Message from Nancy M. Giardina

Nancy M. Giardina
Grand Valley State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mcnair

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mcnair/vol12/iss1/1
We are proud to present the twelveth volume of the Grand Valley State University McNair Scholars Journal. It is the culmination of intensive research conducted by our student scholars and their faculty mentors through our Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program.

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, now in its 14th year here at Grand Valley State University, provides an opportunity for students and faculty to apply much of what is learned within the classroom by engaging, outside the classroom, in research activities in a particular area of scholarly interest. These research activities provide a journey through the challenges and affirmations of scholarly work and better prepare students for graduate study and the pursuit of a doctoral degree.

Thank you to the faculty mentors who have worked so closely with our McNair Scholars to propel their research skills towards the next level of educational challenges.

Congratulations to the nine McNair Scholars whose research is presented here. Your journey and the challenges you have met during this scholarly activity speak to your talents and persistence in pursuing both your educational and life goals. Thank you for sharing your talents with the university community and continuing the spirit of this program.

Finally, thank you to all the people behind the scenes that work to sustain this program and produce this journal. Your work is valued as well.

Nancy M. Giardina, Ed.D.
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ronald Erwin McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina, to Carl and Pearl McNair. He attended North Carolina A&T State University where 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 the age of 26, he earned his Ph.D. in physics.

McNair soon became a recognized expert in laser physics while working as a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratory. He was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978 and was a mission specialist aboard the 1984 flight of the USS Challenger space shuttle.

After his death in the USS Challenger space shuttle accident in January 1986, members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The goal is to encourage low-income, first generation students, as well as students who are traditionally underrepresented in graduate schools, to expand their opportunities by pursuing graduate studies.

"Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one." - Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.
# Table of Contents

**Kim Anthony**
Palestinian and Iraqi Women Refugees: An Examination of the Past Sixty Years
Faculty Mentors: Sebastian Maisel, Ph.D., and Danielle DeMuth, Ph.D.

**Tiffany Cross**
Exploring Permanent Property: An Exploration of the Tattoo Acquisition in the Midwest
Faculty Mentor: Ann Kroll Lerner, Ph.D.

**Chris W. Denison**
Apatite Fission-Track Thermochronology, Northern Range, Trinidad (and Paria Peninsula, Venezuela)
Faculty Mentor: John C. Weber, Ph.D.

**David Martin**
Mini-Kingdoms and Ivory Towers: A Critical Analysis of Higher Education in Modern Civil Society
Faculty Mentor: Michael Ott, Ph.D.

**Anthony Rodriguez**
Global Positioning System (GPS) Determination of Motions, Neotectonics, and Seismic Hazard in Trinidad and Tobago
Faculty Mentor: John C. Weber, Ph.D.

**Ryan Rosso**
Considering Language Convergence in Ontario: An Examination of Variation in Hearst French
Faculty Mentors: Janel Pettes Guikema, Ph.D., and Dan Golembeski, Ph.D.

**Samantha Schenk**
Cyber-Sexual Harassment: The Development of the Cyber-Sexual Experiences Questionnaire
Faculty Mentors: Donna Henderson-King, Ph.D., and Ellen Shupe, Ph.D.

**Megan Taliaferro**
School of Choice and Diversity
Faculty Mentors: Jennifer Stewart, Ph.D., and Lisa Hickman, Ph.D.

**Ben Winegard**
What We Have Here Is a Failure to Communicate: Using a Model to Explain Textbook Representations of Human Evolutionary Theory
Faculty Mentor: Robert Deaner, Ph.D.

**About the TRiO Programs**