

# THE CHALLENGER



## Upcoming Events

**Interested in becoming a McNair Scholar?** Attend a McNair Info Session (See inside pages for more information).

**The First McNair Colloquium** of the semester will be held on Thursday, February 23 at 12pm. Devonique Small and Cicely Hunter are scheduled to present. Other colloquium dates are March 22 and April 19. Contact the McNair Office for more information.

**Kaplan** Testing Service will have their **Test Drive** on Saturday, February 25. To register for this event, visit the Kaplan website at [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com).

**National TRIO Day** is Saturday, February 25. Please wear your TRIO/McNair shirt to commemorate the day.

**Advising for the Fall 2012** semester is March 19-23. All McNair students will receive notification of their appointment time.

**The deadline for McNair Applications** is March 9. Applications are available at the MU McNair webpage.

**The EOP Director's Dinner** will be Tuesday, April 17. McNair students receiving a 3.0 GPA or higher during the Spring '11 and/or Fall '11 semesters will be invited to attend.

## NCUR CALLING:

### MCNAIR STUDENTS TO PRESENT RESEARCH

Six students from the McNair Scholars Program at Marquette University were selected to present their research at the 26th National Conference on Undergraduate Research. The selected students were chosen from over 3500 abstract submissions. The conference will be held at Weber State University, Ogden, Utah, March 29 - 31. Over 2,000 undergraduate students will attend the three-day event.

The six students are: Toby Baker (Communications), Majidah Murrar (Nursing), Emmanuel Niyonsaba (Arts & Sciences), Jason Raymond (Health Sciences), Devonique Small (Education), and Samantha Whaley (Arts & Sciences).

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), established in 1987, is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study. Unlike meetings of academic professional organizations, this gathering of young scholars welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum. Through this annual conference, NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and promotion of undergraduate student achievement, provides models of exemplary research and scholarship, and helps to improve the state of undergraduate education.

The students presenting at the conference are featured on Page 2.



*McNair students take a break while attending the WAEOPP McNair /SSS Senior Retreat in Fontana, Wisconsin in October, 2011. Pictured (l-r) Steven Snowden, Emmanuel Niyonsaba, Casey Korducki, Christopher Powell, Shona Hang, Devonique Small, and Emily Shackleton.*

## MCNAIR PRESENTERS AT NCUR

Listed below are six McNair Scholars whose abstracts were accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research to be held at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Faculty mentors are listed in parenthesis.

**Toby D. Baker (Dr. Sara Bonewits Feldner), Communication Studies**

*Bucking the Trend: An Exploration of the First Generation College Graduate's Experience*

**Majidah Murrar (Dr. Lesley Boaz), Nursing**

*Transcultural Nursing: A Comparative Analysis of Middle Eastern and American CAM Practices*

**Emmanuel Julius Niyonsaba (Dr. Michael Fleet), Political Science**

*Understanding the Rwandan Genocide: Comparative Studies on the Causes of Ethnic Conflict and its Intensification into Genocide*

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

**Devonique N. Small (Dr. Marcia Williams), Sociology**

*Pepper in a Sea of Salt: Description of College Life By Black Undergraduate EOP Students at a Predominantly White Private University*

**Samantha G. Whaley (Dr. Susan Giaimo and Dr. Michael Fleet), Political Science**

*The Turkish Question: How the AKP's Islamic Orientation has affected Turkish Politics*

## MCNAIR ADDS THREE PH.D.S

Three MU McNair alums recently received their doctoral degrees. George Barganier, Phu Tran, and Maria Oropeza all completed their Ph.Ds. over the summer.

Dr. Barganier received his degree from the University of California –Berkeley in May 2011. He participated in McNair during the summer of 1999, while attending Grambling State University. His mentor was Ana Maria Guzman, adjunct professor working in Criminology and Law Studies.

Dr. Tran received his Ph.D. from Marquette University in Biological Sciences in May 2011. An alum of MU's Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs, Dr. Tran is currently at the University of Wisconsin in postdoctoral study.

Dr. Oropeza received her degree from the University of Washington in August 2011. She, too, participated in McNair during the summer of 1999, working with Dr. Jorge Valadez, Assistant Professor, Philosophy.

Dr. Oropeza offers the following advice for current McNair Scholars: "Figure out what you are passionate about studying. Also, find a program in which you will have a faculty mentor. A faculty mentor is someone who shares your same research interests, [who] will invest their time in you and will guide you through the completion of your dissertation."

To date, MU McNair has recorded twenty Ph.D.'s. since 1990.

*Dr. Michael Duffey and Casey Korducki enjoy a light breakfast at the McNair Birthday Celebration in October, 2011.*



Ten McNair Scholars presented research at the 21st Annual National Ronald E. McNair Scholars Research Conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin in November, 2011. Seated are (L-R) Erica Mallett, Eduardo De la Cruz, Khanh Tran, Samantha Whaley, Emmanuel Ni-yonsaba and La Tasha Ellis. Standing are Marisa Curley and Casey Korducki. Missing in the photo are Toby Baker and Steven Snowden.



## Interested in McNair? Attend Info Session

McNair prepares eligible students for graduate study by providing a variety of services including research internships, GRE Prep, funding to conferences and graduate school visits.

To learn more about the program, attend a McNair Info Session. These sessions (listed below) provide an overview to the McNair experience. Current McNair Scholars will be on hand to share their insights. In addition, the session will also address identifying a research topic and finding a mentor.

Applications for the McNair Scholars Program are available online. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, March 9.

For more information, call the McNair Program Office at 288-1771.

### McNair Info Sessions —

Wednesday January 25, 5 p.m.

Thursday, February 2, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 5 p.m.

All sessions are held in the Raynor Conference Room, Baumier Suite A.

## SCHOLARS ON THE MOVE

**Vladimir Bjelic** is in the Master's Program for Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Oklahoma State University.

**Ewune Ewane** is in the Master's Program for Community Counseling at Loyola University in Chicago, IL.

**Leticia Vallejo (formerly Galindo)** is a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Marquette University.

**Geysa Gonzalez** is in the Master's Program for International History at London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Valencia Lynch** is in the masters program in Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies at the University of Wisconsin.

**Angela Melchor** is in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program at the University of Illinois Chicago.

**Jennifer Rorex** is enrolled in the doctoral program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Arizona.

**Vincent Stevenson, Jr.** is enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at Fordham University in New York.

**Benjamin Juarez** is seeking the aldermanic seat for the 8th District in the City of Milwaukee.

## McNair Scholars Program

Marquette University  
P.O. Box 1881  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881

Phone: 414 288-1771  
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Director: Eddie M. Guzman  
Admin Secretary: Mary L. Jennings

*"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.*

# TRiO

RONALD E. MCNAIR  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

# MCNAIR ALUMNI DEGREE UPDATE

## Bachelors Degrees

Marisa T. G. Curley, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences  
Anthony J. Gaines, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences  
Maly Lor, Bachelor of Science, College of Health Sciences  
Jazmyynn L. McCain, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences  
Monai P. Myles, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences  
Christopher E. Powell, Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences

## Masters Degrees

Laura R. Arvelo, Master of Library & Information Science, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee  
Walter T. Bond, Master of Education, George Mason University  
Ethel Broussard, Master of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota  
Aleah M. Burks-Patterson, Masters of Arts Management, Columbia College Chicago,  
Rosalinda Campos, Master of Science, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Zarkey D. Hegwood, Master of Science, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee  
Madison F. Pascua, Master of Arts, University of Chicago  
Nicole M. Southern, Master of Business Administration, University of Phoenix

## Doctoral Degrees

George Barganier, University of California-Berkeley  
Phu N. Tran, Marquette University  
Maria V. Oropeza, University of Washington

## Professional Degrees

Courtney M. Ofosu, Juris Doctor, University of Illinois

*Current McNair Scholars hold the McNair Ph.D plaque, listing the 20 alums who have completed their doctoral degrees. Standing are (L-R) Casey Korducki, Devonique Small, and Larry Whitley.*

