

ABOVE & BEYOND

The Learning to Learn & McNair Programs Newsletter



Boston College Division of Student Affairs
Actualizing our Mission

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2005

The View from 50 College Road

Dear Learning to Learn Students, Faculty, and Staff:

All of us at Learning to Learn are excited for a new semester! This spring, we're battling the cold weather by establishing a new Leadership Council, graduating our first class of McNair scholars, preparing for the third summer of the College Transition Program, and providing more individual academic advising and tutoring than ever before.

To facilitate our growing community, we've hired new teaching assistants, streamlined office procedures (thanks to our efficient Assistant Director Adaline!), and provided more bulletin boards for student communication and opportunities.

Whether you're a Boston College student, staff, or faculty member, we hope that you'll discover all that Learning to Learn has to offer.

Dan Bunch
Director, Learning to Learn

Dear McNair Scholars & Friends:

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful and relaxing break. We are excited to begin our spring semester now that we have one year of experience to consider as we develop new programs and plans for our second summer research program. We are very proud of our accomplishments last semester. Approximately, twelve scholars participated in research conferences some as far as San Juan, Puerto Rico and San Diego, CA. We ended the semester with a successful gathering.

This spring semester we plan to provide you with seminars, workshops, trips, gatherings combined with great food. We will start with the Pre-Research Seminar* on February 5th from 10am-12pm for eight consecutive Saturdays. The goal of the pre-research class is to prepare you for the project you will conduct this summer. The monthly workshops will cover topics such as public speaking, research note taking and will include a first-year graduate student panel. Finally, on April 15-16, we will take a group of 10 stu-

dents to the University of New Hampshire to participate in the first symposium for New England McNair Scholars along with Vermont and UNH participants. We encourage students to present their research project or their proposal in oral or poster presentations. This will be a great opportunity to meet other New England students and forge new friendships. More details to follow!

**This seminar is required of all students who have not taken a research course.*

We are preparing for our summer research program which will start on June 4 and will end on July 30, 2005. We hope that this will be an exciting experience for you and your faculty-mentor.

We hope you enjoy this

(Continued on page 2)

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



RESEARCH READY
McNair Scholars ready for graduate school at the McNair 13th Annual National Research Conference & Graduate School Fair, November 5-7, 2004. (l-r:) Omar Gonzalez, Veronica Joseph, Andrew Grillo, Viena Mbagaya, Yaw Anyinam (more on page 3)

ABOVE & BEYOND

McNair Scholar Presents Research on Haitian Americans at National Conference

Martsyl Joseph at the Haitian Studies Association Annual Conference, Oct. 6-8, 2005



FAMILY TIES
(l-r) McNair Scholar Martsyl Joseph with Angela DeSilva, Diana Gonzalez-Eastep, and Martsyl's faculty mentor, Professor Guerda Nicolas

The purpose of the conference was to foster dialogue among policy makers, scholars and practitioners about developing dynamics and functioning institutions that can tackle the social, economic, political and cultural challenges that Haitians.

Martsyl Joseph, a senior in..., presented her research on the Haitian family. She shares with us her experience:

"On October 6-8 the Haitian Studies Association held its 16th Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico to which I had the wonderful opportunity to attend. The title of the conference was "Re-Discovering Haitian History: Archiving Memory to Construct our Future." This title is important because it correlates

with the fact that this year is Haiti's bicentennial independence. The panel presentations ranged in topics from Haiti's history to Haitian art and dance. Many students and scholars came from all over the United States to present their work at this conference. The topic of my panel, which consisted of my McNair mentor and two of her graduate students, was "Leaving Home: The Influence of Acculturation for Haitians." My presentation was entitled "Family Ties: The function of family for Haitians in the U.S." I basically presented psychological data on th Haitian family in terms of the relationship between social support and family.

Going to Puerto Rico to be a

part of this conference, and actually presenting research that I conducted is a major accomplishment for me. As a Haitian woman myself, I felt very proud to see so many scholarly Haitian people in different fields talking about the greatness of the Haitian culture. Not only did I feel proud, but I also felt inspired. This experience made me realize that my world is limitless and anything that I set my mind to can be accomplished. If someone told me a year ago that I would be attending a conference in another country about Haitian studies, I would tell them they are crazy. I never imagined such a thing being within my capacity, and I thank the McNair program for all their support and making this happen."

New McNair Academic Handbook

At last the handbook is available! We expect scholars to refer to it as often as possible and to follow all guidelines. Pay attention to the *General Requirements* and *Program Calendar* section. The short *Research Guideline* section will equip you with sufficient knowledge to familiarize yourself with the different components of your research. For more information, contact Gaelle at 617-552-4551

The View from 50 College Road (continued)

newsletter and the great things some of your colleagues have accomplished.

Remember we are here to assist you should you need academic or financial aid assistance.

Best wishes for a great semester!

Rossanna and Gaelle

Congratulations to our graduating LTL seniors!

Philip Chan
Nari Chun
Victoria Hellen
Anaica Joseph
Susanne Kim
Sang Kim
Meg Larsen

Hana Lee
Derrick Lewis
Desmon Lewis
Xin Li
Eric Rodriguez

and the proud members of Boston College's Class of 2005

Make an Impact: Join the Leadership Council

Want to get involved with Learning to Learn but not sure exactly how? Come to the first meeting of the LTL Leadership Council on Monday, February 21 at 5:00 pm.

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 spring, the LTL Leadership Council will organize campus events, promote LTL's activities, and provide student mentoring and leadership. One of

the group's first activities will be to collect non-perishable food for BC's Hunger Week.

For more information, contact Ricco Siasoco or Adaline Mirabal at 617.552.4551.

The Leadership Council will organize campus events, promote LTL's activities and provide student mentoring and leadership

Kick-Off BBQ a Success

What better way to launch the academic year than an old-fashioned BBQ? Seniors and first-year College Transition Program alumni gathered with faculty and staff for burgers and hot dogs in October 2004.

Special thanks to all involved for grilling, clean up, and participation. To get involved with planning social events, join the LTL Leadership Council or call 617-552-4551.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF EXAMS

CTP '04 participants Eric Rodriguez, Meghan Harrington, Vanessa Christopher, Julie Crowley, and Lindsay Kim share a bite at the Kick-Off BBQ

Snack 'n Study Wednesdays at LTL

Terrible at time management? Can't study in your room after dinner?

Trying to get an early start on that nagging paper or project?

Join a motivated group of LTL students for quiet, concentrated Snack 'N Study every Wednesday night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Learning to Learn office.

Bring your books and laptops, or use the student computers in our office to conduct online research.

And to keep your growling stomach at bay, popcorn and other snacks will be provided. You'll be surprised at the difference studying in the early evening will make!





A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
At the McNair & SSS Senior Retreat, Meg Larsen gained “a better understanding of my peers and their plans and the caliber of persons whom I would be competing with for positions in graduate school.”

Personalizing the Personal Statement

Asking Questions at The WAEOPP McNair & SSS Senior Retreat, Sept. 24-26, 2004

The WAEOPP McNair & SSS Senior Retreat is geared toward seniors who plan to attend graduate school. Students participated in workshop such as: “Why graduate school?”, “Statement of Purpose,” “The application process.”

Margaret Larsen, senior in Human Development, who attended this retreat, gave us her perspective on it:

“I really learned a lot about the application process and how applications are reviewed by the colleges and universities as well as an organized approach to completing and

submitting the applications. Now that I know the process I also know that the best time to submit the application is in November before they get the big rush around the deadline time. We spent a lot of time on personal statements, which helped me a great deal. Donald Asher outlined the main topics that should be covered and explained how to make your essay stand apart from the rest. He also explained how to let the reader know how to interpret your transcript and activities list.

I also learned a lot from the

people that I met at the retreat. We exchanged stories about our own colleges and programs which helped me to get a better understanding of the programs available in the Midwest. We also discussed our goals and what programs of study we are looking in to, which helped me to get a better understanding of my peers and their plans and the caliber of persons whom I would be competing with for positions in graduate school. Over all it was a wonderfully enriching experience and I would do it again in a heart beat!”

Graduate Study: A Realistic Option

Research Tips at The McNair 13th Annual National Research Conference & Graduate School Fair, November 5-7, 2004.

The McNair National Research Conference provides undergraduate students the opportunity to explore graduate study as a realistic option. Workshops, panel discussions and activities introduce McNair Scholars to the nature of graduate study and provide helpful tips in writing effective graduate admissions applications.

Andrew Grillo, a senior in Political Science commented on the 2004 conference: “Attending the McNair Scholars Research Conference & Graduate Fair was extremely beneficial. First of all, I got to spend some time with perhaps the greatest group of people I have ever been around. With Gaelle’s leadership, the other scholars and I were able to take advantage of everything that the conference had to of-

fer. Finally, the speech given by Dr. Mitchem was an inspiring wake up call to what we will face in the future, as underrepresented and underprivileged students.

Secondly, the conference offered an opportunity to learn about other subjects in an in depth way. I truly enjoyed being able to walk around and learn about so many different things. For me it was interesting to see an environment where so many people have been working so hard in their academic endeavors. It was inspiring. Perhaps the most enjoyable event of the conference was the keynote address by Dr. Mitchem, who spoke about what lies ahead for McNair scholars after they graduate from college. Most

McNair scholars know what the next step is for them. Future plans include graduate school, law school, or even Ph.D. programs. However, what is uncertain is the future of the McNair scholars program nation-wide. Funding for educational programs has always been lacking but for educational programs that involve underprivileged and underrepresented groups in society, educational funding is more scarce and is becoming more so with time. Dr. Mitchem encouraged all of us to be prepared to fight for the McNair program and for other opportunities that have we have been denied for so long. His message was simple: our work will never be done. “

IMPORTANT McNAIR DATES

Feb. 16, 4-5:30 pm

Applicant InfoSession

March 4

McNair Applications Due

April 1

Summer research proposal (for McNair Scholars)

All sessions at 50 College Road

Congratulations Graduating McNair Scholars

The McNair Program at Boston College presents May 2005 Graduates

Tanesha Barnes

Tanesha intends to pursue a career in Student Affairs. She has applied to the following graduate



schools: Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, Columbia University, NYU, George Washington University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Virginia.

Andrew Grillo

Andrew plans to pursue a career



in Law or in Security Studies. He has applied to the following graduate schools: Fletcher School, Columbia University, Harvard University, John Hopkins, Georgetown, George Washington University and Yale.

Martsyl Joseph

Martsyl is interested in Masters in Black Studies. She applied to the following



graduate schools: UMass Amherst, Ohio State University, Clark Atlanta University, Indiana University and University of Alabama.

Meg Larsen

Meg will pursue graduate studies in Speech and Language Pathology. She applied



to following graduate schools: Northeastern University, Emerson College, Ohio State University, Purdue and University of Wyoming.

Helina Teklehaimanot

Helina has chosen to explore the field of journalism through employment.



How Do I Become a McNair Scholar?

Applications for 2005 McNair Program available online

The application for the 2005 McNair Scholars Program is available at 50 College Road. You may also find it online at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ltl/mcnair>.

We are accepting first and second year students. Applications must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation, a copy of your most recent transcript, and a copy of your most recent tax form. The deadline is March 4.

In Memoriam: Professor Grant Balkema

We regret to announce the death our faculty-mentor, Professor Grant Balkema. Professor Balkema was a well-respected professor and administrator, serving the Biology Department for seventeen years. He also served as a faculty mentor for McNair Scholar, Christine Crawford. He will be missed.

ATTN: CURRENT McNAIR SCHOLARS

February 2005* Graduate Student Panel

March 2005* Public Speaking

April 2005* Note Taking

**Exact dates and times will be announced via email.*



OPENING LTL'S DOORS
At LTL's fall 2004 open house, Dean Mick Smyer chats with Dan Bunch (above); Associate Directors Rossanna Contreras Godfrey and Adaline Mirabal (below) in a moment of high



Off to a Strong Academic Start

More than 50 Students Register for PS005 Applications of Learning Theory



READY TO TEACH
Dacia Gentilella and Ricco Villanueva Siasoco pictured with TA Chantal Tate. This spring, more than 50 students are registered for LTL's learning strategies course.

As they say, spring has sprung. This means that Applications of Learning Theory—LTL's learning strategies course—is in full swing.

What's it all about? Time management,

reading to answer questions, keyword diagrams, and question charts are just a few of the skills that students learn to improve study habits and academic performance.

Instructors Dacia Gentilella and Ricco Villanueva Siasoco and a staff of dedicated Teaching Assistants including Shernelle, Omar, Chantal,

Meg, Anaica, Kathy, Chris, and Kate are working with more than 50 students in the three-credit elective in the Department of Psychology.

For more information about fall registration, please call 617.552.4551 or visit us on the web at www.bc.edu/ltl.

New Faces: Shernelle Charles, Chris Kratz, & Kate Thibault

LTL welcomes three new Teaching Assistants this spring

Shernelle Charles is a bio-chemistry major in the school of Arts & Sciences 2006. She lives in NYC but her heart & soul belong to her birthplace, Dominica (a beautiful island in the Caribbean). She enjoys dancing and plans to be a pediatrician with Doctors without Borders.

Chris Kratz is a junior at Boston College. He is a Biology major with a pre-med concentration. Originally from Kingston, Pennsylvania (where his family still resides), he is an avid skier who loves to spend his free time on the slopes.



Kate Thibault is a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education and Human Development in the Lynch School of Education. She is originally from Stoughton, Massachusetts, and plays soccer with B.C.'s Club Soccer Team. She also volunteers at an after school



The Dustbowl in June? Become a CTP Peer Advisor

LTL & McNair staff prepare for 2005 CTP & McNair summer programs in transition and research

Forget the shoulder-high snow drifts, think summer on the Chestnut Hill campus! Our staff is busy planning our annual transition and research programs for first generation B.C. students.

The College Transition Program (CTP) will welcome its third class of incoming B.C. students this June. The McNair Program expands

upon its summer research program, expanding from six to eight weeks for research.

CTP is a summer residential program for incoming first-generation college students. The application process for Peer Advisors will begin in March. For more information, please contact Ricco Siasoco at 617-552-4551.

The McNair Summer Research Program is an intensive research-based program to develop projects and prepare for graduate school. The program is open to current McNair Scholars. For more information, contact Rossanna or Gaele at 617-551-4551.

LTL Grants for First Generation College Students

Required meeting for all LTL grant recipients on Thursday, February 17

The Learning to Learn program will offer grants ranging from \$500-\$1000 for first-generation college students for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Applicants must attend a general meeting on February 17, 2005, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Higgins 300.

Students eligible for these grants are first-generation

college students, minority, or low-income students and students with physical or learning disabilities. Students must be in the Class of 2008. You may complete application forms at our office at 50 College Road during regular business hours.

Grant recipients are required to fulfill several obligations including regular academic advising meetings with LTL

staff, a financial aid workshop with Yvette Johnson, and additional workshops as outlined by the Learning to Learn Program.

For more information, contact Dan Bunch at 617-552-4551.

*FRIENDLY FACES
Director Dan Bunch greets Associate Dean Robert Scott of the College of Arts & Sciences and Sandra Sandiford of the Black Studies Department in November 2004.*



BC Financial Aid Deadline: April 15

Tax Returns, BC Financial Aid Forms, Among Documents due mid-April

A reminder to continuing undergraduate students: the deadline for 2005/2006 financial aid applications is around the corner: **April 15, 2005**. If the Office of Student Services does not receive these materials by April 15, 2005, your entire financial aid package may be in jeopardy.

Below is a checklist of necessary forms. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

2005-2006 Financial Aid Checklist

- 2005-2006 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- 2005-2006 [Boston College Undergraduate Financial Aid Application](#)
- Signed copy of your parents' 2004 federal tax return, including schedules and W-2 statements
- Signed copy of your 2004 federal tax return, including all schedules and W-2 statements
- Completed 2005-2006 [Noncustodial Parent's Statement](#), if applicable
- Signed copy of your noncustodial parent's 2004 federal tax return, including all schedules and

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ABOVE & BEYOND NEWSLETTER

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The Learning to Learn & McNair Programs Newsletter

Learning To Learn is a partnership program between the U.S. Department of Education and Boston College. Established in 1979, the program is designed to improve students' critical thinking abilities and provide them with the learning skills to succeed in college and beyond.

- Applications of Learning Theory course
- Graduate school exam preparation classes
- College Transition Program
- Financial Aid Counseling
- Academic and personal counseling
- Cultural and social events
- Liaison to university departments including Residential Life, Student Services, Dean's Offices, etc.
- Program methodology workshops to faculty and staff
- Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI)

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is a graduate school preparation program for underrepresented Boston College undergraduates. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the goal of the McNair Program is to increase the number of underrepresented individuals pursuing and attaining graduate and doctoral degrees and entering careers in research and academia.

- Opportunities for research or other scholarly activities
- Seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare participants for doctoral study
- Academic counseling
- Assistance to participants with all aspects of the graduate admission process, including: application, advising, and financial funding
- Mentoring programs involving faculty members and students at the institution

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