

Spring 2011

McNair Messenger- Spring 2011

McNair Staff

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ILACHE Conference at NEIU



Adelf Alvarado, Julia Gutierrez, Salvador Montes Victoria Neiman with Dr. Carlos Muñoz

Northeastern Illinois University hosted the 2011 **Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) conference** April 1st. This year's conference entitled "Securing our Future: Strengthening the Latino Presence in the Academy" featured **Dr. Rogelio Saenz**, sociologist and social demographer from Texas A & M University as the morning plenary session speaker.

Dr. Carlos Muñoz, professor emeritus, author and activist from the University of California, Berkeley, was the keynote speaker. Muñoz was the founding chair of the first Chicano Studies Department in the nation in 1968 at the California State University at Los Angeles and the founding chair of the National Association of Chicana & Chicano Studies. After delivering his keynote address, Dr. Muñoz viewed the conference poster presentation session in which McNair Scholars **Salvador Montes, Julia Gutierrez, Adelf Alvarado** and **Victoria Neiman** presented their research. Muñoz talked to the scholars about the importance of being Latino academics.

NEIU Foundation Donation

McNair Scholar **Alvin Cardona ('07)**, made a Northeastern Illinois University unrestricted fund donation in honor of the McNair Scholars Program. Alvin graduated from Roosevelt University in 2008 with a Master of Science in Journalism and he is currently working in his field.

Ronald E. McNair 25th Anniversary Celebration

On January 28th the academic and scientific community commemorated the 25th anniversary of the death of **Dr. Ronald E. McNair** on board the 1986 Challenger Shuttle mission. Institutions around the country marked the anniversary with presentations and conferences.

At NEIU, the McNair Program hosted a commemorative event that featured a moment of silence and a presentation in which Program Director **Dr. Kim Sanborn** talked about the impact this program has had at NEIU. Graduate Assistant **Wole (Cornelius) Williams** provided an overview of Dr. McNair's life and legacy. The celebration continued with a gathering of new and former Scholars and other members of the NEIU community.

Earlier in January, Scholar **Lakeesha Harris** attended the 25th Annual Commemorative Celebration and 10th National Research Symposium at the University of North Carolina A&T State University. Lakeesha, accompanied by Academic Skills Specialist **Alejandra Prieto-Mendoza**, participated in a tribute march through the campus to McNair Hall and a commemorative luncheon attended by McNair Scholars from across the country. **Dr. Randal D. Pinkett**, and **Carl S. McNair**, Ronald McNair's brother, spoke at the event.



Current and graduated McNair Scholars with Dr. Sanborn at the 25th anniversary event at NEIU.

Black Heritage Month

The NEIU community celebrated Black Heritage Month in February with a series of talks and events around campus that involved the student body, faculty and staff members.

The celebration culminated in the Black Heritage Awards Ceremony held on February 25th during which **Lakeesha Harris** received the Student Award of Excellence. Past McNair recipients of Black Heritage Awards of Excellence **Eileen Rollerson ('04)** and **Gerald Chaney ('08)** attended the awards ceremony as did current Scholars **Shawnice Reid** and **Janean Watkins**. Chaney, who performs the National Anthem at local sporting events (notably White Sox games), sang the *Black National Anthem* at the awards ceremony.



McNair Scholars Eileen Rollerson, Lakeesha Harris and Gerald Chaney at the Black Heritage Awards Ceremony

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McNair Research Presentations

Seven Scholars presented research at the 13th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of North Texas February 18-20. Chemistry major **Adelf Alvarado** presented *Method Development and Validation for the Assay of Gatifloxacin in Tequin Injectable Pharmaceutical Using Reversed-Phase Liquid Chromatography*; **Wanda Dukes** (Inner City Studies) presented *Homeless Youth: The Affects of Youth Homelessness and Foster Care*; **Lynda Gibson** (Psychology) presented *Correlates of Family Functioning and Behavior Problems in Children*; **Victoria Neiman** (Psychology) presented *The Role of Scaffolding in Latino Parent-Child Interactions*; **Julia Gutierrez** (Women's Studies) presented *The Impact of Gang Violence on Latinas*; **Pearl Martinez** (Bilingual-Bicultural Education) presented *Factors Affecting Chicago Latinos' Attainment of Higher Education Post Incarceration: The Chicago Lockdown*; and **Latrese Monden** (Health and Wellness) presented *The Cost of Inequality: The Relationship between Social Support and Maternal Perceptions of Stress among Low-income African-American Women*. The conference featured a graduate school fair and over 100 research presentations.



Dr. Kim Sanborn, Lynda Gibson, Julia Gutierrez, Victoria Neiman, Pearl Martinez, Alejandra Prieto-Mendoza, Adelf Alvarado, Latrese Monden, and Wanda Dukes at the 13th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars' Conference in Denton, Texas

Scholar **Lakeesha Harris** (Women's Studies) presented her research *Out of Faith: LGBTQ African Americans and Their Barriers to Faith Based Community Service* at the 10th National Research Symposium at the University of North Carolina A&T State University.



Lakeesha Harris with Carl McNair at the 10th National Research Symposium at the University of North Carolina A&T State University

Conferences and Symposia

This spring semester some of our scholars participated at two important events: the Annual Social Work Conference and the 6th Annual Women's Studies Student Symposium, both of them celebrated on April 8th.

The Social Work conference started with the greetings from Provost **Frank Lawrence** and **Dr. Jade Stanley**, followed by speakers and presentations such as the alumni panel and the Community Violence panel. McNair Scholars **Perla Lopez** and **Daniel Olavarria** were part of the session led by **Dr. Francisco Gaytan** called "*Being Latino, Being Immigrant, Being a First Generation College Student at NEIU: Future Social Workers Helping Others by Helping Themselves*"

The NEIU Women's Studies Symposium began with a greeting from **Dr. Laurie Fuller**. McNair Scholars were among the presenters: **Julia Gutierrez** presented "*Poor Women of Color in the U.S.: Agency vs. Structure*" and **Lakeesha Harris** presented "*Sex Work: Removing the Stigma through a Harm Reduction and Restorative Justice Framework*." **Dr. Olivia Perlow** (Sociology) and **Dr. Kristen Over** (English and University Honors Program) led discussion after each presentation.

McNair Alums Back at NEIU as Instructors



Keith Atterberry

Two graduates of the NEIU McNair Scholars Program, **Keith Green ('07)** and **Keith Atterberry ('09)**, joined the NEIU teaching community as instructors and now teach classes they attended as undergraduates. Green, who received his Master's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 2009 and who recently accepted the position of Director of Federal Affairs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, teaches two classes: *Social Welfare Policy II* and *Research & Quantitative Application in Social Work*. In the Fall he will begin working on his Ph.D. at UW Madison. Atterberry, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois Chicago, teaches a Justice Studies research methods course, *Skills For Inquiry I*.

McNair Program Director Dr. Kim Sanborn said, "It's very gratifying to see Keith and Keith return to NEIU to teach. I know they have a lot to offer their students; they've been well prepared to teach undergraduates, and they are both excellent role models for their students."



Keith Green

New Cohort Starts

Twelve students were selected to the 9th cohort of the NEIU McNair Scholars Program. Their selection resulted from a competitive process which considered each applicant's career goals, academic achievement and potential for graduate study. The new Scholars, their academic majors and McNair Faculty Mentors are:

Eddie Barraza, Psychology
"McNair has allowed me, as an undergrad, to tackle my true interest in social psychology. Through research and study that the rigorous program demands I feel better prepared to enter a graduate program and achieve my goal of being the first in my family to successfully complete college and eventually the first to receive a Ph.D."
Mentor: Maureen Erber, Ph.D.

Shawnice Reid, Social Work
Mentor: Job Ngwe, Ph.D.

Eugene Slaughter, Social Work
"The McNair Scholars Program means the world to me. I can remember the day I was notified that I was accepted into the program, how elated I was. I was at work and I jumped for joy! It also means that I have worked really hard to pursue my goal of one day obtaining a Ph.D. It also means all of my hard work has paid off. It means with the right attitude I can do anything because I have a support network"
Mentor: Jacqueline Anderson, Ph.D.

Janean Watkins, History
"For me, being a McNair Scholar means that I am contributing to, and gaining from a legacy. I am preparing for a part of my life that many aren't fortunate enough to experience. It makes me feel proud, determined, and accomplished."
Mentor: Edie Rubinowitz, M.A.

Daniel Olavarria, Social Work
Mentor: Francisco Gaytan, Ph.D.

Jeremy Carter, Social Work,
Mentor: Jade Stanley, MSW, Ed.D.

Ana Karen Gaytan, Psychology
"Being a McNair Scholar is a privilege and an honor; it has given me an opportunity to expand my wings even further to think outside box by gaining more knowledge and polishing my research skills."
Mentor: Amanda Dykema-Engblade Ph.D.

Sara Liceaga, Spanish Education
Mentor: Selina Mushi, Ph.D.

Perla Lopez, Social Work
Mentor: Francisco Gaytan, Ph.D.

Bilal Hussein, Sociology
"Being a McNair Scholar means being committed to success and being surrounded by peers who support me

to full fill my dreams and accomplish my goals.
Mentor: Barbara Sherry, Ph.D.

Diana Hernandez, Psychology
As a Latina who comes from a first-generation, low-income family, being a McNair Scholar opens doors that will help me pursue a Ph.D. A McNair Scholar not only dreams but achieves."
Mentor: Breckie Church, Ph.D.

Theodora Koumoutsakis, Psychology.
"Being a McNair Scholar is a dream come true. I am able to get the help I need for graduate school to accomplish my career in Clinical Psychology. I love that I have the opportunity to do a research project and show my abilities and dedication to research."
Mentor: Breckie Church, Ph.D.

UIC SROP

Four NEIU McNair Scholars were accepted to the 2011 University of Illinois Chicago Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP). **Resney Gugwor, Jeremy Carter and Eugene Slaughter and Diana Hernandez** were selected from hundreds of applicants. At SROP they will have research experience with a UIC faculty mentor, GRE training and attend a research conference in July where they will participate in round table discussions of their SROP research.

Alumni News

Tammy Martin ('09) is enrolled at NEIU in the History MA program.

Abel Arango ('04) is in the third year of his PhD program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Emilio Caban ('09) is at Ball State University in pursuit of his masters in the sociology department. Emilio will graduate May 7th, 2011.

Alicia Quintero ('04) graduated last summer with a master's in Latin American Literatures and Cultures at NEIU.

Jose Fulgencio ('10) is in pursuit of his master's in Political Science at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. Jose serves as teaching assistant.

Norman Davis ('09) is enrolled at Roosevelt University pursuing a master's in the sociology program. He expects to graduate in Spring 2012.

Michael Magee ('04) will begin the Ph.D. program in higher education at the University of South Florida in the fall. He was awarded a McNair Fellowship (full tuition and stipend).

Maximo Marin ('04) is finishing his second year of medical school, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Gwen Austin ('08) is on track to graduate with a Master's of Science in Criminal Justice from Lewis University.

Silva Avila ('06) graduated with a master's in Psychology in 2010.

Chrys Hart ('08) graduated with an MA in English at the University of Alabama in the Spring of 2010.

Recent Awards

Over the past months, McNair Scholars have received several awards in recognition of their hard work and academic achievement. **Wanda Dukes** received the National Society of Leadership and Success Award; **Julia Gutierrez** received the Student Leadership and Academic Achievement award; **Salvador Montes** was inducted into *Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges*; **Lakeesha Harris** received the Lincoln Laureate Student Award of Excellence (*see story, page 1*); **Lynda Gibson** received the Fall and Spring College of Arts and Science Tuition Scholarships; **Latrese Monden** received the College of Education Scholarship. In addition, Latrese was inducted to the Kappa Delta Pi International Honors Society.



Latrese Monden at the Kappa Delta Pi International induction

December Grads

Two McNair Scholars graduated from NEIU in December:

Juan Ibarra Flores, double major in History and Sociology, graduated cum laude.
Mentor: Michael Armato, Ph.D.

Brandi Williams, Elementary Education-Teacher Education major. Since graduation, Brandi has been accepted to the Syracuse University of New York MA program in Pan African Studies.
Mentor: Durene I. Wheeler, Ph.D.

TRIO NEWS

Given the state of the national economy, there has been a focused effort for the retrenchment of national programs in hopes of reducing the national deficit. Recent discourse on budget cuts puts education funding within the cross hairs of these cuts, from state to federally funded education programs. House Republicans put forth a bill on February 10, 2011 to cut TRIO funding by 24 million dollars for fiscal year 2011. In contrast, the Obama administration unrolled a budget proposal for fiscal year 2012 that requested 77 Billion dollars from congress to fund the Department of Education.

On April 14, a compromise was reached in H.R. 1473, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011. This bill cut TRIO by a full \$26.6 million and will result in the loss of approximately 150,000 TRIO and GEAR UP students. Ultimately, a total of 215,000 low-income, potential first-generation students will have lost the opportunity to participate in TRIO programs due to funding cuts during both the Bush and Obama Administrations.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2012/assets/education.pdf>

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Program Staff

Kim Sanborn, Ph.D. <i>Director</i>	Alejandra Prieto-Mendoza, M.A. <i>Academic Skills Specialist</i>
Imani Beard <i>Clerical Assistant</i>	Cornelius Williams <i>Graduate Assistant</i>

Contact us

Phone: 773-442-4254
Fax: 773-442-4252
Email: K-Sanborn@neiu.edu

Program Office: B 141



5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4699

McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM