McNair Scholars had an opportunity to attend the 16th Annual Ronald E. McNair Scholars Symposium at the University of California, Berkeley. Two of Trinity’s McNair Summer Research Scholars, Mark Sullivan and Kayla Mire, presented their research findings at Berkeley. Mark Sullivan presented his research on the “Analysis of the Fractal Dimension of Cumulus Clouds,” while Kayla Mire presented her research, “Reality Construction and Spaces for Discussion: A Rhetorical Analysis of U.S. Immigration Advocacy.”

Scholars in attendance benefited from observing and participating in a variety of research topics from various disciplines presented by McNair Scholars from around the nation. While the conference’s main purpose was to give scholars an opportunity to present their research, most Scholars found the networking, workshops, and research topics most beneficial. Now that summer research Scholars know what to expect while presenting at a national conference, we look forward to seeing Trinity’s first group of McNair Summer Research Scholars present at upcoming conferences.

**Scholar Spotlight: Miguel Guerra**

¡Viva Mexico!: Scholar Studies Abroad

Miguel (Mike) Guerra, a McNair Scholar Junior, studied abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico this summer. Mike is an International Studies Major with a focus on Latin America. While Guerra hails from Pharr, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, he felt it was important to explore and study in a part of the world that was close in proximity yet far in cultural understanding. This is why he chose an abroad experience in Mexico. While he studied in Mexico, he found that his favorite part were the people and rich culture. He had an opportunity to interact with Mexico’s citizens from all walks of life including a special group of orphans that he, and a group of students, visited. These humble people were willing to learn and teach which Mike found extremely generous.

Some of the places Mike was able to travel to, in addition to exploring the city he studied in, were: San Miguel, León, Mexico City, Coyoacán, Chichén Itzá, Michoacán, Cancun, Morelia, and Pesquero.

Mike’s abroad experience helped him gain the confidence to examine his own culture and understand the powerful meaning behind being true to your roots and embracing a part of your heritage. (continued p.3)
Summer Research Scholars Present at Trinity University

The Third Annual Trinity University Summer Undergrad Research Conference took place on the Trinity campus, Thursday, July 31, 2008, in the Great Hall. During the summer, Trinity McNair Summer Research Scholars developed research projects under the direction of Trinity University faculty. The roundtable presentation provided a brief overview of the students' projects and addressed some of the joys and frustrations of undergraduate research.

Scholars found the presentations invaluable in educating them not only about each others' research, but also about presenting their research in a professional setting.

McNair Summer Research Scholars, Mentors and Research Topics

Gordon Abner (Dr. Ejikeme)
Why Chicago? Push and Pull Factors that led to Chicago’s Great Migration during the period of 1940-1960

Domale Dube (Dr. Delgado)
Racial Identity Formation and Children of African Immigrants

Patrice Durden (Dr. McCAughrin)
Health Care Issues in the African Community

Celeste Garcia (Dr. Tynes)
The History of Upward Bound and Trinity University’s “Shot in the Dark”

Daniel Large (Dr. Hertel)
The Role of Process Independence in Think/No-Think Forgetting

Maria Cristina Lopez (Dr. Urquijo-Ruiz)
The Redevelopment of Main Plaza in San Antonio, Texas: A Pentadic Analysis of Urban Communication and Public Space

Amanda Martinez (Dr. Soto)
Geographic Analysis of Cultural Identity: An Examination of Latino Space in Bexar County

Kayla Mire (Drs. Huesca and Hansen)
Reality Construction and Spaces for Discussion: A Rhetorical Analysis of U.S. Immigration Advocacy

Roxana Rojas (Drs. Urquijo-Ruiz & Blanco-Cano)
An exploration of immigration issues through story: Cuando la luz del sol pierde su valor

Mark Sullivan (Dr. Clark)
Analysis of the Fractal Dimension of Cumulus Clouds

Miguel Guerra (Dr. Madrid)
Welcome 2008-09 Scholars!

The McNair Scholars Program at Trinity University would like to welcome and congratulate all 2008-2009 scholars. We look forward to a great school year and wish you the best of luck in your studies and participation in the program!

Gordon Abner
Jacqueline L. Arevalo
Stephanie S. Croatt
Domale Dube
Patrice L. Durden
Brittany L. Flores
Celeste Garcia
Miguel Guerra
Brandi D. Jackson
Paulius Kosmarciukas
Daniel A. Large
Maria Cristina Lopez
Reuben K. Lucas
Amanda L. Martinez
Kayla M. Mire
Charlie Mitchell
Huynh Nga Nguyen
Ima A. Oduok
Patricia Perez
Roxana J. Rojas
Mark E. Sullivan
Nathan Tovar
Jonathan Trejo

Scholar Spotlight... (continued from p.1)

Mike’s advice to any scholar or student considering studying abroad is, “Just do it!” He encourages students to pull themselves out of their comfort zones and explore places with an open mind.

Mexico has taught him that there is beauty in learning about a place with so much history. It is a cradle of civilization that oftentimes does not gain the credit it should, and he is blessed to have been given the opportunity to study in such an extraordinary country. If you would like to hear more about Mike’s abroad experience, you can find him helping out First Year students at Miller as a Resident Mentor.

Introducing McNair 2008-2009 Tutorial Faculty

Dr. Jack Leifer

Dr. Jack Leifer, Assistant Professor in the Engineering Sciences Department, joined the program as Tutorial Faculty in the Fall of 2007. Dr. Leifer will be mentoring McNair Scholars at the Sophomore Level.

Dr. Kelly Lyons

Dr. Kelly Lyons, Assistant Professor in the Biology Department, joined the McNair Scholars Program as a Tutorial Faculty member this Fall. Dr. Lyons will mentor Scholars at the Senior Level.

Dr. Rita Urquijo-Ruiz

Dr. Rita Urquijo-Ruiz, Assistant Professor in the Modern Languages & Literatures Department, joined the McNair Program as Tutorial Faculty in the Fall of 2007. Dr. Urquijo-Ruiz will be mentoring McNair Scholars at the Junior Level.

Congratulations McNair Scholars!

Jonelle Bailey is the first McNair Scholar to complete her undergraduate studies at Trinity University with a BA in Spanish/Religion on May 2008. She is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching at Trinity University. Jonelle also made the Dean’s List this past school year!

Stephanie Croatt, new McNair Scholar, has also made the Dean’s List for this past school year! Way to go Stephanie, and welcome to the program!

Mike climbing a pyramid in Chichén Itzá
Research Scholars Presenting at Upcoming Conferences

South Texas Regional McNair Scholars Research Conference-University of the Incarnate Word September 6, 2008 http://www.uiw.edu/mcnair/conference08.html

**Trinity McNair Scholars Presenting:**
Gordon Abner
Daniel Large


**Trinity McNair Scholars Presenting:**
Domale Dube
Celeste Garcia

UPCOMING MCNAIR RESEARCH CONFERENCES

University of Delaware National McNair Conference “Developing Excellence in Academia and Beyond” University of Delaware October 3-4, 2008 http://www.udel.edu/mcnairconference/

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**

17th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign October 31-November 2nd, 2008 http://www.omsa.uiuc.edu/annualevents/mcnair_content/

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**

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**McNair Tutorial Faculty:**
Jack Leifer, Ph.D., Engineering
Kelly Lyons, Ph.D., Biology
Rita Urquijo-Ruiz, Ph.D., Modern Languages & Literatures

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