

McNair Press

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

McNair Symposium/Celebration 2008

By Maurice Adkins, McNair Scholar

The North Carolina A&T State University's Ronald E. McNair Program hosted the Sixth Annual Ronald E. McNair Symposium and Twenty-Second Commemorative Celebration January 27-29, 2008. The theme for this year's event was "*Twenty-First Century Scholars Soaring to New Heights in Research and Excellence*", in honor of the life and accomplishments of the late astronaut, an alumnus of North Carolina A&T State University.

The 2008 symposium featured nationally known speakers including, Dr. Stanley F. Battle, Chancellor of North Carolina A&T University, Dr. Jerry L. Lewis, of the University of Maryland - College

Park, and Mr. Carl S. McNair brother of Dr. McNair and president of the Ronald E. McNair Foundation, Inc.

This symposium brought new visitors to Dr. McNair's alma mater, including the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Southeast Missouri State University, Ohio University, Talladega College and Colorado State University in addition to many other prestigious institutions that have continued to support our efforts to uphold the legacy of Dr. McNair. Again the students and others were afforded the opportunity to attend seminars such as Preparing for the GRE and Graduate School Fair/Panel and participate in the University Observance of the passing of Dr. McNair.

This year's symposium opened many doors and allowed McNair scholars and others to present cutting edge research in all disciplines from STEM majors to the Social Sciences. Over 20 awards and certificates for excellence in scholarly research were given for the over 60 oral and poster presentations made by student and faculty scholars.

Overall, we were pleased to have a great celebration. The presentation winners truly represented their institutions well. We hope that more McNair programs and Graduate Schools will decide to come to Greensboro in January 2009 to engage in scholarly conversation and honor the legacy of an extraordinary Aggie Alumnus Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

McNair Scholars On the Move

By Joyce E. Brown, Program Director



Congratulations to **Dr. Tonya Saddler** - NC A&T McNair Alumnae. Dr. Saddler earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute State University in Blacksburg, VA with a concentration in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Saddler successfully defended her dissertation entitled *Socialization to Research: A Qualitative Exploration of the Role of Collaborative Research Experiences in Preparing Doctoral Students for Faculty Careers in Education and Engineering* on April 23, 2008.



Congratulations to **Jacqueline B. Koonce**, M.A. - NC A&T McNair Alumnae. Ms. Koonce will be attending Michigan State University starting summer 2008 to pursue a Ph.D. in Teacher Education specializing in English Education. She received a Master of Arts degree in English Education from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2000 and graduated with a B.S. in English Education from NC A&T in May 1999.

Congratulations to **Victoria Cejas, Esq.** - NC A&T McNair Alumnae. Ms. Cejas received her Doctors of Jurisprudence from Howard University in Washington DC. She graduated from North Carolina A&T State in 2005 with a major in political science.



Congratulations to **Dr. Tony B. Watlington, Sr.** - NC A&T McNair Alumnus. Dr. Watlington received an Ed.D. with a concentration in Educational Leadership from University of NC at Chapel Hill, NC on May 11, 2008. He is the Principal at the Early/Middle College at GTCC in Jamestown, NC.



Quincy L. Dinnerson was awarded the 2008 McNair Scholarship in the amount of \$250. Scholars submitted applications for consideration, which were reviewed by the McNair Advisory Board on the basis of academic achievement, scholarship, service, leadership and fit

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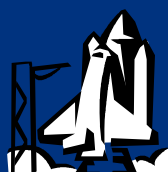
What's Next For The McNair Program

McNair Summer Institute
 May-July 2008

Scholar Presentations
 September 2008

Annual Homecoming
 Alumni Open House
 October 2008

Ronald E. McNair
 Celebration and
 Symposium
 January 28-30, 2009



Congratulations to all McNair Scholar Graduates

By Geraldine Burnett, McNair Counselor

On April 17, 2008 the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program held its Annual Awards/Recognition Luncheon. This event is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding academic achievements of the scholars, especially those that are graduating from the University in May and December 2008. The luncheon was well attended by members of the advisory board, faculty mentors, administrators, faculty, staff, family and friends.



The keynote speaker for the luncheon was Dr. Perry V. Mack, Professor of Biology and Health Professions Advisor at North Carolina A&T State University. Dr. Mack gave a heartfelt, powerful and motivating message to the 19 graduating scholars. The theme: *Twenty First Century Scholars Keeping the McNair Legacy and the Flame of Academic Excellence Alive* is truly befitting and exemplifies the accomplishments made and the goals set by these scholars. Eight scholars have already been accepted to graduate school.

After the message from the speaker each of the following scholars was presented with the McNair navy blue and red honor cord and a desk clock. To close the program senior scholars Brandon Bellamy and Marvin Jones gave senior sentiment remarks highlighting their experiences while in the program and the impact it has made in their lives, they also offered words of encouragement to the remaining scholars that they continue to fulfill the charge of the McNair Program.

2008 Graduates



Tedrick and Valencia



Brandon , Ashley , and Marvin



Niah, Danielle, and Quincy

Brandon Bellamy
Major: Liberal Studies, Cultural Change and Social Development
Plans: Will attend Iowa State University fall 2008
Awarded the Ronald E. McNair Outstanding Service Award 2008

Keywana Darden - December 2008 Graduate
Major: Biology
Plans: Will conduct research with NC A&T McNair Program summer 2008

Danielle Diggs
Major- Social Work
Plans: Will attend Clark Atlanta University fall 2008

Quincy Dinnerson
Major- Social Work
Plans: Will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign fall 2008

Brittney Goodman
Major- Speech Language Pathology
Plans: Will attend Howard University fall 2008

Dana Jones - Bennett College for Women
Major- Mathematics Education
Plans: Will attend North Carolina State University fall 2008

Marvin Jones - December 2008 Grad
Major- Professional/Applied Mathematics
Awarded the Ronald E. McNair Outstanding Service Award 2008

Bianca Kelsey
Major- Mathematics

Euniqua Neal
Major- Nursing

Ashley Peoples - Bennett College for Women
Major- Psychology
Plans: Will attend Argosy University in Atlanta, GA fall 2008
Recipient of crystal trophy for having the second highest GPA

Doris Richmond - December 2008 Grad
Major- Political Science

Starreka Starr- Bennett College for Women
Major- Psychology
Recipient of crystal trophy for having the third highest GPA

Star Surgeon
Major- Dietetics

Vernicia Valentine
Major- Nursing
Recipient of crystal trophy for having the highest GPA

Tedrick Vernon
Major- Nursing
Plans: Will attend the NC State University's non-degree post-baccalaureate program to complete requirements for admission to medical school.

MarKayla Walker-Jones- Bennett College for Women
Major- Psychology

Niah White
Major- Social Work
Plans: Will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign

Takiyah Whitner- Bennett College for Women, (December 2008)
Major- Social Work
Plans: Will conduct research with NC A&T McNair Program summer 2008

Dana Wilkins
Major- Psychology
Plans: Will attend the Adler School of Professional Psychology



Senior Sentiments

By Marvin Q. Jones, McNair Scholar



As I reflect back on my time here in the McNair Program and look at my senior year I realize that I have had a great number of hardships, but a great number of achievements. I reflect on the time when I joined the McNair Program unofficially in the fall of 2004 and officially in the fall of 2005. I have always felt that this program has been nurturing and supportive and could not survive without the angels in charge, Dr. Brown, Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Chapman. These three strong black women have been the very backbone of this organization and have demonstrated the vision of Dr. Ronald E. McNair. I value this program and cherish all the experiences I have had. I never thought I would ever be in Ohio discussing grad school nor travel to many of the places I have been. I have had the experience of competing with Ph.D. students at Georgia Tech and winning a competition that in fact had about five undergraduates total and all Ph.D.'s. I have met some extraordinary people in the program that as a fellow peer I have seen develop and mature into wonderful scholars ready to ambitiously take on the world. The leadership and love that McNair has fostered has surpassed much of what many other programs provide and I will always cherish that. Dr. Brown always emphasizes us being a family and she could not be anymore correct in her statement. When you join the McNair Program you join a family that wants better for you and will not be afraid to stand up and make sure your needs are met. I will miss this program when I leave next year, but will forever carry all that I have learned and experienced in my mind, heart and spirit.

Marvin can be reached at MarvinQJones@gmail.com

The Editor's Charge

By Brandon L. Bellamy, Editor



Being a part of the McNair program at NC A&T since 2006 has been one of the most rewarding experiences during my collegiate career. Because of the McNair program and the support of my University family, I have been able to grow and experience places and opportunities that I have never dreamed. I mentioned during my reflection at the McNair Awards Luncheon that I do not deserve all the credit for my success in life. Much of it goes to my family, including my parents Terry and Marcia Bellamy who are both A&T alumni, and so many more family members, my church, Aggie family and friends who have supported me all of the way. Additionally, I want to especially thank my research mentors Dr. James Anderson of the University of Illinois during the SROP program in 2006, Dr. Judy Rashid & Ms. Denise Iverson-Payne and the entire University family for their assistance in my 2007 project/Senior Capstone project.

Over my four years as an undergrad I have experienced so much, learned a lot and made life long connections with people who will be influential not only in my life but to the world. Many people on campus have begun to call me "**Chancellor Bellamy**" because of my ultimate goal of returning home to NC A&T as Chancellor. When I look at the McNair program and my close friends I see successful **servant leaders**, people who strive to be successful in improving society. It is not good enough to just receive a Bachelor's, Masters or even Ph.D., the real worth in the degree comes in your ability to enhance humanity with the education that you receive. Therefore, I leave with you a charge to work not only for your success, but for the success of the world as our ancestors did for us. I wish to all the McNair Scholars, friends and family the best and **AGGIE PRIDE!**

Spring Break in Ghana

By Calie Edmonds, McNair Scholar



Over the last few years the NC A&T Honors Program has taken students overseas during their spring break to allow them to expand their horizons and learn about another culture. I was ecstatic when the opportunity to travel abroad presented itself. Ghana is an African nation located in the western part of the continent. This trip was an amazing experience. I did not know what to expect as I prepared to leave. I spoke with people who went to Ghana the year before; however, I was still uncertain of what this trip had in store for me. As I boarded the plane, I felt a fluster of emotions as I prepared to explore the land of our forefathers and the country to which W.E.B. Du-Bois left America.

Upon arriving in Ghana I was amazed by the genuine warmth and hospitality of the native people. Their hospitality was unlike anything that I have ever experienced in my travels to other countries. We were not treated as foreigners, but instead like family. With Ghana being located on the coast, there were numerous beaches and beautiful views. I was in awe with just the beauty of the land. One of the highlights of the trip was visiting a primary school in our village. The children were amazing; I enjoyed interacting with them and was humbled by their irrefutable passion for learning.



My spring break was an amazing experience, traveling with my peers from the Honors program to Ghana to learn more about my heritage. The lessons that I learned about my history and myself during my journey to Africa were priceless. This trip to Africa was the first of many destinations that I will visit as I explore the world and become a more enlightened person because of my travels.

A Special Salute to Desiree M. McNair

By Brandon L. Bellamy



Desiree is the niece of the late Dr. Ronald E. McNair and a graduating senior majoring in Biology. She has been active on campus and in the community through many organizations including: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Honor Societies of Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Kappa Phi and Tri-Beta Biological Honors Society. The NC A&T Honors Program and the Student Government Association (Vice President-Internal Affairs, 07-08). In addition to the above, Desiree has been a staunch supporter and friend to the NC A&T McNair program since the beginning of her freshman year.

She plans to further her education by entering the Masters program in Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations Desiree. We wish you well.

McNair Advisory Board

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Study Abroad Recap-Mexico

By Meneka Johnson, McNair Scholar

In the fall of 2007, I studied abroad in Monterrey, Mexico at the Technology of Monterrey. While I was there I lived with a host family and had a roommate who was from Wisconsin. I also took a full course load. All my classes were in Spanish except for one. I even took a boxing class in Spanish, now that was very interesting.



Margarita (host mother) and I

There were many reasons behind my decision to study abroad, including visiting another country and their culture. Until this trip, I had never been out of the country and only been to a handful of states. One of the benefits of this semester abroad was the ability to complete my minor in Spanish while being immersed in the culture and language. There were so many other reasons behind my decision, but the most important reason was to have the experience of a lifetime living abroad. I am glad to say that I accomplished all of these goals and much more.

When I first arrived in Mexico, I experienced many emotions. I was excited to be there, but anxious because I was alone and in a new environment. My first night I was walking around in my room thinking to myself "This is it. I am really here". I remember waking up the next morning thinking I was still in Greensboro, but looked around and realized I was not. The first few weeks were very hard. I missed my family and friends terribly. It was a little difficult to communicate to the natives at times and I remember feeling discouraged. There was one day that I just had my emotional breakdown. This was a big ordeal because I do not consider myself an emotional person, but this particular day I just could not hold it in anymore. I was talking to one of the professors at NC A&T SU regarding a few assignments when all of a sudden the floodgates opened. The professor asked me how everything was going and I began to tell her and just burst into tears. I was upset because I could not communicate that well with people in Spanish; my roommate was irritating me; some of the classes were a little harder than I expected; and I just wanted to go home. It was a terrible scene. It lasted for about ten to 15 minutes, but after that things began to look up.

I began going on the various excursions that the school had to offer. Every weekend we were traveling somewhere doing something. I even BUNGEE JUMPED!!! That was the most exhilarating thing I have ever done in my life. I began to really have a good time. I was forming close friendships with people and just really experiencing the Mexican culture.



Volunteering

Going abroad has been nothing but a positive experience for me. I was able to find my strengths and weaknesses. I realize that I do not know how to do everything and it is okay. It is not the end of the world if I cannot do it. I learned that I am able to adapt and adjust to any situation. I believe that I can do anything and everything that I want in life because of my experience. If I could survive four months in another country where I do not speak the language fluently, then I can survive anything.

(Continued from page 1)

nancial need. Quincy, a 2008 graduate with a B.S. in Social Work, plans to enter graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in fall 2008 to pursue a M.S. in Social Work. He will use the scholarship to help defray educational expenses. Congratulations Quincy!!

Congratulations to **Marvin Q. Jones, Jr.** who won third place in the Chancellor's Installation Essay Contest! Marvin's essay was entitled *We Believe in North Carolina A&T State University*.

North Carolina A&T State University
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Program Counselor: Mrs. Geraldine Burnett

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Marie Chapman

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2008 Symposium Pictures



NC A&T McNair Scholars working the registration table



Dr. Joyce Brown welcomes Celebration/Symposium attendees



Mrs. Geraldine Burnett and McNair Alumnus Lonnie Phetsomphou



Chancellor Battle addresses Celebration/Symposium guests



Platform guests and the NC A&T Gospel Choir at Commemorative Celebration



Dr. Jerry Lewis inspires audience presentation



Student Scholars present research findings in poster format



Carl McNair at Welcome Reception



Meneka Johnson and Dr. Hinnant-Bernard at the Graduate Fair



Scholars from University of Nevada at Las Vegas and their Director

2008 McNair National Research Symposium Winners

UNDERGRADUATE PRESENTATION WINNERS

First Place Oral Presentation

Tedrick L. Vernon, III— McNair Scholar, N C A&T State University

Major: Nursing

Faculty Research Mentor:

Dr. Linda McIntosh

Research: *A Look at Grandma's Cupboard: A Study of the Use of Alternative Medicine in the African American Community*



Tedrick Vernon, Dr. Janice Brewington, Provost, Dr. Sullivan Welborne, VC for Student Affairs, and Brando Bellamy

Second Place Oral Presentation

Brandon L. Bellamy— N C A&T

State University

Major : Liberal Studies

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Judy Rashid, and Mrs. Denise Iverson-Payne

Research: *The Perceived Effects of Focus-Growth at North Carolina A&T State University*

Third Place Oral Presentations

Kimberly Rice— McNair Scholar - Wayne State University

Major: Media Arts & Studies

Faculty Mentor: Karen Dewitt

Research: *Christian Family Values Rooted in Biblical Principals in USA Films Pre and Post 9/11*



Kimberly Rice

Shalaya Jones—McNair Scholar- Southeast Missouri State University

Major: Biology

Faculty Mentor: Alan Bornstein

Research: *The Best Plants come in Small packages: Scanning Electron Microscopy As a Uneful Tool to Examine Floral Features in the Genus Piper (Piperaceae)*

Certificate of Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research

Zainab Okolo - McNair Scholar - University of Maryland, College Park

William P. McCarthy - McNair Scholar - Colorado State University

Kenny Esho and Hyeon Soo Lee—N C A & T State University

Amris Henry-Rodgers - McNair Scholar - University of Las Vegas

First Place Poster Presentation

Dominique C. Ellison - McNair Scholar - Ohio University

Major: Middle Childhood Education

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Najee Muhammed

Research: *If This Trend Continues: The Declining Black Classroom Educational Force-What Does It Mean for Black People?*



Dr. Brown and Dr. Lewis with Ohio University Winners

Second Place Poster Presentation

Christina A. Myrick - McNair Scholar

Ohio University

Major: Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine A. Gidycz

Research: *Psychological Distress Among College Women in Sexually,*

Physically or Verbally Abusive Relationships

Third Place Poster Presentation

Darryl C. Mullins - N C A&T State University

Major :Animal Sciences

Faculty Mentors: W. Willis, J. Farrar, and R. Holmes

Research: *Innovations in Integrated Farming Systems to Produce Natural Chickens and Sweet Corn*

Certificate of Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research

Tyrone Tyson and Demetrius Samuel - NC A&T State University

Stephen Bryant - N C A&T State University

Ashley Hall and Edward Hagler - N C A&T State University

GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS

Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation

Christopher K. Horne - NC A&T State University

Academic Discipline: Physical Science/Math Technology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cung Yu

Research: *An sBs Based Fiber Ring Slow Light Device*

Certificate of Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research

T. Bor—N C A&T State University

O. A. Atilola—N C A&T State University

Outstanding Graduate Poster Presentation

Kurt O. Taylor -N C A&T State University

Major: Plant soil and Environmental Science

Faculty Mentor: Dr. M. R. Reddy

Research: *Effect of Cover Material and Rooting Substrate on Germination And Growth of Organic Tomato Transplants.*

Certificate of Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research

James P. Croonenberghs - NC A&T State University

Monica E. Barnette and Janelle C. Mason- NC A&T State University.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Outstanding Faculty Oral Presentation

E. Dean Gilbert - N C A&T State University

Academic Discipline: Printing and Publishing

Research: *Performance Enhancing Cylinders versus Conventional Flexographic Plate Cylinders: A Print Quality Comparison*



Regina Avery Epps

Outstanding Faculty Poster Presentation

Regina Avery Epps - N C A& T State University

Academic Discipline: Health and Physical Education

Department: Human Performance & Leisure Studies

Research: *The Psychological Benefits of Participating in Martial Arts for Female Students*

Certificate of Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research

Cynthia Carlton Thompson and Mitchell Henke

NC A&T State University



Dr. Thompson, with Dr. Brewington and Dr. Welborne