McNair Scholars, Gordon Abner and Daniel Large, presented their research at the annual South Texas Regional McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of the Incarnate Word on September 6, 2008. The conference featured scholars from all over South Texas. Universities represented included Sam Houston State University, St. Mary’s University and The University of Texas at Austin to name a few.

Gordon Abner presented his research, Why Chicago? Push and Pull Factors that Stimulated Black Migration to Chicago During the Period of 1940 to 1960, while Daniel Large presented his research, The Role of Process Independence in Think/No-Think-Induced Forgetting. Both scholars felt that presenting in the new environment helped them better assess how they will be critiqued in future research presentations.

During the reception, scholars enjoyed the Keynote Speaker, a former UIW McNair Scholar, Diana Meneses, who is currently a doctoral candidate at Arizona State University in the History Department. Scholars were able to take with them a bit of wisdom regarding selection of a graduate school program as well as mingle with scholars with similar research topics.

Scholar Spotlight: Mark E Sullivan Works with Upward Bound at Trinity University

Mark E Sullivan, McNair Scholar Junior, works with Trinity University’s Upward Bound Program. Upward Bound focuses on assisting high school students achieve postsecondary goals through various activities designed to engage and prepare students for a smooth and successful transition into a university.

While Mark is a math and science tutor for some of Trinity’s Upward Bound students twice a month, he makes an extra effort to assist any of his students who require attention in math or science. For example, if a student cannot tackle a portion of the TAKS test, Mark will schedule some time once a week to meet with that student individually.

Upward Bound Director, Simone Carnegie, attests to Mark’s capacity to encourage even the most discouraged students in the program “with his patience and unyielding encouragement.”

Perhaps Mark’s drive to assist these students stems from his own experience with the program, having participated in it during his high school years. He has proven to be a dynamic individual who can overcome hurdles and is truly an inspiration to his students.

Mark strives for his pursuit of doctoral studies in Environmental Physics.
McNair Fall Graduate
Maria Cristina Lopez

McNair Scholar, Maria Cristina Lopez (also known as Cristina), graduated from Trinity University this semester. Cristina was honored as the Senior Class Speaker at the Winter 2008 Commencement.

Cristina’s leadership during her four years at Trinity include: Vice President of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, membership coordinator of Best Buddies International, and Service Chair for Alpha Lambda Chi. Outside the University, Ms. Lopez held internships with the cities of Webster and LaPorte near Houston and advised the Haven for Hope and the San Antonio Housing and Neighborhood Services Department staff. After graduation, she will begin her professional career with the PennWell Mapsearch Division as a research analyst in Houston.

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McNair Alumni News
Jonelle Sits on Grad School Panel

Jonelle Bailey, Trinity University’s very first McNair Scholar alumna, paid current Junior level scholars a visit by participating in GNED 3110’s panel, The Road to Graduate School, in November. She shared her experience with selecting a program that suited her degrees and experiences, and also talked about the biggest challenges she has faced while making the transition from an undergraduate to graduate student.

She encouraged students to utilize the resources available to them on-campus as well as from McNair faculty and staff. Department of Financial Aid, Fellowships and Loan tips were useful issues that she brought up to start giving the scholars an idea of what to think about when selecting a program.

Jonelle is excited that she had an opportunity to speak with the scholars, and looks forward to continuing to help the program as much as possible while she is still on campus. She plans to utilize her Masters degree to start a non-profit in Latin America that would promote learning to underserved populations there.

Kudos to McNair Scholars

-Gordon Abner, McNair Senior, visited the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He was invited to an all expenses paid visit with a small group of students.

-Domale Dube and Celeste Garcia, McNair Summer Research Scholars, presented their research at the 16th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

-Celeste Garcia, McNair Junior, was accepted into the Alaskan Leadership Class for Summer 2009.

-Miguel Guerra, McNair Junior, was accepted into the University of Southern California’s EDGE-SBE Visitation Program, and traveled to Southern California to meet with faculty and graduate students to discuss plans for graduate school.

-Paul Kosmarciukas, McNair Sophomore, completed the San Antonio Rock ‘n’ Roll Half Marathon as a participant in the Dean of Students Challenge for Health.

-Daniel Large, McNair Senior, was awarded the TASSSP Walter O Mason scholarship in the amount of $500. Danny competed with McNair scholars from all over Texas and received the highest scholarship award out of 5 recipients. Way to go Danny!
McNair Game Night

On October 24th, scholars, tutorial faculty and McNair staff had a fun-filled night with games including Guitar Hero, Clue, Karaoke, Dance Dance Revolution and many more. The night heard 'round McNair is sure to bring more students and faculty next time. Everyone had a blast and looks forward to having a Super Bowl Night next semester to let loose and rock on.

Invited to the event were students from the FGLI Group on campus with funding provided by Academic Affairs. Kenny Wong, member of the FGLI Group, was amazed at how well some of our scholars rocked at Guitar Hero and enjoyed meeting scholars, faculty and staff.

End of Semester Gathering

After what felt like a short semester, scholars, tutorial faculty and staff gathered at Dr. Leifer’s abode to say goodbye to each other at the End of Semester Gathering. Scholars had an opportunity to thank all their tutorial faculty mentors individually and discuss plans for future research opportunities.

The gathering ended nicely as the group partook in a friendly game of “White Elephant”.

Special thanks to Dr. Leifer for the excellent food, beverages and space he provided all of us for this event. May all scholars, faculty and staff have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you next year!
Research Scholars Presenting at Upcoming Conferences

11th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference
University of North Texas
February 20-22, 2009
http://www.coe.unt.edu/mcnair/McNair/UNT_McNair_Conference.html
Trinity McNair Scholar Presenting: Patrice Durden

What is McNair at Trinity University?
The McNair Scholars Program at Trinity University prepares low-income, first generation college students and students from underrepresented groups in graduate education for doctoral study. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, and was created in memory of Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., an African-American physicist whose career ended with the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger mission in 1986.

Trinity University’s McNair Scholars Program, has completed its first full year since its inception. The program currently houses roughly two dozen McNair Scholars in an effort to achieve its goal of preparing these students for doctoral study by providing critical tools necessary for success at a doctoral level.

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