

The University of Alabama

McNAIR SCHOLARS

FACULTY MENTOR

2012 HANDBOOK



"Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You're eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky."

-Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

The University of Alabama

2012 McNair Scholars

Akeem Borom, Clanton, AL

Major, Biology

Brass Bralley, Altadena, CA

Majors, Spanish and Art History—Minor, Anthropology

Sydney Branch, Katy, TX

Majors, Economics (Business) and Journalism

Michael Hodnett, Vinemont, AL

Major, Computer Science—Minor, General Business

Mark King, Troy, AL

Major, History—Minor, Psychology

Joshua Moncrief, Cullman, AL

Major, Criminal Justice—Minor, Psychology

Paul Ramirez, Kenner, LA

Major, Biology

Eugene Randle, Springville, AL

Major, Anthropology—Minor, Computer Science

Kristy Randle, Springville, AL

Majors, English and Journalism

Hailah Saeed, Tuscaloosa, AL

Major, Social Work

Keith Saint, Russellville, AL

Major, Telecommunication & Film (Management)—Minor, Sociology

Jade Watters, Birmingham, AL

Major, Social Work

2012 McNair Scholars Research Year Calendar

Semester Break, 2011-2012: Complete online ethics training modules and other assignments

Spring Semester, 2012: Preparation of Research Proposal

Fri., January 13	Orientation for 2012 McNair Scholars; NEW 223 begins
Fri., Jan. 27	Guest lists for Honors Convocation due to Ms. Hicks
Sat., January 28	26 th anniversary of Challenger explosion, 1986
March date TBA	UA Grad. Student Assoc. Annual Research/Thesis Conference
Th., March 29, 5:30-7:00 p.m.	McNair Scholars Honors Convocation, Grand Gallery, Smith Hall
Mon., April 9	UA Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Conference, BCC
Fri., April 27	Last day to submit McNair Research Proposal, with appendices

TBA individually: Register for/complete Kaplan graduate exam preparation course

Interim Term, 2012 (May): Work according to timetable developed for Research Proposal

Summer, 2012: Research Internship and National McNair Research Conference

Tues., May 29	UH 305 Research Internship begins; seminar Tues., 9-11, in Lloyd
June dates TBA	Submit abstracts for conference presentation, business card designs
Mon., July 16	Rehearsal for conference presentations
Tentative: July 18 - 22	Travel & SUNY Buffalo McNair Scholars Research Conference
Wed., August 1	Last day to submit comprehensive research report

Fall Semester, 2012: UA McNair Research Conference and Preparation of Journal Article

Date TBA	NEW 223 begins
Sept. dates TBA	UA McNair Scholars Visitation/Graduate School Preview; guest
Oct. date TBA, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	lists for McNair conference due to Ms. Hicks
September - November	UA 13 th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference
September 30 – October 3	Editing and revisions of articles for publication
Fri., December 7	National Outreach Scholarship Conference, UA, BCC
	Last day to submit final version of UA McNair Journal article

Spring Semester, 2013 **University of Alabama McNair Journal, volume 13, to be published**

For Continuing Scholars

McNair staff will work individually with McNair Scholars enrolled at UA beyond the end of the Research Year, to help students plan for further research, other scholarly involvement with the program, and the transition to graduate study. All Scholars may continue to receive advising and consultation with McNair staff until graduation.

THE LIFE OF RONALD E. McNAIR – 1950-1986

Ronald Erwin McNair was born on October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina, to Carl and Pearl McNair. The house in which he was born had neither running water nor electricity.

Although he grew up amidst crushing poverty, McNair always exhibited a deep thirst for scientific knowledge. After graduation from high school, he enrolled in North Carolina A&T State University. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. McNair then enrolled in the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1976 at age 26, he earned his Ph.D. in physics.

While working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory, he soon became a recognized expert in laser physics. In 1978, McNair realized his dream of becoming an astronaut. After being selected from a pool of 10,000 applicants for NASA's space shuttle program, he became the second African-American to fly in space. He served as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Challenger.

In addition to his academic achievements, McNair received three honorary doctoral degrees and many fellowships and commendations. These included Presidential Scholar, 1967-71; Ford Foundation Fellow, 1971-74; National Fellowship Fund Fellow, 1974-75; Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the Year, 1975; Distinguished National Scientist, National Society of Black Professional Engineers, 1979; and Friend of Freedom Award, 1981. McNair also held a fifth degree black belt in karate and was an accomplished jazz saxophonist.

Ronald E. McNair was killed in the Challenger accident on January 28, 1986, which claimed the lives of the entire crew.

THE FACULTY MENTOR'S ROLE

McNair Scholars credit their Faculty Mentors, rightfully, as vital to their success with the research internship and their overall progress towards graduate study. Faculty Mentors assist Scholars in developing professional work habits, research skills, and relationships conducive to future doctoral pursuits. Faculty Mentors' collaboration with McNair staff, who provide administrative support, also contributes greatly to the effective operation of the program overall. Faculty Mentors' specific responsibilities include the following:

PRIMARY: Facilitating the Scholar's research and other scholarly work

- Provide guidance, direction, and support for the Scholar's research proposal (spring semester) and implementation of the research project (through summer)
- Provide oversight and guidance for the Scholar's paper and oral presentations (summer and fall terms)
- If unavailable for more than two consecutive weeks during the summer internship, arrange for a proxy Faculty Mentor to be available to the Scholar
- Hold the Scholar accountable for time, quality of work, and effort
- Evaluate the Scholar's overall performance (and the program's effectiveness)
- Report to the McNair staff any needs or concerns regarding the Scholar or the progress of the research

ALSO: Participating in McNair Scholars Program events

- Honors Convocation: Recognition of Scholars, presentation of journals; Thursday, March 29, 2012, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Grand Gallery, Smith Hall
- UA 13th Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference; date and time TBA, October 2012 (typically 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., third floor Lloyd Hall)

Additional:

Promoting a professional relationship with the Scholar

- Become acquainted with the Scholar as an individual, to facilitate effective mentoring of the student as a developing scholar within his or her field
- Provide an open learning environment, to facilitate the Scholar feeling comfortable in approaching and asking the Mentor questions
- Remain available to the Scholar as a resource through graduation and, ideally, beyond

Fostering the Scholar's general intellectual development

- Demonstrate a sincere interest in the intellectual development of the Scholar
- Encourage the Scholar to think critically and respect different points of view
- Point out readings with which the Scholar should be familiar
- Inspire the Scholar to set and reach new academic heights and goals

Enhancing the Scholar's interest in graduate study and exposure to research and academe:

- Share information on graduate programs with the Scholar and encourage him or her to pursue graduate (especially doctoral) education
- Introduce the Scholar to departmental activities and professional organizations
- Help the Scholar submit a proposal to present at a professional meeting and/or take the Scholar to a professional conference
- Involve the Scholar in reviewing manuscripts or preparing grant proposal

Mentor Stipends and Research Support

McNair Faculty mentors receive an award of \$500, payable either as supplementary compensation (typically in August) or as a deposit to the faculty member's research account. McNair also provides up to \$200 per Scholar for documented research expenses: Scholars include a request for these funds in an appendix to their research proposal. Please contact the McNair Program Assistant, Stephanie L. Hicks, at 348-0572, for assistance.

Outline for Research Proposal for UH 305, Summer 2012

McNair Scholars Program The University of Alabama

Proposal due in NEW 223 by Friday, April 27, 2012

- I. Project's title, McNair Scholar's name, and Faculty Mentor's name and title
- II. Introduction/background/context for the research
 - A. General statement of the problem/question and its significance
 - B. Literature review
 1. General overview
 2. Specific to the problem/question
 - C. Specific research questions and/or hypotheses
- III. Methodology
- IV. Results and Discussion: Plans for data analysis, presentation, and interpretation
- V. References
- VI. Appendices
 - A. (Supporting documents, if relevant)
 - B. Writing/publication style being used
 - C. Timeline of research internship activities
 - D. Proposed budget
 - E. 100 word abstract for conference submission

Approximate Timeline for Scholars

Calendar Year 2012

Month	Scholar Goals & Events	Progress Notes
January	MSP orientation; IRB training; identify topic and Faculty Mentor(s); meet w/GA, Faculty Fellow; id. writing/publication style; begin NEW 223 seminar; select Kaplan GRE review class & test date asap	
February	Refine/focus research topic & rationale, as meet regularly with Faculty Mentor and conduct literature review; see sample proposals at MSP; develop system for taking notes, noting references	
March	Develop methodology and, if applicable, IRB, IACUC, or RCR proposal; shape notes into draft of comprehensive research proposal (see outline)	
April	Continue reading, writing, meeting—developing the research proposal; seeking feedback, editing, revising, etc. (iterative process); attend Honors Convocation March 29; prepare class presentation; submit complete research proposal electronically, with IRB/IACUC/RCR documents attached by April 27	
May	Conduct what work, if any, is needed during interim, per research timetable	
June	Fulltime research internship and accompanying seminar, UH 305, with focus on implementing research; mid-June, submit abstract for research conference	

July	Continue fulltime research internship and seminar, with focus on analysis and interpretation, to prepare for oral and PowerPoint presentations; travel and attend McNair research conference	
August	Submit by Aug. 1 draft of research report (OK'd by FM) and, seniors, begin preparing applications for grad school; plan w/FM what work, if any, is needed before fall term begins; begin NEW 223 fall semester	
September	Finish any remaining research; revise research report (OK'd by FM), as needed	
October	Present oral and PowerPoint presentation, UA McNair Scholars Research Conference; review feedback from FM, FF, MSP staff re: research report; continue revisions until done	
November	Submit, before holiday break, finished research article for publication in <i>UA McNair Journal</i> (approved by FM)	
December	Make any requested revisions needed, to finalize article for publication, by Dec. 7 (approved by FM)	
Spring Semester, 2013	Present in UA's undergrad research conference; see research article in print; continue research involvement, if can; if haven't already, visit graduate program of interest; seek opportunities to teach and to present research at scholarly conferences; take GRE; etc.	

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR McNAIR SCHOLARS (During Research Internship)

Course Tuition Scholarship

Each Scholar enrolls in UH 305, McNair Scholars Research Internship, a 2-hour research class. The University of Alabama, in support of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, offers a tuition scholarship to all McNair Scholars enrolled in the internship.

Research Stipend

Participants involved in the McNair Research Internship will receive a \$2,800 stipend that is paid in three installments.

Conditions under which participants could lose their stipend:

- If grade point falls below 3.00.
- If participation in research, the McNair Scholars seminars, and/or individually scheduled meetings falls below acceptable levels.
- If disciplinary action is required by the University.
- If required paperwork is not completed in a timely manner.

Summer Housing and Food Allowance

The McNair Program provides a summer housing and food allowance of \$1,000 to all participants who are engaged in full-time summer research projects. An allowance is paid to each participant at the beginning of June and July, or directly to UA Housing for students electing to live on campus.

Other Benefits

Please see the McNair Scholars Program website (<http://graduate.ua.edu/mcnair/>) for more information about the many other opportunities and benefits available to McNair Scholars beyond those associated with their research internships.

Scholar's Activity Report and Research Log

**McNair Scholars Program
The University of Alabama
Summer Research Internship 2012**

Research Intern: _____

For Period Ending: _____(Date)

Total number of Contact Hours with Faculty Mentor

1. Activities with **Faculty Mentor** this period (check all that apply):
- _____ Conferences about the Research Project
 - _____ Teaching Research Concepts or Skills
 - _____ Career Counseling
 - _____ Graduate School Counseling/ Advising
 - _____ Social Activity
 - _____ Other (*please describe*)

Total number of Contact Hours with Graduate Mentor

2. Activities with **Graduate Mentor** this week (check all that apply):
- _____ Conferences about the Research Project
 - _____ Teaching Research Concepts or Skills
 - _____ Career Counseling
 - _____ Graduate School Counseling/ Advising
 - _____ Social Activity
 - _____ Other (*please describe*)

3. List any concerns you have about the progress of your project.

4. Suggestions or comments for the McNair Scholars Program staff?

Scholar's Time Log (e-mail format)

McNair Scholar's Time Log for _____
 Week of _____

	MON	comments	TUES	comments	WED	comments	THR	comments	FRI	comments	SAT	comments	SUN	comments	
12:00 AM															
1:00 AM															
2:00 AM															
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11:00 PM															
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															0

McNAIR STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Nancy Campbell, Ph.D., Director
305 Lloyd Hall
348-0580 (office)
nancy.campbell@ua.edu

Stephanie L. Hicks, Program Assistant
303 Lloyd Hall
348-0572 (office)
stephanie.hicks@ua.edu

Keisha Wilson, Graduate Assistant
309 Lloyd Hall
348-0575 (office)
knwilson@crimson.ua.edu

Aneesa Baboolal, Graduate Assistant
304 Lloyd Hall
348-0576 (office)
aababoolal@crimson.ua.edu

Mailing Address: McNair Scholars Program
 Box 870337
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0337

Fax: (205) 348-0447

UA Website: <http://graduate.ua.edu/mcnair/>

U.S. Department of Education website: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair>