

McNair Scholars Program

Eastern Kentucky University

Richmond, Kentucky

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Newsletter

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McNair Scholars Announced for Spring 2004

Welcome to the First ECU McNair Scholars

The Eastern Kentucky University McNair Scholars Program welcomed its first sophomore, junior and senior level cohorts of scholars into the program in January 2004.

McNair is a federally-funded U.S. Department of Education initiative that advances doctoral preparation for learners who are first-generation university learners from low-income backgrounds and / or are African-American, Hispanic, Native American or Native Alaskan. The students selected to participate in this program

are goal-driven, high-achievement oriented individuals with aspirations for careers in which the Ph.D. is requisite.

The primary focus of the McNair Scholars Program is to provide academic experiences for participants that will help ensure their successful baccalaureate degree attainment. In addition, their participation in scholarly activities, mentoring and research activities will help prepare them to enter and experience success in a select graduate program.



2004 McNair Scholars

Front Row: Tina Messer, Susan Jones, Kianna Simms, Alisha Dobbins, Amanda Brown, Ricardo Hernandez, Back Row: Sarah Turley, Chad Adkins, Niki Harvey, Robin Embry, Matthew Massey, Debra Ball, Justin Wilson, Susan Wolfinbarger, Jon Walker, Majik Link. Absent when photo was taken: Kishonna Gray

EKU McNair Scholars Present Research at the National Maryland McNair Conference in March 2004



Robin Embry
2004 McNair Scholar

Two McNair Scholars were selected to present their research at the 2004 Maryland McNair National Research Conference during the dates of March 18-21 at the University of Maryland. **Amanda Brown** and **Robin Embry** represented Eastern Kentucky University at the conference. Amanda Brown, who is an Environmental Health Science major delivered a scholarly presentation on the topic of multi-planar mixing in microgravity. Robin Embry, a psychology major, presented her research findings on the topic of drug abuse initiatives serving south central Kentucky.



Amanda Brown
2004 McNair Scholar

The conference allowed students to participate in workshops, attend research presentations, and to meet graduate school representatives. "McNair has instilled in me a drive to continue on in my pursuit of a Ph.D. Being a single parent and a full-time college student, it can often be discouraging," Robin said. "But with all of the support that I have received through the McNair Scholars Program and the Education Pays Center, I have been able to overcome some very strenuous obstacles."

McNair scholars have consultants and faculty mentors who work with them to help them understand the skills required to do successful research and to be able to present the research in a professional setting. Robin credits her mentor, **Dr. Theresa Botts**, the psychology staff, and the Education Pays Center for helping develop her research skills. Amanda Brown is very appreciative of **Dr. Gary Brown** for all of his help and support as her faculty mentor.

EKU McNair Scholars Present Research at UP Showcase during *Scholars Weekend* at EKU

Four EKU McNair Scholars participated in the Third Annual Undergraduate Presentation (UP) Showcase on April 16, 2004. The purpose of the UP Showcase is to celebrate the accomplishments of EKU students and the efforts of the faculty mentors who have helped them along the way to take an active role in conducting research. During this scholarly event, undergraduate students and

their faculty mentors presented their research methods and findings. Research projects presented at the UP Showcase ranged from the creative arts to the discovery sciences, and highlight the collaborative efforts of 125 students and 32 faculty mentors. The following McNair Scholars and their respective faculty mentors presented their research at the 2004 UP Showcase:



Jon Walker

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Tom Otieno, Chemistry
Presentation: Synthesis and Structure of Tetrakis (3, 5-Dimethylpyrazole) Copper (II) Perchlorate Monohydrate



Susan Wolfenbarger

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. David Zurick, Geography
Presentation: Effects of Globalization and Tourism on Two Pottery Villages in Oaxaca, Mexico



Alisha Dobbins

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. David May, Correctional and Juvenile Justice Studies
Presentation: The Impact of Perceived Risk, Victimization Experience, and School supervision on Fear of Crime at School Among Public School Students in Kentucky



Lynn Means

Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Walter Borowski, Earth Sciences
Presentation: Isotopic Concentration of Sulfide Sulfur and ^{34}S from Methane Seeps in the Blacke Ridge Diapir and Monterey Canyon



Highlights of Graduating McNair Scholars



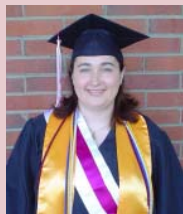
Susan Wolfinbarger graduated in May 2004 with a bachelor of arts degree in geography. Susan has been accepted to George Washington University with a fully paid scholarship and stipend. She will serve as a teaching assistant in the geography department beginning in August 2004. During Susan's tenure at Eastern Kentucky University, she was recognized with the following awards:

- Dean's List
- President's List
- Dean's Award of Merit
- Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society.

Lynn Means graduated in May 2004 with a bachelor of science degree in geology. During this past semester Lynn received the following recognitions:

- Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
- Millennium Scholarship
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Outstanding Senior in Geology

Lynn has been selected to serve as an ISMAM Fellow for the graduate school at Eastern Kentucky University. Once she completes her master's at EKU, she plans to apply to various doctoral programs throughout the region.



Tina Messer graduated in May 2004 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. Tina was selected as one of the student commencement speakers for Eastern Kentucky University. During this past semester, Tina has earned several awards and recognitions including:

- Who's Who Among College Students
- Outstanding Senior in Psychology
- Cum Laude
- President's List
- Dean's List
- 2004 Commencement Speaker

Tina has been accepted to Florida Atlantic University as a graduate assistant beginning in fall 2004.

Two McNair Scholars Selected as NOVA Peer Leaders

Two McNair Scholars have been selected to serve as Peer Leaders for the NOVA (Student Support Services) program beginning in the fall of 2004.



Jon Walker is a senior psychology major who was recognized this year as a Colonel Scholar, a Presidential Scholar, and earned the Dean's Award. He recently was awarded the William Knapp Scholarship.



Sarah Turley is a junior with a major in social work. She was on the dean's list for Spring 2004 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Sarah was a former NOVA participant and will serve as an Orientation Assistant with NOVA during the summer months.

McNair Scholar Serves Washington D.C. Internship



Kishonna Gray, a junior majoring in criminal justice and Spanish, participated in an internship in Washington, D.C. during the Spring 2004 term. Kishonna served as an intern with the Whistleblower Center where she updated records of Attorney Referral Service

members and corresponded with members of the Fairness for Whistleblowers Network.

"I also helped one of the lawyers research a case and took a research class that introduced me to research techniques used in graduate school. My research topic focused on finding out how recidivism is affected by the lack of educational programming in prison facilities."

The internship was sponsored by the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, a nonprofit organization that has provided internships in the nation's capitol for over 25 years. Kishonna was selected through a competitive application process and has receive 15 hours of academic credit at Eastern Kentucky University for her internship.



Tina Messer, 2004 McNair Scholar, Selected to Give the Student Commencement 2004 Speech, “Eastern’s Unwavering Commitment to Education”

Tina Messer, a 2004 McNair Scholar, wanted to speak at this year’s commencement because she thinks this is a “special” graduating class. She said her class has faced many uncertain times in the past four year. Messer, a psychology major, said she has such strong feelings about this graduating class.

“There are so many deserving people who could stand before this class, who I have great respect for as student scholars. I’m really honored that I was the one selected to represent this class,” she said. In her speech Messer talked about how Eastern students are dedicated to their education. “It’s been my experience that the faculty has shown extraordinary commitment to their students’ education and also a great interest in their success,” Messer said. “I think the students have responded in kind. The students have shown a commitment to



being involved in campus life and making everything work on this campus the way education is supposed to work,” she said.

Messer, a women’s studies minor, credits **Dr. Sara Zeigler**, director of the department, for helping to make many opportunities available to the subject minors. “She has provided unique opportunities for those people both in and out of the classroom that I may not have had somewhere else. I can’t say enough good things about the women’s studies program here at Eastern,” she said.

Tina has been accepted to Florida Atlantic University where she will work on her master’s in women’s studies. Her advice for other students at Eastern is to not limit yourself in what you are involved in.

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