

The Scholar Voyageur

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Message from the Director

Welcome back to another exciting academic year in the IUP McNair Scholars Program! Initiatives outlined in President Tony Atwater's A.P.I.E. plan to launch IUP on a path of sustainable growth involve promoting undergraduate research, enrollment management, citizenship and civic engagement.

This issue of the *Scholar Voyageur* is dedicated to highlighting McNair Scholars who have been trailblazers with regard to completing original research at the undergraduate level and their participation in civic/community leadership roles. As the subsequent pages illustrate, McNair students are more than academic scholars, they are role models for their peers through their community service work. Not only do they serve in community service roles, many of our scholars provide tutoring and other forms of learning support to fellow IUP

students. We extend our sincerest support and gratitude to each scholar who reaches out to IUP and to the Indiana community.

We are also very excited about the progress scholars have been making toward completing their research projects, which for some began in Summer, 2004.

For second year students in the McNair program, this has meant subjecting their research projects to the IUP Institutional Review Board and real data collection. From collecting survey data on adolescent females regarding their dieting patterns, to conducting personal interviews with Holocaust survivors, to traveling to Venezuela to conduct field research on the impact of Hugo Chavez's policies on education reform for the country's poorest population, to completing a social history of a paper mill operating in a small Western Pennsylvania town, McNair schol-

ars are laying the groundwork for an exciting undergraduate research culture at IUP. We anticipate some of this research output to be highlighted in future planned undergraduate research conferences at IUP.

Finally, we are seeking to fill **14** openings to fill our third cohort of McNair scholars. The application deadline is **January 31, 2006**. To qualify, students must be enrolled full-time at IUP, must be first generation and low-income as one category, or be a member of a group underrepresented in higher education, and who show strong potential and drive to attend and succeed in graduate education. Please see page 3 for more information, or visit our website at www.iup.edu/mcnair.



Dr. Calvin Masilela,
Program Director

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Scholar Spotlight



Karen Lunger is a senior Secondary Spanish Education major who is completing her student teaching this semester while

planning for graduation in December. Karen will travel with Dr. Masilela to the Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Washington, D.C. October 27-30. 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 to attend. Congratulations Karen!

Fall Events

- *GRE Preparation Workshop, 10/12*
- *SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity, 10/27—10/30*
- *University of Illinois—Champaign/Urbana National McNair Research Conference, Delawan, WI, 11/4—11/6*
- *Senior Graduate Application Sessions, on-going*
- *McNair Open House, 12/2*

Conference Presentations

Three IUP-McNair scholars recently presented their research at the 11th Annual National Research Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Researchers hosted by the University at Buffalo and held at the Conference Center in Niagara Falls, NY. Seniors Edward Brown, Emmanuel Bibangamba, and Sharon Layton delivered oral presentations on their research topics and were accompanied by fellow scholars Isaiah



Green and Charlene Dube, as well as IUP-McNair staff Dr. Calvin Masilela and Hilary Staples. Edward Brown, a sociology major, presented "Contributing Factors to Retention of African American Men attending Predominantly White Institutions of Higher Education". Eddie's research is guided by faculty mentor Dr. Beth Mabry.

Under the direction of faculty mentor

Continued on page 4

IUP-McNair Scholars Respond to Aid Katrina Victims

This 2005-2006 school year has brought with it many possibilities for our students to get involved in the community, and get involved they did! We are pleased to highlight the efforts of several McNair students who have been donating their time and energy to help people in need.

Following the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina, some campus groups set out to raise relief funds, including some of our McNair scholars. The event was organized and directed by the Red Cross, but the true heart of it was in the students

and their dedication. They spent their Fridays during the month of September standing on strategic street corners in Indiana. They were decked out with Red Cross attire and carried money cans, collecting spare change from motorists. Even in heavy rain and the hot sun, the students were enthusiastic and committed to the cause. This specific project was able to collect over ten-thousand dollars, which went to feeding and housing victims of hurricane Katrina and their relief workers. When asked about his experience, McNair Scholar and Mississip-

pi native Geno Edwards said, "I can sincerely say that the people of Indiana showed their care and sympathy for others who are hurting in a tangible way. Thank you very much on behalf of my family and the people of Gulfport, MS."



McNair Scholar Teresa Eury, McNair Program Asst. Carolyn Broyles, Red Cross Volunteer, and Scholar Verushka Vazquez. Missing from photo Scholar Geno Edwards

Big Brothers Reap Big Rewards



Eddie Brown



Matt Bashore

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program is a national community service program that serves at-risk children aged five to eighteen. "Littles" get unstructured one-on-one time with their "Bigs" two to four times a month where they cultivate lasting friendships that enable them to manage every day challenges. Children involved in the program are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, skip school, or engage in violence. They have higher self esteem, greater confidence in school and are able to cultivate healthy relationships with their families and peers. McNair Seniors Matt Bashore and Eddie Brown are involved in the Indiana County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program. The program is aimed at Indiana area at-risk youth ages six through eighteen, and seeks to help them overcome the challenges that they face. At least once a week they meet up with their "little" and "hang out." According to Eddie Brown, "Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a really good program to get involved in. I have been in the program for two years. I really have a strong relationship with my little. A lot of the kids in the program don't have friends to lean on and that's where the big brother/big sister comes in. Since I've been spending time with my little, I have witnessed a dramatic change in his academics and behavior at home. When I am with my little we play video games, talk about school, and I help him with his homework. He likes being around me and I like being around him. I think it is a good program overall and I encourage all students to get involved in helping these kids." Matt echoes Eddie's remarks: "I think that the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program provides an opportunity for the big as well as the little to grow together socially and emotionally, share lasting memories, and most importantly build a bond that will last for eternity". Matt is a big brother to a family of three brothers.

2005 Summer Activities



Scholars & staff enjoyed a visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater* during the Summer Research Experience. The architectural masterpiece created in 1937 has been beautifully preserved by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and provided McNairians a culturally enriching experience.

Scholars returned to IUP in August to attend a picnic with fellow McNair students and staff. The cookout was held at the Co-Op park and the students enjoyed home cooking prepared by Chef Masilela! Pictured here left to right, Danielle Wylie, Mike Morisseau, Nicole Ryals, Cynthia Rivera, Terence Johnson, Isaiah Green, Sharon Layton, Matthew Fedinick, Charlene Dube, Karen Lunger, Regina Hutson (with nieces). Kneeling and offering "peace", is scholar Verushka Vazquez.



McNair Program Information

Who is Eligible?

- First generation/income eligible 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 \$2800
- Free on-campus housing during the six week summer experience
- Valuable research experience while working closely with a faculty mentor
- Travel support to professional conferences
- Graduate School Placement
- GRE preparation seminars
- Fee waivers and graduate fellowships at supporting institutions
- Graduate school campus visits
- Participate in cultural enrichment programs
- Tutoring

For more information, please visit our website at www.iup.edu/mcnair, or contact Hilary Staples, program coordinator, at 724-357-3033, or hstaples@iup.edu.

We look forward to serving you!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2006

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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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Conference presentations, continued...

Dr. William Oblitey, Emmanuel examined "Network Security: Controlling Insider Attacks", while Sharon's research entitled "The Effects of Multiple Method Learning in Secondary Language Acquisition", is guided by faculty mentor Dr. Kimberly Huse-nits. Scholars Nicole Ryals, Cynthia Rivera and Danielle Wylie traveled to Penn State University's 2005 McNair Summer Research Conference to support their colleague Scott McDonald, as he presented his research "Tattoos: More than Just a Pretty Picture", to an audience that included McNair students from across the country and middle school students participating in PSU's TRIO Upward Bound program. Scott's research was guided by faculty mentor Dr. Judith Villa. Scott is now a graduate student at IUP majoring in adult education and communications technology.

This fall, seniors Teresa Eury, Lauren Kwiecien and Karen Lunger will travel with McNair staff to Delavan, Wisconsin to attend the 14th Annual National McNair Research Conference & Graduate School Fair sponsored by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and held at the scenic Lake Lawn Resort. Teresa's project examines "Characteristics of Dieting Patterns Among Butler Area High School Females". Dr. Miriam Chaiken directs her research. With the guidance of Dr. R. Scott Moore, Lauren will present "The Impact of the Holocaust on Second and Third Generation Jewish Citizens Living in Pittsburgh". Karen Lunger will discuss her field research conducted in Venezuela and directed by mentor Dr. Carroll Young. Her project evaluates "Afro-Venezuelans, Hugo Chavez and Education: A Case-Study of Empowerment". Finally, Matthew Bashore presented his research examining "Contemporary Issues in Pennsylvania Forest Management" to the National Council for Geographic Education Conference in Birmingham, Alabama Oct. 13-16, 2005. Matt was accompanied by his faculty mentor, Dr. Ruth Shirey.



Calvin Masilela presents Scott McDonald with his certificate of participation at PSU's McNair Summer Research Conference in July, 2005.