

The Scholar Voyageur

McNair Scholars Program Newsletter
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Message from the Director....

Congratulations to 2014-2015 McNair graduates.....Estefania Alba-Rodriguez, Tenesha Ali, Amber Clark, Alee Gonzalez, Ashley Harden, Zafire Maldonado, Darnise Reed, Ashante Richards, Shawn Rooney, Sam Sutton, Megan Szymanski, Cykhira Walton, Kim Waddy, Shannon Williams, and Beth Wyatt. We are delighted with your success and excited to announce the graduate school placement(s) of many of you. See page 3 for details. We also welcome the 2015 McNair cohort for another exciting Summer Research Institute slated to begin June 4. See page 2 & 3 to view pictures of newly inducted McNairians!

As we prepare for another exciting Summer Research Institute, I would like to take a moment to thank faculty mentors for their unwavering assistance in shaping McNair scholars' research projects and supporting them throughout their McNair experience at IUP. Your service is invaluable, which is why the Provost's Office has generously provided matching funds to support McNair scholars to sign up for independent study credits in their respective departments. This works by having the student register for independent study (3 credits), complete the independent study form and any corresponding attachments, write "McNair Scholar" on the top of the form and submit it to Holly Olexo in Sutton Hall Room 229. The faculty mentor supervising the independent study credits is compensated through the Provost's Office while the student receives course credit to ensure that the research gets completed. This is especially encouraged for McNair students during their senior year, but can be taken earlier if it meets the student's schedule better. I am always available to assist students and faculty mentors in completing this paperwork so that the matching funds provided by the Provost's Office can be utilized effectively. Thank you to all who have worked with or are just beginning to work with our scholars. Your expertise and commitment are deeply appreciated. I look forward to continued scholarship with the 2015 Cohort of McNair scholars. All my best to everyone as we close out another semester here at IUP.



Dr. Hilary Staples, Program Director

IUP McNair Celebrates Another Ph.D.!!

The IUP McNair Scholars program proudly announces the PhD completion of Danielle Wylie from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in philosophy. Wylie's dissertation was titled "Moral Cognition and Its Implications for Ethics." Danielle participated in the IUP McNair program in 2005-06. She graduated with high honors from IUP in 2007 with dual philosophy and English majors. She was accepted to the PhD program in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison supported by a full advanced opportunity fellowship, then a teaching assistantship, which covered her entire graduate education. As a McNair scholar, Danielle was mentored by Nancy Bell and Mary MacLeod, departments of English and Philosophy, respectively. Dr. Wylie is now in a tenure track assistant professor position at Mississippi State University. *Congratulations Danielle!*



Scholar Spotlight



David Ampofo, '15, a psychology and biology double major, has accepted a full funding package to attend the University of Maryland,

College Park's Ph.D. program in psychology. The program is one of the most competitive programs in the country, receiving 300 applications annually for fewer than 10 slots. As a McNair scholar, David conducted research with his faculty mentor, Dr. Daniel Widzowski in the biology department. David's work, titled "Interactive Effects of Maternal 5-HT2C Inhibition, Mouse Pup Handling & Pup Tactile Stimulation on Maternal Care Behavior, Working Memory, and Acute Stress Response in Pups" was presented in the poster session at the Undergrad Scholars Forum, earning First Place in the Sigma Xi competition. David also presented this work in an oral presentation session at the SUNY-Buffalo sponsored National McNair Research Conference held in Niagara Falls, NY in July, 2014. David was also nominated and selected to attend the 2014 SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring last fall. The Institute is the largest gathering of minority doctoral students in the country. Each year the Institute invites 100 McNair scholars to attend to network with doctoral candidates. We commend David on his remarkable achievements!
Congratulations David!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Summer Research Program begins June 4th!
- ◆ Trip to Washington, D.C. June 10-13, 2015
- ◆ McNair Research Symposium & Closing Banquet July 1 & 2

Introducing the 2015 Cohort of McNair Scholars...

Joining '14 continuing scholars: **Marc Colon** (Finance), **Donisha Kendrick** (Economics), **Sarah LaFeure** (Anthropology), **Danielle Lewis** (Geography & Regional Planning), **Diana Morales** (Psychology), **Mallory Smith** (Psychology), **Yasmeen Stephens** (Sociology), **Cody Stewart** (Biology), and **Alexis Williams** (Psychology) we are pleased to present the 2015 cohort of McNairians! Congratulations on your acceptance!



Mary Chey, Cell/Molecular Biology



Hortencia Correa, Psychology



Deng Garang, Communications Media



Travis Gorham, Psychology



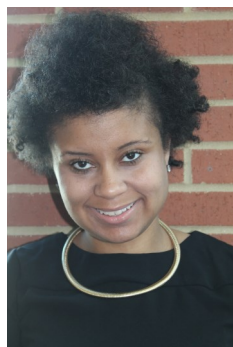
Pamela Guzman, Psychology



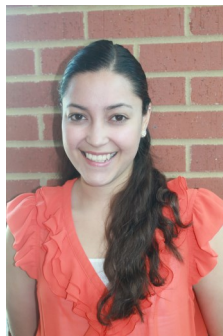
Olivia Law, Nutrition



Kara McClain, Nursing



LaTanya Mitchell, Criminology



Guadalupe Ortiz-Cortez, Geography & Regional Planning



Destiny Paula, Psychology



SharaLynn Price, Natural Science



Briana Richardson-Jones, English



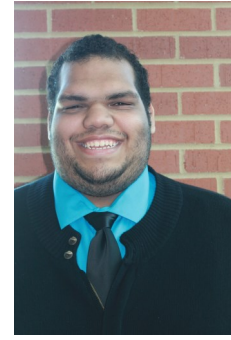
Angela Robin, Criminology



Hali Santiago, Psychology



Nancy Sosa, Anthropology



Jose Vinales, Sociology

Not Pictured: Aaron Seidel, Geoscience

Congratulations to Scholars Accepted to Graduate School . . .

To date, the following 2014-2015 McNair Graduates and Alumni have enrolled in graduate programs this upcoming Fall!

<i>David Ampofo</i>	<i>Ph.D., Psychology</i>	<i>UMD-College Park</i>
<i>Olumayowa Azeez (McNair Class of 2010)</i>	<i>Ph.D., Health Studies</i>	<i>Texas Women's University</i>
<i>Aleesandria Gonzalez</i>	<i>M.S., Geography & Environmental Science</i>	<i>Southern Illinois University</i>
<i>Ashley Harden</i>	<i>M.S., Counseling Psychology</i>	<i>Chatham University</i>
<i>Ashante Richards</i>	<i>M.A., Criminology</i>	<i>University of Delaware</i>
<i>Shawn Rooney</i>	<i>M.A., Urban & Regional Planning</i>	<i>SUNY Buffalo</i>
<i>Becky Quadri (formerly Becky Santi, McNair Class of 2012)</i>	<i>Psy.D., Psychology</i>	<i>Carlow University</i>
<i>Megan Szymanski</i>	<i>M.S.W., Social Work</i>	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
<i>Kimberly Waddy</i>	<i>M.A., Legal Institutions & Theory</i>	<i>George Washington University</i>

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



Undergraduate Scholars Forum McNair Winners!

Dean's Award for Excellence - First Place Award

**Danielle Lewis: "Silent Seas: Exploration of Land Usage along
Mississippi River and the Correlation to Growing Hypoxic Areas
in the Gulf of Mexico"**

Sigma Xi First Place Award

**David Ampofo: "Interactive effects of maternal 5-HT2C inhibi-
tion and mouse pup handling on maternal care behavior, work-
ing memory, and acute stress response in pups"**

Scholars Present Research at USF April 7, 2015

The following scholars presented their McNair research projects at the Undergraduate Scholars Forum held in the HUB April 7th: **Tenesha Ali**, Early Childhood Education, Dr. Kelli Paquette, mentor. **David Ampofo**, Psychology & Biology, Dr. Daniel Widzowski, mentor. **Amber Clark**, Art History, Dr. Irene Kabala, mentor. **Marc Colon**, Finance, Dr. Chris Jeffords, mentor. **Ashley Harden**, Psychology, Dr. Dante Mancini, mentor. **Donisha Kendrick**, Economics, Dr. Stephanie Jozefowicz, mentor. **Sarah LaFevre**, Anthropology, Dr. Ben Ford, mentor. **Danielle Lewis**, Geography & Regional Planning, Dr. Steve Hovan, mentor. **Zafire Maldonado**, Psychology, Dr. Laura Knight, mentor. **Diana Morales**, Psychology, Dr. Beverly Goodwin, mentor. **Mallory Smith**, Psychology, Dr. Susan Zimny, mentor. **Yasmeen Stephens**, Sociology, Dr. Melanie Hildebrandt, mentor. **Cody Stewart**, Biology, Dr. Holly Travis, mentor. **Sam Sutton**, Communications Media, Dr. Zach Stiegler, mentor. **Megan Szymanski**, Psychology, Dr. Maureen McHugh, mentor. **Alexis Williams**, Psychology, Dr. Melissa Swauger, mentor. **Dorothy "Beth" Wyatt**, Early Childhood Education, Dr. Beatrice Fennimore, mentor.

Congratulations Scholars!

Alumni News!

Danielle Kuntz, a 2014 Ph.D. recipient in musicology, was recently awarded a 2015 Best Dissertation Award from the University of Minnesota. Winners are chosen by faculty from broad disciplinary areas. According to the announcement, "selections were based on the originality and importance of the research, as well as the potential for the student to make an unusually significant contribution to his or her field." Danielle received an award of \$1,000. Kuntz's dissertation was titled "Appropriate Musics for that Time: Oratorio in the Exchange of Power at the Portuguese Court (1707-1807). In her acknowledgment of her accomplishment, Danielle stated that "it all started with the McNair program at IUP." Dr. Kuntz is currently a lecturer at UM.