McNair Scholars
Smart News

Follow us on Twitter: #EMUmcnair & Facebook: EMU McNair Scholars Group

March 2013

Announcements, Events & Reminders!

Grad School Admissions!

Yasmeen Prince: New York University and the University of Pittsburgh’s Master’s in Social Work programs!

LaNita Sledge: Syracuse University, the University of Maryland and Columbia University’s Teacher’s College!

TEDxEMU – Friday, March 15th
Sade Wilson presented her McNair research! Congratulations, Sade!

Registration Starts March 19th
Honors Students begin at 8 am for 60 or more credits; noon for 59 credits or fewer.
Non-Honors Students: Senators - March 22nd
Juniors - March 25th
Sophomores - March 26th
Freshmen - March 27th
See an Advisor in your Major!

Apply to Graduate School!!
EMU Graduate Fair! Saturday, April 6th. 10 am - Noon - SC ballroom. Register online!

Cultural Events:
Women’s History Month is ongoing and there are many great presentations! Go to the following address, http://www.emich.edu/womenshistorymonth/index.html for a full list of related events.

McNair Scholars Present at Undergraduate Symposium
Five of your fellow scholars will be presenting at this year’s Undergraduate Symposium on Friday, March 22, in the Student Center. Please be sure to attend the Symposium and complete the related homework assignments.

Cherese Colston – 9:00 a.m. in the EZONE: “Seeing the Unseen: A Content Analysis of Underrepresented Groups & Characters in Prime-Time Television.”

Caprisha Curry – 12:30 p.m. in room 350 SC: “A Communication Analysis of Online Profiles of Same-Sex Couples Hoping to Adopt.”

Troy Deskins – 11:30 a.m. in room 344 SC. “The Effect of Recall Fluency on Prejudice.” Poster Presentation, 8:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. in room 310A/B: “The Influence of Recall Fluency on Stereotypic Thinking.”

Brittany Galloway – Poster Presentation, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in room 310A/B SC: “NCAA Division I Athletic Directors’ Leadership.”

Pictured above: McNair presenters at the 2012 Undergraduate Symposium: Shanilinin Calderon, Julie Krupa and Isra Daraiseh.

Something to think about: The 55 articles published in the McNair Scholars Research Journal have been downloaded 30,538 times as of the end of February, 2013. Your research really matters!! ALWAYS do your BEST work!!
What made you decide to go into Social Work? As a Social Worker I will be able to empathize with many of my clients. I have personally witnessed many of the socio-economic issues that my future clients may face. My personal experiences have given me a strong passion to advocate, empower, and serve those who are oppressed, vulnerable, and disadvantaged in society. I want to be an effective advocate for change.

What do you want to be in the future? I plan on going to graduate school in the fall to get my Master’s degree in Social Work. I want to be a clinical therapist, so I will be focusing on the clinical side of Social Work. However I want to get my Ph.D. in Social Work because I’m very interested in research and would like to teach Social Work.

Who is your mentor? Janet Reaves. She has been very supportive and helpful during this process.

What is your research about currently and what are you interested in researching in the future? My research topic is about the association between eating patterns of children with Autism and gastrointestinal disorders. This is important to understand because caregivers and health professionals can better treat GI symptoms if they are linked to diet. In the future I will like to focus on problems relating to mental health and treatments plans.

How has McNair helped you to accomplish your goals? The McNair program has kept me grounded and focused on my goals. The staff has given me the extra push when I need it and they have great expectations of me. When the expectations are high, a person tends to be very successful and that is what has helped me along the way. The McNair program is one big family and I’m proud to be apart of that.

Do you feel like all of your hard work has paid off now that you got into NYU and had a full-ride offered to you at University of Pittsburgh? Yes, I finally see it paying off and it feels great. I can definitely testify to the fact that hard works pays off!!

Tell us a bit about yourself: I was an Army brat, so I guess I'm from everywhere and nowhere. I was born in Japan, grew up mostly in Panama and Germany, and I have lived in Massachusetts, California, England, Nicaragua, and Mexico. I like political activism, traveling, and experiencing diverse cultures. I dislike needless rules and senseless bureaucracy.

Where did you go to school and what made you choose your academic field? I went to college at Brandeis in Massachusetts, and to grad school at the University of California at Berkeley. While studying Latin American politics in grad school, I was fascinated by the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, so some friends and I took buses one summer from Berkeley down to Nicaragua and spent a month there. After that I went to Nicaragua every chance I could, and after finishing my course work I ended up spending 5 years there working at a Central American research institute, until my dissertation advisor threatened to throw me out of the program if I didn't come back and finish. I think the experience of growing up in different parts of the world made me interested in understanding comparative and international politics. I wanted to understand all the passionate political conversation that was swirling around me.

What made you decide to do research and what do you love about it? I had an inspiring comparative politics professor in college, and I still remember doing a paper in his class on politics in post-Franco Spain. He encouraged me to read primary sources going back to the Spanish Civil War, and I got the magical feeling of being transported in time and space. My research in Nicaragua had me interviewing peasants in the mountains as they brought their sacks of coffee by burro to be weighed. Research with diverse social actors is a humbling reminder of our common humanity.

Any advice for McNair Scholars? First, have confidence in yourself. The McNair Program and EMU in general give opportunities to many students who are facing substantial obstacles in their lives, and perhaps few safety nets or support networks. Second, take intellectual risks and look for educational experiences that make you stretch outside your comfort zone. Remember that Mark Twain once said, "I've never let my school interfere with my education."