

# The Scholar Voyageur

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## Message from the Director



Welcome to another fall semester from the Office of IUPUI TRIO Programs! The semester has gotten off to a busy start for us, with a kick-off welcome back cookout and information session held Sept. 7th. Following a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the Council for Opportunity in Education's 27th Annual Conference and celebrate along with other TRIO programs the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Ms. Staples and I and the '08 scholars have lots of activities planned. On Oct. 11th, five McNair scholars will travel to the University at Buffalo's Graduate Awareness Conference: Amber Byas, Jen Casanova, Dena Johnson, Ayanda Masilela, and Kylie Walters. I will also be attending the 15th Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity conference with McNair scholar Aubree

Webb (see scholar spotlight). October 31-Nov. 2 marks the 17th Annual McNair Research Conference sponsored by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign at Delavan, WI. Scholars Christie Ritchey and Qiana Lightner have been selected to present their completed research projects. In early November, we will host Don Asher, graduate admissions expert, for a graduate admissions and personal statement writing workshop for all McNair scholars. Finally, we are in recruiting mode. Please refer to page 2 of this edition of the *Voyageur* for program eligibility and benefits information. We are looking to fill up to 18 new slots for the 2009 McNair cohort. Also in this edition, I am pleased to highlight the activities we engaged in over summer. Several scholars won awards for their work and were selected to present their original research proposals at the 14th Annual McNair Research Conference sponsored by the University at Buffalo and held in beautiful Niagara Falls, NY. We also spent time during the six week summer research

program traveling to Washington, D.C., where scholars visited American, George Washington, and Howard universities, as well as the University of Maryland College Park to learn about graduate programs and what they are looking for in potential graduate applicants. Also during that trip, the group visited Arlington cemetery and many other points of cultural interest in our nation's capital. We also took a separate cultural enrichment trip to tour Fallingwater, a UNESCO World Heritage site (see p. 4). Perhaps most exciting about this year is the percentage of the '08 graduating class who have entered graduate school this fall with funding. These students are highlighted on p. 2. Lastly, I bring your attention to the alumni display on p. 3. It is truly remarkable to look back, remembering each of these former scholars, their struggles, their triumphs, and to celebrate their successes in this way is immeasurably rewarding. Many thanks to the faculty, students and my colleagues in the IUP Trio Program office for a job well done!

### Inside this issue:

Where are they going and Where are they now?..	2
Summer Events, con't...	4

### Scholar Spotlight

**Aubree Webb** has been selected to attend the 15th Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Tampa, Florida Oct. 23-26. The Institute gathers minority doctoral scholars from across the country to share knowledge about research and academia and to link them to faculty mentors in a variety of disciplines. Only 100 McNair students nationwide are selected each year to attend this mentoring forum. To date, 4 IUP McNair Scholars have been selected to participate in this prestigious program. Aubree is a senior biochemistry major. She is in the process of completing her McNair research titled, "Finding DNA Aptamers to Inhibit Human IMPDH Type II" which is guided by faculty mentor Dr. Keith Kyler. *Congratulations Aubree!*

### Upcoming Events

- Compact for Faculty Diversity, Oct. 23-26, Tampa, FL
- UIUC McNair Research Conference, Delavan, WI Oct. 31-Nov. 2
- Graduate Admissions Workshop, Don Asher, Nov. 5
- **Deadline for New Applications, Dec. 31.**

## Summer Presentations & Awards...

Summer, 2008 was packed full of learning, developing and presenting original research projects and proposals! All McNair scholars presented at the close of the 2008 Summer Research Institute's Symposium, June 26 & 27th. At the Closing Banquet, awards were given to scholars with the best presentations from each College. Winners for the 2008 SRI Symposium were: **Nick Berninger**, Music Education, College of Fine Arts; **Michele Cogley**, Business Technology & Support, Eberly College of Business; **Brandon Gomez**, Communications Media, College of Education & Education Technology; **Ayanda Masilela**, Geography/GIS, College of Humanities & Social Sciences; **Christie Ritchey**, Biology, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics;

**Melissa Rogers**, English & Spanish, College of Humanities & Social Sciences; and *best overall* **Carol Shuler**, Psychology, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics for her completed research. Congratulations to all 2008 McNair Scholars on a successful summer program!

Also this summer, six scholars were accompanied by Dr. Masilela and Hilary Staples, asst. director to the 14th Annual University at Buffalo's National McNair Research Conference held in Niagara Falls July 17-20. Vernon Brundage presented his research proposal which he developed under the guidance of Dr. James Jozefowicz titled "Downfall or Difference? Examining the role of

Continued on page 4

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## Who, Where & How Are they Going?... En Route to the Ph.D.

This past year, the McNair program graduated nine seniors, six of whom entered graduate school this fall. Their pictures and programs are highlighted here. In addition, updates on McNair Alumni are listed on page 3. *Congratulations IUP McNair Scholars on their achievements!*



**Frank Battick**, Class of '06

Where: University of Idaho

For What: Physics M.S./Ph.D.

How: Full Assistantship

**Aleya Crable**, Class of '07

Where: Roosevelt University, Chicago

For What: Communications M.A.

How: Full Assistantship

**Michael Dooley**, Class of '07

Where: Texas Christian University

For What: Music M.A.

How: Full Assistantship

**Kalin McDannell**, Class of '07

Where: West Virginia University

For What: Geology M.S.

How: Full Assistantship

**Jasmine Peterson**, Class of '07

Where: University of Pittsburgh

For What: Social Work, M.S.W.

How: Potential Assistantship & Financial Aid

**Candice Potts-Henry**, Class of '07

Where: University of Pittsburgh

For What: Social Work M.S.W.

## McNair Is Recruiting! Program Benefits and How to Apply

### Who is Eligible?

- First generation/income eligible college students and underrepresented minorities in higher education
- Students who have achieved junior status (*sophomores may be considered*)
- Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident

### McNair Program Benefits:

- A paid six week summer research experience up to \$2500
- Paid on-campus housing and meal plan during the six week summer experience
- Valuable research experience while working closely with a faculty mentor
- Travel support to professional conferences
- Graduate School Placement Assistance
- GRE preparation seminars
- Fee waivers and graduate fellowships at supporting institutions
- Graduate school campus visits
- Cultural enrichment programs/experiences
- Tutoring

## Where Are they Now? Alumni News...

<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Class of...</i>	<i>Degree Program</i>	<i>Major</i>
Berkheimer, Michael	2004	J.D., Dickinson Law School	Law
Bormentar, Ida	2004	M.A., GPSIA, Pitt	International Affairs
Brown, Edward	2004	M.A., West Chester University	Sociology
Eury, Teresa	2004	M.P.H., Pitt	Public Health
Gayle, Opal	2004	M.A.*, IUP	English
Kwiecien, Lauren	2004	M.S.*, Pitt	Library Science
Love, Candice	2004	Ph.D., Walden University (earned M.A.)	Applied Management
McDonald, C. Scott	2004	M.A.*, IUP	Adult Education & Communications Technology
Rodriguez, Luz	2004	Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico (earned M.A.)	Hispanic Literature & Linguistics
Tinsley, Franklin	2004	M.S., Drexel University	Information Science
Deans, Angela	2005	M.A.*, Marymount University	Human Resource Management
Green, Isaiah	2005	M.A.*, IUP	Student Affairs in Higher Education
Jackson, April	2005	M.A., Duquesne University	English
Johnson, Terence	2005	M.A., New York University	Music Business
Layton, Sharon	2005	M.S., Capella University	Psychology
Ryals, Nicole	2005	M.P.A., University of Minnesota	Public Administration
Vazquez, Verushka	2005	M.Ed., IUP	Speech Language Pathology
Wylie, Danielle	2005	Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison	Philosophy
Briscoe, Laura	2006	Ph.D., University of Oklahoma (earned M.A.)	Counseling Psychology
Crain, Adam	2006	Ph.D., Montana State University	Chemistry
Kuntz, Danielle	2006	M.A./Ph.D., University of Minnesota	Music
Moulton, Shane	2006	Ph.D., University of Nevada-Reno	Social Psychology
Austin, Natasha	2007	M.P.H., Southern Connecticut University	Public Health

\*Indicates Degree Completed

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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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## Summer Events, con't...

parents/guardians in the Success of African American Student's Pursuit of Higher Education". Brandon Gomez presented "y r IUP stdnts using txt msging? A Study of the Dynamics of Text Messaging", a proposal developed under the direction of Dr. Kurt Dudt. Presenting her research proposal titled "Digitally Remastered: Relearning the Nation's Highway System through Computer Generated Simulation", Ayanda Masilela is mentored by Dr. John Benhart. Melissa Rogers examined "Life Happens: From the Gutter to the Mainstream: Women Comics Writers and Marginalization", a proposal directed by her faculty mentors Dr's Chauna Craig and Tony Farrington. Finally, Carol Shuler presented her completed research project titled "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: An Assessment of College Students' Knowledge and Attitudes Towards HIV and AIDS". Dr. Christine Black served as faculty mentor. Kelly Andrews participated as an observer.



UB McNair Research Conference attendees left to right: Melissa Rogers, Ayanda Masilela, Brandon Gomez, Carol Shuler, Kelly Andrews, asst. director Hilary Staples, and Vernon Brundage.

### **Fallingwater**

Back by popular demand, the McNair Scholars program returned with the '08 scholars to Fallingwater, architect Frank Lloyd Wright's brilliant and beautiful masterpiece created in the 1930s for the Kauffman family of Pittsburgh. Fallingwater is a global treasure registered as a UNESCO Heritage site. The scholars got a day off from research methods class and graduate school preparation workshops to travel to Bear Run, PA with a picnic lunch and lots of camaraderie and laughter. The group split into two "teams", Team Masilela and Team Staples, to tour the house, grounds, and hiking trails where they had this photo taken by photographer Dr. Masilela. A wonderful time was had by all!



*"Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose—a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye"*  
(Mary Shelley)