

The Scholar Voyageur

McNair Scholars Program Newsletter
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Scholar Spotlight



Mary Chey '17, has accepted a full funding package to attend the University of Maryland College Park for her Ph.D. in biological sciences beginning this fall. In addition to completing her McNair research titled *Optimization of Double Stranded (ds)-RNA Cloning in Rbizoxtonia solani Isolate* under the direction of Dr. N. Bharathan, Mary also was selected to participate in the University of Michigan's summer research program for undergraduates last summer. Mary began her TRIO journey as a residence hall staff and a math/science tutor for our Upward Bound Math Science program which mentors low income/potentially first generation high school students from Indiana County. We congratulate Mary on her many successes and look forward to celebrating her Ph.D.! Congratulations Mary!

Upcoming Events

- Summer Research Program begins June 5th!
- Trip to Washington, D.C. June 14-18
- McNair Research Symposium & Closing Banquet June 29 & 30

Message from the Director....

Congratulations to **2017 McNair graduates**.....Rhea Calhoun, Mary Chey, Rebecca Colon, Hortencia Correa, Kelsey Durham, Kara McClain, Guadalupe Ortiz-Cortez, Sharay Price, Angela Robin, Senovia Roberts, and Ashley Whigham. 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 2017 McNair cohort for another exciting Summer Research Institute which began June 5. See page 2 & 3 to view pictures of newly inducted McNairians!

As many of you may be aware, we have submitted funding proposals to renew both McNair and UBMS at IUP. We should know our fate by August. However, the Administration has proposed a 13% cut to the U.S. Department of Education, which reflects an assault on public education, and where higher education takes the hardest hit. Proposed cuts to NIH and NSF reflects an assault to all research areas, and a proposed \$100 + million cut to TRIO would have a devastating and immediate impact on thousands of low income/first generation students across the nation. The Administration went a step further by proposing to eliminate two of the federal TRIO programs: Educational Opportunity Centers (which serve adult learners), and the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program which prepares undergraduates to pursue graduate studies. This proposal suggested by OMB Director Mulvaney claiming these programs are "ineffective" is false and based on made-up data. Despite this assault, the TRIO community has come together to fight not only this proposed elimination but also to restore funding to all of TRIO at least at it's current level. We are hopeful because TRIO programs have bipartisan support in Congress, and the TRIO caucus is fully engaged. In particular, the McNair community is mobilizing to fight this myopic, short-sighted assault on higher education. As supporters of our IUP TRIO programs, McNair and UBMS, we encourage you to contact the PA congressional delegation (particularly Senators Casey & Toomey) to support TRIO funding and strongly oppose the proposed elimination of critical programs like McNair and EOC. As evidenced in this newsletter, TRIO, and the McNair Scholars Program, *do work, are effective*, and most importantly serve to *transform* the lives of the students we serve. Thank you.



Dr. Hilary Staples, Program Director

McNair Celebrates 3 More Doctorates!



Kalin McDannell, McNair Class of 2008, has earned his Ph.D. in Earth & Environmental Science from Lehigh University this May. He will complete a 3 year post-doc in Calgary, Canada with the Geological Survey.



Eboni Ramsey, McNair Class of 2012, has earned her Pharm.D. She is now a pharmacist with CVS Health.

Sultan Magruder, McNair Class of 2012, has earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Oklahoma State University. He will be pursuing a post-doc appointment with Penn State.

This brings total Ph.D.'s to 7, J.D.'s to 4, and our first Pharm.D.!



Introducing the 2017 Cohort of McNair Scholars...

Joining '16 continuing scholars: **Anastasia Clayton** (History), **La'Nier Corbett** (Nursing), **Kiera Estes** (Chemistry), **Jason Goulding** (Exercise Science), **Jordan Gwinn** (Economics), **Lauren LaMar** (Child Development), **Briana Marin** (Religious Studies), **John Mihalek** (Nutrition & Psychology), and **Cynthia Rodriguez** (Biology), **Jakyra Simpson** (Chemistry), **Elecia Smith** (Psychology), and **Niara Walker-Dunn** (Psychology) we are pleased to present the 2017 cohort of McNairians! Congratulations on your acceptance!



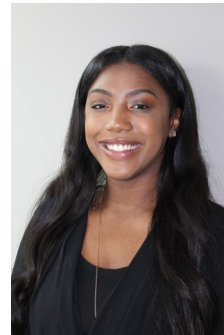
Savanna Altendor, Psychology



Skylar Archer, Criminology



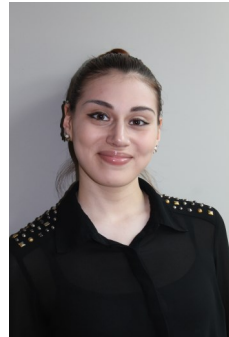
Tierra Barton, Criminology



Andria Board, Business Management



Yanira Cintora Lopez, Public Health



Laura DeJesus, Psychology



Nick Dzuricky, Physics



Josh Garcia, Criminology



Danielle Knight, Exercise Science



Megan Lydic, Psychology



Madinah Mubarak, MIS



Brandon Rager, Sociology



Mia Rivera, Child Development



Marina Seamans, English & Spanish



Samantha Soto, Biology

Congratulations to Scholars Accepted to Graduate School . . .

To date, the following 2017 McNair Graduates and Alumni have been accepted in graduate programs this upcoming Fall!

<i>Mary Chey</i>	<i>Ph.D., Biological Sciences</i>	<i>University of Maryland, College Park</i>
<i>Pam Guzman (McNair Class of 2016)</i>	<i>M.A.</i>	<i>Cabrini University</i>
<i>Kara McClain</i>	<i>M.D./Ph.D., Biomedical Science</i>	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
<i>LaTanya Mitchell (McNair Class of 2016)</i>	<i>M.A., Criminology</i>	<i>University of Central Florida</i>
<i>Diana Morales (McNair Class of 2016)</i>	<i>M.A., Sustainability</i>	<i>University of Colorado-Denver</i>
<i>Senovia Roberts</i>	<i>M.S./Ph.D., Nutrition Science</i>	<i>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</i>
<i>Angela Robin</i>	<i>M.A., Criminology</i>	<i>Arizona State University</i>
<i>Nancy Lopez Sosa</i>	<i>M.A., Sociology</i>	<i>IUP</i>
<i>Kim Waddy (McNair Class of 2014)</i>	<i>Ph.D., Political Science</i>	<i>Syracuse 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!

CNSM Dean's Award for Excellence—First Place

Aaron Seidel: "Application of Ground Penetrating Radar and Petrophysical Modeling to Investigate Methane Dynamics?"

Student Government Association Peer Choice Award

Kiera Estes: Design, Synthesis, and Spectroscopic Studies of a Ru(II) Polypyridyl Complex Containing Bulky Ligands"

Social Media Award

Mary Chey

Scholars Present Research at USF ...

The following scholars presented research in either poster or oral presentations at the 12th Annual Undergraduate Scholars Forum held April 4, 2017 in the HUB. In order of presentation schedule, we congratulate the following McNairians on their successful presentations: **Elecia Smith**, psychology, Dr. McHugh, mentor. **Rebecca Colon**, sociology, Dr. Garcia, mentor. **Briana Marin**, sociology & religious studies, Dr. Sandhoff, mentor. **Anastasia Clayton**, history, Dr. Wang, mentor. **Cynthia Rodriguez**, biology, Dr. Bharathan, mentor. **Jason Goulding**, exercise science, Dr. Castle, mentor. **Jordan Gwinn**, economics, Dr. Jozefowicz, mentor. **John Mihalek**, nutrition & psychology, Dr. Alman, mentor. **Senovia Roberts**, nutrition, Dr. Clark, mentor. **Kara McClain**, nursing, Dr. Custer, mentor. **Kelsey Durham**, journalism, Dr. Papakie, mentor. **Lauren LaMar**, child development & family relations, Dr. Puhlman, mentor. **Aaron Seidel**, geoscience, Dr. Mount, mentor. **Kiera Estes**, chemistry, Dr. Jain, mentor. **Guadalupe Ortiz-Cortez**, regional planning, Dr. Ghosh, mentor. **Hortencia Correa**, psychology, Dr. McHugh, mentor. **Ashley Whigham**, child development & family relations, Dr. Kappel, mentor. *Congratulations Scholars!*

Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You're eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky.
~ Ronald E. McNair ~ 1950-1986

