

NEIU McNair Scholars and Chicago American Indian Education Program

The Chicago American Indian Education Program and the McNair Scholars program joined to provide quality after school tutoring to Native American



McNair Scholar Stacy Brill and CPS student Jade Roy work on science homework during a tutoring session.

students in Chicago public schools. This program, directed by NEIU graduate student **Jolene Aleck**, Inner City Studies, provides one-on-one tutoring to CPS students in grades 3-12. The tutoring sessions focus on strengthening math, science and writing skills. The pilot tutoring program runs from March through June 2010.

McNair Scholars from Northeastern Illinois University contribute their time and expertise by providing individual tutoring to students during 2 hour sessions that are held weekly. McNair Scholars participating in the program are: **Stacy Brill** ('08), **Jose Fulgencio**, ('10) and **Lynda Gibson**, cohort 8.

McNair Scholars for Haiti

On January 12, Haiti was struck by a catastrophic 7.0Mw earthquake that left 3 million people with lots of needs, and an estimated 1,000,000 homeless. In response, the McNair Scholars Program launched the "McNair 4 Haiti" initiative, coordinated by McNair staff and members of the academic community. The drive collected clothes, non-perishable food and toiletries. Donations were organized and packaged by **Imani Beard** ('09) and **Cornelius Williams** ('09). Twelve boxes of items were delivered to **Reverend Hector Mardi**, active member of the Haitian community in the Rogers Park neighborhood and pastor at the New Hope Haitian Community Church. Pastor Mardi took the donations to Haiti January 26th.



Alejandra Prieto-Mendoza, Imani Beard, Kim Sanborn and Rev. Hector Mardi at New Hope Haitian Community Church

December Grads

Two Scholars graduated from NEIU in December:

Norman Davis, Sociology & Inner City Studies, cum laude, was accepted to NEIU's Inner City Studies MA program. Mentor: **Lance Williams, Ph.D.**
Michael Santos, History, summa cum laude, Mentor: **Mark Schmeller, Ph.D.**

Inside this edition

- Research Presentations...Page 2**
- New Cohort Starts.....Page 2**
- New McNair CohortPage 3**
- Alumni News.....Page 3**
- El Centro Anniversary.... Page 3**
- TRIO News.....Back Page**

UIC SROP

Four NEIU McNair Scholars were accepted to the 2010 University of Illinois Chicago Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP).

Latrese Monden, Salvador Montes, Lakeesha Harris, and Brandi Williams were selected from hundreds of applicants. At SROP they will have research experience with a UIC faculty mentor and GRE training. Also they will attend the annual SROP research conference at Ohio State University.

McNair Scholars Spring Recognitions



NEIU President Sharon Hahs and McNair Scholar Keith Atterberry at the Black History Award Celebration.

This Spring, several Scholars were recognized for their leadership and achievements. On February 26th, **Keith Atterberry** ('09) received the Alumni Award of Excellence at the Black History Month Awards Celebration. "I am humbled and grateful to have received the award. I owe a debt of gratitude to those African Americans who have come before me and set the example of excellence. I will do my best to embody their example and be a role model for future generations," Keith remarked.

On March 9th, **Jose Fulgencio** ('10) was awarded at the 2010 Project Success and Proyecto Pa'Lante Award Ceremony. He also received the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus Scholarship and the NEIU Legacy Award at the 4th Annual LEAD (Leaders Emerging and Developing) Awards celebration.

McNair Scholars **Angela Howard**, Cohort 7, and **Julia Gutierrez, Lakeesha Harris** and **Sheenita Robinson**, Cohort 8, were recognized at the Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges Ceremony March 16th, hosted by Dean of Students **Dr. Michael Kelly**.

Save the Date!

Scholars, their families & mentors are invited to welcome the newest cohort of Scholars and congratulate those who will graduate in May at the Annual McNair Program Dinner **Thursday, May 6 at 6 pm.**

Research Presentations



Scholars at the 12th Annual Texas National Research Conference. From left: Michael Santos, Jorge Ortiz, Tony Scott, Marcus Moore & Jose Fulgencio.

Five Scholars attended the 12th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars' Research Conference at the University of North Texas February 19-21. **Jose Fulgencio** presented his research *Plan Colombia: The Transformation of a Counternarcotics Policy* and said, "My experience in Texas was priceless. I was blessed with meeting so many great scholars and future academic leaders. The conference gave me a big confidence boost in my public speaking skills. I want to thank Dr. Leaman for his mentorship and also Dr. Sanborn and Alejandra for supporting me at the conference and during the preparation leading up to it."

Marcus Moore presented *Societal Factors that Contribute to the Development of Successful Black Men*; **Jorge Ortiz** presented *Processes of Social Alienation among Mexican-American Youth* and said, "the conference was an important opportunity for us not only to develop professionally as scholars, but also to connect with other students who may be our colleagues in the future. I know I will be in contact with several students that I met at the conference, and look forward to working with them in the future. Going to this conference made me more appreciative of being a McNair Scholar, and everything the program does for us. Nos vemos en la lucha!"

Michael Santos presented *The Natural Entity Theory: How the Business Corporation Became a Person*, and; **Toni Scott** presented *Latino College Students' Experience of a First-Year Program*. In December, Toni presented her research at the World Wide Forum on Education and Culture in Rome, Italy. **Dr. Kim Sanborn**, McNair Director, and **Dr. Jade Stanley**, Chair, Social Work, also presented at that conference. Their research, *The Contribution of the McNair Scholars Program to Participants' Intellectual Development*, sponsored by a community research grant from Provost **Dr. Lawrence**

Frank, was presented as well in November at the Midwest Association of Opportunity in Education in St. Charles, IL by Dr. Sanborn and former McNair staff member **Angela Vidal Rodriguez**.

Also in November, **Norman Davis** presented his research *Uncovering cultural relevance in African American Music: Louis Armstrong and Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington*, at the Univ. of Wisconsin's 18th Annual National McNair Scholars Research Conference.



Scholar Toni Scott and Director Dr. Kim Sanborn during their trip to Rome

New Cohort Starts

Since last fall, thirteen students have been accepted to the NEIU McNair Scholars Program. The McNair staff is looking forward to working with the new Scholars and Faculty Mentors to provide quality services and experiences in their academic journeys. New Scholars, their majors, mentors (and some comments), are:

Julia Gutierrez, Women's Studies
Mentor: Erica Meiners, Ph.D.

Lakeesha Harris, Women's Studies
Mentor: Laurie Fuller, Ph.D.

Sheenita Robinson, Elementary Ed/
Inner City Studies
"McNair is a rewarding and challenging experience that changes your life forever. As a McNair Scholar I have reached new heights beyond my imagination."
Mentor: Katrina Bell Jordan, Ph.D.

Wanda Dukes, Board of Governors
Mentor: Sharon L Bethea, Ph.D.

Claudia Cortez, Sociology
"Being a member of the McNair Program has enabled me to have access to many opportunities. The connection that McNair has with other prestigious organizations will open doors to a better

future. I am grateful to have been accepted into the program."
Mentor: T.Y. Okosun, Ph.D.

Linda Gibson, Psychology
Mentor: David Farmer, Ph.D.

Resney Gugwor, Psychology
"To be a McNair Scholar means aiming for and achieving excellence in my field with enormous support, putting my best effort to uphold the prestige granted by being a Scholar and working hard to show my gratitude for people believing in me, my believing in myself, and my believing in others."
Mentor: Saba Ayman-Nolley, Ph.D.

Salvador Montes, Geography
"This programs propels you academically with such intensity that is impossible to turn back and see academia the same way. To be a McNair Scholar is to have insight as an undergraduate to the conversations that Scholars are having all over the world."
Mentor: Dennis Grammenos, Ph.D.

Brandi Williams, Elementary Ed
Mentor: Durene Wheeler, Ph.D.

Victoria Neiman, Psychology
"I feel so fortunate to have been accepted to the McNair Scholars Program. I knew my future changed for the better

the moment I received the program's acceptance letter and I can now say with certainty that there is hope for an exceptional future career."

Mentor: Suzanne Gaskins, Ph.D.

Latrese Annette Monden, Health and Wellness

"If you can fathom your ultimate dream come true, that would be my equivalent of being a McNair Scholar. It has been a humbling and extraordinary experience thus far; the support and guidance is priceless to me."

Mentor: Jennifer Banas, Ph.D.

Pearl Martinez, Bilingual-Bicultural Education

"Being a McNair Scholar means I have an opportunity to enlighten my understanding of perceptions through meaningful and rigorous academic work. It prepares me for my future as an educator, ready to share my knowledge."
Mentor: Gabriel Cortez, Ph.D.

Adelf Alvarado, Chemistry

"As a McNair Scholar I am in an outstanding position relative to the university's student body. Also, being a McNair Scholar helps us reach our highest professional goals."
Mentor: Sargon Al-Bazi, Ph.D.

Alumni News

In this edition our updates from NEIU McNair alumni are **sub-headed by cohort**. Several NEIU McNair Scholars are in graduate school and here are their most recent updates:

Cohort 1

Carl Mackey

Carl is in a PhD program at Loyola University in Chicago. He was awarded the Full Tuition Scholarship from the Dean of Graduate the College for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years. This upcoming year he will be completing the remainder of his coursework, taking his special fields exams, and authoring his proposal.

Carl is currently working as an academic advisor for the Student Center for Science Engagement at NEIU. He also serves as the NEIU McNair Program GRE instructor and has been working with Cohort 8 Scholars since February.

Eileen Rollerson

Eileen has completed her coursework and special fields exams at Loyola University and is working now on her dissertation proposal.

Christine Ortega

After attaining her MA in Political Science at NEIU, Christine is completing a second graduate degree, the Masters of Arts in Teaching, at National Louis Univ.

Cohort 2

Christine Leone

Christine is currently employed as the Visiting Coordinator of Clinical and Research Programs at the Institute of Juvenile research at University of Illinois, Chicago. She will be starting her doctorate program in Social Work Administration at the University of Chicago this fall.

Cohort 4

Loren Henderson

Currently a Ph.D. student in Sociology at University of Illinois, Chicago, Loren has recently been accepted to The University of Chicago, Department of Sociology where she will pursue the Ph.D. The Division of Social Sciences has awarded her the Social Sciences Five Year Fellowship for her graduate study. In her past research she has focused on race, gender, sexual identity and diversity in organizations

Cohort 5

Gwen Austin

Gwen is a full-time student in a master's program at Lewis University in the Department of Justice, Law and Public Safety Studies and will receive a masters of science in Criminal/Social Justice next year (Spring 2011).

Tracy Navarro

Tracy is currently in Athens, Ohio on a scholarship at Ohio University. She is getting a dual master's in Latin American Studies and Cultural Studies in Education. She presented *Tourism in the Yucatan: The Land of Gringos* at the Ohio Latin-Americanist Conference February 27-28, 2010. She will be traveling to Akumal, Quintana Roo in the Yucatan this summer to do an internship and conduct research on the impact of tourism (socially and environmentally).

Elizabeth Rodriguez

Elizabeth is in the first year of the Ph.D. program in English at Northwestern University, and she'll be presenting the paper "Begging for Revenge: Imagining Female Agency in Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy*" at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in October at the University of New Mexico.

Cohort 6

Keith Atterberry

Keith has been engaged in coursework and research since he matriculated to the doctoral program in Criminology, Law, and Justice at University of Illinois, Chicago and looks forward to earning his master's degree at the end of Spring 2010. He has contributed to two research projects has an upcoming summer research program, in addition to his own independent research on police recruits. He is a Research Assistant to Professor **Dennis Rosenbaum** on a national study of policing, *National Police Research Platform*. He is also working with Professor **Amy Watson** of the Jane Addams College of Social Work on a study *Police Response to Emotionally Disturbed Persons*. He feels fortunate to have been selected as a Research Team Leader for 2010 Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at UIC. He will also be part of a panel, presenting his research findings at the *National Police Research Platform*, and he is the third author on the ensuing paper.

Emilio Caban

Eio is currently a graduate student at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He is also a graduate assistant for two professors, **Dr. Jun Xu** and **Dr. Lisa Pellerin** and a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociological Honor Society at Ball State. He leads small classes for the two professors and tutors undergraduate students in Sociology. He will intern at the Ball State Institutional Research Office in the Spring of 2011, just before graduation.

Nereida Salas

Nereida is currently in the Political Science Ph.D. program at University of Illinois, Chicago. She will be the RA in the dorms of UIC for SROP and plans

to work on a research proposal with a fellow student, to be conducted in summer 2011. She plans to investigate the political power and effects of street vending in Chicago in comparison to other locations.

Gale White

Gale is a graduate student at Loyola University Chicago. Her latest research is *Interventions for Female with Undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Link to Criminal Behavior*. She presented this research at the 3rd Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate Students and Alumni of Loyola University Chicago, in April 2010. She will graduate in May 2010.

Cornelius Williams

Cornelius began the M.A. program in Geography and Environmental Studies at NEIU. He has an assistantship through the Graduate College working with the McNair Scholars Program staff. He feels that "courses are going as smoothly as they can." He also feels that there's definitely more reading, analytical and critical thinking involved in graduate school, and he loves it!

Imani Beard:

Imani started her Master's Program at the Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies, where she enjoys learning about the inner city experience through an African worldview. She holds a graduate assistantship with the Foreign Language Department and works in the McNair office.

Cohort 7

Norman Davis

Norman is in the M.A. Program in Inner City Studies at the Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies at NEIU's south-side campus. He recently presented at the 18th Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium where he examined African American music. His research is entitled *Uncovering Cultural Relevance in African American Music: Louis Armstrong and Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington*.



El Centro celebrates 40 years of at NEIU with a series of cultural and artistic events. The conclusion of this festivity will be the **NEIU-El Centro 40th Anniversary Gala Benefit** that will take place on Friday, June 4, 2010. This event will feature a silent auction, cocktails, music, dance performances, dinner, recognition awards and dancing.

TRIO NEWS

Delivering on key campaign promises, the Obama administration proposes expansion of the education budget despite budget freezes in other federal programs. The proposed budget includes a robust 7.5% increase on education spending, an additional 15 billion dollars to be directed towards Pell Grants, and an estimated 200 million for work study programs. Despite the increases to certain education programs, funding for Trio programs would remain the same. The Trio programs, which aids minority and low income students, would not benefit from the administrations focus on education. According to critics of the proposed budget, ignoring the benefit of expanding funds for Trio programs would stymie the presidents education agenda which is to secure a global lead with a higher numbers of college degree recipients

The proposed increase to Pell Grants threatens to undermine the efficiency of Trio programs if not kept apace through funding. Trio programs, unlike Pell Grant, provide guidance as well as funding, the lack of which are two important obstacles for low income minority students' attendance, persistence, and achievement in college. These features of the Trio programs are at risk of being overshadowed by the growth and expansion of Pell Grants.

Source: <http://chronicle.com/article/House-Appropriations-Panel/64749/>

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Program Staff

Kim Sanborn, Ph.D.
Director

Alejandra Prieto-Mendoza, M.A.
Academic Skills Specialist

Imani Beard
*Office Support
Specialist*

Cornelius Williams
Graduate Assistant

Contact us

Phone: 773-442-4254

Fax: 773-442-4252

Email: K-Sanborn@neiu.edu

Program Office: B 141



5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4699

McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM