Success at Trinity’s 6th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Conference

Ten weeks of commitment and determination finally paid off when the 2011 Summer Research Interns were able to share their findings with the Trinity community and a few special guests. The 6th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Conference was held at Trinity’s campus on July 27-28. On Wednesday evening, seven Scholars shared their research posters, and on Thursday the remaining seven Scholars gave oral presentations on their project findings.

The conference concluded with the annual McNair Summer Research Banquet, one last opportunity to celebrate research and give accolades to all the Scholars who did such an amazing job. Mr. Luis Figueroa, Trinity alum and Legislative Staff Attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in San Antonio, gave a very inspirational keynote address.

This year’s conference events were not only well attended by students, faculty, staff, and administrators from Trinity, but also by guests from the McNair Scholars Program at the University of the Incarnate Word. Furthermore, a number of our Scholars’ family members from both near and far joined us as well. We were very pleased that so many people came to support the Scholars in their research endeavors!

McNair Scholar Lauren Holguin (junior, chemistry major) attended the 17th Annual McNair Research Conference in Niagara Falls, New York, presented by the University at Buffalo. Under the guidance of Trinity’s Dr. Nancy Mills and Dr. Sean McClintock, chemistry, Lauren was one of a large group of chemists (including Scholar Devon Powers) performing experiments to synthesize chemical compounds no one has ever made before. She presented her research entitled, “Synthesis of Phenyl-substituted 4-4 linked Bis-Indenylidene Dications.”

Lauren felt “the entire conference was exciting and dynamic.” She said the presentation was the most exciting aspect, as she learned about presenting to and answering questions from a non-chemist audience. She also got great feedback from a UB professor, as well as suggestions for future research.

Each day the conference provided speakers and activities. Lauren notes, “My favorite speaker was Dr. Henry Taylor, Jr. . . . who talked extensively on our mission as educated youth to give back to the community and not ignore the struggling populations in the US. His talk was very powerful and the question and answer session that followed prompted me to reconsider various aspects of my life and future career goals. . . . All in all this was a one-of-a-kind experience and I thank the McNair Program for giving me this chance!”

At the start of its fifth year on campus, the McNair Scholars Program is in full swing. This past summer saw an unprecedented number of Scholars take part in the Summer Research Experience, the cornerstone of the Program. Working under the watchful eyes of faculty mentors, Scholars engaged in cutting-edge research projects across the disciplines (from art to business to chemistry—and that’s just the letters A, B, and C). Thanks to the dedication and talent of our faculty mentors, the Scholars shone throughout the summer. Their efforts paid off in attention-grabbing presentations at the Trinity University Summer Undergraduate Research Conference; the Scholars are now preparing to take the show on the road at research conferences across the United States.

Program alumni continue to find success in some of the nation’s leading graduate programs, where they are in swift pursuit of MAs and PhDs, EdMs, MBAs, MATs, JDs, MSHCAs, and MDs. (Although the Program focuses on research within the academic disciplines—and thus MA and PhD graduate programs—we offer support toward graduate study in all areas.) I look forward to the day, just around the corner, when Scholars give back to our society as doctors, lawyers, and college faculty.

~Michael
WELCOME!
New Scholars for 2011-2012

Scholar: Karen Artola-Gonzalez
Class/Major: Senior/Political Science
Hometown: Richmond, TX

Scholar: Shacoya Atkins
Class/Major: Sophomore/Sociology
Hometown: Bloomfield, CT

Scholar: Terrin Blackmon
Class/Major: Sophomore/Biology
Hometown: Cedar Park, TX

Scholar: Antonio Debose
Class/Major: Junior/Finance & Economics
Hometown: Fort Worth, TX

Scholar: Megan Garcia
Class/Major: Soph/Engineering Science & Physics
Hometown: Austin, TX

Scholar: Si Ying Li-Gonzalez
Class/Major: Junior/Biology & Chinese
Hometown: Houston, TX

Scholar: Camilah Powell
Class/Major: Sophomore/Engineering Science
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Scholar: Shacoya Atkins
Class/Major: Sophomore/Sociology
Hometown: Bloomfield, CT

Scholar: Elena Rodriguez
Class/Major: Junior/Art & Art History
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Scholar: Victor Rodriguez
Class/Major: Soph/Biochem. & Molecular Biology
Hometown: Austin, TX

Scholar: Kimberly Simmons
Class/Major: Junior/Psychology
Hometown: Forest Hill, TX

Scholar: Shalee Wallace
Class/Major: Sophomore/Biology
Hometown: Cypress, TX

Scholar: Katherine Yachinich
Class/Major: Sophomore/Music Education
Hometown: Converse, TX

Dr. Rocio Delgado, Education, Joins McNair Tutorial Faculty

The McNair Scholars Program welcomes Dr. Rocio Delgado, assistant professor of education, our newest Tutorial Faculty member. She will teach GNED 2110: McNair Tutorial during the fall and spring semesters. Together with Drs. Amy Stone and Wilson Terrell, Dr. Delgado will help prepare Scholars for the rigors of summer research and guide them through the elaborate graduate school application process.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Dr. Delgado was raised in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. After graduating from high school, she moved back to the U.S. to attend the University of Texas at El Paso, where she received a bachelor's degree in Education. She earned her Master's degree in Deaf Education at New Mexico State University, and then earned her PhD in Multicultural Special Education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Before coming to Trinity, where she is starting her seventh year, Dr. Delgado worked for the New Mexico School for the Deaf as an early interventionist and taught in a number of capacities, including elementary grades teacher, adult English as a Second Language instructor, and residential assistant at the Texas School for the Blind and Texas School for the Deaf. She has been married to her husband, Fernando, for eight years, and they have a baby boy, Santiago, and three dogs. In her free time, Dr. Delgado enjoys spending time with her family, going window shopping, taking road trips, cooking and baking, swimming, gardening, and scrapbooking the many photos she has taken of Santi.

About working with the McNair Program, Dr. Delgado said, “It’s quite an honor to serve as advisor to such bright, talented, and promising students! It’s also a nice opportunity to give back to the many people who provided me with guidance along my educational journey and helped me make it to and through graduate school.”
Alumni Profile: Stephanie Croatt

Stephanie Croatt (May ’11) recently completed a paid internship through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Stephanie was involved in all aspects of the park, but most notably worked with the park’s interpreter to develop outlines for guided interpretive tours dealing with the human and natural history of the park and surrounding areas. She also helped conduct demonstrations on flint knapping and hands-on activities for school groups that visited the park.

Stephanie will begin a MA program in public history at East Carolina University this fall. “The interpretive facet of my internship was probably the most beneficial for my preparation for my . . . graduate program, as it gave me hands-on experience with making information about the park’s history accessible to the public.”

Stephanie continues to be involved in the McNair research she conducted with her mentor, Dr. Jennifer Mathews (anthropology). They are collaborating with a graduate student at the University of California-Riverside to submit a research article on sugar cane, dyewood, and chewing gum latex extraction in northern Yucatan in a Spanish-language journal.

Alumni Profile: Wendy Hernandez

Knowing that work experience was a must for a successful graduate school application, Wendy Hernandez (May ’11) found a job exactly one week after graduation in the marketing department at Pearl Brewery, LLC. While the Pearl is no longer a brewery, it is a “culinary destination.” Wendy explains, “We are a community that offers some of the best restaurants in San Antonio, one-of-a-kind shops, places to call home, work spaces, and beautiful event venues. We also have the third Culinary Institute of America campus and the Aveda Institute.” The Pearl also has the largest private solar array in the state of Texas and prides itself on its extensive green practices.

Wendy’s duties include assisting with the business Facebook pages, scheduling and attending meetings for upcoming events, aiding with event logistics, taking photos at events, communicating with tenants, maintaining email lists, collaborating with marketing and PR agencies, and much more. “My job is never boring and I always have plenty to do, which I love,” Wendy says. “I truly enjoy working for Pearl and continue to be amazed by the things that are shaping up here. My bosses are both passionate about what they do and that is really inspiring. I consider myself lucky because … I really enjoy my job. I am gaining a lot of experience that will benefit me when I decide to go to graduate school.”

Congratulations to our Recent Graduates

Jacqueline Arévalo  
BS, Business Administration & Economics, May 2011

Brittany Flores  
BA, English, May 2011

Charlie Mitchell  
BA, Urban Issues and Policy & Philosophy, May 2011

Ima Oduok  
BA, French, May 2011

Jonathan Trejo  
BS, Biology, May 2011

Many of these Scholars have received admission to graduate programs across the country, including:

Baylor University  
City University of New York  
East Carolina University  
Indiana University  
Kent State University  
Penn State University  
Syracuse University  
Texas State University  
The Johns Hopkins University  
Trinity University  
University of Alabama  
University of Chicago  
University of Denver

University of North Texas Health Science Center  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Stephanie Croatt  
BA, Anthropology, May 2011

Reuben Lucas, Jr.  
BS, Business Administration, May 2011

David Munson  
BA, Speech Communication & Political Science, May 2011

Clarissa Terrell  
BA, Psychology & Religion, May 2011
Where are they now???

Domale Dube (May 2010) just completed her MA in Teaching at Harvard University. She has returned to San Antonio where she will be teaching 9th and 10th grade at Navarro High School.

Reuben Lucas, Jr. (May 2011) has accepted a position at Trinity with Advise TX—a statewide program to recruit low-income, first-generation students to higher education—while finalizing his own plans for graduate school.

Charlie Mitchell (May 2011) will be attending The Johns Hopkins University this fall where he will begin a PhD program in sociology with full funding.

David Munson (May 2011) is starting a MA program in communication and rhetorical studies at Syracuse University this fall.

Clarissa Terrell (May 2011) will begin her doctoral studies in school psychology at the University of Texas at Austin this fall.

Jonathan Trejo (May 2011) joins the MD/MPH program at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio this fall.

SRE Scholars Conquer Enchanted Rock

With McNair alumna Stephanie Croatt (May ’11) interning there this summer (see profile, page 3), we just had to take a trip to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area! Stephanie invited the research interns to visit “the rock” and hear all about the folklore and geographic history surrounding it. Along with Teresa York, assistant director, Dr. Michael Soto, director, and Dr. Soto’s family, six Scholars made the trek to Fredericksburg for the 0.6 mile hike to the top, which measures 1825 feet at its highest point. Along the way, Stephanie educated us about exfoliation sheets, weathering pits, vernal pools, and various vegetative and animal life on the rock and in the park. Afterward, we met with Ray Sierra, Park Superintendent, who told us about internship and employment opportunities with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and what type of education and preparation was required for each. After our visit, we treated ourselves to some awesome German food back in town. It was a very early morning and an extremely hot day, but a good time was had by all!

Hmmm, I’ll have the...

Scholars have had the opportunity to sample a variety of diverse foods at several recent cultural events:

* A Taste of New Orleans (April 9): Dr. Amy Stone, Tutorial Faculty and event facilitator, said Scholars tried alligator on a stick, bananas foster, and onion blossoms.
* Tour of the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River (April 13): Scholars sampled street foods of Mexico at La Gloria after touring the newest part of the famous Riverwalk with Dr. Kelly Lyons (Tutorial Faculty), Mike Adkisson (Project Director, San Antonio River Foundation), and Stuart Allen (project artist).
* Texas Folklife Festival (June 12): Baklava, Indian fry bread, and haggis were just a few of the items on the menu at this event, led by Mary Helen Acosta, program assistant.