**Message from the Director**

The SHSU McNair Scholars Program is proud to announce that eight McNair scholars took part in the May 2004 and August 2004 commencement ceremonies. Jamila Boyd (Psychology), Frances Crawford-Fennessy (English), Angelina Galvez (Criminal Justice and Spanish), Gerri Johnson (Psychology), Henry Pittman (Applied Arts-Science), Nickie Pittman (English), Veronica Salgado (Spanish), and Lawrence Taylor (Criminal Justice) received a bachelor’s degree from SHSU. Congratulations on your accomplishments and keep up the good work.

We selected our second cohort of scholars, and we are excited to be working with a new group of talented, motivated, and dedicated scholars. We look forward to a productive December 2004.

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**McNair Scholars Attend Graduate School**

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**Jamila Boyd**

My name is Jamila Boyd, and I graduated from Sam Houston State University on August 7, 2004. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a minor in Spanish. Before graduating I worked on research with Dr. Marcus, and we hypothesized that depressed people are more rejected than non-depressed people. We are currently working on our project and hope to complete it near the end of this semester.

I am currently in the Clinical psychology program here at Sam Houston and I am scheduled to graduate in summer 2006. My graduate plans are to do well in my program...

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**Frances Crawford-Fennessy**

My name is Frances Crawford-Fennessy, and I graduated summa cum laude from SHSU in May 2004. I began my graduate studies in English at SHSU in June 2004. I received a significant scholarship from the university for my graduate study program, which will extend through the summer of 2005. My graduate curriculum emphasizes literature and composition; this coincides well with my McNair research, which focuses on the acquisition of grammar through the experiences of reading and writing. My goals include becoming a professor of English and finishing my McNair research before I am 100.

Through the guidance and assistance of my mentor, Dr. Diane Dowdey; my graduate counselor, Dr. Paul Child; my good friends, Dr. Gene Young and Dr. Ralph Pease; and my department chair, Dr. Bill Bridges, I have been fortunate to receive a graduate assistant position in the English department at SHSU. This position will provide me an opportunity to work as an English instructor. As a cause for celebration, I was recently assigned an office in the Evans building. In addition to all of this excitement, Dr. Dowdey and I have applied for a research grant from NCTE to help fund my McNair research and enable me to extend it into a master’s thesis. Knowing where I want to go and what I want to do, pro...

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**Other Important News**

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**Summer and Fall Birthdays**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

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I graduated Summa Cum Laude on July 7th, 2004. I was accepted into the Clinical Psychology program at Sam Houston and will begin graduate courses in Fall 2004 for my Masters degree. I am continuing my work with Dr. Wilson in a research project in physiopsychology, and I have also begun some groundwork with Dr. Strauss on a study skills two program. This is very exciting work to me, because I hope to teach one day at the university level, and I also hope to play a key role in inspiring other students or potential students to follow their academic dreams as I have. My plan is to apply for a Ph. D. program once I have completed my master's work.

My feelings post-graduation are relief and elation. I am elated that I have come this far, and that I have climbed what I see as one of the largest hurdles in the process toward an eventual Ph.D. This part of my education is complete and can

I graduated cum laude from Sam Houston in May, 2004 with a degree in English. I plan to attend graduate school in the near future. Presently, I am preparing my research on postcolonial theory for presentation at a conference in October. I plan to complete the entirety of my research by November and aim to have it published early next year.

I am currently enjoying my position as an upper level Spanish teacher at Huntsville High School. This year I will be teaching four Pre-AP Spanish 3 courses, one Spanish for Native Speakers course and one Spanish 5 (Spanish Literature) course. This is a great opportunity for me as well as the students because the Huntsville High School has not had a native speaker instructor in a very long time. Working with the students will also help me with my McNair research project, since the purpose of my study is to understand how students learn the Spanish language.

My goal is to have my Ph.D. by the age of 28. This allows for two years of teaching, two years of master's study, which I plan on completing at Rice University's Spanish Linguistics program, and four years of doctoral study. I know that with my support system I will have no problem achieving my goals.

I am currently enrolled at Texas Southern University pursuing a Master's degree in Counseling. I elected to do both Counseling tracks—Certified School Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor. I am also employed within the Houston Independent School District. I am truly thankful for obtaining my undergraduate degree at Sam Houston. I feel that Sam Houston prepared me academically, socially, as well as professionally for the world outside of Huntsville. Although I enjoyed my time and experiences at Sam Houston, and in all honesty, I miss the undergraduate experience, I am glad to start a new chapter in my life. I have a piece of advice for up and coming graduates: prepare in advance, the real world is no joke and it will not cater to you, you must go after what you want.
My name is Maria Delgado. I was born in a small town in Mexico. Soon after I was born my family moved to the United States. I attended school in the Shepherd Independent School District where I graduated. After high school I found a full-time job at a state prison as a mailroom supervisor. I did not attend college the first semester after graduation, but during that time I realized that if I wanted my dreams to come true I would have to attend college. I enrolled at Kingwood Community College and started attending classes there while also maintaining my full-time job. I went to Kingwood College for a total of two years until I received my Associate’s Degree on May 8, 2004 with a GPA of 3.7. Since I was a child I dreamed of becoming a lawyer so that I could help people who were in need. To this day my childhood dream is my educational goal. Right now I am working full-time job as a state prison mailroom supervisor. I have been a member of Alief Jazz Ballet and have taught hip hop at various dance studios around Houston. While in the McNair program my primary goal is to learn how to effectively conduct research that ties both photography and environmental policy in addition to being a McNair Scholar, I am specifically interested in research related to how growing populations affect the environment.

My name is Hector Esparza. I grew up in Sugar Land, Texas. My educational and professional goals are to complete school and move on to working for the federal government. I am majoring in criminal justice and my research interests are in intelligence analysis, terrorism, Middle Eastern culture studies, and criminal profiling. My mentor for the McNair project is Dean Richard Ward in the criminal justice department. I spent six years in the US Army Military Intelligence Division as a linguist before returning to school.

My name is Daniel De Jesus. I graduated from Alief Elsik High School in Houston, although I am a Chicago native. I am completing my third and final year at SHSU in pursuit of a BA in photography with a minor in speech communication. I hope to one day use my craft as both an environmental policy researcher and professional dance photographer. After graduation, I plan to attend UNT’s School of Visual Arts to receive my MFA degree in Studio Art Photography and later pursue my Ph.D. in Art Education with an emphasis on cross-cultural studies. Furthermore, I intend to own my own photography studio, with a primary focus on dance photography. My passion for dance began nine years ago and I have since been a member of Alief Jazz Ballet and have taught hip hop at various dance studios around Houston. While in the McNair program my primary goal is to learn how to effectively conduct research that ties both photography and environmental policy in addition to being a McNair Scholar, I am specifically interested in research related to how growing populations affect the environment.

My name is Kathryn Michael Liptrop. I am 26 years old, a junior here at SHSU. My major is psychology, my minor is philosophy and my main fields of interests are developmental psychology, specifically children who commit violent crimes as well as cognitive problems in children such as autism. I plan to explore the field of psychology with Dr. Ramona Noland for this program. I have my Associate of Arts degree from Montgomery College in The Woodlands and am planning to earn both a Ph.D. in psychology and a J.D. to allow me to defend children. I am from Cuicik, Washington and I moved to Texas in 1997 while in the Army for which I served 20 months as a PATRIOT RADAR Fire control Operator/Maintainer. I was honorably discharged 2 months after my son, John Michael Liptrop, was born. To wrap things up, I guess if I had to describe myself in one word it would be “determined.” At least today that would be the word, tomorrow it may be “determined.” At least today that would be the word, tomorrow it may be determined. At least today that would be the word, tomorrow it may be determined.

My name is Ashley Renee Jones. I am a junior fashion merchandising major with a double minor in French and general business. Originally from Houston, Texas, I plan to pursue a master’s as well as a doctorate in the field of fashion, particularly focusing on the design and visual merchandising aspect. I also plan to participate in an intensive one-month study abroad program at the Paris Fashion Institute in Paris. My mentor is Dr. Janis White, department head of Family and Consumer Sciences. She and I have already done some work on the costume collection that the Sam Houston States Fashion program holds. A possible research idea includes us continuing to study the family who has donated most of the collection. We would analyze their buying trends, in addition to evaluating their social status, how they affected the way they dressed. Another determining the amount of effect other have on our fashion industry.

My name in Natascha McCreadie and if I had to describe myself with one word it would have to be “multitasked.” I am a junior and a full time student at Sam Houston State University majoring in English. I work full time at one of the biggest retail outlets in the world—Wal-Mart. I am a single mother of two children—Shannon who is 10 years old and Sean who is 6 years old. I don’t necessarily have a home town, but I’ve lived in Huntsville, Texas now for 8 years. I am looking into either completing my education at University of Texas in Austin or attending a graduate program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where I intend to do research on Nathaniel Hawthorne and American Literature. To help me in my current research of Nathaniel Hawthorne, I’ve chosen Dr. Robert Donahoo as my faculty mentor. On completion of my educational goals, I would like...
My name is Roxanne Sustaita. I am from Roscoe, Texas—a small, farming community in west Texas. This semester is the start of my junior year here at SHSU. I attended South Plains College, in Levelland, Texas my freshman year and transferred to Sam Houston in the Fall of 2003. I am scheduled to graduate from SHSU in May of 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a minor in business. I plan on receiving my Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. After receiving my Ph.D., I would like to expand my credentials and receive my certification from the HRCI, founded by the Society for Human Resources Management. My major is math education with a minor in Spanish. I plan to teach either in a high school, junior college, or at the university level in the near future. My main research interest is in math, from a historical viewpoint to a computational and analytical viewpoint. Dr. Julie C. Jones is my advisor.