Balancing Academics & Home Life: Student Success

Sarah Bregman, a KU McNair Scholar, has been awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship and has been admitted to the East Asian Studies Program at Harvard University. Both accomplishments are highly competitive and her selection was based on her outstanding abilities and achievements. Along with her accomplishments, Sarah is a mom of an 11 month old baby. She has successfully juggled a newborn with graduate school and funding applications, research, honors thesis, and coursework. Sarah has been an advocate for the McNair Scholars Program, and has referred the program to multiple students during her time at McNair.

20th Annual McNair Scholars Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet is held every Spring to celebrate the academic excellence of graduating scholars and to welcome new scholars as they embark on research and scholarly activities in the next two years. Faculty mentors are also honored for their exceptional services in mentoring scholars and advancing the mission of the McNair Scholars Program. More on pg. 3.

KU McNair Welcomes: New Staff

Originally from St. Louis, MO, the new Academic Services Coordinator, Paul Ladipo, joined the McNair Scholars staff in January 2013. Paul attended the University of Missouri-Columbia for his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Biology. He is currently finishing up a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration at KU. Prior to working for the McNair Scholars Program, Paul worked as an academic advisor at the Undergraduate Advising Center at the University of Kansas.

WELCOME to KU McNair!!

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

Anthony Johnson, a former McNair Scholar studying at the Northwestern University, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Emily Diane H., a former McNair Scholar, currently studying at the University of California Irvine, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Patrick Miller, a former McNair Scholar studying at the University of Notre Dame, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Ofelia Schepers, a former McNair Scholar will be attending the University of Colorado, Boulder, in School of Education PhD program -Sociology, Bilingual, and Multicultural Foundations of Education, concentrating in Education Equity and Cultural Diversity starting Fall 2013.

Sabrina Gregersen, a former McNair Scholar will be attending the University of Kansas Cognitive Psychology MA/PhD program starting Fall 2013.

Tony Prosser, a former McNair Scholar studying at Emory University, received the Woodruff and NSF fellowships.

Dagoberto Heredia, a former McNair Scholar will attend Texas A & M University in the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program.

Melissa Malcolm, a former McNair Scholar will attend a concurrent MS Education and MS Adaptive Special Education Program starting Fall 2013.

Sarah Bregman, current McNair Scholar, received the travel award with the Center for Undergraduate Research & received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Greg Ervin, a current McNair Scholar, Summer/fall 2013 Undergraduate Research Award (UGRA).

Paul Fowler III, current McNair Scholar, Summer/fall 2013 UGRA.

Jaime Fuller, a current McNair Scholar, received the Caroll B. Clark Award for undergraduate research in anthropology.

Jon Nelson, a current McNair Scholar, was recently accepted into the American Sociological Association (ASA) Honors Program.

Adam D. Nicholson, a current McNair Scholar, received the UGRA and the McNair Graduate Fellowship for Indiana University.

Cassandra Osei, current McNair Scholar, received the spring/summer 2013 UGRA & the Melissa Evans Study Abroad Award, History Department.

Kristina Van Anne, current McNair Scholar, received the KU Dining Retail Scholarship.

Darrias Carter, a former McNair Scholar, successfully defended his dissertation on April 30, 2013.

Scholar Spotlight

A native of Lawrence, Kansas, Kristina Van Anne is a junior at KU double-majoring in Spanish and business. She is a new McNair Scholar for the 2012-2013 school year and will be conducting research in the summer of 2013 with Dr. Annie Tremblay in the Department of Linguistics. Her research topic is “The Role of Lexical Stress in Word Recognition of English-Speaking L2 Spanish learners.”

Her project will investigate the ability of native English speakers who are learning Spanish as a second language to efficiently exploit lexical stress in order to recognize and differentiate between Spanish words. Lexical stress is the emphasis given to certain syllables in a word, and this is a vital skill for learners of Spanish to master, because Spanish is a language that contains many words that are only distinguishable by the placement of lexical stress. It is predicted that English speakers will be less efficient than Spanish speakers at exploiting lexical stress in the word recognition process. Dr. Annie Tremblay and Kristina will compare the accuracy rates and reactions times of the native Spanish speakers to those of native English-speaking Spanish learners in order to identify any significant difference between the efficiency of exploitation of lexical stress between the two groups. After finishing her bachelor’s degree at KU, Kristina plans on earning her Ph.D. in either Spanish or linguistics and becoming a professor in her respective field. Outside of academia, Kristina enjoys cooking and spending time with her cat.

Clint Jensen is a junior double majoring in psychology and film & media studies. He is also pursuing a minor in quantitative statistics, and was recently elected as the president of the KU chapter of the National Psychology Honors Society and the Multicultural Scholars Program.

Clint’s research interests include language acquisition, working memory, and how critical thinking develops. He hopes that by better understanding the manner that humans acquire, store, and use memory, this knowledge can be used to facilitate improvements in the lives of learners of all ages.

Clint is currently working in the Neurocognitive Development of Autism Research Laboratory within the Life Span Institute at the University of Kansas. He is investigating autonomic nervous system responses in children. In the summer of 2013, he will take part in the Psychology Research Experience Program (PREP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he will participate in a summer research enrichment program. While in the program he will study the development of visuo-spatial working memory, attention, and action within the Simmering Lab.
Awards Banquet: Graduating Scholars

Congratulations to the following McNair Scholars who will enter graduate programs Fall 2013!

**Sarah Bregman** – Harvard University, National Science Fellow
**Ashley Cotton** – Texas A&M Commerce
**Paige Henderson** – Brandeis University
**Suraj Keshary** – Loyola Mount University (TFA)
**Adam Nicholson** – Indiana University Bloomington, McNair Graduate Fellow
**Kenneth Stowe** – UT Austin (TFA)
**Carolina Watson** – Indiana University, Bloomington (deferred)

McNair Faculty Mentors are distinguished members of the University of Kansas who assist McNair Scholars by introducing them to the nature and rigors of research; serving as classroom role models; helping them build professional networks with other scholars in their fields; and assistance with the graduate school application process. This semester, we would like to recognize four faculty mentors who have provided dedicated and continued service to our scholars over the years.

**Dr. Robert Antonio**, Sociology, has recently mentored Reanna Putnam, Kris Velasco, and currently serves as a mentor to Jon Nelson.

**Dr. John Kennedy**, Political Science and Director of the Center for Global and International Studies, has most recently mentored Sarah Bregman Suraj Keshary and Paige Henderson.

**Dr. Tracey LaPierre**, Sociology, has most recently mentored Adam Nicholson.

**Dr. Lingjia Liu**, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, has most recently mentored Carlos Fernandez and Eric Rivera.

Summer Research Internship 2013 Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Broadhead</td>
<td>Acoustic Analysis of a New Species</td>
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<td>Kasabi Chinonge</td>
<td>Synthesis of a Hydroxy-Proline Based Sultam Library Utilizing an Aza-Michael Protocol</td>
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<td>Eder Davila Contreras</td>
<td>Characterization of Pure Lipid Bilayers Using Molecular Dynamics Simulations</td>
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<td>Jeffery Durbin</td>
<td>Linguistics (Topic Pending)</td>
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<td>Gregory Ervin</td>
<td>Investigating the Role of Micro RNA in Selective Neuronal Vulnerability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Fernandez</td>
<td>Mathematics (Topic Pending)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Fowler III</td>
<td>Breaking Ground in Canaan: African-American Community Formation and Class in Lawrence, KS, 1880-1920</td>
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<td>Jamie Fuller</td>
<td>Exploring Democratization Strategies in Senegal</td>
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<td>Jeremiah Green</td>
<td>Addressing Altruism: A Behavioral Attempt at Differentiating Resource Control Types</td>
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<td>Louisa Hussein</td>
<td>Selective Mutism</td>
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<td>Kimberly Lopez</td>
<td>Gender and Gendered Roles: How Hispanic Women are Represented Within Telenovelas in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Nelson</td>
<td>Climate Change on the Range Organic and Conventional Farmers’ Perceptions of Environmental Impacts</td>
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<td>Kristina Nieltander</td>
<td>Civil Society on the Internet: A New for Civil Action in Brazilian Favelas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassie Osei</td>
<td>Activism and Pedagogy: Black Feminism and Higher Education in the 1980s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Rivera</td>
<td>Architectural Engineering (Topic Pending)</td>
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<td>Joshua Russell</td>
<td>The Effect of Teacher Quality and Resources on the Education Gap in the Kansas City Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Siebert</td>
<td>Muslim Detainees and Religious Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Van Anne</td>
<td>The Role of Lexical Stress in Word Recognition of English-Speaking L2 Spanish Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolina Watson</td>
<td>East Asian Languages &amp; cultures (Topic Pending)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Wieland</td>
<td>Urban Heat Island Magnitude and Downwind Precipitation Increase</td>
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McNair Scholars receive year round academic support as they prepare for eventual graduate study. The capstone experience for Scholars is a two-month rigorous summer research internship that provides them with the opportunity to perform independent research leading to a paper that is presented at symposia and conferences, and on occasion, published.
KU McNair Bids Farewell: Long Time Supporters of McNair

**Dr. Jerry Bailey**

Dr. Jerry Bailey’s career has long been associated with equity in education. Dr. Bailey brought Upward Bound to KU in 1983 by writing the first grant to get funding for TRiO programs. In the summer of 1997, he established the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service. Its mission is twofold: to assist faculty in generating research and offer training support, and to serve the State of Kansas. The Institute is centered on five themes: educational opportunity; faculty service; professional development; early childhood, child abuse and neglect; and afterschool (informal) education. Dr. Bailey is the Institute’s founding and only director. In the past five years he has generated research and training expenditures in excess of $15 million dollars. Dr. Bailey supported the first establishment of the McNair Scholars Program at KU in 1992 through his role as the Principal Investigator on the grant. Additionally, he advocated for McNair Scholars to receive research credits for independent study over the summer.

**Dr. Fred Rodriguez**

Dr. Fred Rodriguez is a friend and long-time supporter of the McNair Scholars Program. He first served as a formal mentor for a McNair Scholar, then as an informal faculty mentor to various McNair Scholars. Dr. Rodriguez has dedicated his career to helping underrepresented students reach their educational goals. He has traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for numerous educational opportunity programs at KU, and has encouraged many students to join the Multicultural Scholars Program, an organization designed to promote academic and career success for underrepresented groups at KU. Most recently, Dr. Rodriguez was given the Center for Educational Opportunity Program Appreciation Award in recognition of his many years of service and dedication in advancing equal educational opportunity to underrepresented minority, low-income, and first-generation college students.