Scholars Present Research at 21st Annual McNair Symposium

Twenty undergraduate students participating in this summer’s Ronald E. McNair Program presented their research at the 21st Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held July 27-28.

The event kicked off with poster presentations on Wednesday in the Alumni Memorial Union. Students displayed their research and were on hand to discuss their projects with the MU campus community.

On Thursday, Dr. Joseph Green, Director of the Educational Opportunity Program, presided over the Opening Session, introducing Dr. William Welburn, Associate Provost, who gave the opening remarks. “Your accomplishments are a tremendous source of pride for us here at Marquette,” Dr. Welburn stated. “More importantly, I believe that you have made Dr. McNair proud as you have fulfilled what he has been often quoted as saying ‘Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepared for them and how badly you want them.’”

On Friday, the students attended the Ethnic Alumni Association 10th Anniversary Celebration, held as part of the Alumni Reunion Weekend. “Overall, the evening was fantastic,” commented junior Toby Baker. “The speakers were interesting, humorous, and inspiring, and the attendees gave off the feeling of ‘family’, despite [my] still being an undergraduate. I hope to give back to the EAA upon graduating.”

Upcoming Events

McNair Senior Retreat is September 30 – October 2, 2011, at the Abbey Resort in Fontana, Wisconsin. This event is designed to jump start McNair students in preparing their graduate school application materials. In addition, students will receive hands-on assistance preparing their personal statements and letters of recommendation.

McNair Birthday Breakfast Celebration is set for Wednesday, October 19 on the 4th Floor of Marquette Hall, 9am to 11am. McNair Scholars, mentors, and alums are invited to attend. Ronald E. McNair was born on October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina.

20th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair is set for Friday, November 11 to Sunday, November 13 at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Workshops, panel discussions, and activities will introduce McNair scholars to the nature of graduate study as well as provide helpful tips and suggestions for writing an effective graduate admissions essay.

Interested in becoming a McNair Scholar? Attend the McNair Program Overview on November 10 to learn more about the application process. Contact the McNair Office for more information at 288-1771.
MU McNair Summer 2011 Research

Bucking The Trend: An Exploration of the First Generation College Graduate’s Experience
Toby D. Baker (Dr. Sara Bonewits Feldner), Communication Studies

Identity at the Crossroads: Having Both Mexican and Sexual Minority Status in the United States
Marisa Curley (Dr. Ed de St. Aubin), Psychology

Drug Development In Schizophrenia: Efficacy In Preclinical And Clinical Trials To Show Role Of Antipsychotic Drugs
Eduardo de la Cruz (Dr. M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh), Biomedical Sciences

Shooting for the Stars: A Study of African American Men and Sports
Monique N. Driver (Dr. Richard Jones), Sociology

Neighborhood Educational Opportunities Zones: School-Community Collaborations in Urban Settings
LaTasha P. Ellis (Dr. Martin Scanlan), Educational Policy And Leadership

The Budget Repair Bill: How it will Affect Wisconsin and Milwaukee Public Schools
Anthony J. Gaines (Dr. John McAdams), Political Science

Race and Identity: The Case of the Igbo People in the Americas
Cicely Bianca Hunter (Dr. Chima Korieh), History

The Impact of the Death of Oscar Romero on the U.S.
Casimir E. Korducki (Dr. Michael Donoghue), History

Two-Way Dual Language Education Holds Promise for Narrowing the Achievement Gap Between Bilingual Spanish Speaking Children and Children that Speak Standard American English (SAE)
Erica N. Mallett (Dr. Brenda Gorman), Speech Pathology and Audiology

‘Big Boys Don’t Cry’: A Qualitative Study of African American Men’s Construction of Themselves as Victims of Violence While Seeking Protection Orders Against Female Respondents In Milwaukee, WI
Jazmyynn L. McCain (Dr. Sameena Mulla), Anthropology

Nurturing our Roots: An Investigation of How Linguistically Diverse Students are Educated in Catholic Elementary Schools
Irma L. Muñoz (Dr. Martin Scanlan), Educational Policy and Leadership

Transcultural Nursing: A Comparative Analysis of Middle Eastern and American CAM Practices
Majidah Murrar (Dr. Lesley Boaz), Nursing

Understanding the Rwandan Genocide: Comparative Studies on the Causes of Ethnic Conflict and its Intensification into Genocide
Emmanuel Julius Niyonsaba (Dr. Michael Fleet), Political Science

Are There Differences In the Neurological Adaptations to Resistance Training
Jason D. Raymond (Dr. Alexander Ng), Exercise Science

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McNair Scholars presenting at the 2011 National Conference on Undergraduate Research, held at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York in April, 2011. Pictured clockwise from the left: Vincent Dang, Ivy Awino, Gabrielle Gray, LaTasha Ellis, Jaimee Crape, Monai Myles, Maly Lor, and Christopher Powell.

McNair Summer 2011 Research/Continued

The Writing Center Gone Digital: Options, Perceptions, and Conversion Analysis of Tutoring Practices in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center
Emily A. Shackleton (Dr. Rebecca Nowacek), English

Pepper in a Sea of Salt: Description of College Life by Black Undergraduate EOP Students at a Predominately White Private University
Devonique N. Small (Dr. Marcia Williams), Sociology

Time Course of Emotional Response to Positive Images
Steven J. Snowden (Dr. Nakia Gordon), Psychology

Urban Gang Recruitment and Early Puberty: Effects of Early Puberty on 6th Grade Boys and Their Likelihood of Gang Membership
Khanh H. Tran (Mr. Robert Rondini), Criminology and Law Studies

The Turkish Question: How the AKP’s Islamic Orientation has Affected Turkish Politics
Samantha G. Whaley (Dr. Susan Giaimo and Dr. Michael Fleet), Political Science

The $12 Billion Question: A Case Study Regarding the Impact of Celebrity Endorsers on Brand Performance
Larry A. Whitley (Dr. Dennis Garrett), Marketing

Scholars on the Move

Christopher E. Powell participated in the Summer Research Opportunity Program at the University of Illinois-Chicago this summer.

Shona Hang participated in MU’s Biomedical Sciences Summer Research Program this summer.

Valencia D. Lynch has been accepted to the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies program at the University of Wisconsin. She is the recipient of the Advanced Opportunity Fellowship.

Geysha P. Gonzalez has been accepted to the London School of Economics

Leticia Vallejo (Galindo) has been accepted to the doctoral program in clinical psychology at Marquette University.

Angela Melchor has been accepted into the doctoral program in nursing at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Vladimir Bjelic has been accepted to the masters program in speech pathology and audiology at Oklahoma State University.

Ewune Ewane has been accepted to the masters program in counseling psychology at Loyola University in Chicago.

Vincent Stevenson, Jr. has been accepted to the Master of Social Work program at Fordham University in New York.

Desiree Valentine has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in philosophy at Penn State University.
McNair Scholars Program

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Preparing Students for Graduate School

The McNair Scholars Program is an Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University. Funding for the program is provided through a grant from the United States Department of Education.

McNair Alumni Degree Update

Bachelor Degrees
Vladimir Bjelic, Bachelor of Sciences, College of Health Sciences
Jaimee L. Crape, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
Ewune Ewane, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
Geysha P. Gonzalez, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
Tasha L. Hefter, Bachelor of Sciences, College of Health Sciences
Valencia D. Lynch, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
Karen N. Pagán-Vera Martinez, Bachelor of Sciences, College of Business Administration
Domonique S. Miller, Bachelor of Arts, College of Communication
Affnan M. Mohammad, Honors Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum laude, College of Arts and Sciences
Francisco R. Nava, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts & Sciences
Alexandra C. Villalaz, Bachelor of Sciences, College of Health Sciences

Master Degrees
Tiffany L. Brantley, Masters of Science in Human Resources, Marquette University
Arnitta R. Holliman, Master of Science, Marquette University
Vincent J. Stevenson, Jr., Master of Arts, Marquette University

Other Professional Degrees
Janice K. Blades, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Marquette University

Ph.D.
Phu Nguyen Tran, Doctor of Philosophy, Marquette University

Photo: Shona Hang, senior in Health Sciences, presents her research at the Student Research Day, sponsored by the College of Biomedical Sciences (Photo by Dan Johnson).