

McNAIR SCHOLARS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

RESOURCE FAIR: START THE YEAR HEALTHY

Dates to remember:

2009 SRI Experiences and
Chronicles Distribution

Oct. 22, 5-6 p.m.

Halloween Party and
Fall Celebration at Dr. BBC's
Home

Oct 22, 6-8 p.m.

Research 101: The Basics

Julia Nims

Postponed—stay tuned!

The McNair Scholars Program was happy to kick off the 2009-2010 academic year with a resource fair providing information from various local sources to stay healthy. These vendors arranged their information at tables in Marshall 101 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Representatives came from The Corner Health Center, Social Security & 2-1-1, Ann Arbor YMCA, EMU Lions Club, Hope Clinic, EMU Math Lab, EMU Counseling & Psychological Services, and Head Start. Each of these programs are located at EMU or in the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area.

McNair Scholar participants had a chance to win various prizes after visiting all the vendors. Participants submitted a worksheet with the vendors' initials to become eligible

to win flash drives, gift cards, and adorable EMU bears. The winners were: Kadesha Baker (Meijer's gift card), Kristin Neville (BP Gas), Latasha Becker (Starbucks), Joshua Lelonek (Target). Nikki Hendricks-Bolling and Mariano Marks both claimed 4 GB flash drives; Samuel Karafotis, David Gomez, and Nikki Cosmo received EMU bears. A special prize went to Leviticus (Inyang Telfair's son), who was the youngest visitor at the Fair. He also received an EMU bear.

If you were unable to attend this informative event, please stop by the McNair Scholars Program office in Starkweather Hall we might still have brochures and information from the vendors to share with you.

McNair Scholars Program

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Director

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McNAIR SCHOLARS PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Program kicked off their second annual Summer Research Institute (SRI) in May with 11 new participants: Khadija Abbas, Latasha Becker, Jacinda Bunting, Janan Daniel, Lisa Denys, David Gomez, Rachel Hutchins, Samuel Karafotis, Kristin Neville, Josiah Osburn, and Mark Wheeler. These participants were selected after completing an application process documenting their research

goals along with a faculty recommendation. This advanced preparation would support their research for a 10-week program, which included additional workshops on writing graduate school applications, GRE preparation, and research methods.

The participants shared their findings in SRI's closing Symposium. It was held on Wednesday, July 15th, in the



Sam Karafotis plays his flute as a part of his presentation

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CONTIN. SRI

Marshall Building. No two projects were similar. Individual research ranged in topics from children in protective services (K. Neville), to the effect of probiotic microorganisms in the mammalian gut (K. Abbas).



Dr. Susan Martin, EMU President, comes to the Symposium

These participants' research is currently being reviewed for publication in this year's *McNair Chronicles*. This journal regularly features research conducted during SRI. Make sure to attend the *Chronicles*' release party on October 22nd at Dr. BBC's home.

All the McNair Staff would like to extend a hearty "thank

you" to all the faculty mentors for supporting these students during their summer research. We would also like to give a round of applause to the McNair participants, who stayed diligent in their work to accomplish so much.



Back row (left to right): Rachel Hutchins, Jacinda Bunting, Josiah Osburn, Mark Wheeler

Front row (left to right): Khadija Abbas, Janan Daniel, David Gomez, Latasha Becker, Dr. Susan Martin (EMU President), Kristin Neville, Samuel Karafotis, Dr. Betty Brown-Chappell (Director)

BUSTING OUT: VISITING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer Research Institute participants had the opportunity this summer to visit Penn State University's Annual Summer Research Conference. It was held from July 17th to the 19th, with each day filled with important information and chances to network.

The first day had two pre-conference workshops. The first one, "The Graduate School Timeline: Outside the Box, Beyond the Application," detailed how to prepare oneself for the graduate school application process. The second workshop was titled "Mapping Your Graduate School Experience" and described how students should set goals before starting one's graduate work.

The second day also had two workshops. The first one was "Funding Your Graduate Education: What You Should Know" detailed graduate funding available. The second workshop was titled, "Selecting and Grooming Reference and Writing Personal Essays" discussed how these two components play an important role in the graduate school application, along with grades and test scores. There was also a graduate school fair that featured over 30 schools. Students had a chance to meet

representatives from various programs to learn whether they might apply for admission in the future.



Many McNair Scholars from EMU participated in oral presentations at this conference: Janan Daniel, Lisa Denys, David Gomez, Kristin Neville, and Mark Wheeler.

In addition, some McNair Scholars displayed poster presentations: Khadija Abbas, Latasha Becker, Jacinda Bunting, Rachel Hutchins, and Josiah Osburn.

MEET A MCNAIR

KADESHA BAKER

The Program would like to introduce one of our new scholars: Kadesha Baker. You can find her easily in a crowd because of her great smile and her willingness to talk to everyone. Kadesha describes her purpose in life with a quote by John C. Maxwell: "People never care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

Kadesha is also an entrepreneur; she runs her own business as a diversity trainer and consultant for early childhood educators where she teaches lessons on race, sex, and social diversity in the classroom. She has created numerous play-based learning programs, like "Multi-Culti Time" about global diversity

and "My name is Rosa Parks" about the Civil Rights activists. Her work outside of school shows how much she cares to make her community a robust environment.

She has a variety of hobbies outside of school, as well: event and party planning, beading, scrap booking, and singing.

Kadesha also stays active in the community as a member of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. She is currently working with the 2010 U.S. Social Forum scheduled to take place in Detroit. She also is a member of Triumph Church Hospitality Ministry where she helped organize a donation drive for SOS in Ypsilanti, MI.



If you want to put Kadesha to the test, try to stump her with some Marvel Comic trivia. Because of her awesome son, Kenneth (12), she has spent a lot of time reading comic books.

The McNair staff would like to welcome Kadesha with a super-hero high-five!

KRISTIN NEVILLE

The Program would also like to introduce Kristin Neville, a senior planning to attend graduate school in clinical psychology. She enjoys participating in numerous student organizations, while working part-time on campus and being a full-time student.

Kristin has been the President of the Honors Student Association for the past two years. Her duties include running the board meetings and planning events, like election night in the Downing lounge. She is also the President of the Stoic Society, an honors society on campus, helping the local community. She has also spent the past two years as a Student Government Senator and is now the Speaker of the Senate to represent the student voice on campus.

Kristin was a participant in the 2009

Summer Research Institute (SRI). She conducted research on the policies and procedures of police officers when arresting the primary caregiver of a minor child. Kristin explained, "My research consisted of handing out and collecting surveys and [attending] the Police Officers Association of Michigan Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After the conference my mentor and I worked on conducting the data and looking at the possible implications of the preliminary findings. The SRI paid for me to go to this conference through the research stipend that each SRI participant receives." During SRI, she not "only worked on countless hours of research," but also took the GRE prep course presented by the Program.

Kristin presented her research at the



McNair Symposium. She described the experience as "rewarding because it allows you to show, not only your fellow McNair scholars, but also your family and friends what you have been working on all summer." After the McNair Symposium, Kristin traveled to the National McNair conference at Penn State., which was "one of the greatest experiences of the SRI, and of college in general."

The McNair staff would like to applaud Kristin for her dedication to her academic work, to EMU, and to the greater community.

FORGET-ME-NOTS: THINGS TO REMEMBER FROM THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Your Roles and Responsibilities

Please spend your remaining time as an undergraduate striving for personal and academic excellence. You may face various challenges, but use your sense of integrity and responsibility to meet all your goals. Please practice the listed characteristics to further your professional and personal well-being:

- Participate in all McNair events—don't forget to sign in
- Complete the assignments by the due dates
- Aim high—in everything—and write your goals down
- Seek out and accept challenges
- Seek opportunities to grow as a researcher
- Be respectful of others personal space and identity
- Respect our diverse environment
- Be positive
- Provide constructive feedback
- Contribute to group efforts
- Focus discussions on topics, not the people who present them
- Take responsibility of your actions
- Follow through on commitments

Maintaining Your Membership

When you start feeling like something is getting in your way of being the most effective McNair participant you can come by Starkweather and talk with Cindy Rodrigues (Assistant Director). She is regularly in the office on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If these times are not helpful, send her an e-mail to arrange an appointment (crodrigue1@emich.edu). She is a great problem solver and will help you on your way.

Remember that you must maintain a 3.0 GPA to stay in the Program. If it falls below this point, you will be placed on probation and will have to raise it within 15 credits. Failure to raise your GPA after this time will terminate your membership.

Your attendance at all seminars and workshops is required. The Staff has organized these events to best help you pursue your goals, so let them know you are coming. If there is an occasion that precludes your attendance, notify a staff member in writing before the event.

Do not forget to regularly complete an Individual Plan for Success every semester. Not doing so will jeopardize your status in the Program

And of course, if you are found guilty committing academic misconduct, violation of University codes, or conduct unbecoming of a scholar, the Program will revoke your membership.

All the McNair staff are confident in your ability to succeed and would like to wish you a happy academic year!

ABOUT EMU'S McNAIR PROGRAM

In October of 2007, Eastern Michigan University was awarded a federal grant to establish a McNair Scholars Program. The program operates concurrently with the Honors College in Starkweather Hall. Although each program is separate, students are welcomed to apply for both. Successful McNair Scholar applications are automatically forwarded to the Honors admissions officer for consideration. Applications can be found in Starkweather's entrance hall. The McNair Scholars Program offers academic advising, mentoring, and research experience to students who plan on pursuing a PhD. McNair also offers financial assistance for conducting and presenting research. The program has a yearly capacity of thirty-five students. Eligible EMU applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, completed at least 30 credits, and be a US citizen or Permanent Resident. The student must also be low-income and a first generation college student, or the student must be from an underrepresented group. Applications for winter semester are due **February 1st, 2010**. More information on the eligibility requirements and application process is available on the website <http://www.emich.edu/honors/mcnair>.

