



Reflections

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McNair Scholars Honors Ceremony



The annual McNair Scholars Honors Ceremony was held March 31st in Somers Main Lounge. Outgoing seniors were honored for their great accomplishments, while the new class of 2007 researchers was welcomed. The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is named for Ronald McNair, an astronaut on NASA's *Challenger* flight. It has been available to low-income, first-generation or underrepresented students at CSS since 1995 with over 200 participants in this time.

Former CSS McNair Scholar Julie Yaekel-Black Elk was the keynote speaker at the brunch. She has received her M.A. and is currently attending the University of Minnesota for her doctorate. Ms. Yaekel-Black Elk did her research on American Indians who have been incarcerated, and was recently given a national award by the American Psychological Association for minority research. Ms. Yaekel-Black Elk encouraged the scholars to not only receive their Master's degrees, but also spoke about the numerous opportunities available for those with a Ph.D.

Cohort 11 Scholars (Above) - Lindsey Bade, Amber Carrington, Joseph Dolence, and Pamela Knetter
(Not pictured) - George Diaz, Mike Dickinson, Noelle Ekwochi, and Emily Kyllonen

Cohort 12 Scholars (Right) -
Front Row- Amanda Hackenmueller, Ashley Mott, Samantha Szczech, Elizabeth Maganzini, Katie Sundstrom, Jackie Halberg, and Stacia Donovan.
Top Row- Leif Anderson, Fue Yang, and Frederick McDougall.
(Not pictured) - Karen Thornburg, Shirley Tillman, Mary Udermann, and Brady Zubke.



Leveille Participates in NCUR

On April 11th, Lindsay Leveille, accompanied by McNair Assistant Director Carrie Taylor Kemp, set out for the beautiful Dominican University of California to present at the 21st National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Dominican University is located in San Rafael, CA, a 45 minute drive north of San Francisco.

Over 2,200 students from 250 colleges across the nation attended the three-day symposium where undergraduate students presented their research in either poster or oral format.

All major fields of study were presented, from the sciences to visual art and dance. The title of Lindsay's presentation was "College Students and Faculty: Health and Academic/Work Performance." Lindsay is the second CSS McNair Scholar to apply to NCUR and the first to be accepted. Benefits from presenting at NCUR include receiving comments from faculty and experts outside your college or university, and having your work published in the Conference Proceedings - a great addition to any résumé.

Deadlines for this year's NCUR were in mid-November, 2006. If you are interested in applying for the 22nd NCUR in 2008 at Salisbury University, MD don't let the deadline pass you by!



Lindsay Leveille at NCUR 2007 in San Rafael, CA

UPRH-McNair Research Conference

A few of our McNair Scholars were invited to attend the second annual UPRH-McNair Research Symposium, April 20-22. This conference was held in beautiful Palmas del Mar, Puerto Rico and gave invited scholars the opportunity to present their research. More specifically, the UPRH-McNair Research Symposium is held in celebration of academic accomplishments, and it gives students a chance to meet personally with other university professors and students involved with academic research.

One of the McNair scholars to attend this symposium was Brady Zubke. Brady is a psychology major from CSS, and his purpose in attending was to present a small part of the study that is being conducted by Professor Andrine Lemieux, Ph.D., on the effects of stress hormones on cognitive ability. Brady focused his presentation on the effects of stress hormones on cognitive problem solving.

The annual symposium is held at the University of Puerto Rico-Humacao. The university hopes to set up an exchange program between the students of the United States and Puerto Rico.

Summer Research Opportunity at the Milwaukee School of Engineering in Engineering and Science

- Accepted candidates will work 40 hours per week from June 4 - August 11 and receive a \$3,500 stipend
- Must have completed sophomore year, enrolled for fall term, and have full-time status with a 3.0 GPA
- Send: one page cover letter, one-page résumé, one-page statement indicating your interest in rapid prototyping and research, and why you should be selected, three letters of reference, and your transcript to bloor@msoe.edu by Friday, May 11, 2007

A Look at the Graduate Record Exam

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is a standardized test designed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to measure analytical, critical thinking and writing skills which is used by graduate schools to assess a student's academic potential. There are two separate tests: the GRE General Test (includes Analytical Writing) and the GRE Advanced Subject Test.

General Test: The General Test is composed of verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing. The GRE General Test is available only on computer. The Thomson Prometric Test Center, 4815 Burning Tree Road, Village Mall, Suite 204, Duluth, MN, offers the computerized version for \$130.00. You can take the GRE on the computer during the first 3 weeks of the month in February through September. Taking the test over the summer is extremely beneficial; focus should be on the senior project and applications to grad schools during the school year.

Subject Tests: measure knowledge and understanding of a specific subject area. Subject tests are available in the following 8 areas:

Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
Chemistry
Literature in English
Physics

Biology
Computer Science
Mathematics
Psychology

Not all schools require the subject test for admission, so check your prospective graduate schools' requirements before registering to take the subject test. You must register for the test directly with ETS by completing and returning the envelope in the center of the GRE registration materials. If you need to take a GRE Subject Test, it is the paper and pencil version. This fee is \$130.00.

GRE Information and Registration Bulletin may be obtained from the Career Center, McNair Program Assistant Director. Also, extensive information is available on-line including help to prepare for the exam at **www.gre.org**.

GRE ANALYTICAL WRITING ASSESSMENT

The writing samples are meant to measure test-takers' abilities to argue logically, a skill that the rest of the test does not measure. The writing section requires students to complete tasks similar to what they will be doing in graduate school.

The writing assessment comprises two essays: one in which the test-taker has to argue a position on an issue, and one in which she or he has to criticize an argument and its supporting evidence.

2007 NASA MUST Scholarship

- Open to all students in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
- Approximately 100 scholarships of one-half of tuition (up to \$10,000) and a \$5,000 stipend for summer research at a NASA center
- Must be a U.S. citizen, attending an accredited US college/university full-time with at least a 3.0 GPA
- Students from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply (women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and persons with disabilities)
- Apply online at <http://scholarships.hispanicfund.org/applications/subsectionID.1,pageID.139/default.asp>
- Deadline is May 31, 2007

**The College of St. Scholastica
McNair Program Staff**

**1200 Kenwood Avenue, Box 2549
Duluth, MN 55811-4199**

Director: Kathleen Cargill, M.A.
Assistant Director: Carrie Taylor Kemp, M.A.
Administrative Assistant: Pamela Christensen
Student Writers: Marty Fredrick, Stacey Rugroden,
Jon Ahlgren, and Ben Cavallin

Tower 2130 www.css.edu/mcnair 218-723-5932

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POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

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McNair Scholar Milestones

Congratulations to the Cohort 11 scholars accepted to graduate school!

Lindsey Bade, University of Minnesota - Biochemistry

Michael Dickinson, University of Denver - Social Work

Joseph Dolence, University of Iowa and Mayo Clinic - Biochemistry and Biology (enrolling at the Mayo Clinic)

Noelle Ekwochi, University of Minnesota - Biochemistry; Creighton and St. Louis University - Medical School (enrolling at St. Louis University)

Pamela Knetter, University of Illinois at Chicago - Biology and Art

Natalie Muehlbauer, Monmouth University (NJ) - Social Work

Virginia Thayer, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and University of Louisville - Exercise Physiology (enrolling at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)

Andrea Toland, Monmouth University (NJ) - Social Work

Cohort 12 scholars with off-campus summer research placements:

Leif Anderson, an immersion experience in Japan and China - History

Mary Udermann, University of South Alabama-Mobile - Exercise Physiology

Lindsay Leveille, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (NJ) - Biology

Elizabeth Maganzini, University of Minnesota-Duluth - Biology

Katie Sundstrom, Michigan State University - English and History

A New Fulbright Scholar!

Congratulations to
Teddy Thompson (Cohort 8) on
his Fulbright Scholarship! He
will study for the 2007-2008
academic year in Iceland. We
believe this to be the first
Fulbright awarded to a CSS
student. In addition, Teddy was
recently accepted to William
Mitchell School of Law.