Congratulations Fall Graduates

- **Aissa Wandarama**, International Affairs Major.
- **Elisa Torres**, Management Major.
- **Jhazmin Taylor**, Psychology and Social Work Minor.

Other McNair Accomplishments

- **Walter Reggans’** paper, "The Predictable Cycle of Culture, Institutions, and Economic Development" was accepted for presentation at the National Association of African American Studies conference in Baton Rouge, LA.

- **Jhazmin Taylor** will present in the 2012 SRCD Themed Meeting, “Parenting Predictors of Healthy Diet and Activity among Low-income African American Preschoolers.”

- **Julie Krupa** has been accepted into three Sociology graduate programs: Michigan State University, Indiana University, and University of Florida. She also received the Honors Undergraduate Fellowship for the Winter of 2012.

- **Victor Torres** will be awarded the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Student Teaching; additionally, he will be awarded Scholar of Excellence during March’s Celebration of Excellence award ceremony.

- **Anthony Sparkling**, has been accepted to two graduate programs. Michigan State University’s Master of Science in Construction Management and University of Florida’s Master of Science in Building Construction are great programs.

Spotlighting McNair Scholars

**Carmen Grange**, second year Scholar, in the Speech Language Impairment Program, was highlighted on the EMU website this fall. She discussed the advantages McNair offers undergraduates and how our program has changed her college career and her life. To see her video please visit: [http://www.emich.edu/video/index.php?id=P178_recent](http://www.emich.edu/video/index.php?id=P178_recent)
McNair Graduate Students’ Accomplishments

- Samantha Cehaich was awarded a Master of Social Work degree and Certificate in Gerontology this past June 2011. She held an impressive 3.98 GPA!

- Janan Daniel celebrated the completion of a dual-degree program at the December 2010 Graduation Ceremony. She received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Occupational Therapy degree with a 3.48 GPA from EMU.

- Lisa Ghiglianza completed a Master’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney in Australia.

- Former McNair Scholars Jasmine Lee and Jason Phillips, received Master of Social Work degrees from University of Michigan, December 2010.

- EMU’s own Anthony Sledge completed a Master of Science degree in Technology Studies/Technology Management with a 3.58 GPA.

- Former McNair Scholar, Mary Sue Storie, was the recipient of a Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University spring 2011.

- We congratulate Dara Walker, upon receiving a Master of Arts in Pan-African Studies at Syracuse University. Much success is anticipated toward her Ph.D. in African-American History at Rutgers University.

- Brian Holman continues studies at University of Michigan after receiving a Master of Science in Interior Design with a 3.98 GPA from EMU this April 2011.

- Mariano Marks is currently in the Physics Doctoral Program at Wayne State University.

New Scholars

- Kryn Ambs, from Troy, Michigan, is a sophomore studying Physics and Astronomy. Inspired by her job and EMU’s Physics Scholars Program, Kryn wants to learn as much as she can about the universe by earning an M.S. and Ph.D. in Astronomy.

- Akelah Burks, from Troy, Michigan, is a junior studying Clinical Lab Sciences. Akelah aims to research mental and physical genetic disorders in children by obtaining her M.A. and Ph.D. in Genetic Counseling.

- Naelah Burks, from Troy, Michigan, is a third year junior studying Occupational Therapy. Naelah desires to work with children by completing a combined Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in O.T. and plans to pursue her Ph.D. afterwards.

- Gabriel Green, from Pontiac, Michigan, is a first year transfer student studying Language, Literature and Writing and the author of two chapbooks, “The Confession Booth” and “Hear My Trumpet Sound.” Gabe’s passion for writing has motivated him to pursue his Ph.D. in English, Language, and Literature.

- Yasmeen Prince, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, is a junior majoring in Social Work. Yasmeen aspires to help individuals overcome mental health issues by becoming a licensed clinical social worker and plans to obtain her Ph.D. so she can teach.
Dr. Heather Neff’s Address to the Board of Regents: February 21, 2012

Members of the Board of Regents, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for affording me this opportunity to speak to you about the EMU McNair Scholars Program.

The McNair Program is a federally funded TRIO program designed to assist low-income, first generation students in admission and success in Doctoral studies.

While the majority of the two-hundred McNair Programs in the United States annually serve an average of 25 students, each year our McNair Program works with 35 – 40 students, from their sophomore through senior years, providing them with academic, cultural and highly personalized services.

According to federal guidelines, 2/3 of the students in a McNair Program must be low-income and first-generation; the remaining third comes from minority groups traditionally underrepresented in doctoral studies.

McNair Scholars at Eastern are high achievers: applicants must have a 3.0 GPA, though the program’s cumulative grade point is a 3.6. McNair Scholars represent every college in the University, and nearly half of our participants are also members of the Honors College.

Scholars attend two semester-long research seminars, and work with a faculty mentor in their academic discipline to produce a project worthy of inclusion in the Undergraduate Symposium. Juniors further develop their research into papers they present at the McNair Research Colloquium, as well as a national McNair conference. Their papers are subsequently published in our own scholarly journal, The McNair Scholars Research Journal.

But perhaps the most important thing for me for me to share with you today is the impact that the McNair Program has on the EMU community.

Over the 5-year life of our program, 83% of our students have been Pell-eligible. National research shows the 55% of undergraduates complete a Bachelor’s degree within six years; over 89% of McNair Scholars have completed their Bachelor’s degrees within 3 years of entering our program.

In our five years we have maintained a striking level of diversity, with an 8% Native American, 13% Hispanic and 46% African American population.

Over 25% of our graduates represent the STEM disciplines, and in our next grant cycle it will be an absolute priority for our program to work closely with STEM departments to recruit, support, and place more STEM students in graduate programs.

Most importantly: we have succeeded in placing our graduates in Master’s and Ph.D. programs at levels far above the national average. Over the past 5 years, 45% of our graduates have enrolled in Master’s programs, 15% have already completed their Master’s work, and 8% of our graduates are currently pursuing Ph.Ds.

McNair Scholars are vital members of our university community. They serve in Student Government, work in University offices, are EMU athletes and participate in Model U.N. and Forensics. They assist in our labs, co-author papers with their mentors and speak at professional conferences. They’re wonderful EMU ambassadors as they pursue graduate studies across the United States and, indeed, the world. But many equally choose to stay at “home:” Currently, 45% of McNair Scholars pursue graduate studies right here at EMU!

As we prepare to write the proposal for our next 5-year grant, we want to thank the Regents, President Martin, and the entire University for your support. We pledge to continue to serve the EMU community through our volunteerism, hard work and academic excellence.
### 5-year McNair Graduate Degree Status

- Enrolled in a Doctoral Program: 8%
- Completed Master's Degree: 15%
- Enrolled in Master's Program: 34%
- Completed Baccalaureate Degree: 43%

### 5-year McNair Population by College

- CAS: 51%
- COB: 6%
- COE: 12%
- CHHS: 21%
- COT: 10%

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### EMU UG Population by Ethnicity, Winter

- White: 63%
- Native American: 21%
- Asian: 4%
- Black: 6%
- Hispanic: 3%
- Unknown: 3%
- Other Races: 6%

IRIM Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Level, snapshot 1/20/12

### McNair Population by Ethnicity 5-years

- White: 46%
- Native American: 8%
- Asian: 29%
- Black: 13%
- Hispanic: 3%
- Unknown: 3%
- Other Races: 1%

### McNair Graduation Rate Within Three Years

- Yes: 11%
- No: 89%

### McNair Alumni in EMU Graduate Programs

- EMU: 55%
- Other: 45%
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Dr. Heather Neff, the McNair Program Director, proposed two panels for the Martin Luther King Celebrations: “Breaking Down Barriers: You CAN Go to Graduate School” and “Inequalities in Education: New Research by EMU McNair Scholars.”


“Breaking Down Barriers: You CAN Go to Graduate School,” examined the barriers that keep many students from considering graduate education, and offered suggestions on graduate success. The panel included Dr. Deb de-Laski Smith, Dean of EMU’s School of Graduate Research, Edwas Edward Davis, Assistant Director of Development at the EMU Foundation, Dr Stephen Jefferson, Professor of Psychology, and current EMU graduate students Kristal Davis, Justin Ford and Shayna Rodriguez.

Several Scholars volunteered with the M.L.K. committee to moderate, usher and present their working during the M.L.K. Celebrations on campus. First year Scholars Caprisha Curry, Mayra Rivas and Brunette Robinson were moderators and ushers. Second year Scholars Cherese Colston and Courtney Raymond were moderators and ushers. Senior Scholar, Courtney Williams, was a moderator and an usher.

Jennifer Alexander, Lanita Sledge, Victor Torres and Sade Wilson who where speakers for the “Inequalities in Education” panel. McNair Graduate Assistants, Shayna Rodriguez and Justin Ford were speakers in the “Breaking Down Barriers” panel.

Study Abroad

Academic Programs Abroad approved the McNair Scholars Program’s study abroad course, “McNair London Experience,” during Winter Break 2012. One of the stated federal objectives of the McNair Program is to create opportunities for McNair Scholars to study abroad. This course would provide Scholars and interested Honors students the opportunity to travel to England to visit college campuses affiliated with EMU, including University of Derby and Oxford-Brooks. Studnets would also have the opportunity to visit cultural and historic sites, such as the British Museum and the Globe Theater. Special thanks to Woman in Philanthropy for awarding a $5,000 grant to assist students in attending the course. In the future, the program sincerely hopes to give Scholars the international and cultural experience that can only be gained from studying abroad.

McNair Research Journal

Volume 4 Issue 1 is now available on McNair’s Digital Website. Please visit our electronic journal at: http://commons.emich.edu/mcnair/
McNair Scholars Society

The program’s student organization was officially created this past year. M.S.S. has several strong Scholars heading the organization as officers: Isra Daraiseh, senior Scholar, is President; Jennifer Alexander, senior Scholar, is Vice President; Cherese Colston, second year scholar, is Treasurer and Community Service Chairwoman; Courtney Williams, senior Scholar, is Secretary and Fundraising Chairwoman; Jazmyne Cooley, first year Scholar, is Event Planning Chairwoman; and Brunette Robinson, first year scholar, is Social Chairwoman.

M.S.S. has worked hard this fall organizing holiday get-togethers, fundraisers opportunities and community service projects. M.S.S. has been working tirelessly to raise money for our second year scholars to take the Graduate Records Examination in the spring semester.

Our two major fundraisers for the semester were dine-to-donate dinners. Buffalo Wild Wings and Tower Inn generously donated twenty percent of the revenue we purchased during our allowed time.

In addition to dine-to-donate events, M.S.S. has been brainstorming new and creative ways to raise money for our program. Scholars intend to sell McNair’s “TruEMU Scholar Supporter” tee-shirts. Order forms and shirt designs are coming soon!

M.S.S. also intends to work with EMU’s Student Government. M.S.S. Officers are negotiating with Student Government in order to arrange funding for G.R.E. preparation courses for McNair Scholars and other students in need of financial assistance.

M.S.S. collaborated with V.A.C. (Village Advising Council) and P.R.S.S.A. (Public Relations Student Society of America) for our 2011 Winter food drive. One of our standout Scholars, Jazmyne Cooley contributed several dozen cans of food, doubling our donations.

M.S.S. Officers Courtney Williams and Cherese Colston, and M.S.S. Advisor and Senior Account Specialist Kimberly Freeman, were recognized by S.O.S. Community Services (Students Offering Support) when dropping off our food donation and later in their newsletter: “For many people the holidays would seem incomplete without a meal to share with family and friends. Students from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) recognized this need and hosted a food drive so that those without could have something to make their season brighter” (www.soscs.org). “I think around the holidays you want to make sure that everyone has something to eat,” says Courtney Williams, a member of the McNair Scholar Society at EMU. ‘You become more aware that people don’t; especially around the holidays.’” To read more of this article please visit the following website: http://www.soscs.org/about-us/news/94-emu-student-organizations-make-the-season-bright-.