

Director's Summer Newsletter

McNair Scholars Program ~ The College of St. Scholastica ~ Duluth, MN

July 24, 2007

Director's Personal Message: It's nearly the end of July . . . I had my furnace on the first week to take the chill out of the air. The graduate school visits to Madison and Milwaukee were very successful. We all learned much about travel these days . . . challenges in packing (pack light; no lap top) and take snack packs. General reading is a good idea to while away the extra time you may spend in the airports. Thanks to Dr. Jennifer Maki, to Ronelle Bass and to scholar alum Jamie Olson for sharing graduate school information/teaching math to the CSS McNair scholars this summer. Good to get the inside scoop on graduate programs and to prepare for the GRE. Kathleen

Hmong International Freedom Celebration: a Site for Scholar Research

Fue Yang gathered 115 surveys from Hmong people ages 18-34 in his research on the acculturation of Hmong to US culture. Interesting facts about this fascinating newest group of immigrants: MN has the largest Hmong population outside of SE Asia; the Hmong homeland is Laos; 4 Hmong have been elected to school boards in MN and WI; and MN has its first Hmong legislator. Check out the Hmong Cultural Center in St. Paul.

Featured Graduate Schools:

Dr. Jennifer Maki, CSS Chemistry professor and McNair scholar alum, Jamie Olson have been good resources for McNair scholars interested in graduate programs at Iowa State University (www.iastate.edu) and U of Michigan (www.umich.edu), respectively.

For State social work scholars you might consider a PhD at Iowa State in sociology for your career interests in addressing problems in inequality, ethnic relations, social change and development. Biology majors, why not take a look at Iowa's program in molecular, cellular and developmental biology or genetics or toxicology or neuroscience? Psychology majors at Iowa State can earn a PhD in social, counseling or cognitive psychology. Anthropologists receive a well-rounded doctoral preparation in cultural, archaeological, linguistic and biological anthropology. Iowa State might be a quick group trip in August; let me know if you are interested.

The U of Michigan is a Research I facility at which you may earn a **doctorate** in social work, psychology, anthropology and a number of biology/biochemistry subfields. Check out the Museum of Anthropology, Museum of Paleontology, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology or the Nichols Arboretum. And for those interested in medical science, take a look at the Medical Scientist Training Program (an MD/PhD program).

Great News

Joe Dolence started his graduate studies at the Mayo Graduate School at the end of June. He reports he has jumped right into the readings and has his own office! Lindsey Leveille is working hard at Rutgers University and enjoying some fun time in New York City. Jackie Halberg just received the Talbots Scholarship – only one of 10 awarded in the nation. Congratulations!

McNair Scholar Visited the University of Wyoming

Shirley Tillman went to the University of Wyoming to visit faculty in the departments of Geography, and Anthropology. She reports that the people in the school and the town were very welcoming, making her trip enjoyable and productive. She is applying to UW! Special thanks to Zackie Salmon, UW McNair Director who personally assisted Shirley while she was in Laramie.

Director Recognized

At the Annual Business Meeting for the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), Kathleen Cargill was honored with the *Volunteer of the Year 2007 Award* “in recognition of outstanding leadership.” CUR is a professional organization of people from the sciences, social sciences and now the humanities whose job it is to promote research opportunities to undergraduate students. Each of you will register your research with CUR so that prospective graduate programs can learn about your work and invite you to apply to their program. Also, Kathleen is the Chair-Elect of the MN ACE Network 2007-2008. The MN ACE (American Council on Education) is a professional organization that promotes women in higher education through the Office of Women in Higher Education. This network provides training for women and a chance to meet others in higher education through state, regional and national conferences.

Visiting the University of North Dakota – Grand Forks

We are headed to Grand Forks, ND on **August 20-21** for the third year....they love McNair scholars at the University of North Dakota (www.und.edu). UND’s successful McNair program was one of the original 14 funded in the late 1980s. We will have a graduate school orientation and tour of the campus the first afternoon; the second day will be for your individual appointments with UND faculty members.

UND has several **doctoral programs** in: Anatomy and Cell Biology; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Biology; Chemistry; Microbiology and Immunology; and Criminal Justice. **Master’s degrees** only may be found in Social Work; Sociology; or Geography.

Noteworthy: Kathryn Kingsley and Nate Lambert, CSS scholar alums, are enrolled at UND right now. We plan to meet them at dinner the first evening, if their schedules permit.

For those of you interested in **studying abroad** ~ combining that with Social Work, for example ~ UND has opportunities in Cameroon, India, Australia, Japan, Canada, Germany, UK, New Zealand, Norway,

Sweden, China, France, Greece, Iceland and Mexico. See Office for International Programs (OIP) or ask the graduate faculty how you can combine/enhance your graduate program with field experience abroad.

Check out the **American Indian Student Services**, the **UND Women’s Center** or the **African-American Center**. UND is a very inclusive campus.

More interesting goodies at UND:

Center for Rural Health operated through the UND Medical School; the **Center for Excellence in Neuroscience** (especially studies in Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson’s Disease); **Center for Innovation** to grow entrepreneur ventures and foster innovation; **Positron Imaging Research Laboratory** to research neurodegenerative diseases and drug addiction; and the faculty of the **Social Science Research Institute** are interested in basic and applied social science research (operated through the Department of Sociology).

Thought: **Through the McNair Program, we assist you in building a life, not just a profession.....**