From the Director’s Corner – Fall 2009

Greetings and welcome back for the fall semester! Whew, did summer just fly by or what??!!! It seems we just started our summer program and now it is the beginning of a new academic year. Our summer class started the day after graduation and saw 17 participants (the largest class ever!) successfully complete the McNair summer research class, *Methods of Inquiry*. A sincere thank you to the talented team of instructors who worked with me to assist the new scholars: Melissa Sissen, Tim Husband, Jeff Lindstrom, and Mark Schersten. Could not do it without you!

It has been a wonderful summer for many of our scholars who pursued internships and summer research at other institutions. We are looking forward to hearing all the stories and experiences from them. We hope you all had a relaxing summer and are ready to begin the new semester.

On behalf of all the McNair staff, have a great fall!

Patricia Wallace, Ph.D.
Program Director
The end of the academic year 2008-2009 brought about new adventures, strengths and interests. This year provided our McNair Scholars with wonderful opportunities, support and encouragement, while concluding their participation in the McNair Scholars Program. The McNair staff, Mentors and the Siena Heights Community would like to congratulate the McNair Scholars on all their accomplishments.

The following scholars will be attending graduate school in the fall:

ADAM DELINE
B.A.-History/Religious Studies
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

KARI FORSHEY
B.S.-Biology/Spanish
ADRIAN COLLEGE

ELIZABETH TALLEY
B.A.-History
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

KIM STOUTENBURG
B.A.-Sport Management
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

KELLY JACKSON
B.A.-English/Theatre
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

KEVIN MIZZI
B.A.-Business Admin.
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

ANTHONY LAYTON
B.A.-CIS
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
One of the core missions of The National Association of African American Studies is **To further the cause of research in African American Studies.**

As current and former McNair scholars intending to succeed within this area, Chelsea and Tracey were awarded a ‘golden’ opportunity through this conference.

This year presented a wonderful opportunity for current McNair scholar, Chelsea Easter to collaborate with her mentor, Dr. Jeff Berry and former McNair scholar, Tracey Gholston (graduate student at The University of Alabama). Dr. Berry served as a mentor for Tracey Gholston during her participation (2004-2006) in the McNair Scholars Program. Together, these individuals presented information at the National Association of African American Studies Conference in Baton Rouge, LA. This opportunity provided Chelsea a chance to meet other like-minded individuals and visit Louisiana State University. It is Chelsea’s goal to attain a Ph.D. in African American Literature.

**Upcoming Events Fall 2009**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Back– McNair Scholars</td>
<td>September 2nd and 3rd</td>
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<td>Teambuilding in Reading, Michigan</td>
<td>October 18th</td>
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<td>Graduate School Fair</td>
<td>November 12th</td>
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<td>End of Fall Semester</td>
<td>December 18th</td>
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**Dean’s List Winter 2009**

- Jennifer Belair
- Crystal Cieslak
- Adam DeLine
- Chelsea Easter
- Sydney Estrada
- Alex Fether
- Kari Forshey
- Kelly Jackson
- Heide Kaminski
- Anthony Layton
- Garrett Marks-Wilt
- Alex Miller
- Kevin Mizzi
- Julie Okuley
- Anna Pasternak
- Kourtney Price
- Travis Roderick
- Kelly Ruder
- Sara Schurr
- Kimberly Stoutenburg
- Elizabeth Talley
- Amy Ybarra
Incoming scholars were welcomed into the McNair Scholars Program while being submerged in a research boot-camp. During boot-camp students prepare a research proposal. At the end of the research class students present their research proposal in a power point presentation.

Welcome aboard!

On behalf of the McNair staff and scholars, we would like to “Thank-you” for your contributions and dedication to this program. Mentoring is a rewarding partnership; your combined efforts are reflected in the accomplishments of our scholars!

2008-2009
On March 25th, 2009 the junior and senior McNair Scholars presented their research findings to family, peers, mentors and the Siena Heights Community. Our Senior Scholars presented their research in both a large format poster (44 x 36) and orally. The junior scholars presented their research in a large format poster presentation, which took place in the social area of Dominican Hall. Below are some examples of the large format posters our scholars were able to create. These visual representations have added a wonderful and professional dimension to our annual symposium.
Siena Heights University president, Sister Peg Albert, graciously opened her home to host a reception for graduating McNair Scholars. Sister Peg offered warm congratulations and encouragement. Each scholar presented his/her mentor with a gift as a token of appreciation.

Two mentors, Joseph Raab & Patrick Quinlan, received special honors for their efforts in assisting their mentee under unusual circumstances.

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed, while proud family & friends of the McNair Scholars looked on as graduates received their hard-earned congratulations.
Honors Convocation

Congratulations to each of these individuals! Their academic honors are simple reminders of the hard work and dedication invested in their attempts to achieve their dreams.

“True courage comes in enduring, preserving the preparation and believing in oneself.”

Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

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<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Honors and Awards</th>
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<td><strong>Kevin Mizzi</strong></td>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student Award 2008-2009</td>
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<td><em>(Religious Studies)</em></td>
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<td>Mu Lambda</td>
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<td><em>(International Honor Society in Business, Management and Administration)</em></td>
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<td>MLK-Student Service Award</td>
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<td><strong>Kelly Jackson</strong></td>
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<td><em>(English)</em></td>
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<td>Sigma Tau Delta</td>
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<td><em>(International Honor Society for Students of Literature)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Adam DeLine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Anthony Layton</strong></td>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
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<td>Kappa Gamma Pi</td>
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<td><strong>Elizabeth Talley</strong></td>
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Out of 100 applicants, McNair Scholar, Nick Frost, was formally accepted to attend a summer research opportunity with the University of Wisconsin-Delevan on April 22, 2009. Nick studied under Dr. Bruce Wampold and his research was in the area of psychotherapy outcomes. During the nine week stay the scholars traveled to Chicago, Illinois for a cultural event and they also presented their research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Each day was different and full of new experiences. Upon Nick’s return he states, “I am considering U-W as one of my graduate school picks; I am grateful for the opportunity.”
Dr. Ian Bell and McNair Scholar, Kevin Totty attended a conference in Syracuse, N.Y. from April 16-18, 2009. The title of the conference was “The Politics of Love” and hosted by the Department of Religion at the University of Syracuse. The purpose of this trip was viewed as beneficial to the scholar’s research project which revolves around the topic of liberation theology.

Professor Chris Reising and McNair Scholar, Jennifer Belair attended an art conference and participated in a graduate school visit at Columbia College of Chicago. The focus of the conference revolved around printmaking. This five day event was part of the 2009 Global Implications Conference. Jennifer is considering Columbia College of Chicago as a prospective school to work on her MFA.

During the academic year 2008-2009 we had several junior and senior McNair Scholars venture out to various universities with graduate programs. As a McNair Scholar you are provided services that will assist you with locating a graduate school. We are pleased to see the scholars utilize this service in an effort to find the proper fit for their continued educational endeavors. All of our graduating scholars have been accepted into a graduate program.
Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina to Carl and Pearl McNair. He attended North Carolina A&T State University where he graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976 at the age of 25, he earned his Ph.D. degree in physics.

He soon became a recognized expert in laser physics while working as staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory. NASA selected McNair for the space shuttle program in 1978 and assigned him as mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger.

Besides his academic achievements, McNair received three honorary doctorate degrees and many fellowships and commendations. These included Presidential Scholar, 1967-71; Ford Foundation Fellow, 1971-74; National Fellowship Fund Fellow, 1974-75; named Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the year, 1975; Distinguished National Scientist, National Society of Black Professional Engineers, 1979; and the Friend of Freedom Award, 1981; as well as many others. McNair also held a fifth degree black belt in karate and was an accomplished jazz saxophonist. He was married and had a son and daughter.

After his death in the Challenger space shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The goal of this effort is to encourage minority students and students whose parents do not have college degrees to enroll in graduate studies. This program is dedicated to the high standard of achievement Ronald E. McNair's life represented.