We are looking forward to the annual McNair Research Conference at the University of North Texas. Two of our scholars will be presenting their research—Bethany Moore and Maverick Wagner. Several new scholars will be attending for the first time. They are excited to experience their first McNair conference and to support their fellow McNair scholars. As always, the trip to UNT will be exciting.

Another academic year has begun and as always, we are excited to work with a new cohort of scholars. This group of students is incredibly motivated and hardworking and it is a great pleasure to be working with them on achieving their graduate goals.

As we begin work with a new cohort of scholars, we also say goodbye to another group of students. This year, we have several students graduating and applying to various master's and doctoral programs. It is bittersweet to see them graduate and leave, but it is especially rewarding to see them slowly achieve their goals. Many are currently applying to graduate programs and experiencing the excitement and endless work of the application process. It is such a pleasure to share this experience with them. It is definitely one of the most rewarding aspects of my job as McNair Director.

~Dr. Lydia Fox, McNair Program Director

Back to School—UNT Conference

We are looking forward to the annual McNair Research Conference at the University of North Texas. Two of our scholars will be attending for the first time. They are excited to experience their first McNair conference and to support their fellow McNair scholars. As always, the trip to UNT will be exciting.
Meet Cohort VII

Ben Montes      Chanell Fisher       Monica Eaton                    Lindsay Garza

Jessica Bowdoin  Brenden Wiggins  Megan Konarik                   Dustin Johnston

Leroy Brooks    Trent Jenkins
New Graduate Mentor

Abisola Oseni attended the University of Southern California where she was a McNair Scholar and graduated with a BA in Psychology. She is now enrolled in SHSU's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program.
Graduate School Application Timeline

**SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR YEAR**
- Decide what careers interest you and if graduate school is the right direction; weigh pros and cons of graduate school.
- Meet with an advisor: make sure you are taking the necessary classes; Review some school admissions requirements and begin incorporating required classes into your schedule.
- Strive to gain and maintain a competitive GPA.
- Begin taking classes with professors who you will ask to write letters of recommendation; Speak with them outside of class so that they can get to know you.
- Join student organizations/honor societies. Try to take a leadership position within the organization.
- E-mail/speak with current graduate students for information about schools and professors.
- Decide which graduate degree you will seek (masters, doctorate, etc.).
- Research schools to which you may want to apply: narrow list down to 20 schools.
- Try to get involved in research projects to obtain experience.
- Send away for information on graduate school entrance exams (GREs, MATs, etc.).
- Begin saving money for application fees, interview/traveling costs, postage, photocopying, transcripts, etc.

**SUMMER AFTER JUNIOR YEAR**
- Write to the 20 schools (or consult their websites) and request graduate school catalogs and application materials—including financial aid information.
- Use the rest of the summer to review the materials, as they arrive; Look at the research interests of faculty members and match them with yours; Narrow your list of schools down to 10.
- Of the 10 schools:
  - 2 should be "long shots": schools whose entrance requirements (GRE and GPA) you do not meet
  - 2-3 “borderline”: you may meet the GPA requirement but not the GRE requirements, or vice-versa
  - 3-5 “good matches”: those whose average scores/requirements match yours
  - 1-2 “almost sure bets”: programs whose requirements you clearly exceed
- E-mail graduate students about the program and ask questions about professors, the university, financial aid, and the area where you will be living.
- Search the internet for independent scholarships and fellowships.
- Prepare a set of index cards for each school to keep track of necessary information including application deadline and checklist of completed materials.
- **STUDY** for the necessary graduate entrance exam(s); send out registration materials and fees for the exams.
  - Plan on taking an early exam in case you need to retake it to improve your scores.
  - Prepare a draft of your personal statement.
  - Contact faculty members to request letters of recommendation.
- § Request undergraduate transcripts to provide to those who will write your letters of recommendation.
- § Prepare your resume for your letter writers.
**SENIOR YEAR**

- **September**
  - Last semester to take courses necessary for admissions (that the graduate schools will review)
  - Work on your personal statement.

- **October**
  - Take the required graduate entrance exam.
  - Provide faculty members with recommendation forms and transcripts. Also, provide a pre-addressed, stamped envelope for each recommendation. Make sure they are aware of the deadlines.
  - Ask faculty members to review your personal statement; make revisions as necessary.

- **November**
  - Finalize list of schools to which you plan to apply.
  - Fill out applications.

- **December**
  - Request that transcripts from your current and previous schools be sent to the programs to which you are applying.
  - Complete applications with January deadlines and mail several weeks before the due date.
  - Use checksheet to make sure all materials are included.
  - Proofread for grammatical errors and/or misspellings.
  - Photocopy all materials before you send them.
  - Mail or deliver thank you notes to faculty members who wrote your letters of recommendation.

- **January**
  - Call departments to which you have applied to be sure they have received your test scores and letters of recommendations (Do this only if they do not send you a "Materials Received" postcard).
  - Contact faculty about any outstanding letters of recommendation.
  - Mail any remaining applications.

- **February-April**
  - Try to visit schools to which you have applied especially if you were invited for an interview. If you cannot travel to the school, a phone interview may be possible.
  - Most schools will notify you of your status (regular acceptance, provisional acceptance, waiting list, application denied) on or around April 15.
  - After receiving acceptance notifications, consult with faculty to make your final decision of acceptance or denial.
  - Notify the school whose offer you are accepting as well as those you are declining so that your slot may be given to another student.
  - Contact those who wrote you letters of recommendations and inform them of the outcome of your applications.
  - If all of your applications are rejected, consult with faculty about your options.