

Director's Fall Newsletter

Special Edition

McNair Scholars Program ~ The College of St. Scholastica ~ Duluth, MN 2007

Director's Personal Announcement: Outstanding News! The McNair Program has been fully funded for the next four years!!! The news arrived from Congressman Jim Oberstar's office in late September. McNair is a TRiO Program funded by the US Education Department. A big 'thank you' to the McNair team and to Institutional Advancement staff Janet Rosen and Brenda Kimlinger for their terrific grant writing. We did it!

McNair Program Recruiting Students Interested in Graduate Studies

Applications are now available in three McNair Program Offices (Tower Hall 2134, 2136, 2138). Students interested in completing a doctoral degree ~ any where in the world ~ are encouraged to seek information and an application from McNair staff. Eligibility criteria include: applicants must be income eligible and a first generation college student, or a student of color (Black American/ Native American/Hispanic) and should have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

The CSS McNair Program has been on campus for 12 years and is extremely successful. We have a

72% placement rate in graduate school (the national average is about 22%) and scholars have enrolled in doctoral programs at such prestigious institutions as: Mayo Clinic, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, University of North Dakota, University of Florida, Purdue and the University of Minnesota.

Did you know that doctoral students are paid a living stipend and get free tuition and health insurance? Graduate school is definitely a goal that pays off!

CSS Undergraduate Research Poster Session

On September 12, CSS held its 12th annual Undergraduate Research Poster Session in Somers Main Lounge. It was a huge success ~ 13 McNair Scholars and 5 other CSS scholars presented. Included in the poster session were:

Front row: Brady Zubke, Jackie Halberg, Stacia Donovan, Samantha Szczech, Ashley Mott, Jennifer Krieger, Mary Udermann, Elizabeth Maganzini. Back row: Fue Yang, Christian Toonstra, Leif Anderson, Carlos Villamizar, Shirley Tillman, Lindsay Leveille. Missing: Dana Gammelgaard, Alex Strachota, Katie Sundstrom, Andrea Toland.



Snapshots from the CSS Undergraduate Research Poster Session



Top photo: Katie Sundstrom with mentor Bill Hodapp
Bottom photo: Elizabeth Maganzini & Lindsay Leveille explain their research to on-lookers

Top photo: Samantha Szczech explains her research to Darryl Dietrich & Amanda Hackenmueller.
Bottom photo: Fue Yang discusses Hmong culture.

Women in Biomedical Careers: Check out the good news from NIH

The [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) is committed to furthering the careers of both women and men in biomedical science and bioengineering research fields. A major part of the mandate of the [Office of Research on Women's Health \(ORWH\)](#), part of the [NIH Office of the Director](#), is to develop opportunities and programs to support recruitment, retention, re-entry, and advancement of women in biomedical careers. To identify barriers to women's professional advancement in the biomedical community, the ORWH sponsored public hearings and a workshop on women in biomedical careers that resulted in the report, *Women in Biomedical Careers: Dynamics of Change, Strategies for the 21st Century*, which inspired the development of a wide variety of programs and strategies at the NIH to support women's careers.

The [National Academies](#) has released a report, [Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering](#), that called for an urgent, broad national effort to maximize the potential of women scientists and engineers in academia. The [Committee on Women in Academic Science and Engineering](#) that produced the report was chaired by Donna Shalala, Ph.D., President of the University of Miami and former Secretary of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#), and offered a broad range of recommendations for universities, government agencies, and Congress. NIH Director Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni created the [NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers](#) to examine the issues raised in the National Academies report and to respond to the challenges issued to government funding agencies to maximize the potential of women scientists and engineers.

Minnesota ACE Women's Network: Being a Visible Leader

On November 1 & 2, two McNair scholars ~ **Jackie Halberg** and **Ashley Mott** ~ will attend the state conference for the MN ACE Women's Network, accompanied by **Carrie Taylor Kemp** and **Kathleen Cargill**. Actually, there are several CSS faculty/staff who will attend this event held at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul. Conference theme is: *Being a Visible Leader*. Attendees will have a choice of 1 breakout session morning and afternoon on topics such as: preparing to advance your career, etiquette in the workplace, life coaching and rethinking your identity. Those attending the conference will report back on what we have learned so that all may share!

Great News from McNair Scholar Alums:

Nate Lambert recently wrote that in 2.5 more years he will have his Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from University of North Dakota. And he is already considering post-doctoral study in either Ireland or Switzerland. Way to go, Nate!

Molley Benoit Perry has moved back to Minnesota and visited the CSS campus last week. She is applying for several positions in higher education after having taught in the Dominican Republic. Good luck to Molly, and welcome home!

Leif Anderson and **Andrea Toland** graduated this past August. Leif is applying to graduate programs in international studies. Andrea is already attending graduate school in social work at Monmouth (along with **Natalie [Muehlbauer] Solga**). Andrea and Natalie were chosen for internships at the UN!! I guess CSS students really do learn to touch the world!

Linda Tougas is studying for the GRE and plans to apply to the doctoral program in Social Work at the U of Michigan.

Brady Zubke is flying out this week to Arlington, VA, to attend the Compact for Faculty Diversity Conference. This conference is for minority students, most of whom have completed a PhD, who are looking for faculty member jobs. McNair scholars are the only undergraduates invited to meet faculty, graduate school representatives and graduate students. For the first time, also, CSS will recruit new faculty who attend the conference; Dr. Larry McGahey is taking the lead on this.

Samantha Szczech, **Stacia Donovan**, and **Jackie Halberg** presented at the 2-day St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference in mid-October, held at the DECC.

The College of St. Scholastica McNair Scholars Program

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TRiO

RONALD E. McNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

This TRIO Program is funded by the US Department of Education. The College of St. Scholastica does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, status regarding public assistance or local commission status in its programs, procedures and activities.

This Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is 100% federally funded at \$252,045 amount annually.

Graduate School Fellowships – University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Privately-Funded Fellowships:

Deadline: 12/3/07

- Each foundation listed will offer 1-3 fellowships
- \$21,000, plus tuition

To download applications, visit: <http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/ended/index.html>

Louise T. Dossall Fellowship	female PhD students in natural/ physical sciences & engineering
Stanwood Johnston Fellowship	biochemistry, chemistry, geology, geophysics, microbiology, or physics
Frieda Martha Kunze Fellowship	biochemistry, chemistry, or biomedical sciences
Harold Leonard Memorial Fellowship	graduate students researching film history, criticism, theory, or aesthetics
Eva O. Miller Fellowship	broad areas of psychology or statistics and measurement
Mark and Judy Yudof Fellowship	interdisciplinary work whose content focuses in science policy and ethics

All-University Graduate School Fellowships:

Deadline: 1/25/08

- must be nominated by graduate program's Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
- 75 available annually
- \$22,000, plus tuition & insurance
- graduate programs listing: <http://www.grad.umn.edu/programs/>