

Sam Houston State University

McNair Newsletter

Fall 2006

Message from the Director

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As we begin another grant year, we are delighted to report that we have just accepted our fourth cohort of McNair scholars. Once again, we are fortunate to be working with a group of talented and motivated undergraduate students from many disciplines. Please see scholar profiles on pages 2 and 3 for more information about each scholar. We look forward to another productive and eventful year. Our fourth cohort of scholars is currently beginning research collaborations with their mentors, and they will take part in our summer research program in a few months.

I am also happy to report that a some of our alumni are now enrolled in graduate programs across the country. We are proud of their numerous accomplishments and of the success they have had in their various graduate programs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many faculty mentors who work with our scholars. It is their endless time and dedication that make this program a success.

—Dr. Lydia C. Fox

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Cohort I:

Jamila Boyd: SHSU, Clinical Psychology M.A.
Angie Cartwright: SHSU, Counseling M.A.
Frances Crawford-Fennessy: SHSU, English M.A.
Andrea Gauthier: SHSU, Music M.A.
Robert Huizar III: UNC, Charlotte, Geography M.A.
Geraldine Johnson: SHSU, Clinical Psychology M.A.
Penny Pitrucha: SHSU, English M.A.
Henry Pittman: SHSU, Counseling M.A.
Nickie Pittman: SHSU, English M.A.
Veronica Salgado: High School Spanish teacher, Huntsville ISD
Mayra Sanchez: SAAFE House, Bilingual Crisis Intervention Advocate
Sara Spikes: UTHSC, Houston, Biomedical Sciences M.A.
Lawrence Taylor: TSU, Counseling Psych M.A.

Cohort II:

Nelda Axley: SHSU, Counseling M.A.
Hector Esparza: SHSU, Criminal Justice M.A.
Donna Henley-Jackson: Howard University, DDS
Mauricio Rivas: SHSU, Mathematics M.A.
Ashley Jones: LSU, Fashion Merchandising, M.A.
Christopher Pembelton: Bush Library, College Station, TX



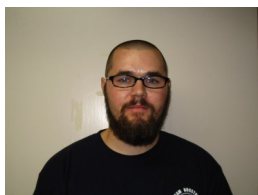
Meet the 2006-2007 Sam Houston

Jason Randall

I am a psychology major with a political science minor and plan on graduating in May of 2008. I currently hold the President positions in both the National Honor Society in Psychology and the SHSU

International Politics Group. I am a member of the Elliott T. Bowers Honors Program, Golden Key International Honor Society, as well as the McNair Scholars Program. With respect to research, I am on a team that is analyzing the effects of mitigating and aggravating factors in the capital punishment cases tried in Harris County, Texas from 2001 to the present.

I intend to pursue a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. with a specialization track in experimental psychopathology. Upon completion of my doctoral degree, my main research focus will be in expanding upon the dopamine hypothesis as it applies to psychopathology, specifically, schizophrenia. However, I will pursue other neurophysiological studies that apply to other forms of pathology. Eventually I would like to give back to the academic community by investing time in the education of future scientists.



Steven Parker

I am a non-traditional student returning to school after a career in the military and raising four beautiful, intelligent, well educated children.

Deciding it was my turn to pursue academic interests I enrolled at Sam Houston State University in 2003 and anticipate graduation in August, 2007. My major is Political Science with a minor in History. My plans are to enter post graduate school in the Fall of 2007 and, with a little luck and a whole lot of hard work, complete my Doctoral program within five years.



Nicole Lozano

Hi! My name is Nicole Lozano, and I am a sophomore here at Sam. This is my first semester here; I transferred in from Austin Community

College. I am a Psychology major, and I am doing a double minor in Spanish and English. I would like to attend the University of Washington at Seattle, and get a Master of Social Work. After that I want to get a Doctorate in Developmental Psychology. I really would love to be a social worker in Austin after I finish my graduate work. Eventually I want to open some kind of youth after school/counseling center.



Candice Withrow

Originally I was an RTV major, then photography, then art. Never satisfied, I decided to try something completely different and now I'm a senior physics major.

Currently I'm doing research with Dr. Brian Oetiker to find extra solar planets, but am still not sure if I will go to grad school for engineering or astronomy. It's basically a struggle between my designing and exploring sides. With engineering I'd ideally like to design homes that run completely off of solar energy and are architecturally interesting. Alternatively, in astronomy I could explore

dark matter, or search for life on other planets. When my brain is fried from working five hour problems, I enjoy making jewelry, watching foreign films, and



State University McNair Scholars



Erin Powell

I am 21 years old, the oldest of two children, and the first person in my immediate family to attend college. My major is in English and I am working on getting certified to teach grades 8 through 10, but my long term goal is to teach post-secondary education. As of right now, I haven't decided on a specific graduate school, but I would love to study in Britain because I absolutely love English literature and culture. I currently work for an on-campus program called Project CONNECT as an English tutor and student



Grace Ekeke

I have immense passion for art, Behavioral Psychology, culture, and service. I also enjoy research and am thankful for the opportunity in the McNair program. As a senior with a major in Psychology and a minor in Business, I have a variety of interests in the psychology field such as, applied behaviorist therapies, the development of a "false consensus" affect, and cross-cultural influences/differences in coping with stress.



I plan to obtain a Doctorate in Psychology because I hope to have my own practice one day focusing on autism. I'm in the process of researching graduate programs but I am very interested in attending DePaul University in Chicago to obtain a degree in Clinical Psychology. Their prestigious program similarly consists of a community based curriculum. My experience at DePaul will fortunately be filled with many opportunities to complete research studies, receive my Masters degree en route to my Doctorate, as well as provide externships that will allow me to network in the community that I may possibly serve with my PhD.

Liz Jackson

My name is Liz Jackson and I am a History major and Sociology minor. My interests are in social history including (but limited to) Socio-historic



trends of inequality in the United States. I am a happily divorced single mother of a wonderful three year old boy Joseph! He is my world and motivation. I will complete my Bachelors Degree in May of 2008. From there, I plan on attending graduate school to obtain my Doctorate in History. I love to write, and I intend to be published. I will also pursue a career as a

Lyndsy Duet

I am a non-traditional student and a long distance commuter. My major is in English and my minor is in 2-Dimensional Studio Art. After graduating I plan on pursuing my Master's degree and eventually my PhD in Houston. I am interested in teaching English overseas and working with children rescued from prostitution in Asia. I am fortunate to have found an amazing mentor, Dr. Bell, who is working with me on my thesis which will focus on the treatment of women and children as "the other" in medieval society.



Happy Birthday!

1/13 Kacey Grimes	7/10 Angela Quebedeaux
1/17 San Juanita Garcia	7/13 Kathryn Liptrap
1/27 Angelina Galvez	7/15 Lawrence Taylor
1/27 Mayra Sanchez	7/15 Hector Esparza
2/4 Jerry Westergaard	7/15 Nelda Marie Axley
2/13 Jackie Enghardt	7/19 Perla Hernandez
02/15 Liz Jackson	08/10 Lyndsy Duet
2/20 Donna Jackson	8/11 Jason Randall
02/25 Grace Ekeke	8/28 Veronica Salgado
3/2 Robert Huizar III	9/15 Belen Polanco
5/8 W. Ryan Williamson	10/9 Carlye Schulte
5/30 David Sweeten	10/20 Karen Escobar
6/2 Henry Pittman	10/25 Candice Withrow
6/6 Stephen Parker	11/22 Andrea Shanks
6/13 Angie Cartwright	12/07 Nicole Lozano
6/30 Ashley Jones	12/08 Erin Powell

Events to come:

December 1, 2006: Have Faculty Mentor Chosen (Cohort IV)

January 30, 2007: Submit a Research Action Plan (Cohort IV)

February 16-18, 2007: UNT McNair Research Conference, Denton, Texas

May 30—July 18, 2007: McNair Summer Research Program (Cohort IV)

July 26, 2007: Third Annual McNair Research Conference

Fall
Spring
& Grads

Fall 2006

Belen Polanco
Karen Escobar
Mauricio Rivas

Spring 2007

Sylvia Glasker
Perla Hernandez
Ashley Ligons

Carlye Schulte
Andrea Shanks
David Sweeten



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