

ABOVE & BEYOND

The Newsletter of the Learning to Learn & McNair Scholars Program at Boston College



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DIOP: Renaissance Scholar, Coalition of AHANA Males

by Mawuli K. Hormeku



I am pleased to serve as this year's DIOP coordinator. I graduated from BC with the Class of '03 and am currently a Boston College M.Ed candidate. I was a founding member of D.I.O.P.

In a time where the black educated male is a minority, I believe that it is imperative that we create a vehicle to identify, develop and employ leadership. Our community is in dire need of leaders to encourage innovation and achievement in every field of human endeavor. In my opinion, D.I.O.P is that vehicle at Boston College and we will continue to move forward and gain momentum.

Founded in the Spring of 2000, Dedicated Intellectuals of the People (D.I.O.P), is a powerful and dynamic coalition of AHANA males who attend or graduated from Boston College. D.I.O.P is not just a clever acronym; it also pays homage to Cheikh Anta Diop, who was one of the premiere scholars of the 20th century.

Diop was a renaissance man, whose example of superior intellectual development promoted social change. A true D.I.O.P member should be a catalyst

for positive progression within himself and his environment.

We congregate weekly to discuss pertinent issues within our lives and communities and endorse the social, spiritual, academic and moral welfare of our members. As active advocates of social justice, we follow the Jesuit tradition.



For the fall 2008 semester, DIOP will meet every Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:30 at the Learning to Learn office (50 College Rd). Contact me at hormeku@bc.edu for more information.

CTP'07: First Year Students Learn the Ropes at BC

by Ricco Villanueva Siasoco



This is my fourth year directing the College Transition Program, and in many ways I feel like a senior. This year will mark the graduation of my very first CTP class, a group of 16 bright-eyed, first-generation college students who entered Boston College in 2004.

In a cheesy way I feel like a proud parent (or should I say uncle?), hearing about their final graduation requirements, offering help with recommendations and graduate school prep, and hopefully easing some of their worries about the real world. I also feel like a senior because the CTP program has matured as well: what was once a skeletal program has calcified, and now includes a full-day orientation for parents and families; the reach of the CTP program includes more off-campus, “get to know the city” excursions; and perhaps most importantly, people around B.C. seem to recognize the name “CTP” when we call.

It’s enough to make a once-green coordinator feel like he’s arrived (and lest we forget—and thank—our friends in housing—we’ve definitely matured in accommodations, from our humble beginnings in the stifling, non-air-conditioned rooms of Walsh Hall to the noticeably improved digs in 90 St. Thomas More Hall.)

This year we welcome a new class of twenty CTP’ers who arrived at the Chestnut Hill campus on Saturday, July 7, 2007, from as far away as San Francisco and Detroit and as nearby as a T ride from Allston and Dorchester (Bostonians made up nearly half of this year’s CTP crew). I am impressed with the fast friendships and enthusiasm of this year’s bunch, who have made my job as an advisor, mentor, and teacher both a joy and a snap.

All of the new CTP’ers—Bilal, Titeciana, Ronan, Sania, Minela, Faith, Anthony, Charles, Djerica,

Gerald, Danny, Johanny, Brandy, Nairobi, Kari, Alessandra, David, Charlene, Lisette, and Kendrick—participated openly and eagerly, learning about B.C.’s wealth of resources from the fantastic B.C. faculty, staff, and administrators who have taken time from their busy schedules to talk with them one-on-one. They have formed indelible friendships (and sing-alongs) that will guide them through the next four years.



As always, I must thank our staff at the Learning to Learn office for

their blood, sweat, and tears: Dan, Adaline, Dacia, Rossanna, Gaelle, Paula, Richard, and Stephanie have all lent a hand to give feedback, talk to a parent, shop for BBQ supplies, or simply advise the CTP class of 2011. The B.C. juniors and seniors who

acted as this year’s Peer Advisors—David Bernadino, Katherine Fuentes, Mariah Mullen (all of them CTP alums), and Iris Gisela Tavares (who

did double-duty as the CTP Admin Assistant)—provided the glue for two weeks of straight-shooting peer talks, behind-the-scenes organizing, and overall role-modeling. As they say: It takes a village.



The College Transition Program is a unique beast: part university orientation, part summer camp, part taste of college life, and a whole lot of fun. Playing hoops with our friends in the OTE Program a few days ago at the Plex, I realized that the old cliché still holds true: we stay young by being with the young. I’m fortunate to have a job where I get to work, play, and educate some of the brightest (and funniest) young people at Boston College.

McNair '07: Reflections on the Summer Research Program

By Richard Paul



This summer, I served as the Coordinator and Graduate Assistant to the McNair Scholars Summer Program at Boston College. I had a fabulous time socializing, eating, and living with the McNair students.

More importantly, I genuinely enjoyed being a role model and resource for them.

What was a typical day like for the McNair Scholars? The McNair students awoke early, stayed up late and they definitely did not eat the bread of sorrow. Their industrious work and resilience in learning from their professors in addition to their research activities instilled them with an unparalleled sense of pride and satisfaction. Their dedication to their research projects triumphed over their initial feelings of doubtfulness and uncertainty by the end of the summer.

Moreover, the support the students rendered to each other as their relationships deepened allowed them to cope with the frustrations they experienced. In the end, they learned that a proposed research topic is subject to change as the research project progresses.

The theoretical and practical knowledge the McNair students attained this summer in conjunction with their respective research experiences will definitely propel them to a higher level of scholarship in graduate school. As a McNair alumnus ('07) from Boston College, I can attest to the above since my research experience in the McNair Program laid the foundation for my own graduate studies in Geology here at Boston College.

I am confident that the McNair Scholars'08 would accomplish their goals and succeed in their future research endeavors and careers. I strongly encourage all students to consider graduate school early. Stu-

dents can invest in their future by participating in the McNair Program that introduces them to the process of conducting research and exposes them to academia.



*First row (l-r): Hang Tran, Malcolm Joseph, Nadia Aboussir.
Second row (l-r): Ruthie Fields, Colleen Silva, Shahan Mamoor, Jonathan Aguilar, Leonardo Maya and Ronald Mendoza- DeJesus*

4th Annual McNair Symposium

Congratulations to the McNair Scholars who presented their research projects at the McNair Symposium, held in the Heights Room on August 1, 2007.

Nadia Aboussir

Faculty Mentor: Ann Norris, Psychiatric/Mental Health

Research Title: Impact of Sex Ratios on HIV/AIDS

Major: History

Jonathan Aguilar

Faculty Mentor: Peter Auger, Biology

Research Title: Eastern Box Turtle in Comparative Analysis in Hammond Pond Reserve and Cape Cod

Major: Biology

Ruthie Fields

Faculty Mentor: Solomon Friedberg, Mathematics

Research Title: Topology: An Intuitive Discussion

Major: Mathematics

Malcolm Joseph

Faculty Mentor: Julia Whitcavitch-Devoy, Developmental Psychology

Research Title: Racial-Ethnic Socialization of Adolescents

Major: Social Work

Shahan Mamoor

Faculty Mentor: Junona Moroianu, Biology

Research Title: Analysis of the Interactions of Human Papillomavirus L2 Minor Capsid Proteins with Importin 7 Nuclear Import Receptor

Major: Biochemistry

Leonardo Maya

Faculty Mentor: Roberto Avant-Mier, Communication

Research Title: "Our Anthem": An Application of Critical Discourse Analysis to the National Anthem Controversy

Major: Communications

Ronald Mendoza-DeJesús

Faculty Mentor: Kevin Newmark, French & Literature

Research Title: An Uncanny Encounter: Poe, Lacan, and Derrida at Crossroads of Truth

Major: Philosophy

Colleen Silva

Faculty Mentor: Brinton Lykes, Counseling

Research Title: Femicide in Guatemala: Testing Terminology as Means to Conceptualize, Address, and Respond to Lethal Violence against Women

Major: Sociology and Hispanic Studies

Thu-Hang Tran

Faculty Mentor: Cynthia Lyerly, History

Research Title: Tales of War, Memories of Home: Vietnamese American Women and the Transition from War to Peace.

Major: Secondary Education Teaching

Conferences

McNair Students continue to broaden their horizons by attending conferences in their fields of study and networking with professionals in their majors.

Colleen Silva attended the *Empowering Women in Global Development Summit* in Washington D.C. on

July 25, 2007. The Summit featured leaders from more than a dozen women's right and development organizations.

Jodi-Ann Burey (McNair Summer 2006), Grace Festin (McNair Summer 2006), Shahan Mamoor and Hang Tran attended the 15th Annual McNair Scholars Symposium at the University of California, Berkeley on August 6-9, 2007. Shahan and Hang presented their McNair summer research while Jodi-Ann presented on *The Rhythm of the Hot Dog: Handgames and the Identity Formation of Black Female Children* and Grace on the *Synthesis of SgcC4 inhibitors*.



McNair conference attendees (l-r): Grace Festin, Shahan Mamoor, Colleen Silva, Jodi-Ann Burey

Richard's 10 Cents: Completing the Summer McNair Program

1. Devote at least 35 hours/week to your research
2. Meet professors regularly and prepare questions
3. Be open-minded that your research may change
4. Be punctual
5. Be aware of academic responsibilities and submit all materials on or before the appointed deadline
6. Attend all GRE classes
7. Attend all McNair sponsored workshops/seminars and social events
8. Consult and meet with your appointed librarian
9. Rest and relax
10. Socialize and have fun!

Sisters, Let's Talk: Finding Common Ground

by Adaline Mirabal



Sisters, Let's Talk is a support and discussion group at Boston College that seeks to facilitate connections between women students of color as well as women faculty and

staff of color. Its goal is to assist women of color at BC to grow closer through discussing issues that are pertinent to their well-being.

How do I get involved?

- Commit to participating for one academic year.
- Attend one meeting a month. These will take place at the Women Resource Center from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on November 14 and December 5, 2007. In the spring, we will meet on January 30, February 27, March 26, and April 23, 2008 (same location and time). May's meeting will be scheduled in the spring.
- Share your opinions, insights, perceptions, and views.
- Listen openly to others even if you do not agree.
- Read interesting material concerning realities that women of color encounter at BC and in society.

Sisters, Let's Talk was developed by students, faculty, and staff and sponsored by The Intersections Project through the 2007-08 academic year. For more information, please contact Adaline Mirabal at 617.552.4551 or mirabal@bc.edu.

LTL Study Hours: Tues 6-8 pm

Concerned with time management? Can't study in your room after dinner? Or just sick of study lounges and need a quiet place to work? Join a motivated group of LTL students for quiet, concentrated study from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Learning to Learn of-

fice. You'll be surprised at the difference studying in the early evening will make.

Join the Graduate Mentorship Program for one-on-one advice

by Gaelle Gourgues



The Boston College Graduate Mentorship Program matches Boston College Graduate students as mentors with undergraduate students from low income, first generation, or underrepresented backgrounds.

The program is designed to help participants share experiences around graduate studies, such as how choices are made to pursue a particular discipline, and the challenges and rewards of being a graduate student. The ultimate goal is to have participants share stories and offer support and guidance in exploring graduate work. For more information, contact Gaelle Gourgues at gourgues@bc.edu or Katie O'Dair at odair@bc.edu.

LTL Leadership Council: Building Community On-Campus and Off

Want to get involved on campus but not sure exactly how? Think more students should know about LTL and McNair's support services?

The LTL Leadership Council is a select group of undergraduates whose purpose is synonymous with that of the Learning to Learn Program: to provide academic, enrichment, and logistical services to all undergraduate students at Boston College. This fall, the LTL Leadership Council will promote LTL's activities, conduct community service events, and organize social events.

Join the LTL Leadership Council for their weekly meetings every Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 pm at the LTL office. For more information, contact Dianna Martinho at martinho@bc.edu.

I Want to Do Better! How Can I Improve My G.P.A.?

Applications of Learning Theory, a three-credit learning strategies course, will again be offered during the Spring 2008 term. Time management, reading to answer questions, keyword diagrams, and question charts are just a few of the skills students acquire to improve study habits and academic performance.

Instructors Dacia Gentilella and Ricco Villanueva Siasoco teach sections of this three-credit psychology elective on MW 1:00 or TTH 10:30. To register for the course, stop by the LTL office at 50 College Road.

New Faces:

Stephanie Mohan

Stephanie is a student in College of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2010. She is from New York, New York.



New Faces: Emily Raiff

Emily Raiff is a junior in Human Development with a focus in Human Resources. She is very excited about being a T.A.

New Faces: Kristin Reed

Kristin is a sophomore in the College of Arts & Sciences. She is pursuing an English major and a pre-med concentration. Kristin hails from Chicago.



New Faces: Ronan Baynes

Ronan is a first-year student in the College of Arts & Sciences. He is originally from San Francisco.

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Spotlight: Volunteer & Service Learning Center

Now in its fifth year, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center serves members of the Boston College community in many ways. These include assisting students, staff and faculty who are seeking opportunities to serve in the greater Boston area, creating a network between existing student service and immersion organizations, and helping departments in their efforts to offer safe, high quality experiences for those who want to serve others.

In addition, the VSLC has developed a growing resource center in order to provide students, staff and faculty with tools for education, team formation and theological reflection. Finally, we have opportunities like the Eagle Volunteer Corps, where students, faculty, and staff can commit themselves to regular service. Encouraging service to others is a major priority at Boston College. The VSLC is playing a major role in advancing that commitment among members of our campus community.

Volunteer and Service Learning Center



Opportunity: COE 2008 Int'l Leadership Training Program

COE 2008 is a three-credit European study program for TRIO college students from June 9—June 29, 2008. TRIO students are the first in their families to attend college.

TRIO SSS and McNair students are invited to apply for a three-week leadership training and study abroad program in Liverpool, London, and Amsterdam co-sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education and the University of Liverpool. The course, "World Citizenship: Building Leadership Skills in a Multicultural Society," which provides three credits, will take place June 9—June 29, 2008. This is the

eighth year that COE and the University of Liverpool have offered this program.

The deadline for applications: January 15, 2008

For the application, course synopsis, and program description, go to: <http://www.coenet.us> and click on International Initiatives > Study Abroad > Programs for TRIO Students.

Need Help Paying for Textbooks? Apply for Severin Book Award

Each fall and spring semester, the Karen Campbell Severin Book Award is given to two undergraduate students who best exemplify Karen's legacy of giving unselfishly to the community. Applications will be reviewed by a committee overseen by the Office of AHANA Student Programs.

In order to apply for the Book Award, students must demonstrate financial need and submit the following:

Essay (2 to 3 pages, double-spaced)

Applicants should highlight and articulate their experience in community service and volunteerism, e.g., their roles, responsibilities, challenges, successes, and rewards.

Statement of Financial Need

Preference is given to applicants with demonstrated financial need. Please explain your financial situation.

Resume

Please include your updated resume.

List of Itemized Expenditures

Applicants must itemize their anticipated book expenses, e.g., name and cost of the books, corresponding course numbers and instructor names.

Contact the Office of AHANA Student Programs at oasp@bc.edu for more information, including upcoming deadlines and an application.

Thinking about grad school?

The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program is currently recruiting a new cohort of scholars. If you plan to attend graduate school, are interested in research, and would like to help advance your field, the McNair Program is for you.

Benefits of McNair

- Gain a solid preparation for research in graduate school and the rigor of graduate education
- Strengthen your academic skills
- Opportunities to participate in presentations, workshops, professional meetings, and conferences
- A supporting network of faculty and peers
- \$2,400 stipend for summer research
- Free GRE preparation course
- Graduate School application waivers provided by upwards of 200 graduate schools
- McNair-specific funding available at a variety of graduate institutions
- McNair Scholars are a highly desirable population for graduate recruitment
- Higher potential of completing a doctoral program

Learning to Learn Department

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