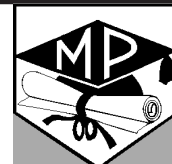


# MCNAIR SCHOLARS

## 25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



The official publication of the McNair Scholars Program administered under the Division of Student Affairs at North Dakota State University

Volume XIV, Issue 2 — January 2014

**2013 - 2014**

### McNair Scholars

**Ahmed Abdille**

Major: Pre-Medical Lab Science & Microbiology

**Tanner Barnharst**

Major: Microbiology

**Ian Berdanier**

Major: English

**Jordann Brandner**

Major: Psychology

**Karen Clark**

Major: Computer Science

**Nyamal Dei**

Major: Health Education

**Jordan Engelke**

Major: English

**Allison Goldenstein**

Major: Biological Sciences & Business Admin.

**John Grieger**

Major: Crop and Weed Science

**Abigail Hayes**

Major: Anthropology

**Mary Hedrick**

Major: Chemistry

**Moses Heppner**

Major: Exercise Science

**Eric 'Scot' Jones**

Major: Statistics & Economics

**Krystal Kalliokoski**

Major: Chemistry Education & Chemistry

**Kouevi Kodjovi**

Major: Biotechnology

**Jane Loueng**

Major: Pharmacy

**Andre Marin**

Major: Electrical Engineering

**Angel Mfon**

Major: Biological Sciences

**Mohyeldin Mohamed**

Major: Political Science & Pre-Law

**Seraphine Ngang**

Major: Microbiology  
Pre-Medical Lab Science

**Minhthu Nguyen**

Major: Retail Merchandising

**Samuel Ogunyemi**

Major: Mechanical Engineering

**Emily Sargent**

Major: Psychology

**Deanna 'Dede' Schreiber-Gregory**

Major: Psychology

**Joshua Tan**

Major: Computer Science

**Kristin Waldock**

Major: English & French



### The 25th year of TRIO McNair Scholars Program celebration welcomes Carl McNair

Ronald E. McNair's brother, Carl McNair, will be joining us February 5, 2014, for an inspirational and motivational message about Ronald's legacy.

**Wednesday, February 5th**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet and greet with Carl McNair for TRIO and McNair Scholars at MU Food Court

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Carl McNair presentation at MU Century Theater (open to the public)

North Dakota State University TRIO McNair Scholars Program (MSP) was founded in memory of astronaut and physicist Ronald E. McNair. We are one of the 14 original universities chosen in 1989 to host a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

In the 1960's, Ron attended a small segregated high school in Lake City, SC. During his senior year, he wrote in a paper he would have a Ph.D. in physics within 10 years. This would be the start of his Ph.D. dream.

Ron graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1971. He attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology's doctoral program on a Ford Foundation Fellowship. During his last year, Ron's bag was stolen, which included three years of research results. For the next three months, he repeated his experiments and replaced the missing data. He attained his Ph.D. in laser physics in 1976.

After graduation, Ron took a job with Hughes Research Laboratories; he worked there for three years. Then in 1978, Ron was selected for the NASA program.

In 1984, Ron experienced his first flight in space, becoming the second African-American as a mission specialist. He was in space for eight days, but he wanted to go into space one more time. His chance would come on January 28, 1986, on the Challenger Mission 51-L, but tragedy struck 73 seconds into the flight.

From this tragedy came the TRIO MSP to provide disadvantaged college students with preparation for doctoral study.

We have served 287 scholars since the inception of the program. We have a success rate of 29% of our scholars earning their doctoral degree; 44 scholars have earned their Ph.D. and 40 scholars earned their professional doctoral degree. TRIO works!

*Carl McNair*

## **Author: In the Spirit of Ronald E. McNair- Astronaut**

Mr. Carl S. McNair is President and CEO of McNair Achievement Programs, LLC, in Atlanta, Georgia. He is an author, NASA Ambassador, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Educator/Consultant and Technologist.

For over 20 years, McNair Achievement Programs have developed and implemented successful S.T.E.M educational programs. Mr. McNair has appeared on CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS and African television networks and has been featured on NPR's Tavis Smiley Show.

Mr. McNair is the Founder and President Emeritus of the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Foundation. The McNair Foundation was named in honor of Carl's brother, who died along with six of his astronaut colleagues aboard

the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. The Foundation's programs inspire and encourage students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Mathematics (STEM) and other related careers. The McNair Foundation also created and implemented the Challengers / McNair Space and Science Camp and the Challengers / McNair Science Mentoring Program.

Mr. McNair has been an advocate for the prestigious Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (aka the McNair Scholars Program). Today, McNair Scholar's Programs resides at 152 colleges and universities nationally, including Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Since its inception in 1987, over 60,000 alumni have participated in the McNair Scholars Program. Over 2,500 McNair Scholars have earned Doctorate degrees and several thousand others have earned Masters and Professional degrees.

Carl has been active with Leadership Atlanta, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, board member of the Fernbank Science Center Foundation, National Technical Association, National Black M.B.A. Association, The Urban League, Youth Entrepreneurship Club, National Black Data Processing Associates, The Tuskegee Airman, Young Astronauts Council, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Christian Business Men's Committee and Crossroads Career Ministries.

Mr. McNair authored a book entitled, *In the Spirit of Ronald E. McNair-Astronaut*, an inspirational and motivational biography of the life and achievements of his brother.

Carl earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Mr. McNair is a native of Lake City, South Carolina. He and his wife, Mary, and daughter Desiree', reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

*Sponsored by TRIO McNair Scholars Program, TRIO Department, Cooperative Sponsorship Committee, Diversity Initiatives Grant, Office of Enrollment, Office of Multicultural Office, and Service Learning and Civic Engagement.*

## Scholar Spotlight

featuring Deanna Schreiber-Gregory



Deanna Schreiber-Gregory

Deanna Schreiber-Gregory graduated from NDSU in December 2013. She attained a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Statistics with a minor in Business Administration. Her faculty mentor was Dr. Michael Robinson. She worked with him as a research assistant even before she joined McNair.

### What made you decide to be a McNair Scholar?

I have been on the graduate school track since the 10th grade. Since no one else in my family has attended college, and therefore, hasn't even thought about graduate school, I was definitely on my own. I was pleasantly surprised by the support I found through the program.

### What do you do when you aren't studying or doing research?

I volunteer at the VA Hospital twice a week, the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center at least once a week, the Red River Zoo once a week and my church once a week. Aside from volunteering, my husband and I are avid video game enthusiasts, nature walkers and book worms.

### How has McNair opened doors for you?

I enjoy the additional information about graduate school applications

and the availability of a reliable source for information and support on my journey to grad school. I also enjoy the new opportunities to present at conferences, get help on the GRE and have my admissions rates reduced on my applications.

### What's your life plan personally and professionally?

I would like to start having kids within the next 5 years. My educational goal is to receive my masters in biostatistics, doctoral degree in clinical psychology, and medical degree in psychiatry with an emphasis in neuroscience within the next 10-15 years. After I receive my degrees I would like to work at a research institute as a primary investigator. I would also like to produce more published work and attend and present at conferences around the world.

### Do you have words of wisdom for fellow McNair colleagues?

If an opportunity presents itself where you can meet and work with people in your field, jump at it. I have found time and time again that if you put yourself out there and at least try, you will get noticed. I cannot begin to describe how much I have learned and achieved just by interacting with the professionals I want to work beside in the future.

### How do you determine or evaluate success?

I determine and evaluate success based on weaknesses. If you are able to confront and overcome a weakness, that is a great success. I believe that the reason people don't reach all of their goals is because they have some weakness that stands in their way. Overcome them and you can succeed at anything.

### Conference experience:

A couple of summers ago I worked up the courage to submit some of my work to a regional SAS user's group conference (MWSUG) to take place in Kansas City, KS in the fall of 2011. My work was accepted

and so was my application to be a student scholar! My experience there gave me the courage to apply to more conferences and scholarships. I have since attended MWSUG '12, SAS Analytics '12, SAS Global Forum '13, PharmaSUG '13 as well as both NESUG '13 and MWSUG '13. Of the conferences I attended, SAS Global Forum '13 was by far the biggest.

I was one of 10 Student Ambassadors selected from around the world for this program. To be a Student Ambassador is the highest honor that you can receive as a student of SAS. I was the youngest ambassador and the only undergraduate, as most of my fellow ambassadors were already graduating with their doctoral degrees.

My experiences at these conferences are each one of a kind and I enjoy each of them thoroughly. I continue to submit my work in hopes that I will continue to be able to attend these conferences. In conclusion, the biggest lesson I have learned from this experience is to never give up and don't be afraid to put yourself out there. You'll never know who will notice you!



*"You learn what is expected in graduate school and it gives you a head start to get to where you want to go... It's nice to have the McNair Program to give that guidance. It's like a family in a sense; it's a family here on campus." - Deanna*



---

# McNair Scholars

North Dakota State University  
Dept. 5270  
P.O. Box 6050  
Ceres Hall 331  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Return Address Requested

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, sex, sexual orientation, status as a U.S. veteran, race or religion. Direct inquiries to the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708.

---



McNair Scholars Program  
Student Support Service  
Upward Bound

Veterans Educational Training

## NDSU McNair Scholars Program

Anna Sheppard, MSP Director  
(701) 231-7312  
Anna.Sheppard@ndsu.edu

The McNair Scholars Program is federally funded by the United States Department of Education and administered under the Division of Student Affairs at North Dakota State University.

*"Anyone can do what I've done. If you are willing to apply yourself and work hard, you can achieve even more than I have. If you will commit yourself to your dreams, you can go as high as you like. Take my word for it: the sky is not the limit."*

- Ronald E. McNair

## IN THIS ISSUE

- History of NDSU TRIO McNair Scholar Program
- Carl McNair Biography
- Scholar Spotlight
- Meet Mary Wire



Mary Wire

Mary Wire was the very first TRIO McNair Scholar from NDSU to attain a doctoral degree. Mary graduated from NDSU with a bachelors degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences in December 1992. She attained

her Pharm.D. from NDSU in 1994.

"I was interested in research as an NDSU pharmacy student, and my experiences with the McNair Scholar Program and other research opportunities clearly led me to a fulfilling career in the pharmaceutical industry. My initial research opportunity was a summer job in a pharmacokinetic drug analysis lab directed by a pharmaceutical sciences professor, Shoukry Khalil (see photo).

"Other summer experiences included pharmaceutical industry and the Indian Health Service. The McNair Scholar Program provided my first experience with an independent research project, including daily lab work and presentation

of the results. The research results from the McNair Scholar Program provided good material for post-doc interview seminars.

"Today, I enjoy a great career that benefits from the combination of my clinical pharmacy and research training and allows me to contribute to the development of medicines for patients with serious illnesses. I am thankful to NDSU for a good education, diverse opportunities, and personal and professional support.

"Seek out diverse opportunities — it is amazing how different types of experiences are connected in unanticipated ways and enhance our development."

---