison)
• Michael Lemon (Rick Snyder)
• Mulubrhan Misgana (Shane Lopez)
• Cylus Scarbrough (Phil Schrodt)
• Larry Showalter (Michael Godard)
• Jennifer Sweeton (Ruth Ann Atchley)
• Isley Unruh (Tanya Hartman)
• Eliticia Vieyra (Alice Lieberman)
• Darouney Koesay (mentor TBD)

Scholar Receives Student Achievement Award

April Bradshaw
received a "Black Faculty and Staff Council Student Achievement Award" for outstanding academics at the BFSC Awards Banquet on April 5, 2003.

Former Graduate Assistant Earns Alumni Award

Michael Stewart
has received from the Oklahoma University McNair Scholars Program the Outstanding Oklahoma McNair Alumnus Award. The award was presented at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX at the end of February 2003.

Interested in becoming a KU McNair Scholar?
Applications are now being accepted for the 2003-2004 academic year. Call (785) 864-3412 for more information.

Are you a former KU McNair Scholar?
Call us toll free at 1-877-842-5232 and we will include an article about you in the next issue of The McNair Chronicle.

Former Scholar Images: Tim Kochanski

Meet Allan Miller

Allan Miller has prepared KU McNair Scholars for their Summer Research Internship projects for the past three years. As the instructor for the Psychology and Research in Education 598 Course (Understanding Research), Dr. Miller has exposed McNair Scholars to a variety of research methods and assisted them with the preparation of their research proposals. He holds an Ed.D. from the University of Kansas, an M.A. from Emporia State University and a B.A. from McPherson College. Dr. Miller is particularly proud of having earned the Kansas State Historical Society Tihen Award for “Best Book on Kansas History by a new author for 1995” for Yankee on the Prairie.
Heather Ryser, one of KU’s outstanding McNair graduates, will be attending Georgia State University’s graduate program in the field of Genetics this fall. Heather hopes to earn a doctorate in Neurobiology and Behavior and later use that degree to become a faculty member or perhaps work with the government. Heather has been a McNair Scholar for three semesters and finds the greatest benefit she has gained from being a McNair Scholar is learning how to conduct research. She feels that she wouldn’t have been admitted into graduate school without the research experience that she gained through being a McNair Scholar. She also feels that the McNair Scholars Program helped her have a better undergraduate career by encouraging her to speak with professors and find people with whom to conduct research, something she did not do before joining the program.

Heather’s positive experience with the Program has left her with some words of advice to other students involved in the program. “When going through the graduate school application process,” she said, “use Robert and Tanya and the resources they provide for you. I don’t think I would have applied to graduate school without their help.” For those students who are considering becoming McNair Scholars, she said, “There is no reason you should not consider being part of this program. It is the best research opportunity for undergraduates I know of and has lots of other benefits.” Being a part of the Program has left Heather with a lot of memories of the time she spent with the other students in the summer and through all of the activities and programs sponsored by the Program.