

# The Scholar Voyageur

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## Message from the Director

It's hard to believe another academic year has gone by. Commencement is just around the corner and it comes somewhat bittersweet this year as we send off most of our remaining 1st cohort of scholars. It is with great pride that we salute the following McNair graduates: Matthew Bashore, Michael Berkheimer, Edward Brown, Teresa Eury, and Lauren Kwiecien. Three scholars—Matthew Bashore, Michael Berkheimer, and Lauren Kwiecien—have been accepted to graduate programs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dickinson School of Law, and the University of Pittsburgh, respectively. Eddie Brown and Teresa Eury have decided to forego graduate school for one year to gain valuable work experience in their respective fields, sociology and dietetics. Second cohort seniors who are graduating are Tekerra Chandler, Isaiah Green, April Jackson, Sharon

Layton, and Cynthia Rivera. To date, Isaiah and April have been accepted to graduate school. Isaiah will enroll in the Student Affairs in Higher Education MA program at IUP, and April will enroll at Duquesne University's English MA program. Best of luck to all our graduating seniors. We look forward to celebrating their continued success.

One major highlight of the spring semester was the first annual Undergraduate Scholars Conference held here at IUP on April 4. Sixteen of our current scholars presented their research in either oral or poster formats. Scholar Sharon Layton was awarded \$100 honorable mention for her research paper titled "The Effects of Multiple Method Learning in Secondary Language Acquisition". The conference was commendably successful overall. We look forward to participating again next year.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the names of the 2006 scholars who have been selected through a rigorous application screening process. The pool of applicants this year are all high achieving students. As such, two groups of students have enrolled in the McNair program, 2006 scholars and 2007 alternates. The alternates will participate fully in program activities beginning in the fall, 2006 semester and will begin their research in the Summer of 2007. We look forward to another exciting Summer Research Institute this year where scholars will undertake original research under the guidance of IUP faculty mentors.



Dr. Calvin Masilela,  
Program Director

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### Scholar Spotlight



April Jackson, a senior English major was selected to participate in the highly competitive National

Conference on Undergraduate Research held at the University of North Carolina-Asheville, April 6-8, 2006. April presented her research "Negotiating Between Feminism and Faith: A Study of Women in the Episcopal Church" to a national audience of peer scholars and faculty. Accompanying her to UNC-Asheville was her faculty mentor, Dr. Ronald Shafer. April will attend graduate school at Duquesne University this Fall. *Congratulations April!*

## Workshops, Seminars, and Cultural Enrichment...

In February, Don Asher made his annual visit to IUP and offered a special workshop for McNair scholars on "How to Write Effective Personal Statements". The scholars got hands-on experience working with Don in a campus computer lab. Mr. Asher is nationally known and widely respected for his expertise in preparing students for the graduate admissions process.

Also, preceding the Undergraduate Scholars Conference in April, Dr. Samuel Jones delivered a workshop for McNair scholars titled "Strategic Planning for the first 18 months of a Doctoral Program". Dr. Jones is a psychology professor at Jefferson State College in Alabama, and an inspirational speaker who offers talks across the country. Dr. Jones offered helpful tips and timelines to stay on

track in a doctoral program and complete the degree in a timely manner. Dr. Jones also offered the keynote address at the Undergraduate Scholars Conference April 4.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Challenger explosion that claimed the life of Dr. Ronald E. McNair, scholars enjoyed a cultural enrichment trip to a local Chinese restaurant for dinner before attending the Chinese Dragon Acrobats in Fisher Auditorium.



Don Asher with McNair Scholars.

### Upcoming Events

- Commencement, 5/13
- Summer Research Institute begins 5/22
- Washington, DC graduate school visits: 6/15-6/18
- University of Buffalo McNair Conference: 7/13-7/16
- Penn State University McNair Conference: 7/28-7/30

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## Introducing the 2006-2007 IUP-McNair Scholars

**Nana Assabill**

Major: Nursing  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Yeadon, PA



**Frank Battick**

Major: Physics Education  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Creekside, PA

**Chardae Bowe**

Major: Physical Education &  
Sport  
Class Standing: Senior  
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA



**Laura Briscoe**

Major: Psychology &  
English  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Indiana, PA

**Adam Crain**

Major: Chemistry  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Philipsburg, PA



**Belinda Early**

Major: Nursing  
Class Standing:  
Junior  
Hometown: Philadelphia,  
PA

**Raymond Elliott**

Major: History  
Class Standing:  
Junior  
Hometown: Willow Grove, PA



**Timothy Gleave**

Major: Nuclear Medicine  
Technology  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown:  
Mechanicsburg, PA

**Monique Green**

Major: Psychology  
Class Standing:  
Junior  
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA



**Heather Humphries**

Major: Psychology  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Jefferson Hills,  
PA

**Danielle Kuntz**

Major: Music Education  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Corsica, PA



**Shane Moulton**

Major: Psychology  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: York, PA

**Joshua Reinard**

Major: Regional Planning  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Home, PA



**Jason Ussack**

Major: Elementary Education  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Allison Park, PA



**John Turlington**

Major: Marketing  
Class Standing:  
Senior  
Hometown: Pottstown, PA



**Continuing 2005 McNair Scholars:**

**Angela Deans**, International Business

**Geno Edwards**, Social Studies Education (History)

**Matthew Fedinick**, International Affairs & Religious Studies

**Tori Hilty**, Journalism

**Terence Johnson**, Communications Media

**Michael Morisseau**, Communications Media

**Nicole Ryals**, History/Pre-Law

**Verushka Vazquez**, Speech Language Pathology

**2007 McNair Alternates**

**Natasha Austin**

Major: Nursing  
Class Standing: Junior  
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA



**Aleya Crable**

Major: Communications Media  
Class Standing: Junior  
Hometown: Clairton, PA



**Shawna Crockett**

Major: Nutrition  
Class Standing: Sophomore  
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA



**Michael Dooley**

Major: Music Theory & Composition  
Class Standing: Sophomore  
Hometown: Shermansdale, PA



**JaColby Kent**

Major: International Business  
Class Standing: Junior  
Hometown: Steelton, PA



**Jasmine Peterson**

Major: Psychology  
Class Standing: Junior  
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA



**Carol Shuler**

Major: Nursing  
Class Standing: Sophomore  
Hometown: Coatesville, PA



**Sheldon Walker**

Major: Communications Media  
Class Standing: Junior  
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

## McNair Program Staff

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"Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one"  
Ronald E. McNair, 1950-1986



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## Scholars Present Work at McNair Research Conferences

Once again this March, we traveled to the University of Maryland, College Park, to attend the 2006 National McNair Research Conference. Four IUP-McNair senior scholars—Isaiah Green, Regina Hutson, Cynthia Rivera, and Danielle Wylie—presented their research projects to date. Isaiah's topic "Does Music Make You Smarter? A Look at What Effect Music has on the Brain by Examining the Success Rates Among B.A. Music Majors at IUP", was guided by faculty mentor Dr. Melvin Jenkins. Regina examined "Academic Persistence Among African-American Graduates of Indiana University of Pennsylvania", under the supervision of faculty mentor Dr. Eugene Thibadeau. Cynthia's research, "A Comparison of Propaganda Appeals in Spanish & English Magazine Advertisements" was presented in a poster session. Cynthia's faculty mentor is Dr. Kurt Dudd. Finally, Danielle Wylie presented her work, "Language and Attitudes: The Efficacy of Political Correctness" under the tutelage of Dr. Nancy Bell. Accompanying the scholars were McNair staff Dr. Calvin Masilela and Hilary Staples.

McNair Scholars Tekerra Chandler, Sharon Layton, Danielle Wylie, and McNair alumnus Aaron Hooks traveled to West Virginia University March 31-April 1 to present their research at the first annual WVU McNair Research Conference. Scholars also visited graduate programs including History, Psychology, Child Development and Family Relations, and Communications. Supporting these scholars in attendance were program director Dr. Calvin Masilela and scholar Tori Hilty.

Great Work Scholars!