

# The Scholar Voyageur

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## Message from the Director

I couldn't be more pleased with the positive growth that has been occurring in the McNair Scholars Program. I keep saying each year we get better and better, and it's really true. First, I want to congratulate the following who are graduating this May or August: Kelly Andrews, Brittany Buterbaugh, Jon Crowley, Brandon Gomez, Mara Iverson, Denae Johnson, Qiana Lightner, Gail Mitchell, Christie Ritchey, Brittany Taylor, Kylie Walters, and Aubree Webb. All have performed very well and I commend each for reaching this milestone in their academic careers. Nine of these graduates will continue into graduate programs this fall, most with full funding support. A special note of thanks to faculty mentors for their support of our students.

Even as they prepare for graduation, cohort '08 have been working diligently on their research and presenting their work at local and national symposiums. Five scholars presented their research at North Carolina A &

T University, see below. An additional 15 presented their work at the IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum April 7th. Seven won awards for their work. Congratulations to all who participated!

I would also like to highlight 4 scholars who are headed off to internships, study abroad, or other research opportunities this summer. Jennifer, Kelly, Ayanda and Melissa will be exposed to real-world environments within their respective disciplines that will enrich their academic careers tremendously. Congratulations ladies on job(s) well done!

Finally, it is with great enthusiasm that I introduce you to the 2009 Cohort of McNair scholars, highlighted in this edition of the *Voyageur*. We selected 17 new scholars to join the group of scholars continuing from 2008. They are all very strong students academically, and as is the case with many McNair scholars, have demonstrated determination over obstacles to get where they are today. We are indebted to the faculty advisory committee for

their input in the selection process. This year is extraordinarily exciting as we have such diversity in discipline, gender, and age. We are looking forward to the Summer Research Experience, which will begin May 18—June 26th. We will make our annual trek to Washington, D.C. to visit graduate schools and cultural enrichment sites, and host the McNair Summer Research Symposium June 25th & 26th. Finally, we have invited Napoleon Wells, Ph.D., clinical psychology, to provide the keynote address at the annual Closing Banquet the evening of June 26th. Dr. Wells is a former McNair scholar from Binghamton University who currently serves as program manager for the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, primarily dedicated to intensive post-traumatic stress disorder treatment. We hope to see many of you there!



Prof. Calvin Masilela, Program Director

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### Congratulations Jennifer!

Jennifer Casanova, a junior majoring in Chemistry & Natural Science, has been selected to participate in the University of Arizona's ten-week summer research program in chemistry. The program will support Jennifer with room, board and a generous \$4000 stipend. Congratulations Jennifer on this remarkable achievement and best of luck in your research program!

## Spring News ...

In late January, selected scholars and staff braced a winter storm to travel to North Carolina A & T University to celebrate National TRIO Day in conjunction with the annual Commemorative Celebration & Research Symposium held to honor the life of Ronald E. McNair, decorated alumnus of N.C. A & T, and namesake of the McNair Scholars Program. Five scholars from IUP presented their work. Kelly Andrews examined "American Literature Anthologies: The Missing Minority Writers in the College Classroom", a project guided by mentor Dr. Christopher Kuipers. Jon Crowley, under the direction of Dr. Scott Moore, presented "The History Beneath Our Feet: A Ceramic Analysis of Unique Hellenistic Sherds". Jon received an honorable mention award for his presentation. Qiana Lightner presented

"The Educational Plight of Blacks & Latinos at Indiana University of Pennsylvania". Qiana's mentor is Dr. Victor Garcia. Kylie Walters explored "Are You In or Out? Upper-Class Student Perceptions of Greek Hazing at IUP", directed by Dr. Jennifer Gossett. Finally, Tiffany Williams, under the guidance of mentor Dr. Jamie Martin, presented "The Evolving Juvenile Delinquent: A Content Analysis". Congratulations to all scholars on a professional job well done!

In addition, members of the 2008 cohort of McNair scholars presented their research at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Scholars Forum held at IUP April 7, 2009. A listing of presentation winners is posted on page 4. *Congratulations to all participants!*

### Upcoming Events & Correction

- *McNair Summer Research Institute begins, May 18*
- *Group Visits Washington, D.C. graduate schools, May 27-30*
- *Summer Research Institute Symposium & Closing Banquet, June 25 & 26*
- **Correction:** *Laura Briscoe is enrolled at Oklahoma State University, not University of Oklahoma, pursuing her Ph.D. in counseling psychology*

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## Introducing the 2009 Cohort of McNair Scholars...

Joining '08 continuing scholars: Nick Berninger, Amber Byas, Jennifer Casanova, Jerrod Foster, Helene Hurrey, Ayanda Masilela, Melissa Rogers, Tiffany Williams, and Jon Wylie, we are pleased to present the 2009 cohort of McNairians! Congratulations on your acceptance and we look forward to serving you! (Missing from photo: Sherita Banks, double psychology & criminology major, junior standing)



**Belinda Arndt**, International Studies



**Olumayowa Azeez**, Biochemistry



**Jessica Beere**, Psychology & Accounting



**Tiara Brock-Deshields**, Child & Family Studies



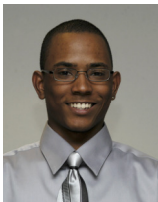
**Reed Ciotti**, Social Studies Education/History



**Jay Harter**, Family & Consumer Sciences



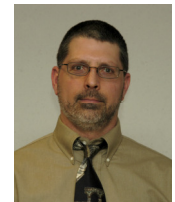
**Matthew Gemberling**, Music Education



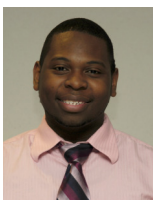
**Emmanuel Johnson**, Criminology



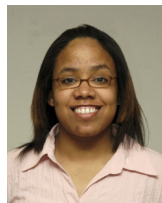
**Michael Lynch**, Communications Media



**Eric Nystrom**, GIS/Cartography



**Mark Peterson**, Marketing



**Maria Robinson**, Spanish Education



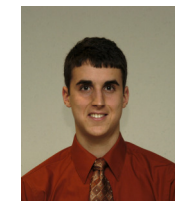
**Rebecca Santi**, Psychology



**Christina Santiago**, Business Management



**Kimberly Siverling**, Journalism



**Jonathan Yuhas**, Dietetics/Nutrition

## Bon Voyage! to Graduate School . . .

We congratulate all seniors who are graduating this Spring and Summer, and are joyously celebrating the graduate school acceptances of 9 of 13 seniors graduating this May or August. Do you recognize any of these faces?



Vernon Brundage, Jr., a senior Economics major, has been accepted to Howard University Economics M.A. program



Brittany Buterbaugh has been accepted to American University, University of Southern California, and Penn State University to begin her Ph.D. in chemistry. Brittany received a full assistantship and will attend Penn State.



Brandon Gomez, a senior communications media major, has been accepted to MA programs at American, Temple, and Syracuse Universities. Brandon was awarded a McNair Fellowship and will begin his graduate work in media studies at Syracuse University this fall.



Graduating with a History degree from IUP this May, Mara Iverson will continue at IUP this fall in the Student Affairs in Higher Education MA program.



Christie Ritchey is graduating from the IUP Biology Honors Program this May. She has been accepted with full assistantships at Vanderbilt University, Ohio State University, Montana State University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. Christie has selected UNC-Chapel Hill and will begin her Ph.D. in biology this fall.



Qiana Lightner graduates with a double major in Anthropology & Sociology. She is awaiting decision from IUP and New Mexico University's sociology departments.



Kylie Walters has been accepted to IUP, University of North Carolina Charlotte, University of South Carolina, and the University of Central Florida's criminology MA programs. She has a lot on her mind and is weighing her decision.

Brittany Taylor is graduating this May from the IUP criminology department. She will begin her MA in criminology at Rutgers University this fall.



Aubree Webb graduates with her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from IUP this May. Aubree has been accepted to Arizona State University and the University of Maryland College Park. Arizona State has offered her a full assistantship to begin her Ph.D. in cell & molecular biology, which she will do this fall.

## Internships, Study Abroad, and Phi Kappa Phi . . .

Congratulations to Kelly Andrews and Melissa Rogers on securing summer internships! Kelly, a journalism major, will be interning at Erie Times-News..... Melissa Rogers was accepted as an intern at Marvel Comics in New York City. Melissa is a double English & Spanish major, and focused her McNair research on "From the Gutter to the Mainstream: Women Comics Writers and Marginalization". Congratulations Kelly & Melissa on these accomplishments! Ayanda Masilela, a junior Geography/GIS major, traveled to Japan this spring on a 3-month study abroad experience. She has been posting regular photo updates of her adventures on Facebook. And, we offer our heartiest congratulations to Kylie Walters, criminology, and Dr. Masilela, for their induction into the exclusive Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society this spring. Best wishes all 'round!

### Words of Encouragement

"Don't wait for your ship to come in. Row out to meet it." — *Unknown*

## McNair Program Staff

Professor Calvin Masilela,  
Director  
cmasilel@iup.edu

Ms. Hilary Staples,  
Assistant Director  
hstaples@iup.edu

Matthew Hunter,  
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 2009 Winners!

### Honorable Mention (Paper Presentations)

Kelly Andrews  
Jon Crowley

### Outstanding Paper Presentations

Kylie Walters  
Brandon Gomez  
Qiana Lightner  
Vernon Brundage

### Best Performance

Nick Berninger

### Best Bibliography

Qiana Lightner

**Congratulations McNair Scholars!!**

## Scholar Spotlight . . . Michele Cogley

"Without a team, without an institution, and without any money, Michele Cogley is finding a way to help. Michele was laid off from the airline industry. She turned to her local CareerLink in Kittanning for help. She quickly realized that she had more marketable skills than most of the other job seekers. While looking for a job, Michele regularly volunteered at the CareerLink to teach computer skills to others who were unemployed. Michele, you are a true inspiration to each of us. You are proof positive that each of us can help a fellow Pennsylvanian get back on track" **Governor Rendell, Feb. 4, 2009, State of the Commonwealth Address**

"When I was laid off from US Airways in 2005, and although we all "worked on a computer" (Sabre reservation system – data entry) – many of my coworkers had never used a mouse, did not know what a web browser was, and did not have the basic skills needed to job search using the Internet. The need for this training is more relevant today than ever before." **Michele Cogley, IUP McNair Scholar**

It really does *pay* to volunteer. IUP McNair Scholar Michele Cogley recently was recognized by PA Governor Edward Rendell for her service to the Kittanning CareerLink office for contributing her computer skills to teach other job seekers basic computer based applications. This experience spurred Michele's McNair research, which is focused on the need for a job seekers training program in a rural community, such as Armstrong County. Many of the unemployed workers have limited, if any, basic computer skills. This is important because many of Career Link's services are Internet/computer based and clients need to apply for benefits utilizing that process. In other words, computers are available at the CareerLink office, but if the client does not know how to use them, what

good are they? Over the academic year, Michele has provided 24 hours of instruction to each member of seven total classes. The classes are free and incorporate 3 job seekers classes as well as 4 senior learners classes. The classes are free to Armstrong county residents or clients of the Armstrong County CareerLink office. The study occurred in the classroom setting, and consisted of a 15-question pre-test (includes demographic information, such as age, education level and gender) and a 12-question post-test (using the same 12 questions from the pre-test, excluding demographics), followed by a 6-question survey designed to capture the perception of the training and the need for it by the job seeker. The demographic in the classes consisted of students aged 35 and older, who would not have had the benefit of computer access in their secondary school classrooms, unlike their younger counterparts. Michele presented her research at the IUP Undergraduate Scholars Forum April 7, 2009 in the HUB.



Gov. Ed Rendell with Michele Cogley