



McNair Spotlight

Summer 2009

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The 2009 McNair Summer Researchers



Scholar Name	Major	Mentor
Danielle Fontaine	Animal Science	Ian Stokes
Jem Hughes	Secondary Education	Holly-Lynn Busier & Dorian McCoy
Tanner Lake	Classics	John Franklin
Briana Martin	Social Work	Suzy Comerford
Chelsea McShane	Communication Sciences	Patricia Prelock & Tiffany Hutchins
Kofi Mensah	Political Science	Patrick Neal
Naomi Pollica	Mathematics	Lori Stevens
Pattrese Reynolds	Political Science	Alec Ewald
Katherine St.Denis	Zoology	Joe Schall
Maya Thomas	Environmental Science	Don Ross



McNair summer researchers for 2009 - left to right front row: Danielle Fontaine, Chelsea McShane, Briana Martin and Maya Thomas. Left to right middle row: Naomi Pollica, Katie St.Denis, Jem Hughes and Pattrese Reynolds. Left to right back row: Tanner Lake and Kofi Mensah.

Continued on reverse.

Graduate School and Conference Travel

In early July, the McNair Scholars traveled twice as a group - first to Tufts University in Medford, MA for a graduate school site visit and a meeting with other McNair programs in the northeast. The Tufts U administration, faculty and staff were exceptional hosts and presented graduate school application workshops focusing on PhD programs and funding opportunities.

In mid-July, the scholars all presented their research at the 17th Annual National McNair Research Conference at Penn State in College Park, PA. This trip included guest speakers, workshops and a graduate school fair featuring more than 90 graduate school admissions representatives from colleges nationwide.

Caption for photo: McNair Scholar Pattrese Reynolds presents her research on Saturday, July 18 at the Penn State research conference.



McNair Symposium Held August 5



The sixth annual UVM McNair Symposium was held in 427 Waterman on Wednesday, August 5. Throughout the day, more than 150 visitors from the university community, the public, family and friends enjoyed an innovative day-long celebration of outstanding research by UVM undergraduates. The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Program began at UVM in the spring of 2004 and honors the memory and academic accomplishments of Ron McNair, PhD, an astrophysicist and NASA astronaut who perished aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. The UVM McNair Scholars Program is one of only 182 in the entire United States to assist underrepresented students prepare for graduate school. The scholars qualify for the program if they are first generation college students with limited family financial resources, or if their ethnicity is underrepresented in faculty ranks or college-based research. The sixth annual McNair Symposium offered a diverse agenda:

Danielle Fontaine *Comparison of protein synthesis and gene expression in loaded intervertebral disc*

Jem Hughes *Improving supports for African American students at two Predominately White Institutions in the New England Area*

Tanner Lake *Ancient Greek Music & Kithara Reconstruction*

Briana Martin *Refugee Resettlement: History and Policies of Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.*

Chelsea McShane: *Mental State Talk between Mothers and their Typically Developing Children and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Kofi Mensah *Poverty: How to combat a crippling social disease*

Naomi Pollica *Modeling Chagas Disease Using STELLA in Guatemala*

Pattrese Reynolds *Affirmative Action: Is there an African American perspective on affirmative action?*

Katherine St.Denis *Variation in the Cytochrome b Gene of a Malaria Parasite, Plasmodium mexicanum*

Maya Thomas: *Effects of Specific Tree Species on the Stream Channel Migration of Two Streams in Chittenden County, Vermont*

