



# Cleveland State University MCNAIR NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

## Greetings!!

Welcome to the third edition of the CSU McNair Scholars Program newsletter. The McNair Scholars Program has progressed over the last three years.

This is, of course, a bittersweet time for the McNair program, a time when we are saying goodbye to some of our scholars as they move on. Congratulations to Matthew Villaire and Victor Courtney on their graduation. We are grateful to all our graduating scholars for allowing us to play a role in their development; we look forward to hearing about their progress. We are excited for

the scholars as they continue to pursue their interests and am hopeful that they will each realize their goal of achieving their doctorate. Certainly it's a long road ahead, but each scholar has the opportunity to use their McNair experience for future success.

It is also my pleasure to welcome our new McNair Scholars; Keisha Gonzalez, Tracy Grimes, and Tenia Harris.

One of the goals of the McNair Scholars Program is to prepare students to succeed in graduate school. In order to succeed, each scholar must apply and be admitted into a graduate program. To

mention just a few ways in which McNair staff assist the scholars in this process: we facilitate scholars' selection of programs that appear to meet their needs, we provide funding for travel to institutions being considered and help them make arrangements for those visits, and we help them with preparation of application materials. These types of activities may seem simple, but scholars benefit in many ways from this type of assistance.

Best Wishes,  
Dr. Valli Sarveswaran  
Director

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## FALL 2010 GRADUATES

Congratulations to VICTOR COURTNEY, who graduated from Cleveland State University in December 2010.



Well Done!  
MATTHEW VILLAIRE graduated with a degree in Environmental Sciences from Cleveland State University in December 2010.

## Fall highlights: DPT Stories



We are proud of our McNair Alumni: Magdalena Wilczek and Tracy Febres were admitted into the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at Cleveland State University.

They are the first McNair Alumni to be accepted in doctoral studies.

*GOOD LUCK!!*



## WELCOME TO MCNAIR



Tracy Grimes

Sociology & Criminology

Tenia Harris

Biology



Keisha Gonzalez

Anthropology

## McNair Scholars Host Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson

“We should not measure our space-faring era by where footprints have been laid.... We should measure our era by how many people take no notice at all. A legacy rises to become culture only when its elements are so common that they no longer attract comment....” states Dr. Tyson in his book *Sky is the limit*.



McNair Scholars Program invited Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, an American astrophysicist, to interact with McNair scholars when he visited Cleveland to give a talk at the Playhouse square. He shared his experiences, ideas, and challenges to become a great researcher.

## McNair Scholars

SCHOLAR NAME	MAJOR	SCHOLAR NAME	MAJOR
Katrina Benamon	Health Sciences Pre – Therapy	Dawneisha Hill	Psychology
Andrei Bialevich	Electrical Engineering	Courtney James	English
Anecia Chatmon	Biology	Jessica Jones	Health Sciences Pre – Therapy
Jermaine Clark	Finance	Alexander Kariotakis	Biology
Gurpreet Dhillon	Nursing	Aloysus Lawong	Chemistry
William Eady	Biology	Diane Lawong	Health Sciences
Na’Tasha Evans	Biology & Psychology	Leigh Okwudi	Health Sciences
Katelin Funderwhite	Health Sciences Pre – Therapy	Brittany Pearcy	Linguistics
Juan Gamarra	Business	Symone Robinson	Speech and Hearing
Keisha Gonzalez	Anthropology	Regina Samuels	Exercise/Fitness Specialist
Kristen Griffith	Health Sciences Pre – Therapy	Paul Schrader	Mathematics
Tracy Grimes	Sociology & Criminology	Lorenzo Smith	Psychology
Tenia Harris	Biology	Albert Sundberg	Mathematics
		Luyen Thai	Psychology

### COURTNEY JAMES

“I really enjoyed the conference. There were so many people there and so many scientific disciplines. They did a good job of covering every aspect of a scientific career from going into academia to blazing your own trail as a research scientist. I also enjoyed the city of Charlotte, it was very hip and vibrant. I would consider going to graduate school down there because there is a large population of young adults. Overall, it was a very rewarding, and informative experience.” says Courtney James



after she attended the Annual Bio Medical research Conference for Minority Students in North Carolina.

### LORENZO SMITH

“As I sat waiting to present my research at the **Ohio Occupational Therapy Association** conference, (OOTA), I found myself consumed with ambivalence: I’m not supposed to be here, yet I worked so hard to get here. What if they just get up and walk out; or, what if they love it?”

I felt like the air was thick, as I approached the podium to deliver my presentation; I stuttered through my introduction, then I realize that I should seize this moment. I refused to allow months of hard work to be in vain. I knew this stuff like a first grader knows the ABC song. I started singing.

After I concluded, everyone clapped. I thought to myself, “that wasn’t so bad”.

I was showered graciously with compliments. I thought, I can do this; I can do research; in that instant, I realized that research is more than just compiled data that measures outcomes. It’s a very powerful tool that allows those of us who do it, to affect change.. It is an unbiased exploration which leads to discoveries that can be shared with others.” **Lorenzo Smith shares his experience from the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association conference.**



**Dr. Dena Davis, Non - Discipline faculty mentor shares her excitement about her mentee, Aloysus Lawong :**

"I feel quite positive about the program. My mentee has had amazing opportunities and made phenomenal progress. I feel I have a very good relationship with Al. I enjoy our meetings."

(Aloysus Lawong and his NDFM mentor Dr. Dena Davis)



**Christine Rush, non-discipline faculty mentor for Health Sciences scholar, Diane Lawong, on the McNair Scholars Program:** "I feel that the program is a wonderful opportunity for students. Diane is a wonderful student and a lovely person. I look forward to working with her more."

## Dynamic Duo Faculty Mentor & McNair Scholar

**Dr. Glenn Goodman, Discipline faculty mentor of Lorenzo Smith , shares his thoughts about his mentee:**

The McNair Program has been a win win for me! My student is enthusiastic, visionary, and has done a good job on his research project. He continues to support my research efforts by writing a grant for one of his classes that I think will be fundable.

Lorenzo Smith is my hero. I look at his ability to juggle school, working, children, and other responsibilities, and I am proud of his work ethic and his commitment to his education and his future. He has taken his McNair Scholar role seriously, and he has helped me with a project that should benefit our CSU students with disabilities and high school students with disabilities for years to come.



(Lorenzo Smith with his mentor Dr. Glenn Goodman)

## 19th Annual National McNair Research Conference

CSU McNair Scholars: Andrei Bialeovich, Anecia Chatmon, Na'Tasha Evans, Symone Robinson, Jermaine Clark, Courtney James, Paul Schrader, William Eady, Kristen Griffith and Diane Lawong attended the 19th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate School Fair in Delevan, Wisconsin in November 2010. Paul gave a PowerPoint presentation of his research while Na'Tasha, Kristen, and Symone presented posters.

It was a great opportunity for professional development. Exploring the latest and greatest research is essential to success. I was exploring every piece of the conference that may help me grow in future which may help me do my job better and faster.

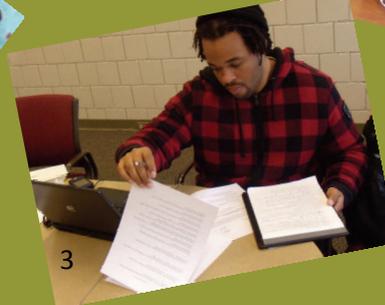


Attending the National McNair Research Conference at Delevan, WI was by far the most beneficial and advantageous events that I have attended thus far. I learned not only to communicate professionally, I also learned how to present with confidence. I was able to have some really great discussions with the other OT research related peers and it was interesting to hear their feedback. At the Fireside chat with Carl McNair, brother of Dr. Ronald McNair event, I heard inspirational stories about his childhood and college career that I had not known before. The conference was such an enjoyable experience.



**SPRING 2011: IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 18: Tri-C Hospitality management — Cultural cooking experience
- February 25: Trio Day
- February 28: McNair Scholar Meeting
- March 17: University of Maryland McNair Conference
- March 18: Playhouse Square event — STOMP
- March 25 & 26: Playhouse Square event — Color Purple
- March 31: McNair Scholar Meeting
- April 8: Playhouse Square event — Les miserables
- May 5 & 13: Playhouse Square event — West Side Story
- May 6: McNair Scholars Research Expo & Banquet



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| 1. McNair scholars at the fall 2010 kick off week.                               | 2. Diane and Regina pose at the McNair Scholar meeting.                 |
| 3. Victor focusing on grad school applications.                                  | 4. McNair scholars at McNair conference, Delavan, Wisconsin.            |
| 5. Na'Tasha, Jermaine and McNair Director Dr.Valli with Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. | 6. Brittany and Regina at Big 10 Grad expo, Purdue University, Indiana. |
| 7. McNair Scholars relaxing after presenting their work on Research day.         |   |

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