

The Scholar Voyager

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring, 2010

Message from the Director

Welcome to another edition of the *Scholar Voyager*! The McNair Scholars program is well under-way, having just recruited our largest group—nineteen (19) new scholars join six who are continuing from last year to fill our full 25 participant complement. Please see page 2 for details. I want to congratulate all those selected and bid a bittersweet farewell to seniors set to graduate in May this year: Belinda Arndt, Olumayowa Azeez, Jay Harter, Helene Hurrey, Emmanuel Johnson, Eric Nystrom, Mark Peterson, Melissa Rogers, Christina Santiago, and Jon Wylie. We also recognize December, 2010 graduates Jennifer Casanova, Jerrod Foster, Ayanda Masilela, and Jon Yuhás. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, including gaining entry and succeeding in graduate education. Scholars and alumni who have gained admission to graduate programs this coming fall are featured on page 3.

In other news, significant changes that affect all federal TRIO programs have occurred as a result of the reauthoriza-

tion of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) in 2008. Most importantly is the need to delay grant competitions from fall, 2010 to fall, 2011. This change was incorporated to synchronize grant renewals across all programs. As a result, a one year extension to the IUP McNair program has been granted. Our sister program Upward Bound Math & Science, has also been extended, therefore meaning we will re-write both grants next fall as opposed to this fall. We hope with this streamlined effort services can be more efficiently and continuously provided to our scholars.

Planning for the 2010 Summer Research Institute is underway. We welcome Dr. John Lewis, criminology, to teach the McNair research methods course this year, who graciously agreed to fill in for Dr. Jennifer Gossett, who traditionally teaches the course for us. In addition, several workshops on the graduate school culture, how to find an effective mentor, GRE preparation, and the graduate admissions calendar are planned. The program will team up with the Honors College in late August to host Don Asher, graduate admis-

sions expert to provide scholars with admissions essay writing workshops. In addition, as we have done in the past, we will take 2010 McNairians to Washington, DC May 27-29 to visit American University, George Mason University, and the University of Maryland-College Park, as well as various cultural points of interest. At the conclusion of the summer program, we will host a symposium where all new and continuing McNair scholars will present their research in front of peers and faculty. A detailed news brief regarding this event will be posted on our website at www.iup.edu/mcnair. All are encouraged to attend as schedules permit. The program culminates with the annual Closing Banquet, to be held in the Blue Room June 24th, at 6:30 p.m. We are honored to host Dr. Eloy Rodriguez, Cornell University, a distinguished scientist, as our keynote speaker. Please see pg. 4 for details.



Prof. Calvin Masilela,
Program Director

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Ali-Zaidi Award Runner-up



Congratulations to McNair scholar Melissa Rogers, a Cook Honors College student and a senior double English and Spanish major. This award is established through the PASSHE to recognize an outstanding graduating senior from one of the fourteen state system schools. Melissa maintains a 3.94 GPA and has interned in New York City for Marvel Comics as well as studied abroad in Mexico. Her McNair research "From the Gutter to the Mainstream: Women Comics Writers & Marginalization" is directed by faculty mentor Dr. Chauna Craig. She presented this work at the Undergraduate Scholars Forum April 1, in addition to several other venues. Melissa has been accepted to the MA/Ph.D. program in Women's Studies at UMD-College Park with full funding. *Congratulations Melissa on your achievements!*

Spring News ...

Forgoing traditional Spring Break, scholars Belinda Arndt, Olumayowa Azeez, and Jennifer Casanova traveled to the University of Maryland College Park's 11th Annual National McNair Research Conference & Graduate School Fair March 11-14, accompanied by Dr. Masilela and Hilary Staples. Belinda's research titled "*Exploring Ideology: Ideological Jihadism is not Jihad*" which is being developed under the direction of Dr. Dighton Fiddner, was presented. Olumayowa presented her work titled "*Computational Characterization of Structural and pH-dependent Properties of Cellulases*", a project she is developing under the guidance of her faculty mentor, Dr. Jaeju Ko. Jennifer also presented her

research titled "*Are Carbohydrates Involved in the Association of Growth Hormone Binding Protein, GHBP, in the Membrane?*", a project she is developing under the guidance of Dr. Jonathan Southard. In addition to fifteen other McNair participants, Belinda, Olumayowa and Jennifer also presented their work at the 5th Annual IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum held April 1st in the HUB. Please see page 4 for a list of McNairians who received honors and awards at the conference. *Congratulations to all scholars who participated!*

Upcoming Events

- McNair Summer Research Institute begins, May 17
- Graduate School Visits, Washington, D.C., May 27-29
- Summer Research Institute Symposium & Closing Banquet, June 24 & 25
- Don Asher Workshop with McNair & Honors College, August, 2010

Introducing the 2010 Cohort of McNair Scholars...

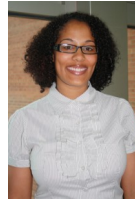
Joining '09 continuing scholars: **Jessica Beere** (Psychology), **Tiara Brock-DeShields** Child & Family Studies), **Matthew Gemberling** (Economics & Music Education), **Rebecca Santi** (Psychology), **Kim Siverling** (Journalism), and **Jon Yugas** (Nutrition/Dietetics) we are pleased to present the 2010 cohort of McNairians! Congratulations on your acceptance and we look forward to serving you!



Brittany Allman, Physical Education & Sport



Daniel Cuevas, Physical Education & Sport



Alisia Drew, Child & Family Studies



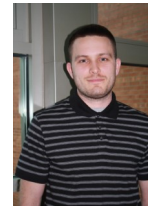
Nasia Flood, Communications Media



Danielle Graves, Criminology



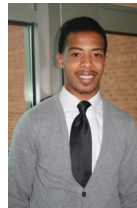
Melkia Green, Finance



Anthony LeDonne, Geoscience



Gerald Mensah, Economics/Political Science



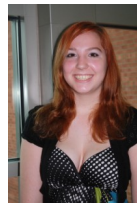
Tyrone Peace, Sociology



Rosamaria Ponciano, Regional Planning



Eboni Ramsey, Natural Science



Briane Shane, Interior Design



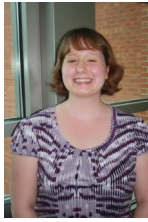
Daniel Shearer, Communications Media



Jarred Smith, Political Science



Naeemah Smith, Disabilities Services



Teresa Stage, History/Anthropology



Aingae Stratton, Communications Media



Brams Theodore, Business Mangement/Finance



Zachary Walker, English

Congratulations to Scholars Accepted to Graduate School . . .

To date, the following Scholars & McNair Alumni have been accepted to graduate school(s) this fall:

<i>Jon Crowley</i>	<i>M.A., History</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Helene Hurrey</i>	<i>M.A., Anthropology</i>	<i>New Mexico State University</i>
<i>Denae Johnson</i>	<i>M.A./Ph.D., Sociology</i>	<i>University of Maryland-College Park</i>
<i>Emmanuel Johnson</i>	<i>M.A., Criminology</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Matt Fedinick</i>	<i>M.A., Public Affairs</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Michael Lynch</i>	<i>M.A., Communications Studies</i>	<i>New Mexico State University</i>
<i>Mike Morisseau</i>	<i>M.A., Television Management</i>	<i>Drexel University</i>
<i>Eric Nystrom</i>	<i>M.A., Historic Preservation</i>	<i>University of Vermont</i>
<i>Mark Peterson</i>	<i>M.A., Mass Communication & Media Studies</i>	<i>Howard University</i>
<i>Christie Ritchey Scatena</i>	<i>M.Ed, Student Affairs in Higher Ed.</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Melissa Rogers</i>	<i>M.A./Ph.D., Women's Studies</i>	<i>University of Maryland-College Park</i>
<i>Nicole Ryals</i>	<i>Ed.D., School Administration</i>	<i>Widener University</i>
<i>Carol Shuler</i>	<i>M.S.W, Social Work</i>	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
<i>Jason Ussack</i>	<i>M.Ed, Health & Physical Education</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Jon Wylie</i>	<i>M.A., Music Performance</i>	<i>Texas Christian University</i>

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Brian Lawrence
Program Assistant



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



IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum 2010 Winners!

Honorable Mention (Paper Presentations)

Jessica Beere, Psychology

Amber Byas, Biology

Outstanding Paper Presentations

Tiara Brock-DeShields, Child & Family Studies

Outstanding Poster Presentation

Ayanda Masilela (with Geography students Mark Turner, Tetsuya Iwase, and Zachary Afshar), Geography/GIS

Best Bibliography

Jennifer Casanova, Natural Science & Chemistry

Congratulations McNair Scholars!!

Words of Encouragement

"The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible" *Arthur C. Clarke*

Introducing Keynote Speaker Dr. Eloy Rodriguez . . .

Overview

As the James A. Perkins endowed Professor and Research Scientist at Cornell, I have devoted my professional life to the chemical biology, ecology and medicinal chemistry and toxicology of natural small molecules and glycoproteins from plants and arthropods that are important in ecological and biological interactions and human and animal health and medicine. In collaboration with Dr. Richard Wrangham at Harvard we established the discipline of zoopharmacognosy (animal self medication with plants) and Chemo-ornithology (chemical ecology of bird-insect-plant interactions) with David Rosane from CUNY. I have developed a new undergraduate course and research program on the pharmacognosy, pharmacology and nutritional biochemistry of natural substance important for the control of diabetes type 2 and breast and pancreatic cancer in underrepresented communities in the US and Mexico. I have also devoted considerable time and effort to the training of hundreds of underrepresented undergraduate and graduate minority and majority students in the sciences at Cornell and the University of California, Irvine. A plethora of these fine young women and men at Cornell and UCI are now medical doctors, health specialists, research Professors, pharmaceutical scientists, biologists and environmental ecologists.

Research Focus

My research focus is the chemistry, evolution, and function of natural small molecules and lectins (glycoproteins) biosynthesized in plants and arthropods. The research is multidisciplinary in nature, and involves various fields of investigation. In the area of chemical ecology of tropical and desert ecosystems we are investigating the origin and evolution of biochemical defense cascades in plants-insects-frogs and birds. In health and medicine, we are developing novel biomedicines from plants and arthropods for treating major health disparities, especially diabetes type two and breast cancer in underrepresented communities of the US and international poor communities in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Middle East and the Amazon basin. We are elucidating the chemical structures of novel Nature-based molecules that exhibit anticancer and anti-diabetic activity. We are supported by the NIH and the NSF.



Dr. Eloy Rodriguez,
*Endowed Professor & Research Scientist,
Cornell University,
Department of Plant Biology*

Outreach and Extension Focus

My Outreach focus is on public health and medical education, especially of underrepresented minorities and poor urban and rural white communities in New York and throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean and Latin America. I attend various national conferences on improving educational opportunities for young Latinos/as, African Americans and American Indians. Over 50% of my time is devoted to teaching, mentoring, tutoring and assisting minority and majority students involved in research and international research training, and biomedical courses and in health and nutritional education.