

Recognition Reception: Achievements and Awards

On Friday, April 24, the McNair Scholars Recognition Reception was held at the Lied Center. In addition to celebrating scholar accomplishments, faculty and graduate student mentors were recognized for their support of the program. Over 80 faculty and graduate student mentors, friends, and family members attended the dinner reception.



Heather Flores

Honored guests for the evening were the May 2009 graduates, including: Joshua Alvarez, anthropology; Rebecca Beals, sociology; Acacia Caraballo, chemical engineering; Juan Cangas, psychology; Martin Diaz, electrical engineering; Kyle Jackson, environmental studies; Willie Novotny, biochemistry; Chelsea Rivera, child, youth and family studies; Maegan Stevens-Liska, history; and Mo Wax, business administration. The graduating seniors shared their post-graduation plans, and were awarded a dictionary embossed with their name and McNair Scholars Program. The graduates also received a sky blue honor cord, in memory of Dr. Ronald McNair's flight suit, to wear for the commencement ceremony in May.

The featured speaker for the event was Heather Flores. A recipient of the prestigious IGERT Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, she is a co-author of at least five publications. The research conducted by her lab entitled, *Drosophila Hybrid Incompatibilities*, was recognized as number 7 in Science Magazine's "Top Ten Breakthroughs of the Year in 2006."

Ms. Flores spoke about her McNair experience and how it helped her reach her academic and career goals of obtaining a Ph.D. Dr. Gordon Woodward, Department of Mathematics, initially encouraged her to get involved in research. During the summers of 2002 and 2003, she worked with Dr. Ricardo Cortez at Tulane University. As a UNL McNair Scholar (2003-2005), she conducted research under the guidance of Dr. John Osterman and Dr. Patricia Herman of the School of Biological Sciences. In the Summer of 2004, she participated in the Leadership Alliance program at Cornell University under Dr. Charles Aquadro, with whom she works now as an advanced doctoral student in genetics and development.

Detailing her academic progression, she explained how she went from feeling unprepared as an incoming college freshman, to feeling confident and prepared not only to apply to graduate school, but succeed once she got there. Some of the changes were credited to learning and maturity, but she concluded, "most were due to the help and guidance from McNair and my faculty mentors."

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of two awards to acknowledge a faculty mentor and a graduate student who've made significant contributions to the McNair Scholars Program and to our scholars.

For his mentoring and support of our scholars and for his commitment to the Program, Dr. Cody Hollist received the 2009 McNair Faculty Appreciation Award. Dr. Hollist has served as a McNair faculty mentor for three years working with Corey Minchow, Chelsea Rivera, and Brittany Sznajder-Murray. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Hollist has a deep understanding of McNair scholars. He knows from his own experience the challenges they face and serves as proof positive that with a lot of hard work and some great mentoring, you can compete with the best. Last fall, Dr. Hollist shared his experiences as a first-generation college student with the incoming scholars and described his journey to becoming a faculty member at UNL. In presenting his award, Dr. Laurie Bellows quoted Sir Isaac Newton, "If our scholars are able to 'see further', it is because they're able to stand on the shoulders of giants, like Cody Hollist."

The Graduate Student Appreciation Award recipient was Tony Kelly II, a doctoral student in physics and a former McNair scholar from California State University-Bakersfield. Tony has served as a panelist at the annual New Scholar Orientation, promoting the benefits of being a McNair Scholar, and speaking about the joys of being a graduate student. He is a talented and engaged graduate student, a promising scholar of high-energy physics, and a recognized outstanding teacher of physics. In 2007, he received his department award for outstanding graduate teaching assistant. Dr. Bellows noted, "Tony represents what the McNair Program is all about."



In Appreciation – Dr. Cody Hollist, Child, Youth and Family Studies (left); and Tony Kelly II, a physics doctoral student (right), received McNair Appreciation Awards for their contributions to the McNair Scholars Program.

McNair Recruitment Video Created

In this technology-driven generation, we're continually looking for new ways to reach students and faculty who aren't familiar with the McNair Scholars Program. One of the goals for 2008-09 was to develop a McNair recruitment video, which would highlight the benefits and purpose of the program. Through the creativity of University Communications, this goal was achieved. MJ Bruce and Dave Fitzgibbons filmed the scenarios, spent hours editing, and then transformed it into a video that captured the spirit of the McNair Program. The video features several scholars and mentors, in various disciplines, talking about the benefits of the McNair Program, as well as the impact the program has made on their lives.

Watch the video by going to the McNair Website:
<http://www.unl.edu/mcnair/index.shtml>



"Once you start being a part of a research community, you can actually see yourself doing that." - Emily Haferbier Trotter



"It was well worth it, because in the end, you had that feeling of accomplishment." - Willie Novotny



Dr. Rick Lombardo and Senior Scholars - McNair offers classes and sessions to help students navigate the path to graduate school.



"This is a really good opportunity for students who are serious about doing research." - Jeff Belmont



"McNair opened my eyes to what graduate school is all about and what the possibilities could be for me." - Mo Wax



"We have the passion and the drive, but we don't have the information, so the McNair program prepares students (for graduate school). They are basically setting you up for success in graduate school." - Juan Cangas

Community Outreach, Volunteerism & Leadership

McNair Scholars continue to make an impact on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus and in the community through their volunteerism and leadership roles.

On Saturday, April 24, a group of 14 Scholars and McNair Staff participated in the UNL Big Event, Community Service Day. Their project was a spring clean-up in Lincoln's Malone Neighborhood. Participating Scholars included: Rebecca Beals, Khoa Chu, Tara Cossel, Martin Diaz, Mike Gubbels, Michael Harpster, Beth Ridling, Brian Shreck, Sherri Sklenar, Brittany Sznajder-Murray, Maegan Stevens-Liska, and Morrel Wax, along with McNair Staff members Dr. Laurie Bellows and Leslie Martinez.



The Big Event - McNair Scholars received their assignment from Shawn Ryba of NeighborWorks. Pictured (left to right) are: Michael Harpster, Mo Wax, Khoa Chu, Tara Cossel, Mike Gubbels, Dr. Laurie Bellows, Brian Shreck, Brittany Sznajder-Murray, Beth Ridling and Sherri Sklenar, and Shawn Ryba.

In addition to their participation in the Big Event, UNL McNair Scholars are involved in numerous outreach and leadership activities throughout the year. This is just a partial listing of their campus and community involvement:

Joshua Alvarez – University Honors Program, Latino Achievement Mentoring Program; Chancellor's Leadership Award; LeaderShape; and Chancellor's Innocents Society

Rebecca Beals – Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor; Lighthouse Organization tutor and role model for middle school and high school students

Jeff Belmont – CASNR Ambassador; UNL Department of Entomology Open House volunteer; and an undergraduate teaching assistant for Entomology 116, Insect Identification Lab at UNL for the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 terms

Juan Cangas – started the Goodrich Latino Club, an after-school Latino Mentoring program at Goodrich Middle School in Lincoln. Juan started the club as a place where Latino and non-Latino students can come together to discuss matters about their culture, school, and community. The group meets weekly, and they focus the sessions on certain principles like family, cultural awareness, and stereotypes.

Tara Cossel – Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters; UCARE ambassador; Project SAFE translator; volunteer tutor for psychology, Spanish, biology, and research methods; UNL International Affairs Conversation Partner; note-taker for the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities; and project coordinator for Dr. Dennis McChargue's Health and Addiction Vulnerability Lab.

Martin Diaz – University Honors Program, and president of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Michael Gubbels – Volunteer participant in promotional video for need-based scholarship awareness for Nebraska Alumni Association Foundation, Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Student Advisory Panel, CSE Day volunteer; and an undergraduate teaching assistant for Introduction to Computer Science II course at UNL, Spring 2009.

Drew Nelson – Along with four other veterans, started a UNL Student Veterans Organization to provide advocacy for student veterans and help them learn about available resources. At their inaugural meeting on April 22, Drew was elected treasurer of the group.

Maegan Stevens-Liska – President of the Undergraduate Sociology Association for 2008-09; Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium (NUSS) Guest Panelist on Illegal Immigration; and UNL Distinguished Scholars Panelist

Brittany Sznajder-Murray – Treasurer for the Family Science Organization (FSO) for 2008-09.; Big Brothers Big Sisters; and a Husker Choices Peer Educator, an alcohol education organization at UNL

Chelsea Rivera - University Honors Program

Morrel Wax – UNL Diversity Committee Member; Parliamentarian of African Peoples Union; Delegate for Big XII Conference on Black Student Government (2005-2007); Susan Buffett Learning Community mentor; College of Business Administration mentor; and President of Alpha Phi Alpha



Job well done – McNair Scholars stop to rest after completing their Big Event assignment. Pictured (left to right) are: Maegan Stevens-Liska, Mo Wax, Tara Cossel, Martin Diaz, and Brian Shreck.

UNL McNair on Facebook

The UNL McNair program created a Facebook presence to facilitate communication between current McNair scholars and alumni. Current scholars can use Facebook to connect with one another and develop a stronger sense of community. Alumni can provide valuable insights for our current scholars and keep us up-to-date on their successes. **Look for UNL McNair next time you log into Facebook!**

Spotlight on Dr. Laura Damuth: UCARE & Fellowships

McNair Scholars have had a very busy year. While Senior Scholars were completing their graduate school applications and finalizing their poster presentations for the April Undergraduate Research Conference, Junior Scholars were turning in their summer research proposals and Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences (UCARE) applications.

Sponsored by the Pepsi Endowment, the UCARE program provides research funding opportunities for undergraduates to work directly with UNL faculty mentors. Between 300-400 students, in over 70 departments on the UNL campus, receive UCARE funding each year. All undergraduates are eligible to apply for up to two years of funding through UCARE.

Through the UCARE program, McNair Scholars receive additional support, allowing students to remain engaged in a research project with their faculty mentors and continue their McNair summer research project. In the past three years, over 30 McNair Scholars have received research funding from UCARE.

According to Maegan Stevens-Liska, a Master Scholar, she gained basic research skills during the McNair summer research experience, which were crucial while carrying out the more independent and in-depth research for her senior thesis. With the addition of UCARE funding, faculty mentors continue teaching scholars to learn how to attack a problem, to understand how to research it, and to evaluate and summarize the findings. As Maegan recalled, "With previous research experience already under my belt, I found it much easier to think about how to take an already existing project and logically expand it to a thesis-worthy topic."

"UNL is very proud of this program... the two University missions, research and undergraduate education, are merged."
– Dr. Laura Damuth,
Director of
Undergraduate
Research



Fellowship Specialist - Dr. Laura Damuth (center) spoke to the McNair Scholars about applying for Graduate Fellowships. Following the session, Morgan Conley (left) and Mike Gubbels (right) asked Dr. Damuth follow-up questions.

In addition to directing the UCARE Program, Dr. Laura Damuth serves as Undergraduate Fellowship Advisor. Recently, Dr. Damuth presented a workshop for the McNair Junior Scholars entitled, *Graduate Fellowships: What They Are and How to Apply*. She stressed that the fellowship application process can be complicated and the criteria are very specific. She advised Scholars to allow themselves sufficient time to search for the appropriate fellowships, but Dr. Damuth suggests to "always start by contacting the graduate program itself."

Dr. Damuth offered this advice for students looking for funding:

1. Contact the graduate program itself to ask about available financial support. Some universities will have a fellowship office that can help you identify opportunities for financial support. For example, the UNL Office of Graduate Studies Set has an extensive list of available external fellowships. Check out this list at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/funding-external.shtml>
2. When searching for external fellowship funding, use online search engines and databases (i.e., FastWeb or the Princeton Review) and books (i.e., Petersen's Scholarships, Grants & Prizes) to find more general listings.
3. Consider applying for national fellowships, such as the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. Dr. Damuth notes that it takes a great amount of "planning, thought, and preparation" to apply for the more competitive fellowships so "start early." Plan well ahead of the deadline. According to Dr. Damuth, you'll want to spend considerable time over the summer writing your fellowship proposal. If you're interested in applying for competitive fellowships, make an appointment with Dr. Damuth.
4. Think global! Consider applying for a Fulbright or a Rotary Fellowship. These programs allow fellowship recipients to study, teach, and conduct research in other countries.

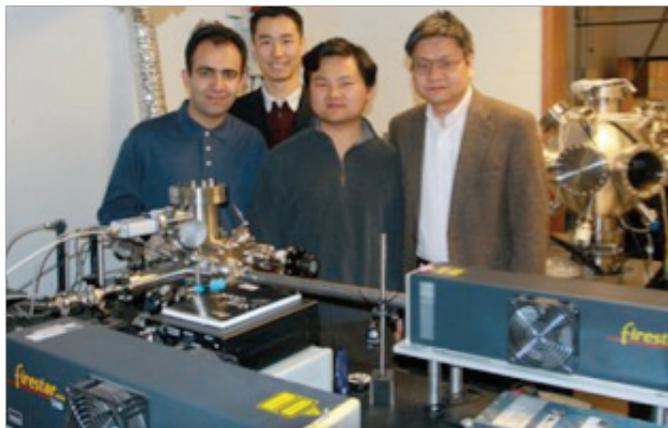
McNair Research Projects Funded by UCARE for 2008-09

Scholar	Research Project and Faculty Sponsor
Joshua Alvarez	<i>Non-Whites vs. Whites and Academic Performance and Involvement in Secondary School</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Gustavo Carlo, Psychology
Rebecca Beals	<i>The Changing Dynamics of Academic Success for Latino College Students</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Miguel Carranza, Sociology
Juan Cangas	<i>Affective Forecasting in Civil Trials</i> Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Richard Wiener, Psychology
Khoa Chu	<i>Modular Robots for Space Exploration</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Carl Nelson, Mechanical Engineering
Tara Cossel	<i>Childhood Trauma, Alcohol Use Onset and College Functioning</i> Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Dennis McChargue, Psychology
Martin Diaz	<i>A New Wide Bandgap Semiconductor Material for High Efficiency Solar Cells</i> Faculty sponsor: Robert Soukup, Electrical Engineering
Mike Gubbels	<i>Increasing Visitor Engagement at Insect Exhibit Interactive Kiosks</i> Faculty Sponsors: Dr. David Brooks, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education; and Dr. Leen-Kiat Soh, Computer Science
Kyle Jackson	<i>A Case Study: Decision Making through Collaboration, the Niobrara River</i> Faculty sponsor: Professor Michael Jess, School of Natural Resources
Andrew Nelson	<i>Evidence for Climate Change in Early Permian Limestones</i> Faculty Sponsor: Tracy Frank, Geosciences
Chelsea Rivera	<i>Therapist and School Counselor Perception of Therapeutic Engagement with Latino Adolescents</i> Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Cody Hollist, Child, Youth and Family Studies
Brian Shreck	<i>Examining Forms of Governance for Regional Watershed Management: Two Ohio Conservancy Districts</i> Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Sarah Michaels, Political Science
Maegan Stevens-Liska	<i>Global Conflict: Algeria and Resistance to Political Islam as in Diasporic Communities in Exile</i> Faculty sponsor: James Le Sueur, History
Morrel Wax	<i>What Influences Minority Students to Attend Predominantly White Institutions?</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Timothy Alvarez, Student Affairs

McNair Research Projects Funded by UCARE for 2009-10

Scholar	Research Project and Faculty Sponsor
Khoa Chu	<i>Modular Self-Reconfigurable Robot for Space Applications</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Carl Nelson, Mechanical Engineering
Morgan Conley	<i>Father Absence and Adolescent Risk Behavior</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Lisa Crockett, Psychology
Mike Gubbels	<i>Budgeted Machine Learning with Bayesian Networks</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Stephen Scott, Computer Science & Engineering
Michael Harpster	<i>Prairie Schooner Magazine Editorial Assistant</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Hilda Raz, English
Drew Nelson	<i>Sedimentology and Petrography of the Pennsylvanian Bursum Formation, Orogrande Basin, New Mexico</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Tracy Frank, Geosciences
Beth Ridling	<i>Social Cognition as Related to Violent Behavior in SMI Patients</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. William Spaulding, Psychology
Andrea Rieger	<i>Alterations of the Shape and Chemistry of Bloodstain Patterns by the German Cockroach, Blattella Germanica</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Dave Carter, Forensic Science
Sherri Sklenar	<i>Paths to Zion: the Mormon Trek Through Nebraska</i> Faculty sponsor: Dr. Paul Demers, Anthropology
Brittany Sznajder-Murray	<i>Impact of Immigration Raids on Children and Adolescents</i> Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Cody Hollist, Child, Youth and Family Studies

Alumni News



Masoud Mahjouri Samani, his mentor Dr. Yongfeng Lu, and other co-authors from UNL Electrical Engineering and Physics Departments, have published their research entitled, “Self-aligned growth of single-walled carbon nanotubes using optical near-field effect”. Their article was featured in the January 2009 Nanotechnology journal. Masoud, 2006-08 McNair Scholar, is a current electrical engineering Ph.D. student at UNL.

How to Be a Successful Graduate Student Panel



How to be a Successful Graduate Student – Panelists included: (from left to right) Malcolm Tassi, physics; Bill Bauer, philosophy; Jenny Green, statistics; and Emily Haferbier Trotter, sociology.

This spring, McNair Senior Scholars met with a panel comprised of both new and experienced graduate students who offered their advice on how to be a successful graduate student.

Malcolm Tassi, a first-year physics graduate student, told the scholars that “there is no way to prepare for the intensity of graduate school, but the rewards are profound.” Asked how graduate school is different from undergraduate studies, Tassi said, “Graduate school changes your perspective. It makes you look at things in a different way.” He encouraged scholars to draw from the passions and excitement of fellow graduate students.

Emily Haferbier, a first-year sociology student—and former McNair scholar—said she was most surprised at the amount of work in graduate studies. She advised scholars to “expect much more work than you have as an undergraduate.” She also described how she often felt like an imposter, like she didn’t belong, but she assured scholars that “everyone feels this way at the beginning.” (Her fellow panelists all agreed.) Emily found a network within the department to support her. She offered one final word of advice, “Don’t get caught up in department politics.”

Jenny Green, a fifth-year doctoral student in statistics, encouraged scholars to look to the advanced graduate students for mentoring. “Experienced graduate students,” she said, “are there to support you. They know the unwritten rules and can be extremely helpful as you navigate your first year.” She also advised scholars to “take breaks from studies and enjoy time away from school. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Remain open-minded and seek opportunities that interest you.”

Bill Bauer, an advanced doctoral student in philosophy, advised scholars to keep and maintain a goals matrix, and update it each semester. He also noted that successful graduate students keep a “research and ideas” journal to keep track of ideas that you’d like to further explore. On the following page, Bill offers his tips for graduate school success.

How to Be a Successful Graduate Student

by William Bauer

Success in graduate school isn't something that occurs naturally. You have to work at it. Here are some recommendations and strategies that have worked for me:

1. Be a careful observer
 - Keenly observe department norms and how people interact and work together for daily activities, departmental functions, as well as seminars you participate in.
 - In your seminars, observe the types of questions asked and how senior graduate students (and other faculty that may be attending the seminar) approach issues.
 - In your readings, attend to the overall argument or idea and relevant details, maintaining reading notes. Outline the main points and questions you have to prepare for the seminar. Note items of special interest that may be good research topics for that seminar or for later research projects.
2. Be disciplined
 - Have a schedule and stick to it, completing all work on time. Much of your time will be flexible, and you'll be expected to be self-sufficient, but it can be very useful to form study or discussion groups with peers in order to structure your time.
 - Know the department and graduate studies milestones and make them your milestones. Meeting these milestones on time means that at each stage of your program you'll be able to focus your energy on that stage.
 - Don't take incompletes in your seminars, unless absolutely necessary.
3. Be proactive
 - Talk frequently to your professors and peers about ideas that interest you. Follow-up on comments that your professors give about your work.
 - Be creative in the content of your work and how you approach your work.
 - Actively reflect upon discussions and projects. Ask: How could this have gone better? How can I apply this in the future?
 - Besides these examples of being proactive, there are three things you can start doing right away to make your graduate experience successful...

Recommended actions:

1. Keep a research/ideas journal
 - Keep this focused on topics of most interest to you from seminars, discussions, and readings; the seeds of your dissertation and further research might be in here; keep your journal with you wherever you go.
2. Make and update a goals matrix
 - Create a cell in the matrix for each semester of your program; for example, if you're in a 5-year program, you'll have 10 semester cells, plus summers. In these cells, enter the classes you plan on taking, courses you want to teach/TA, program milestones, and planned dates for submitting papers to conferences and/or journals.
3. Seek a mentor
 - You may not need to establish a faculty mentor in the first year, but you should keep an eye out for who might be a good mentor (be observant.) Talk to senior graduate students about how they sought a mentor.
 - It's likely that your eventual mentor will be a professor you did work for or wrote a paper for that really sparked your passion. Consider revising your project and/or pursuing further questions pertinent to it, and seek more feedback from that professor. It's possible that such projects may be the beginnings of your dissertation.

McNair by the Numbers

The UNL McNair Scholars Program has served **196** students since 1995. With the May 2008 graduates, **174** – or **88.7 percent** – have earned bachelor's degrees. **Sixty-five** have gone on to earn master's degrees; **10** have already achieved doctoral degrees and an additional **8** have earned professional and other degrees.

As of Spring 2009, **22** UNL McNair Alumni were enrolled in Ph.D. programs, **21** McNair Scholars were actively pursuing master's degrees, and **3** were pursuing professional doctorates.

McNair Alumni, please keep us informed about your progress in graduate school. You may update your information at anytime: <http://www.unl.edu/mcnair/scholarupdate.shtml>

Kudos to McNair Scholars

Joshua Alvarez submitted an honors thesis, *Comparing White and Non-White Students' Academic Experiences: Impact on Academic Performance*.

Rebecca Beals successfully defended her honors thesis in March, and graduated With Distinction. She won the Alan P. Bates Outstanding Undergraduate Award and the Vanetta A. Aaron 2009 Undergraduate Student Paper competition in Race, Class, or Gender for her paper entitled, *English Language Learners in the United States and the Re-Valuation of Culture: Latent Racism within Public Education*.

Juan Cangas graduated With High Distinction.

Martin Diaz submitted an honors thesis, *Analysis of Thin-Film Photovoltaic Materials*.

Chelsea Rivera completed an honors thesis, *Engaging Latino Adolescents in Therapy: The Therapist's Perspective*, and graduated With Distinction.

Maegan Stevens-Liska successfully defended her thesis, *Balancing Rights and Freedoms: Muslim Immigrants, Arranged Marriage, and Cultural Defense in the Heartland*, and graduated With Distinction.



Final Instructions - May graduates, including McNair Scholar Joshua Alvarez, listen to final instructions from a commencement marshal. Photo courtesy of University Communications.



New graduate - Mo Wax celebrates after receiving his diploma at the May commencement. Photo courtesy of University Communications.

McNair Scholars Headed for Graduate School

Joshua Alvarez has accepted a graduate assistantship from the University of Maryland higher education leadership master's program. Joshua chose the University of Maryland because of program offerings, faculty, and support offered. He will begin his graduate coursework in July 2009.

Rebecca Beals was accepted to the Ph.D. program in sociology at the University of New Mexico, and will begin her studies in Fall 2009. Rebecca is very excited about the diverse population on the campus, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Martin Diaz was accepted to the Ph.D. program in electrical engineering at the University of Delaware. He was awarded a research assistantship for Fall 2009. Martin chose University of Delaware because of their strong solar energy research program, which aligns to his research interests.

Willie Novotny was accepted to the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, and will begin an M.D. program in August 2009.

Maegan Stevens-Liska will begin a master's program in history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Fall 2009. Maegan chose UNL because it allowed her to continue her ongoing research with her undergraduate faculty mentor, along with her ties to the Lincoln community.

Mo Wax was accepted into the student affairs master's program at Central Missouri University in Warrensburg, and will begin his program in Fall 2009.

Dean's List: It's Academic

Congratulations to these McNair Scholars who were on the Dean's List for Fall 2008:

College of Arts & Sciences: Rebecca Beals, Juan Cangas, Morgan Conley, Tara Cossel, Michael Harpster, Willie Novotny, Beth Ridling, Brian Shreck, and Sherri Sklenar

College of Education and Human Sciences: Chelsea Rivera and Brittany Sznajder-Murray

College of Engineering: Adrian Soltero

Once a McNair Scholar - Always a McNair Scholar

by Carol Boehler

“Once a McNair Scholar, always a McNair Scholar,” is something students hear quite often during their participation in the UNL McNair Program. When scholars were asked directly what the saying means to them, some scholars thought that it referred to the fact that they're required to report their academic progress until they earn a Ph.D. Others pointed to the benefit that scholars are eligible for graduate application fee waivers at participating universities around the country, even if they take a break for a few years to conquer the world. When scholars realize that they want to go to graduate school, they'll revise their personal statement and update their curriculum vita, but one thing will remain constant, *McNair Scholar, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*.

Mo Wax offers his interpretation: “McNair is like a fraternity for academics. Once you make the commitment to be a part of this selective community, you join scholars from across the country who have similar interests in research and academics.”

From the impression he got at the California McNair Conference at Berkeley and on his campus visits, Mo felt that as a McNair scholar, he could go to any college campus with a McNair Program and be welcomed with open arms. That's a common thread, because throughout the country, the McNair Program is referred to as a community of scholars. There is a sense of community within the cohorts and between the cohorts at UNL, as well as across the nation. You may be hundreds of miles away from Nebraska, and discover you have an immediate connection with someone you just met, because they participated in McNair. It's with pride that you tell them that you are a McNair Scholar too.

Nathan Palmer, McNair alumnus and current graduate assistant, affirms that being a McNair Scholar is a lifelong commitment to the McNair family. He notes, “The day you become a McNair Scholar you join a family. Unlike anything else on your CV, the title of McNair Scholar will always signal that you are a worthwhile investment, a well-trained scholar and a community leader.”

Although all of the interpretations are correct, Dr. Bellows sums it up by noting, “being a McNair Scholar is part of your identity; it becomes part of who you are.”

It's as simple, and as complicated as that.

McNair Recommendations

Do you know an undergraduate who might be a good candidate for the McNair Scholars Program?

We appreciate and welcome recommendations from faculty and advisers.

To recommend a student, email or call Carol Boehler, cboehler2@unl.edu, 402-472-5062.



McNair Scholars Program
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Office of Graduate Studies
1100 Seaton Hall
P.O. Box 880604
Lincoln, NE 68588-0604
(402)472-5062
www.unl.edu/mcnair/

DR. LAURIE BELLOWS, Director
lbellows1@unl.edu
CAROL BOEHLER, Program Coordinator
cboehler2@unl.edu
DR. RICHARD LOMBARDO, Academic Support
Specialist, rlombardo2@unl.edu
NATHAN PALMER, Graduate Assistant
Nathanpalmer1@gmail.com
LESLIE MARTINEZ, Graduate Assistant
LMartinez520@gmail.com