Announcements

Graduation Applications Due!
Apply for graduation by March 5th, 2012 if you want your name printed in the commencement packets.

Timesheets Due On March 14th and March 28th, 2012.
Please see Kimberly Freeman with questions or concerns.

McNair Scholars Society will be meeting Thursday evenings from 4:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the McNair Office. Please join us!

Congratulations: Jennifer Alexander, Julie Krupa and Anthony Sparkling for being accepted into graduate school!

March Madness

Our Scholars are well on their way to conducting their research with their faculty mentors. Scholars are in the process of completing drafts with the assistance of our Writing Specialist, Erin Ellison. Balancing schoolwork, personal research, extra curricular activities and one’s home life is an achievement. Keep up the good work, Scholars! All your hard work, trials and tribulations will pay off!

Reminders:

Cultural Event: March 16th, 2012
Contact us if you are interested in joining our Toledo Art Museum visit.

Fundraising: March 14th, 2012
“TRUEMU McNair Scholar Sponsor” shirts go on sale!

Academics: March 14th, 2012
Second drafts of your research are due.
Justin Ford

Justin earned his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University and is currently a graduate student in EMU’s Educational Leadership Program, studying Higher Education and Student Affairs. He meets with Scholars tri-weekly to engage them in interpersonal activities. Scholars get an opportunity to reflect on their values and priorities while getting to know members of their cohort.

Justin’s seminars include: “Balancing Class Work and Research;” “Dimensions of Diversity” and “Understanding our Bias.” Justin engages Scholars in group activities, role-plays, questionnaires and similar activities. Justin explains, “It is easier to reflect on yourself before you try to figure others out.”

Second year Scholar Briana McKoy says, “Justin is empowering and makes you think critically about your future and your goals. He prepares us for real world interpersonal issues.”

Shamrock Milkshake Cupcake

- 4 egg whites
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk or sour milk*
- 1/4 cup green creme de menthe**
- 1 recipe White Chocolate Frosting

1 teaspoon vanilla
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 3/4 cups sugar
1/2 cup shortening
Green food coloring

Allow egg whites to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, line twenty to twenty-two 2-1/2-inch muffin cups with paper bake cups. In a medium bowl stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a 2-cup measuring cup combine the buttermilk and the creme de menthe. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large mixing bowl beat shortening with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Gradually add sugar, about 1/4 cup at a time, beating on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla. Add egg whites, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk mixture to shortening mixture, beating on low speed after each addition just until mixture is combined.

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each about two thirds full. Use the back of a spoon to smooth out batter in cups. Then bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until tops spring back when lightly touched. Cool cupcakes in muffin cups on wire racks for 5 minutes. Remove cupcakes from muffin cups. Cool completely on wire racks.

Divide White Chocolate Frosting between two bowls. Tint one portion with green food coloring. Spoon frosting into a pastry bag fitted with a large star tip. Pipe white and green frostings onto tops of cupcakes to resemble four-leaf clovers. Recipe makes 20 to 22 (2-1/2 inch) cupcakes.
Julie Krupa

has been accepted at Indiana University, Central Florida University, Michigan State University and The University of North Carolina-Charlotte. She will be pursuing a Master's in Criminology/Criminal Justice.

Julie says, “If I had not become a McNair Scholar, I would not have completed any undergraduate research, which is necessary to get into a good graduate program!”

Her advice for new Scholars: “Do not be intimidated by McNair. It can have that effect initially. Also, do assignments early. Don’t wait until the last minute to complete assignments. You don’t want to fall behind!”

Anthony Sparkling

Anthony has been accepted into two graduate programs, Michigan State University’s Master of Science in Construction Management and The University of Florida’s Master of Science in Building Construction!

Anthony explains, “The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Eastern Michigan University has thoroughly prepared me for graduate studies. The level of information and opportunities we are exposed to has proven very beneficial. The research training and writing experience has laid the foundation for my future endeavors. Additionally, the MRI seminars and workshops provided the much-needed instruction, encouragement and support necessary to continue into graduate studies. The staff’s dedication, commitment, and encouragements have pushed me to reach for all my aspirations and career goals. I have a clear vision of my future as a result of the awakening I received in the program.”

Victor Torres

Victor has been nominated by his university supervisor in Student Teaching, and picked by the Dean of the College of Education to receive the Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Teaching!

Furthermore, the Special Education faculty have selected Victor as a Scholar of Excellence! Victor has been invited to attend the "Celebration of Excellence" award ceremony on March 19th to be recognized for his achievements.
Senior Scholar Spotlight: Jennifer Alexander

I'm originally from Detroit, Michigan and a graduate of Cass Tech High School. When I was in 10th grade I decided that I wanted to become a journalist. Then I wanted to be the next Barbara Walters. I talked to a friend of my dad's who was a print journalist and she gushed over Eastern, so I decided that I would come to EMU.

I wanted job security while studying in the English department. That's how I ended up an English Education major.

Since coming to Eastern, I've questioned that career choice MANY times. After I took a Social Foundations class, it was ‘game over.’ I knew exactly what I wanted to go to graduate school for and which areas I wanted to focus upon. It didn't feel like a “safe choice” anymore because I took my career path to a level beyond staying in the secondary classroom and being a career teacher.

I want to make changes in education that will benefit students who are constantly being overlooked and told they are inferior, whether I do that through the non-profit sector, policy, or educating the next generation of teachers.

I'm currently student teaching at Ypsilanti High School. My interest in the relationship between society and education has shaped how I observe and interact with my students.

So many of my students are Special Ed., low income, at-risk, or just knock-out-drag-out socially disadvantaged, and even though no Teacher Education program could prepare me for what's going on in the school, I wouldn't change my placement for anything. I absolutely love being in the classroom with the students, and I constantly find myself wanting to tell them about the McNair Scholars Program, hoping that one day they'll be on their way to graduate school too.

McNair made me BELIEVE in the future “Dr. Alexander, Ph.D.” Without McNair I never would have done an extensive research project, presented in front of a national audience, participated in Eastern's MLK celebration as a presenter (something undergraduates just do not do), gone to the opera and actually enjoyed it, or learned so much about society through my cohort's research.

I intend to pursue a Master’s in the Cultural and Social Foundations of Education. With encouragement from McNair, I applied to Columbia’s Teacher's College, Syracuse, Rutgers, University of Pennsylvania, University of Edinburgh, and King's College and I’ve already been accepted by Syracuse!

So, Future Scholars: Don't get lazy. Don't give up. Support your cohort. Call yourself “Dr.” until you forget the time in your life when you never thought graduate school and doctoral studies were an option. Lastly, have fun and enjoy the McNair experience!