

WASSUP?

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Belated congratulations to Toyin Showole who was selected CA of the Month for October!**
- **Belated congratulations also to Shirley Obioha who was selected Greek Woman of the Month for September.**
- **Congratulations to Sydney Seifert on her coordination of Take Back the Night, November 2.**

CSTEP ADVOCACY AN IMPERATIVE THIS YEAR

With an already predicted six billion dollar deficit driving the 2004 budget decisions in New York State, CSTEP and STEP programs are reminded that efforts to maintain the funds to operate the programs will be exceedingly difficult again this year.

There are several approaches that will be used to inform our state representatives that these programs are viable and necessary.

- 1) During Thanksgiving break, CSTEP members are encouraged to visit the local offices of your state senator and/or assembly person. Thank that person for any support he/she has provided in the past, and explain your career goals

as well as your college successes to date. Any specific reference to what CSTEP has provided you to help you attain your goals should be noted.

- 2) When you return after break there will be either a post card or letter writing campaign—again to provide information about the value of the program. Fact sheets will be provided to assist you in sharing numbers and other information.
- 3) In the spring we will be traveling to Albany to meet with our representatives there.
- 4) Individual photos will be taken once again to create a hand out to give our

representatives so they know who we are.



Several CSTEP first year students and sophomores met in the Career Services and Leadership Education office recently for a presentation by CSLE Peer Advisor Evan Slater. Also pictured above is CSLE assistant director Terrence Williams.

MCNAIR SCHOLARS' RESEARCH TOPICS VARIED

Variety is the spice of life, and in a liberal arts setting, there's plenty of variety. The research of our current senior McNair Scholars is a case in point. The scholars come from disciplines across the University campus, and their interests have driven their research. Travis Atkinson, a mathematics major, along with his mentor, Dr. Michael Schuckers, has chosen to do his research on "Approximate Interval Estimation for Beta-binomial proportions" which determines the performance of confidence

interval estimation using the methodology of Agresti and Coull (1998) on proportions from a Beta-binomial distribution. Travis is interested in applying the methodology to data gathered from such devices as fingerprint scanners or iris recognition systems. Travis Babcock, a multi-field major working with his mentor, Dr. Rebecca Daniels, has focused on "The Criminalization of the American Queer; the expecta-

tions gays and lesbians abide by and the marriage and military legal rights they are denied." Travis is researching the arguments on both sides of the gay rights issue in order to construct an argument of his own. Ohene Cornelius, a Speech and Theater major working with Dr. Margaret Bass, has chosen as his topic, "Speaking in Tongues to Speaking over Drums." (See *McNair Topics*, p.2)

SENIOR FEATURE: TRAVIS ATKINSON

What lies behind the shy smile and modest demeanor of Travis Atkinson is a bright young man with big plans. The youngest of six siblings from nearby Harrisville, New York, Travis is a mathematics major with a minor in statistics.

A member of CSTEP and McNair, Travis is also in Pi Mu Epsilon, the mathematics honorary. He has enjoyed a long and honorable relationship with the Dean's List (5 out of 6 semesters) and was the recipient of the Priest Scholarship his first year here. He also has been the number one student in his class all except for one semester.

Travis plans to attend graduate school in statistics or applied statistics and currently has his eyes on a college in the west. He credits the McNair program with making that dream more of a reality. After graduate school he hopes one day to learn about the operation of a business so he can own his own business, and his plans also include settling down and raising a family.

Living in Rouen, France, in the spring semester of his junior year gave Travis the opportunity to enjoy and learn

about life in another country. He even received a travel grant to visit Greece, Ireland, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany.

Travis is currently working on a research project for McNair, but he hopes to either get an internship with a software firm in Canton in the spring or continue working with his mentor, Dr. Michael Schuckers.

His words of wisdom to fellow students? "Take advantage of the resources St. Lawrence University has to offer and definitely travel abroad."



Travis Atkinson

MCNAIR TOPICS (CONTINUED)

Viewing music as the "way to communicate amongst the familiar strangers," Ohene will be researching how hip hop music is the voice of the Black man's plight today as well as a voice that speaks to the new generations.

Prisca Fall, a psychology/anthropology major, is working with her mentor Dr. Thomas Greene, on "How effective are placebo in the field of medicine?" Because she is aware that placebos have a significant impact on the practice of medicine, Prisca wants to "objectively inspect their validity." Jeovanni Guzman, an

economics major, is working with Dr. Jeffrey Young. His topic is "Financial Crises and the Efficient Markets Hypothesis." He is exploring the reasons for booms and crashes in the stock market and if they can be predicted by using history or mathematical models. Ian Hubbard is a biology major, and his mentor is Dr. Erika Barthelme. Ian is researching the "Use of Bioelectric Impedance Analysis (BIA) to Examine Body Condition in *Erethizon dorsatum* (The North American Porcupine)."

Little work has been done in measuring the overall fat composition of porcupines, and Ian is engaged in that process.

Kandyce McGill, a psychology major, is working with Dr. Alice Pomponio. Her research, "Creating Gender Identity and Personhood in the Pacific Islands," will consider the subsistence economies of Melanisia, Micronesia, and Polynesia as well as the social and political systems to see what roles they play in the development of

the individual sense of self. D. Ramos, a sociology major, is working with mentor Dr. Karen O'Neil. His research, "Behind the Black Line," focuses on the role of capitalism in New York City as it relates to racism.

Sydney Seifert is also a sociology major. Her research mentor is Dr. Judith DeGroat. Her topic is "LGBT Youths in the Public Schools: The Issues and the Debates through the Lens of the Harvey Milk School." Her research will call together several sources related to the issue. Tara Smith is working with mentor Dr. Kerry Grant. She is exploring text as power as it evolves in Peter Greenaway's films.

MEMBER/ALUMNI NEWS BRIEFS

Candice Rowser '02 is continuing her graduate work at SUNY Albany. She is now the president of the Africana Studies Graduate Organization, and she traveled to Ghana this past summer with the program. "It was great," she confided. She said she was inspired by the trip to want to go and teach at the University of Cape Coast. She is looking to get a dual masters and currently has a v e r y h i g h G P A .

While all the seniors' plans are not in, McNair and CSTEP seniors have been busy working toward their plans for after graduation. Besides **Travis Atkinson** and **Travis Babcock** who will be traveling to Syracuse on their own for the GRE in the next two weeks; **Ohene Cornelius**, **Prisca Fall**, **Ian Hubbard**, **Kandyce McGill**, **D. Ramos**, **Sydney Seifert**, **Tara Smith**, and **Ruth Vant** have a Dec. 6 date with the GRE exam.

Ian will also be taking a subject test. **Debbie Henry** takes the GRE over Thanksgiving break, and **Felicia Conde** will be taking the LSAT. **Jennifer Godin** already completed the LSAT and has applied to a dozen or so law schools. Debbie Henry has three applications in and others planned. **Fehmida Lakhi** has been exploring several colleges and a few specialized programs. **Shirley Obioha** and **Toyin Showole** are both already accepted at Upstate Medical in Syracuse.



Above is a photo of Maya Angelou during her keynote address to the National Indian Education Association conference in Greensboro, North Carolina at the beginning of the month. McNair/CSTEP Director Carol Ann Kissam attended the conference and heard the keynote.

SENIOR FEATURE: TARA SMITH

It's rare to be in conversation with Tara Smith for more than five minutes without being engrossed by the depth of her thinking. A focused scholar, Tara is an English Lit./Human Epistemology major who intends to continue her interdisciplinary studies in graduate school.

A McNair Scholar, Tara also holds the distinction of being a Gates Millennium Scholar. She has been recognized on campus with an honorable mention for Best FYP Writing Mentor in Fall '02, with membership in the Irving Bacheller Society, Fall '03, and with the 1856 Achievement Award—a scholarship at SLU.

Tara was a theme floor coordinator and club vice-president during her sophomore and the first part of and junior years, and she spent her spring '03 semester in France.

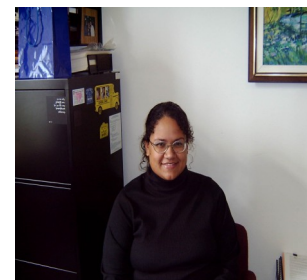
"Going to France provided me with the opportunity to see just how independent I could be," she notes. "It also taught me to be a little more relaxed and to go with the flow. . ."

Tara would like to become a professor and likes the idea of being a "student for life."

Her current research is entitled "The Evolution of Text as Power in Peter Greenaway Films."

The senior from Laurel, DE, provides some valuable insight for students here at SLU:

"Take your education. My freshman year I learned one thing about education: unless you take it and use it its impacts will be very subtle and superficial. Although I haven't 'taken' every educational opportunity I've been given, I've learned to take at least one lesson from each, personal or intellectual. Even so, I've learned to pace myself when it comes to how much I take, when and where (life or school)."



Tara Smith

FROM THE MAIL BAG . . .

INTERNSHIPS

We received a booklet and several pamphlets on the Undergraduate Student Research Program at **NASA**.

We have an email from American University, explaining the **Washington Internship for Native Students** program that the **FBI** is sponsoring. They want 3 interns to meet a November 20 application deadline.

We have a pamphlet on the internship program of the **American Indians in Psychology** at Oklahoma State University.

If you have an internship, don't forget to apply for a **Winter 2004 Internship Fellowship** if you need money. The deadline is Dec. 3, and applications need to be turned in to the Career Services office.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

We now have a CD-Rom with

the **2004 Hispanic Scholarship Directory** for anyone who wants to explore additional scholarship money.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

We have brochures, program information, and/or applications from the following graduate or professional schools:

Union Institute & University Doctoral program; Stanford University; University of California, Los Angeles (American Indian Studies Center, J.D./M.A. Joint Degree program, Masters of Arts program); University of North Dakota (Opportunities for American Indians); Cornell University; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Graduate Programs; the University of Iowa; Master of Arts in Intercultural Communications at the University of the Pacific; Northern Kentucky University; NYU Law; The Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota;

North American Post Graduate Awards at the University of Warwick in England; Arcadia University (with a new Master of Science in Forensic Science); The University of Phoenix—also Online: The NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program and Research Associateships at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama.

NEWSLETTERS & OTHER

We have **Clarkson University's CSTEP/McNair** newsletter from September through November.

Upward Bound sent its October and November newsletters.

We also have a copy of **SUNY Brockport's** CSTEP/McNair newsletter.

There is a pamphlet on the **University of Minnesota Student Excellence in Academics and Multiculturalism Center**.

The National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. has a whole booklet of information.

On Sunday, December 6 the **Weill Medical College of Cornell University** will host its Annual Regional Pre-Medical Conference.

On Saturday, November 22, Columbia University will host a **Colloquium for Minority Students Preparing for Graduate School in Science, Public Health, and Engineering**.

There is information on the **Ph. D. Project** designed to increase the diversity of business school faculty. Check out www.phdproject.org.

A Winterim Schedule of Classes for SUNY Potsdam from Jan. 7–21, 2004 is available. **The SUNY Potsdam** tentative summer schedule is also available. **Syracuse University's CSTEP Progress Report** is in the CSTEP Office.

CSTEP <http://web.stlawu.edu/cstep/intro.htm>

McNair Web Page in Process

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MAPPING A PATH FOR THE FUTURE.

The McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO programs and co-sponsored at St. Lawrence University since 2003.

The Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program is funded through a grant from the New York State Education Department Collegiate and Pre-Professional Programs Unit and co-sponsored at St. Lawrence University since 1986.

The December Meeting for McNair and CSTEP will be a cultural/fun event held in conjunction with the HEOP Office. Look for flyers about the Movie/Mall trip planned for Friday evening, December 12th!

DID YOU READ THIS????????????????????

IMPORTANT UPDATES

- CSTEP is continuing to plan the annual Career Exploration Symposium for March. Details will be forthcoming.
- Thanks to efforts by Syracuse University, there will be a CSTEP Statewide Conference April 16-18, 2004. When you get back from break look for information about applying to attend and applying to present. (McNair research is not presented at this conference.)
- As a reminder, there are upcoming deadlines for Internship Fellowships from the Career Services office and a Shadow Program slated for the winter break.
- McNair/CSTEP Exam Survival Kits will be distributed the week of Dec. 8.
- During Final Exam Week, McNair/CSTEP and HEOP will host study break events in the early evenings. Look for flyers with details as the dates get closer.



Carol's Turkey Haiku

Autumn leaves outdoors,

Inside stuffed chairs groan with weight,

Turkey's gone to waist.



Happy Thanksgiving, A!!!