



McNair Scholars Program

Winter 2006

Poster Session and Banquet

The McNair Scholars Program 7th Annual Poster Session and Banquet was held on Thursday October 5, 2006. This year's program was commemorating the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Challenger Mission. The afternoon began with the poster session in the Multicultural Center and the banquet in the Sky lounge following in the evening.

Research this year varied from *The Evolutionary Potential of the TrpA gene of E. coli* to the *Retention of Hmong Students at the University of Wisconsin—Superior* to *Modeling Deer-Vehicle Collisions*.

The Scholars all had the chance to showcase their research they so diligently worked on throughout the summer program.

Following the poster session, the Scholars were awarded Certificates of Excellence at the Banquet. Pasia Her, a UM—Duluth education major, was surprised with the award for Most Improved Student. (For more on the poster session and banquet, please go to page 3).



Left: Pasia Her (left), with Susan Holm, McNair Scholars Director



Above: Chaw Moua, left, explains her research to inquiring students.

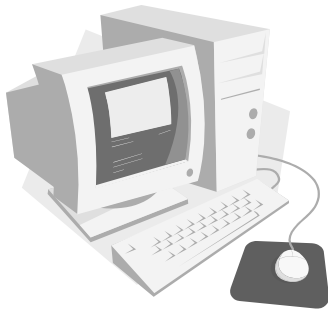
Right: Brenda Kunkel with her poster.



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New Website Feature!



Just in case you missed this news from the last newsletter...McNair Scholar Alumni are able to take the annual questionnaire online!

Alumni, please take a moment to visit our website at www.uwsuper.edu/mcnair/alumni to fill out the questionnaire.

If you would prefer that a questionnaire be mailed out to you, please contact us at (715) 394-8043 or mcnair@uwsuper.edu.

Thanks Everyone! We can't wait to hear the updates!

2006-2007 McNair Scholars

November 15, 2006 marked the new McNair Scholars Program orientation. This year's scholars are from UW-Superior and UM-Duluth. This year's Scholars include:

- Yoni Debesai (UMD), Chemistry
- Tony Gilane, Biology
- David Haines, Broadfield Science
- Ryan Howes, Physical Education
- Sheng Hang (UMD), International Studies
- Katie Kemppainen (UMD), Pre-med/Biology
- Heather Maki, Chemistry
- Adam McCauley, Art (painting)
- Nicole Patnaude, Social Work
- Erika Runstrom, Legal Studies
- Josef Siebert, English
- Brandon Thomason, Exercise Science
- Tegan Wendland, Political Science/International Peace Studies

This year's McNair Scholars include:
Front row (L-R): Erika Runstrom, Ryan Howes, Sheng Hang
Middle Row (L-R): Tegan Wendland, Katie Kemppainen, Tony Gilane, Joe Siebert, Jaime Runstrom
Back Row (L-R): Yoni Debesai, Adam McCauley, Nicole Patnaude, David Haines, Heather Maki, Brandon Thomason



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK MCNAIR SCHOLARS!

Poster Session and Banquet (continued from page 1)

The mentors were honored with Certificates of Appreciation at the McNair banquet. Ms. Liz Blue was awarded the Outstanding Mentor Award for her years of dedication to the McNair Scholars Program, and Dr. Steve Rosenberg received the Mentor of the Year Award.



The guest speaker was Julie Yaekel-Black Elk (McNair Scholar, 1998). She spoke about the importance of being balanced throughout one's life. To create a balanced world for herself, Julie knew she needed to be with her family, so while working on her graduate degree, Julie drove five hours per day, five days a week to and from school. Julie spoke about the challenges she faced, and offered advice to the Scholars to continue moving forward toward their goals. Julie is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in the CSPP-Educational Psychology Program.

The evening concluded with an honor song by Wesley Black Elk. Wesley sang a "People Song" to honor the Scholars and send them on their way to accomplish all of their goals.

Above: Julie delivers an encouraging speech to the audience.



Above: A group enjoys the posters.
Left: Stephanie Ebnet with her poster.

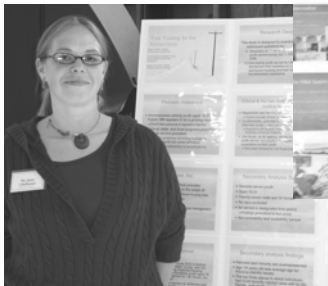


Above: Wesley talks to the audience about the honor song.



Left: Dr. Steve Rosenberg receives the Mentor of the Year Award.

Right: Jamie Houk was the first Upward Bound student from UWS to participate in the McNair Scholars Program.



Clockwise from Left: Jessica Unkelhaeuser, Jim Paine, Kristy Smith, and Mai Thao with their posters.

Susan Holm, Director
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The McNair Scholars Program at the University of Wisconsin–Superior prepares income eligible, first generation college students and students from groups underrepresented in graduate education for doctoral study. It is a nationwide program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, created in memory of Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., an African-American physicist killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger mission in 1986.



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