

Developing Leaders Through Graduate  
Education

McNair Scholars Program  
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### Conferences and Travel Opportunities to Consider:

**McNair Research Conference at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County** titled "Dream, Prepare, Explore, and Discover: The Knowledge Beyond the Horizon" will be held on September 22-23, 2006. McNair Scholars from across the nation will give oral and poster presentation highlighting their research. Please let our office know if you are interested in attending. Please go to <http://www.umbc.edu/mcnair> and follow the link to "2006 McNair Conference" for more information.

Internal Deadline: July 14, 2006

**The WAEOPP National Senior Retreat for McNair and SSS Scholars** is scheduled for Sept 22-24 at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, WI. 150 slots are available, and they will be going fast. The retreat will feature intensive workshops to help

McNair and SSS seniors prepare for the rigorous graduate school application process. The entire retreat will be facilitated by Don Asher, who is considered one of the foremost authorities in graduate school admissions success strategies. Internal Deadline: July 14, 2006

**The 7th Annual State of Indiana McNair Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference** will be held August 10-11, 2006 at Indiana State University's Hulman Memorial Student Union. Conference information can be found at <http://web.indstate.edu/mcnairsch/conference.html>. Scholars may give oral or poster presentations. The conference will feature training workshops, a graduate school showcase and an awards program. Internal Deadline: July 14, 2006



### Inside this issue:

MSU McNair Scholar Accepted to Wyoming Summer Program for Psychology Undergraduates 1

MSU McNair Scholar Sunnie McCalla Participates in Governor's Press Conference 1

Upcoming Event: U of M Grad School Visitation 1

Introducing Summer 2006 GRE Instructors 2

Introducing 2006 Graduate Assistant 3

New Summer 2006 Scholars 3

Conferences and Travel Opportunities 4

## MSU McNair Scholar Accepted to Wyoming Summer Program for Psychology Undergraduates

MSU McNair Scholar Khou Yang who, upon completion of her undergraduate degree at MSU, aspires to continue her studies in Psychology at the doctoral level will get additional pointers about getting there. Chosen from a competitive pool of applicants, she was invited to participate in the University of Wyoming Summer Program in Psychological



Science for Ethnic Minority Undergraduate Students,

which will be held on July 17-21, 2006. The program targets promising minority undergraduate students who wish to obtain a Ph.D. in the field of Psychology. The University of Wyoming will cover Khou's expenses for the trip, including room and board.

Khou and other scholars accepted from various univer-

*Continued on page 2*

## MSU McNair Scholar Sunnie McCalla Participates in Governor's Press Conference



Sunnie McCalla, a McNair Scholar and biology senior at MSU answered questions from the media and was featured on KSTP Ch. 5-TV Eyewitness News on June 21, 2006 regarding new federal grant initiatives for college students. Sunnie accompanied MSU President Richard Davenport to a press

conference in the Governor's Reception Room at the Minnesota State Capitol. During the press conference U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty presented The federal Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) grant program .

## Upcoming Event: U of M Grad School Visitation

Scholars, the University of Minnesota Graduate School Visitation is coming up on Tuesday, July 11, 2006. The day will start at 9:00 am in Walter Library (room 101) with a Graduate School staff presentation about the process of applying for admission to a

graduate program. In addition, you will be able to meet with faculty to discuss their research and have a staff-led tour of the campus.

Scholars are encouraged to thoroughly examine the websites of the Graduate School

[www.grad.umn.edu](http://www.grad.umn.edu) and their respective departments. Prepare for the visitation by generating a list of questions.

Business casual attire is encouraged, but be sure to wear shoes that are appropriate for a campus tour.

For more information on the MSU McNair Scholars Program, call (507) 389-1188 or visit our website: <http://trio.mnsu.edu/mcnair.html>

## Introducing Summer 2006 GRE Instructors

### Dodie Miller GRE Verbal/Writing



Dodie Miller is from Fort Wayne, Indiana in the extreme northeastern part of the state. She has a BA in English (Writing and Literature) and an MA in English (British Literature after 1700 and Writing), both from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

At Minnesota State University, Mankato, Dodie is pursuing a Master of Fine Art Degree (Creative Writing: Fiction). She is a published author and has placed fiction and poetry in writing journals.

During the 2005-2006 school year, Dodie was awarded a graduate assistantship in the English Department as the Creative Writing Outreach Assistant. For the 2006-2007 school year, she will be the Assistant to the Director of

Creative Writing.

Further, Dodie has been recognized as an artist and student by MSU. In 2006 she won the Raymond and Florence Sponberg award for an outstanding female graduate student in the English Department, and she won first place in the Robert C. Wright Award for excellence in creative writing.

In addition to fiction writing, Dodie is also a produced playwright—she wrote and starred in a dramatic musical in her hometown (1998), and sang in the chorus in “1928, The Musical!” (2003), also in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Her advice to prospective graduate students is: know

what you want to explore as a scholar and as a professional as early as possible. She also recommends that they enjoy their time as graduate students. “For intellectual types, school is always going to be easier than work. Take advantage of the relative vacation of grad school.”

Dodie’s future plans include earning grants to complete various fiction projects, traveling to all parts of the world that she wants to see, starting a literary journal in her hometown, converting a few of her fiction works into screenplays, and perhaps even teaching a creative writing class or two, when the opportunity presents itself.

### Sheila Toering GRE Math



My name is Sheila Toering, and I’m the GRE Math Instructor for the summer. I re-

ceived my Bachelors of Art in Psychology and Mathematics from Southwest Minnesota State University in 2002. I’m going into my second year of graduate school, working towards my Masters of Science in Exper-

iential Education and a Non-Profit Leadership Certificate. I also plan on getting a Masters

of Social Work. My career goal is to provide therapy in the outdoors, preferably at a camp setting with adolescents with behavioral problems.

I look forward to working with all of the McNair Scholars. Since I dual majored in psychology and mathematics, I understand math anxiety more than most. Please do not hesitate to stop in with questions or concerns.

If there is anything that I would recommend while searching for the right graduate school is to make sure you

meet people who are in the program and you are able to ask them questions openly and honestly about the pros and cons of the town, school, and program. Definitely meet with at least two of the professors in your department and find out what their program entails and whether the program matches your future goals. The more questions you can ask, the more information you will receive, so you can make a more informed decision. Above all else, trust your instincts.

will also tour the UW campus, the town of Laramie, and visit outdoor recreational areas in the Rocky Mountains just outside of Laramie.

In addition to the academic portion of the visit the students

psychological science. They will be introduced to the Clinical and Experimental Psychology Training Program at the University of Wyoming, will gain insights about the process of applying to graduate programs in Psychology, and will learn strategies to enhance their application materials.

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*Continued from page 1*

sities all over the country will take part in activities designed to orient students to graduate study and to provide an overview of contemporary issues in

psychological science. They will be introduced to the Clinical and Experimental Psychology Training Program at the University of Wyoming, will gain insights about the process of

applying to graduate programs in Psychology, and will learn strategies to enhance their application materials.

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## Introducing 2006 Graduate Assistant

### “Sasha” Oleksandr Komarenko



I am an international student from Kiev, Ukraine and have been going to school in Mankato for the better half of a decade. I have studied a variety of different subjects during my college career, both in my home country where I attended a university, and here in the U.S. Among these subjects were history, communication, teaching English as a second language (TESL), and, cur-

rently, technical writing. My academic interests are mainly focused on the processes by which people create and share ideas. This may explain the fact that my undergraduate degree from Bethany Lutheran in Mankato was in Communication

Studies, and my MA from MSU was in Speech Communication. Learning about linguistics and language teaching in the MA TESL program has given me a new angle on the more technical aspects of how we communicate. It also afforded me a wonderful opportunity to learn about many different cultures from the international students I worked with in the ESL Composition course

I taught.

I am a thesis defense away from my MA in TESL and am currently working toward the Graduate Certificate in Technical Communication, which I hope to receive in the spring of 2007. Ultimately, I am interested in continuing on to the doctoral level. For this reason I consider the Graduate Assistantship with the McNair Scholars Program to be a great opportunity for me to both share with the Scholars what I have learned, as well as to learn from them. Ultimately, we share similar aspirations.

Getting to know you, the McNair Scholars, and seeing your achievements, has been inspiring for me. I wish to encourage you to continue your hard work as you have great prospects opening up for you. Where I am concerned, please do not hesitate to stop by with

questions or concerns you may have regarding any aspect of your McNair experience or any other matters. My motto is “if I can’t answer your question I will help you find someone who will.” Conducting research, preparing for and applying to graduate school can be confusing, but finding answers is much easier than it may seem. Keep in mind that you have the entire University backing you in your graduate application objectives so do not hesitate to make use of all of the resources that are available to you.

In conclusion, I want to say that I am looking forward to getting to know more of you better and will do my best to help you fulfill your academic, professional, and, where possible, personal ambitions.

## New Summer 2006 Scholars

### Ismail Mohamud

Ismail and his family have recently moved to the United States from civil war-torn Somalia. Because of the constant danger of violence in his former home country he and his family worried more about surviving another day than building long term future plans or seeking educational opportunities.

Despite that, Ismail considers education to be the key to success in life and the path to a better future. From the day he arrived in the U.S. education became his main focus. After

graduating from high school Ismail attended community college and eventually transferred to MSU where he proved himself as a hardworking and successful student.

Ismail is majoring in Finance and hopes to graduate in 2007. Upon graduation, Ismail intends to continue his education by pursuing a Masters in Business Administration degree; he is still uncertain about working on a Ph.D. Ismail’s summer research will focus on the financing strategies used by new immigrants who start businesses in Minnesota.

### Meredith Lemiso

The McNair Scholars Program is proud to welcome Meredith Lemiso, our final scholar entering with the 2006 cohort. She has filled the unexpected opening created by the withdrawal of Krystyna Kujawa for personal reasons. Hailing from the New Orleans metropolitan of Louisiana, Meredith Lemiso adds some artistic spice to the McNair Scholars Program.

Meredith is an art history major and is trying to decide whether to study African Art History or African History in

graduate school. She is motivated by the challenge of finding and confirming truth in the world. Drawing inspiration from her Yoruba ancestry, Meredith aspires to be a historian who corrects inaccuracies about African artistic and intellectual contributions.

Although the journey toward obtaining a bachelor’s degree has been filled with highs and lows, Meredith takes pride in knowing that she will be graduating in May 2007. She will be defying the expectations of some elementary school educators who did not believe in her potential for academic success.