Message from the Director

Greetings from the IUP McNair Scholars Program! We are excited and energized to begin another academic year and are in the process of recruiting new applicants to the program. Please refer interested applicants to our office. This edition of the Voyageur highlights the accomplishments of our 2013 cohort and celebrates their many successes, including enrollment to graduate programs. Please see page 3 for a list of alumni who entered graduate programs this fall. We are also thrilled to announce the Ph.D. completion of two alumni of the program. Dr. Adam Crain completed his Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Montana State University in May, 2013. His dissertation was titled “Interactions and Electron Transfer Involved in Pyruvate Formate-Lyase Activation.” Adam has accepted a post-doctoral appointment and the University of Washington Medical Center conducting research on visual problems in primates. Dr. Shane Moulton completed his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Nevada-Reno in August, 2013. Shane’s dissertation was titled “Ingroup and Outgroup Members’ Laughter and its Influence on Appraisals of Humor on Aging and Attitudes toward Older Adults.”

Both Adam and Shane participated in the IUP McNair Scholars Program in 2006 and graduated in 2007 from IUP. They were both accepted directly into their doctoral programs with full funding. They are the first graduates of the IUP McNair Program to earn their PhD degrees. They also maintain a close friendship that was forged during their experience with the IUP McNair program. The McNair program is one of the seven federal TRIO programs authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 and reauthorized in 2008 to assist low-income, first generation, and underrepresented minority Americans to persist in their education with the ultimate goal of attaining a doctoral degree. In so doing, they become faculty members and/or researchers who give back to society through teaching and mentoring. Congratulations to Dr. Crain and Dr. Moulton on their fantastic success!

We also congratulate current scholars Dan O’Hara and Anthony Flowers for their selection to be featured in the ongoing American Association of Colleges & Universities “First Generation” multimedia project that showcases student stories of being the first in their families to go to college. Please visit www.aascu.org to read their powerful stories of overcoming obstacles to achieve their dreams. The 2013 cohort of IUP McNair scholars and their majors are featured on pages 2 and 3.

Scholars Present Research

In July, eight scholars were selected to present their research proposals at the 19th Annual National McNair Research Conference sponsored by the University at Buffalo and held in Niagara Falls, NY. Amanda Henretty, an interior design major, presented “Building Nieuw Netherlands: Early Dutch Architecture of the Hudson Valley Area”, a project guided by Julie Gomboc-Turyan. A physical education & sport major Josh Riffe presented his project titled “The Effects of a Single Bout of Aerobic Exercise on Resting Energy Expenditure in Sedentary, Obese College Students.” Josh is mentored by Dr. Madeline Pasternoster-Bayles, who is also supervising Cherise Key’s project titled “To Pump or Not to Pump: An Analysis of IUP Female Perceptions of Health Risks Associated with Wearing High Heeled Shoes.” Katie Stanko, a senior psychology major, presented her work titled “Oh, I thought I Already Told You this!: Destination Memory Accuracy with Strategy Use and Reality Monitoring”, guided by her faculty mentor Dr. Tara Johnson. Laura Bennett, also a psychology major, presented “Socialization and Peer Interactions in Children and Adolescents with ADHD: An Exploratory Study Using Evidence of Traditional Drug Therapy as Compared to Alternative Therapies.” Laura is mentored by Dr. Laura Knight.

Scholar Spotlight

Dan O’Hara, a Geoscience and Computer Science double major from Ebensburg, Pa., was one of 271 students awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for 2013–2014. He was selected from a field of 1,107 mathematics, science, and engineering students who were nominated nationwide.

Dan has been working on independent research with Jon Lewis on the tectonics of Taiwan. His accomplishments include being selected to participate in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Summer 2011, being accepted to the McNair Scholars Program, receiving a scholarship from the NSF-funded S-COAM Program at IUP, and giving a talk at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December 2011.

Named for Senator Barry M. Goldwater, the Foundation supports the training of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

Congratulations Dan!

Upcoming Events

♦ SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching & Mentoring, Oct. 31– Nov., 3 2013
♦ Applications Now Being Accepted! Deadline Nov. 29, 2013
Introducing the 2013 Cohort of McNair Scholars...

Joining ‘12 continuing scholars: Nick Brock (Political Science), Anthony Flowers (International Business), Robin Fulmer (Nutrition), Amanda Henretty (Interior Design), Taqiyya Johnson (Nursing), Daniel O’Hara (Geoscience), Josh Riffe (Exercise Science), and Kim Waddy (Political Science) we are pleased to present the 2013 cohort of McNairians! Congratulations on your acceptance!

Clark Aitkens, Religious Studies

Estefania Alba-Rodriguez, Biochemistry

Aaqil Bailey, Physical Education & Sport

Kelley Banahasky, Sociology

Laura Bennett, Psychology

Amber Clark, Art History

Michael Duffey, History

Alessandria Gonzalez, Geography

Cherise Key, Physical Education & Sport

Dameda Moore, Nutrition

JaMarr Porter, Exercise Science

Ashante Richards, Criminology

Shawn Rooney, Geography

Katie Stanko, Psychology

Hannah Tomajko, Spanish
Congratulations to Scholars Accepted to Graduate School . . .

To date, the following Scholars & McNair Alumni have enrolled in graduate programs this fall:

- **Brittany Allman ‘11**  Ph.D., Exercise Physiology  Florida State University
- **Amber Fishel ‘13**  M.A., Criminology  Old Dominion University
- **Jawanda Jackson ‘12**  M.S. Construction Management  Michigan State University
- **Laurin Jefferson ‘13**  M.A., Creative Writing  University of New Orleans
- **Jovana Ramos ‘13**  Ph.D., Spanish  Temple University
- **Hannah Senft, ‘12**  M.A., Oboe Performance  UNC—Greensboro
- **Thobani Shaba, ‘13**  M.S., Public Health  University of West Florida
- **Christina Sponsky ‘13**  Ph.D., Nutrition  Penn State University
- **Sarah Stone ‘13**  M.A., Industrial & Labor Relations  IUP
- **Michele Troutman ‘13**  M.A./Ph.D., Anthropology  Binghamton University
- **Naporje Washington ‘13**  M.A., Sociology  City University of New York

These scholars were named as Alternates from this year’s applicant pool. They will be guaranteed a slot in the 2014 Summer Research Program: Brandon Andrews, pre-engineering, Chiffon Holmes, criminology, and Cykhira Walton, criminology.
“Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one”
Dr. Ronald E. McNair, 1950-1986

Scholars Present Research, cont.
Scholar Clark Aitkens, a religious studies major, presented “The Sunammite Woman and Elisha: An Exploration of a Gender/Power Dynamic in the Monarchy of Ancient Israel.” Clark is working with faculty mentor Dr. Alison Downie. Kim Waddy presented “Leadership Analysis of U.S. Congressional Data for the Measurement of Dissonance Impact in Bill Passage,” a project supervised by faculty mentor Dr. Dighton Fiddner. Finally, Shawn Rooney, a geography major, presented “The Philanthropic Effect: A Study of How Professional NFL Teams Giving Back to the Community has contributed to Creating a Concrete Fan Base, and Overall Team Success.” Dr. Donald Buckwalter is Shawn’s mentor. Kelley Banahasky, a sociology major, attended as an observer. Congratulations Scholars!

Estefania Alba-Rodriguez is one of 100 McNair scholars nationally to be selected to participate in the upcoming Compact for Faculty Diversity’s Institute on Teaching and Mentoring to be held in Alexandra, VA October 31-November 3. The Institute gathers approximately 1200 minority doctoral scholars from all disciplines and from across the country to share knowledge about research and academia and to link them to faculty mentors in a variety of disciplines. The forum also presents fertile ground for the recruitment of minority faculty. To date, 10 IUP McNair Scholars have been selected to participate in this prestigious program. Estefania is a junior biochemistry major with a minor in mathematics. She is in the process of completing her McNair research titled “Sensitivity of Colon Cancer Cells Exposed to TRAIL and the Role of Sphingolipids in Cancer Biology.” She is being mentored by Dr. Brian Barth, a Penn State faculty member at the Cancer Center at Hershey Medical Center. Congratulations Estefania!

2013 UB-McNair Conference Participants from left to right: Shawn Rooney, Laura Bennett, Clark Aitkens, Kelley Banahasky, Katie Stanko, Cherise Key, Kim Waddy, Josh Riffe, and Amanda Henretty.