

McNAIR PRESS

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY



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WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE McNAIR PROGRAM

January 26-28: Ronald E. McNair Symposium

January 28: Ronald E. McNair Memorial Ceremony - Sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 9:30 a.m. McNair Hall Lawn

January 28: McNair Celebration Closing Luncheon/Awards Ceremony, Speaker: Dr. Sylvester James Gates, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Stallings Ballroom

GRE Tutorial

Every Monday with

Dr. Levine, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

NCB-425

Don't forget GRE Waivers

Meet the New Director

BY PATRICE WITHERS
Editor/McNair Scholar

Dr. Joyce Brown was named the new Director of Special Programs and the Ronald McNair Program on July 6, 2004. Prior to accepting the position she served in the Atlanta area as a Senior Program Evaluator and Educational Consultant for Associates for Institutional Development such as Title III Programs and the Development of Education Title IV-TRIO Programs. She has also conducted extensive research, published, and made paper presentations on student persistence in higher education for the purpose of retention management and program enhancement.

The director is a native of Knoxville, Tenn. and received



Dr. Joyce Brown

her Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Education Leadership in Higher Education.

Brown hopes to make N.C. A&T's Program a model for other McNair programs. The McNair program will continue to operate with the summer research institute whose purpose is to allow students to initiate and conduct scholarly research. Scholars will work

closely with their mentor to develop their research topic.

Students who take part in the program during the summer months will have an opportunity to attend workshops on how to utilize the library, how to present information orally through power-point presentations and how to dress for success.

The McNair program hopes to raise awareness across academic disciplines. Many students have been under the impression that the program is geared towards engineers and science majors.

"The Ronald E. McNair Program is a program that will prepare talented young people to realize the importance of graduate school," Brown said. "If students have motivation, perseverance and a desire to achieve, the McNair Program will do the rest."

Smith's Summer Abroad Experience

BY KATISHA SMITH
McNair Scholar

A couple of days after our arrival, Ghana celebrated their Independence Day, and we watched a big parade that was held in Independence Square. The majority of the parade consisted of secondary and primary school students. Another time, we visited the memorial park and museum of Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana. During the week, we visited the

Kakum National Park, which is a national rainforest. The tour consisted of seven hand-built canopy bridges that are about thirty to forty meters from the ground. I have a terrible fear of heights, so I was quite reluctant to take the tour. Despite my fears, everyone talked me into doing it in order to help conquer my fear of heights, and that was the only way that I could complete the tour. Also, we took a tour around the Cape Coast Castle. During the tour we

were shown where the slaves were held after their capture. It was heart breaking and devastating to think that my ancestors had to endure such harsh treatment

Classes officially started on March 17, but I quickly learned that the first week of classes was not important to the students or the lecturers. Many of my classes had very few students, and sometimes, the lecturers would not even

Ghana continued on page 2

Ghana

continued from page 1

show up. Therefore, it was almost another week before everyone really settled down and got serious about school. I learned very quickly that the classroom set up in Ghana was definitely a lot different than that in the United States. Seventy percent of the grade is dependent on the final exam. The other thirty percent is composed of what they call continuous assessment, which usually consists of homework and class work assignments, tests, and midterms. In the Ghanaian university system, lecturers rarely use books to help teach their classes. Instead, the lecturer speaks on whatever subject matter they deem important, and it is the responsibility of the student to seek out more information on the topic.

Also, the professors do not write most of their information on the board. Instead they talk on the subject matter, and the student is supposed to decipher the important information and copy it into their notes. Also, I was used to meeting for an hour three times a week for a class. At UST, the classes only met once a week for about two to three hours. For me, it took a couple of weeks to get adjusted to the new environment. Although the classes seemed quite difficult during the first month or so, I soon adapted with help from my friends,

classmates, and my own determination to succeed.

During the Easter break, I was invited to visit the Kwahu Mountains with my friend Wazy. In the mountains, the natives do not celebrate Christmas, so Easter is the holiday where families come together and reunite. Also, they celebrate Easter by having a lot of parties. I attended one of their street carnivals, which reminded me a lot of the block parties that are sometimes held on A&T's campus.

After the exams were over, we took another trip to Accra. Our second stay in Accra was our opportunity to be tourists. During that time I bought gifts for my family and memorabilia for myself. I was sad when my stay had to come to an end. In the beginning, I was not sure if I would have a good time in a different country, especially a country in Africa. Through all of the media propaganda and the stereotypes, I did not think that Ghana would be as modern as it really is. I am glad that I decided to take that chance and see what the country was really about. From my trip, I can share with my classmates and others what the true Ghana is and smash a lot of the stereotypes that many Americans have about African life.



Current McNair Scholars at the 2004 McNair Induction Ceremony.

Helpful Websites

<http://www.gre.org>

Graduate Record Examinations

<http://www.finaid.org/>

FinAid: Guide to Financial Aid
aid estimator & scholarship search

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

FastWeb: Helping Over 7 Million Students Find
Scholarships, Colleges & Jobs: database of private-sector
scholarships, grants/loans

<http://www.fastaid.com/>

FastAid: Free Scholarship Search: largest & oldest
private sector scholarship database

Meet the McNair Program Staff



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*This newsletter is published
once a semester please email
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for any questions or
concerns.*



HONORS TRIP TO NORFOLK, VA

BY CLAUDINE SMITH
McNair Scholar

October 21, 2004, was a joyous day for African American Honors Programs across the country. This was the day that began the annual National Association of African American Honors Programs (NAAHP) Conference and this year's theme was "Celebrating and Critiquing Black Education Before and After the Brown v. Board of Education." This eventful weekend was held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Conference began with an Opening Luncheon in which Norfolk State University's (NSU) Professor of History Emeritus, Dr. William Ward, was the guest speaker. Later that same day, student presentations were given, Model United Nation Teams met, and the Quiz Bowl Teams faced off. The evening was rounded out with the play "Yellowman" by Dael Orlandersmith and a Poetry Slam. The next day commenced with a graduate school and corporate expo which was followed by more Faculty and Student Presentations. By midday, everyone headed to the L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center for a Grand Celebration of Black Education. The Speaker for this event was none other than Dr. Henry Lewis Gates, Jr. of Harvard. Dr. Gates enlightened us on W.E.B. DuBois and his vision of the first African American Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Africana, which is on CD-Rom. The day ended with a cookout, debate, and student caucus.

Saturday was eventful for me. At nine o'clock in the morning I gave my presentation on the research I completed this summer entitled "Does Affirmative Action Advocate Discrimination or Does It Promote Diversity in College Admissions?" I was also joined by fellow McNair scholar Kayla Newsome we presented our research in a room full of scholars and peers. My research was well received and everyone seemed interested in the room. Questions were asked, answered and all in all the experience was enjoyable.

The weekend ended with an Awards Luncheon in which the winner of the Quiz Bowl and Model United Nations were given trophies, and newly elected officers were announced and sworn in. The whole weekend was wonderful. I was given the opportunity to interact with peers of similar caliber and be enlightened by scholars who have done tremendous work in the world of African American Studies. The conference also allowed me to develop relationships with people that could help me further my educational career. The NAAHP is an annual conference, and I hope that next year I am given the opportunity to attend this event.

McNair 2004 Summer Research Participants

Jessica Alarcon

"Between Two Sticks: The Journey Toward Identity in Pivi Thomas's Down These Mean Street"

Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Durham - UNC Chapel Hill

Joi Bass

"Mapping the Campus of NC A&T State University by Integrating GIS with GPS and Comparing the Data to Genome Data"

Mentor: Dr. Derreck Dunn

Timothy Burroughs

"The Ergonomic Study of Petrobras Incorporated"

Mentor: Jose Orlando - Federal University of Rio DeJanero

Victoria Alex Cejas

"The Impact of the Childhood Environment on Adult Success Rates"

Mentor: Dr. Claude Barnes, Jr.

Deidra Felton

"The Buffering Capacity and Water Activity of Buttermilk and other Dairy Derived Products"

Mentor: Dr. Salam Irahim

Derek Jones

"Solubility of Carbon Dioxide in Alka Nolomines"

Mentor: Dr. Vinayak Kabadi

Paul Lopez III

"Validation of Methods and Microbial Analysis of Advanced Life Support Salad Crops"

Mentor: Dr. Mary Hammerick, Kennedy Space Center for NASA

Kyonna Moore

"The Significance of Religion and Spirituality on African American Breast Cancer Survivors and Women Undergoing Breast Cancer Treatment"

Mentor: Mrs. Sandra Hicks

Kayla Newsome

"The Recruitment and Retention of Minority

Elementary Education Majors in North Carolina"
Mentor: Dr. Brenda Kennedy - Bennett College

Ngozi Oninwah

"Exploring of Cultural Experiences of Death and Dying"

Mentor: Dr. Linda McIntosh

Somphavanh Phetsomphou

"Control of Food Borne Pathogens on Minimally Processed Vegetables by Decontamination with Water and Oxine Treatment"

Mentor: Dr. C.W. Seo

Avril Smart

"Adolescents' Perception of Sources of Racial Socialization: The African American Church and Parents"

Mentor: Dr. Pam Martin - North Carolina State University

Katisha Smith

"Experimental Verification of Delamination - Free Drilling Zone of Fiber - Reinforced Composite Laminates"

Mentor: Dr. Samuel Owusu-Ofori

Claudine Smith

"Does Affirmative Action Promote Diversity in College Admissions or Does it Advocate Discrimination?"
Mentor: Dr. Claude Barnes, Jr.

Darra Spease

"Breaking the Beariers, An Analysis of African American Women in Higher Level - Positions of the Department of Social Services in Guilford County"
Mentor: Dr. Brenda Kennedy - Bennett College

Jametta Thomsa

"Minimizing Expected Cost in a News Vendor Problem with Bi-variate Demand Distribution"

Mentor: Dr. Emmett Lodree, Jr.

!!Congratulations!!

New McNair Scholars



**Monica Barnette
Yolanda Bowers
Cicely Bullock
Erica Franklin
Andrea Fuller
Lauren Hart
Kenneth Jenkins
William Johnson II**

**Kimberly Jordan
Tarea Kennedy
Jenell Pointer
Maria Robertson
Julian Summers
Bobby Teachey II
Diana Turbeville**

About the McNair Program

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

This program is designed to prepare and encourage low income, first generation, underrepresented; students in graduate education to consider careers in college teaching and to prepare them for graduate study leading to a doctoral degree.

The Program is named for North Carolina A & T State University's Magna

Cum Laude Graduate, Ronald E. McNair. A & T's Program was funded in 1990 as a multi-disciplinary comprehensive academic support program consisting of an Academic Year Program and a Summer Research Program.

Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair, Physicist and Astronaut, dared to dream. As an African-American growing up in a poor community in the South Carolina, he encountered discrimination early in his youth. Yet this did not stop

him from pursuing his dream of becoming a scientist.

In 1971, he graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelors of Science (B.S.) degree in physics.

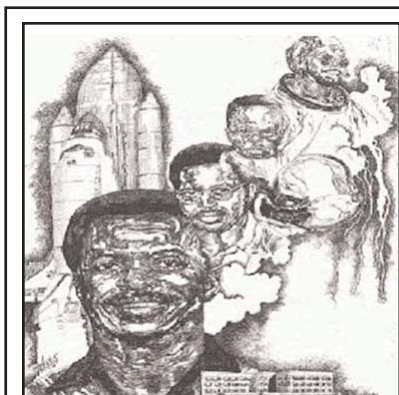
Ronald McNair then enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976, at the age of twenty-six (26), he earned his Ph. D. degree in laser physics.

Dr. McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser

physics while working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory. He was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978 and was a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger.



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North Carolina A&T State University

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

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