



# McNair Spotlight

Winter 2007

## Apply Now!

### WHAT ARE JUST SOME OF THE BENEFITS ?

- Mentoring and research opportunities with faculty
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## Building upon the McNair Experience



Jaime Leclerc '08 conducted her McNair research with Dr. Feng Xi Zhao during the summer of 2006. She built on that experience when she applied for and was offered a summer 2007 internship through the Introduction to Cancer Research Careers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This program has a goal to recruit diverse and underrepresented students to internship positions at the NCI. Jaime writes: "Aside from the substantial monetary and living perks of the ICRC program, the NIH and NCI is probably one of the most incredible places to work in medical science research. The funding of the labs is substantial so that the newest technologies and equipment can be used to obtain faster and more accurate results. The number of

opportunities to attend seminars and discussions from renowned scientists and doctors is endless. I also was able to directly shadow a doctor in the Radiation Oncology Clinic at the NCI, and saw first-hand how some of our research from the lab could directly translate into medical applications. These experiences were invaluable and I learned more from 20 hours of experience working with cancer patients than I ever could in a classroom setting. The scientists and students I worked with in the lab setting were also an amazing resource for professional development, scientific inspiration, educational and career support, and social fun. I made many good friends in the lab and found that David Gius served as one of the best mentors and friends I have made in my academic career. He was generous with his time, money and care and is very faithful to his students by working hard to help them be successful in their future career. The quality of research I did was certainly "cutting edge" and our lab submitted papers to *Molecular Cell*, *Cell*, *Nature* and the like. The experience was overall life-changing and I already have tentative plans to return to the lab in the near future.

The NIH is elusive to a lot of students at our level of academia and it is probably one of the most valuable resources a student can have. To have connections and experiences at an institution that's so essentially central to a country's medical science success is an outstanding piece on anyone's resume, as well as a huge gate opening to future opportunities."

## Scholar Profile: Jennifer Nakhla, Anthropology 2009



McNair Scholar Jennifer Nakhla '09 has been a part of TRiO Programs since she became involved with Upward Bound as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Springfield, VT. "I benefited from TRiO programs while I researched colleges, applied and sought financial aid. After I arrived at UVM, I got involved with Specialized Student Services and ultimately, McNair. I guess I could have done this on my own, but TRiO programs made it manageable, not to mention fun. Getting to do research this summer as a McNair Scholar with Dr. Cameron Wesson of the Anthropology Department was an unbelievable opportunity and a life-changing experience."

## McNair Scholars Program Receives \$1,155,000

The UVM McNair Scholars Program has been awarded four additional years of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education for a total grant cycle award of \$1,115,000 and is one of the federal TRiO Programs which support first generation, limited income and underrepresented populations. Following this latest McNair competition, UVM is the only McNair program in Vermont and one of five in all of New England.