

The Scholar Voyageur

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring, 2008

Message from the Director

Wow! Is the only sentiment I can express that accurately reflects what has been happening in the office of IUP Trio Programs. I couldn't be more excited and proud at the remarkable list of accomplishments that have accumulated since the last edition of the *Voyageur* was issued in fall. First and foremost, I want to congratulate 9 graduating seniors from the McNair program. They are: Frank Battick, Aleya Crable, Michael Dooley, Raymond Elliott, Sasha King, Christina Lee, Kalin McDannell, Bernadette Padilla-Donnelly, and Candice Potts Henry. Frank has been offered a full assistantship to attend the University of Idaho's physics M.S./Ph.D. program. Aleya has been offered a full assistantship to attend Roosevelt University in Chicago, and plans to visit the communications department this spring. Michael has accepted a full assistantship to attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth this fall. Michael will join the university's music program. Kalin has also ac-

cepted a full assistantship to study geology at WVU, and finally Candice and Jasmine Peterson (Dec. '07) will enroll at PITT to begin their MSW program(s) this fall. Candice was awarded a scholarship. The remaining IUP graduates plan to enter the workforce for one year prior to entering graduate programs. We extend to all our sincerest congratulations and best wishes in their continued educational careers.

With renewed funding beginning in Oct., 2007, we are now set to serve 25 students per year, up from 20 in the previous grant cycle. I am pleased to highlight those new McNairians on page 2-3. As we have noticed with each passing year, McNair cohorts are made up of increasingly high achieving students who are from first generation/income needy and underrepresented backgrounds. I would like to thank members of the Advisory Committee for their assistance in the selection of this year's participants. We are looking forward to another exciting and interesting summer research institute scheduled May 19-

June 27. Dr. Jennifer Gossett, criminology, will provide instruction in research methods to the scholars. We have several workshops and seminars planned to address GRE prep, the graduate school culture, the application process, and so on. We also plan to visit Washington D.C. area and graduate schools in June. Finally, following the research symposium which will be held June 26 & 27, we will host a closing banquet where scholars, parents, honored guests, etc. can attend. That evening we will welcome a nationally renowned diversity consultant Dr. Samuel Betances, who will offer the keynote address. Please learn more about this unique and inspiring individual on page 4. Finally, I would like to thank the IUP Trio staff, faculty mentors, and grants accounting for their great work and support of our students.



Dr. Calvin Masilela,
Program Director

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Welcome Upward Bound Math & Science Staff!

We are pleased to welcome on board the IUP Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) program—a sister TRiO program to McNair—two talented professionals to serve as assistant director and academic counselor. They are Connie Kugel and Jacque Benhart, respectively. These individuals bring years of valuable experience to their positions and are already working double-time to recruit the first cohort of 50 high school students who will participate in the summer residence program, which is set to begin June 15th. We look forward to close collaboration with the UBMS program and are very happy to welcome two such capable colleagues. *Welcome Connie & Jacque!*

Upcoming Events

- *McNair Summer Research Institute begins, May 19*
- *Washington, D.C. trip to visit graduate schools, June 11-14*
- *Summer Research Institute Symposium & Closing Banquet, June 26 & 27*

Spring News ...

The spring semester kicked off with an annual visit from Don Asher, graduate admissions guru and author of "Graduate Admissions Essays". Don spent several hours providing a hands-on workshop to McNair scholars on the graduate admissions process and writing effective personal statements. We look forward to welcoming Don back in the fall for a repeat performance.

In March, 3 scholars accompanied by Ms. Staples, asst. director, traveled to the University of Maryland College Park to participate in their annual national McNair Research Conference. Aleya Crable presented "A Study of Factors Attributed to Successful African American Women: The Foundations of Suc-

cess", a project directed by Dr. Richard Lamberski. Bernadette Padilla-Donnelly presented "Effective Techniques of the English as a Second Language program in an urban school: An action research evaluation", supported by her mentor Dr. Monte Tidwell. Finally Candice Potts Henry delivered her research "Exploring Non-offending Caregiver Satisfaction with the Children's Advocacy Center of Indiana County" which was guided by Dr. Kathryn Bonach. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Also, in early April, all McNair scholars participated in the annual IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum. Michael Dooley, Sasha King, Kalin McDannell, Mara Iverson, Ray Elliott,

Introducing the 2008 Cohort of McNair Scholars...



Kelly Andrews

Class Standing: Senior
Major: Journalism



Nick Berninger

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Music Education



Vernon Brundage

Class Standing: Senior
Major: Economics



Brittany Buterbaugh

Class Standing: Senior
Major: Chemistry



Amber Byas

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Biology



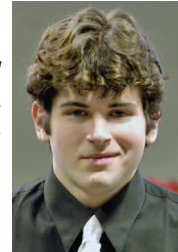
Jennifer Casanova

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Natural Science



Michele Cogley

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Business
Technology & Support



Jon Crowley

Class Standing: Senior
Major: History



Jerrod Foster

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Criminology



Brandon Gomez

Class Standing: Senior
Major: Communications
Media



Helene Hurrey

Class Standing: Junior
Major: Anthropology



Denae Johnson

Class Standing: Senior
Major: Sociology



Ayanda Masilela
 Class Standing: Junior
 Major: Geography/GIS



Gail Mitchell
 Class Standing: Senior
 Major:
 Management/Human
 Resources



Melissa Rogers
 Class Standing: Junior
 Major: English & Spanish



Chaderlyne Sherrill
 Class Standing: Junior
 Major: Marketing



Brittany Taylor
 Class Standing: Senior
 Major: Criminology &
 Psychology



Kylie Walters
 Class Standing: Senior
 Major: Criminology



Tiffany Williams
 Class Standing: Junior
 Major: Criminology

Continuing 2007 Scholars:

- Shawna Crockett, Nutrition
- Mara Iverson, History
- Qiana Lightner, Anthropology & Sociology
- Christie Ritchey, Biology
- Carol Shuler, Nursing
- Aubree Webb, Biochemistry

Welcome 2008 McNairians!



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



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Spring News, con't...

and Charles Stanavich each received awards for their work. We also held an official orientation program for the newly selected cohort April 11th.

Finally, a special note of congratulations to Dr. Masilela, director of IUP TRiO programs. Dr. Masilela was given special recognition from the graduate school this past fall with a "Reach Beyond" award. Adding to his repertoire of recent achievements, he was also awarded this year's "Distinguished Faculty Award for Service", and also the graduate dean's award for "Outstanding Commitment to Sponsored Programs". The TRiO staff and McNair scholars are very proud of these accomplishments and to see Dr. M. receive well deserved recognition for his dedicated contributions to bettering the learning environment at IUP and helping students realize their dreams beyond the undergraduate experience. **Congratulations Dr. Masilela!**

Introducing Dr. Samuel Betances, *banquet keynote speaker*

McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute Closing Banquet

Crimson Event Center, Folger Hall

June 27, 2008

6:00—8:30 p.m.

Dr. *Betances* has merged eloquence and teaching skills to deliver his powerful message with conviction: "It matters less where we are from; what really matters is where we are going. Accept our diversity. Embrace it. Make it work for you. Harness the rainbow." This great motivator was not supposed to make it. Out of the bowels of inner city poverty, stigma of minority group status, violence, welfare and illiteracy in two languages, *Samuel Betances* arose. With strong spiritual convictions and a passion for reading, he has taken the hard lessons from the mean streets of life and reshaped them into his personal vision. *Samuel Betances* embarked on a journey from dropping out of school to a Doctorate from Harvard University. Today, America's foremost communicator on the challenge of casting away barriers to success is an honored Professor Emeritus, a consultant to U.S. Presidents, CEOs, managers, community groups, clergy members, educators, and a role model for youth.

