

### Scholars Honored with Black History Month Awards



**Scholars Andrea Cottrell and Michael Magee**

On Friday, February 27, two NEIU McNair Scholars were honored at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Awards Celebration at NEIU. **Michael Magee** ('05), Academic Advisor at Florida International University, received the Alumni Award of Excellence. **Andrea Cottrell**, who will graduate in May, received the Student Award of Excellence. As she accepted her award Andrea said "There was a group effort behind me. My mom took early retirement to baby-sit for my daughter while I study. The political science faculty and McNair staff supported me always. NEIU is a great university because faculty really care."

### Scholars Prepare Future Faculty

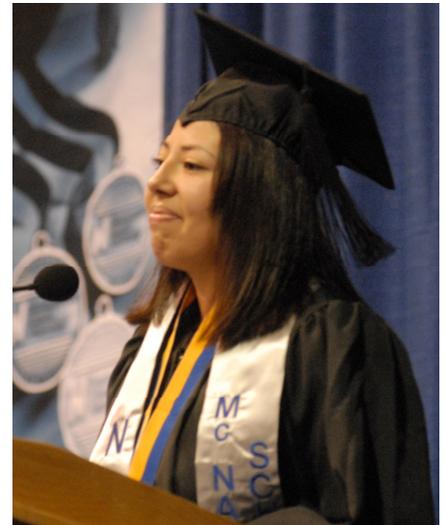


**Scholars at PFF Event**

Five Scholars presented the panel discussion, *Learning Experiences of Engaged Students*, as part of Northwestern University's program Preparing Future Faculty (PFF). **Toni Scott, Emilio Caban, Jose Fulgencio, Nereida Salas, and Wynne Turkington** shared their thoughts on course content, teaching strategies, and assessment with Northwestern Ph.D. candidates.

### Scholar Maria Chaves December 08 Commencement Speaker

McNair Scholar **Maria Chavez** was the December 2008 commencement speaker. In her speech, she offered three challenges to her gradating peers and the university community: the challenge to take ourselves seriously, to take risks and to work for justice. "By doing this we will transform our world, society, community, and personal relationships for the better based on mutual respect and equality," she said. According to Maria the challenge to take ourselves seriously is important because "we live in a culture in which many of us are discounted based on the color of our skin, our accents, our gender, our sexuality, our nationality and religion or just our uniqueness. If we don't take ourselves, our thoughts, our ideas seriously, then who will?" Maria explained that, "To know that our work and ideas are not only important to accomplishing our personal goals but also to contributing to the overall success of our communities, we must take responsibility for ourselves to inspire the same in others."



**Scholar Maria Chaves at the December 2008 commencement**

A Women's Studies major mentored by **Laurie Fuller, Ph.D.**, Maria will start a Ph.D. program in Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture at the State University of New York, Binghamton in the fall.

### December Grads

Five Scholars graduated from NEIU in December.

**Keith Atterberry**, Justice Studies, Cum Laude, was accepted to UIC's Criminal Justice Ph.D. program. Mentors: **Loretta Capeheart, Ph.D.** and **Dragan Milovanovic, Ph.D.**

**Theresa Bacchus**, History, Magna Cum Laude. Mentor: **Patrick Miller, Ph.D.**

**Gerald Chaney**, Secondary Education and English. Mentor: **Katherine McKnight, Ph.D.**

**Fernando Gonzalez**, Sociology, Magna Cum Laude, has applied to NEIU's Inner City Studies Program. Mentor: **Brett Stockdill, Ph.D.**

**Elizabeth Rodriguez**, English and History, Summa Cum Laude, has been accepted by ten universities, including Northwestern University and UC Berkeley. Mentor: **Brad Greenberg, Ph.D.**

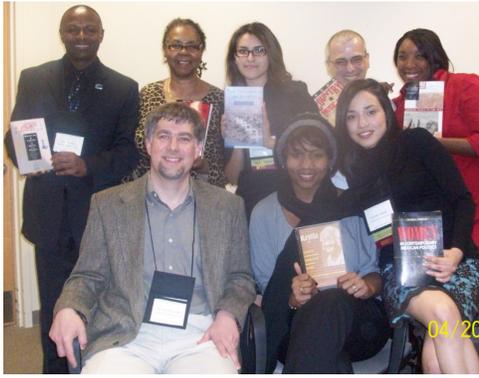
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### Save the Date!

Scholars and their families are invited to welcome the newest cohort of NEIU Scholars and congratulate those who are graduating in May. Mark your calendars for the McNair Scholars Annual Dinner on **Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm.**

## Scholars Present Research across the Nation



### Dr. David Leaman awarded books to Scholars for their research endeavors

Seven Scholars attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference at the University of North Texas (UNT), February 20-22. **Imani Beard**, who presented *Racial Identification among Afro-Latinos in the United States* said, "The experience gave me the

opportunity to network and the privilege to learn from the research of others." **Emilio Caban** presented *Two Steppin' into a Social Issue: Alcohol in Country Music Lyrics*. He said, "I gained a wealth of experience in presenting research and finding out what others have been working on."

Other Scholars and their UNT presentations: **Keith Atterberry**, *CCTV in Chicago: Police Observation Devices and Public Attitudes*; **Andrea Cottrell**, *The Rarity of Democracy in East Asia and Exceptions: A Look at Regimes, Theories, and Public Opinion*; **Gale White**, *Gender Responsive Programs in U.S. Prisons: Implications for Change*; **Lourdes Gomez**, *The Meaning of Revolution in Chiapas: Achieving Autonomy through Zapatismo* and; **Nereida Salas**, *Politics, Law, and the Effect of International Institutions on Honor Crimes in Turkey and Mexico*.

The Scholars were accompanied by

**Dr. David Leaman**, Chair, Department of Political Science, and McNair staff members **Dr. Kim Sanborn** and **Angela Vidal-Rodriguez**. Dr. Leaman, McNair Faculty Mentor to Scholars Nereida Salas and Andrea Cottrell, observed, "The NEIU McNair Scholars' presentations were all highly professional and very intellectually interesting. I was very impressed and proud of the Scholars, the McNair Program and NEIU."

Also in February, **Brett Coleman** presented his research *The Relationship between Multi-Ethnic Identity and Cross Cultural Acceptance* at the Society for Research on Identity Formation in Pacific Grove, California.

**Emilio Caban** and **Toni Scott** will present at the Midwest Sociological Society Conference in Des Moines, Iowa this month.

## Alumni News

**Silvia Avila** is enrolled at Northwestern University in the M.A. program in Counseling Psychology. She said, "Classes are very interesting and challenging. The program's approach is psychoanalytic which is unique for a master's program."

**Stacy Brill** is enrolled at NEIU in the Communication, Media and Theatre Master's Program. Stacy observed, "It is not too different from my undergrad experience except for one thing--a lot more reading!"

**Colleen Budziak** is an instructor of chemistry at Harper College and Roosevelt University. Colleen is applying to the Research Experience for Teachers Program at Northwestern University's Nanotechnology Research Center. If accepted, Colleen would work in the lab all summer on new research and finish with at least one published paper and a conference presentation.

**Alvin Raúl Cardona** graduated from Roosevelt University in December 2008 with a Master of Science in Journalism. Alvin says, "The program at Roosevelt University was challenging and very rewarding. The professors were all great and I truly enjoyed the program."

**Dianne Madison** is writing her thesis for the Master's program in Communication at NEIU. Dianne, a graduate assistant in the McNair office, says, "I have a busy schedule right now. I anticipate having everything completed on time so that I can graduate in December 2009." She will present at the NEIU symposium this month.

**Te'Aria Malone** is doing general and group counseling with adolescents at her internship at the Metropolitan Family Counseling agency in South Chicago. Te'Aria said, "I thoroughly enjoyed my experience here at NEIU. It allowed me to develop practical skills that prepared me for helping clients." In July, Te'Aria will take the rehabilitation counseling certification exam.

**Maximo Marin** is enrolled at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. He just finished his first semester and has been selected as a summer research fellow at Johns Hopkins Cancer Research. The program involves working in the laboratory with a mentor, and attending courses that evaluate cancer in underprivileged, indigenous, or disadvantaged populations.

**Eilleen Rollerson**, Sociology Ph.D. student at Loyola University, recently presented two papers: *Social Service Organizations and the Plan for Transformation* at Northern Illinois University's Chicago Ethnography Conference, and *Whom Do*

*We Serve? Organizational Responses to Gentrification*, which was submitted for publication and presented at the Urban Affairs Association meeting in Baltimore. Last fall Eilleen taught the class, *Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States*.



### First cohort Scholars Eilleen Rollerson, Michael Magee, and Dianne Madison reunite at NEIU

**Patricia Ortega** graduated from NEIU with an M.A. in Political Science last December. She has applied to Ph.D. programs at Loyola University and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

**Lina Sweiss** is in her second year in a Ph.D. program in Human Development, Learning and Culture at the University of British Columbia. Speaking of her program, Lina says, "It is challenging, supportive and experiential." Lina presented her research at the Society for Research in Child Development meeting on April 2 in Denver.



Alvin Cardona received his M.S. from Roosevelt University

## New Cohort Starts

Thirteen NEIU students have joined the McNair Scholars Program this semester. Each student will be advised by a faculty mentor and will receive services from the McNair staff. The new Scholars, their mentors and majors are:

**Norman Davis, Sociology/Inner City Studies**

"I want to be an asset in the field of sociology with a research focus on how American society's social constructions reflect the inequality in our social institutions. In addition, I want to teach at an institution of higher learning and publish my research."

*Mentor: Lance Williams, Ph.D.*

**Jose Fulgencio, Political Science**

"My career goal is to become a political science professor. I want to mentor minority students and help them get more involved in their school organizations while becoming more knowledgeable of American and international politics."

*Mentor: David Leaman, Ph.D.*

**Angela Howard, Psychology/Human Resources Development**

"I plan to enter the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology for graduate school. My interests are varied, but I'm truly passionate about underrepresented groups in the work place. Hopefully through my studies and work experience, I can increase awareness of diversity and multiculturalism in corporations." *Mentor: Amanda Dykema-Engblade, Ph.D.*

**Juan Ibarra Flores, History**

"I know that the road to becoming a professor will be difficult because of the many obstacles I face as an underrepresented student. The McNair Scholars Program can help me succeed in both Latin American history and sociology."

*Mentor: Michael Armato, Ph.D.*

**Romanetha Looper, Elementary Ed**

"I want to pursue graduate courses looking at concepts for effective teaching in the inner city community. I think that being a high-quality and effective teacher requires personal investment, love, devotion and commitment to students."

*Mentor: Chandra Gill, Ph.D.*

**Delilah McDonald, History**

"I want to be a catalyst for change within urban communities through the use of universities and colleges that mostly contain minority student populations. I hope to be a university professor who will challenge conventional thought and enable my students to do the same."

*Mentor: Kim Sanborn, Ph.D.*

**Marcus Moore, Inner City Studies**

"Obtaining my Ph.D. in African American Studies will give me the skills to be an effective leader in my community. I would like to be a professor and participate actively in associations such as the Urban League and the NAACP."

*Mentor: Chandra Gill, Ph.D.*

**Jorge Ortiz, Sociology**

"My research interests are in youth development, education and participation in social change. By the time I complete graduate school and earn a Ph.D. in sociology, I hope to establish and direct a school/community center to train youth to become agents of social change."

*Mentor: Brett Stockdill, Ph.D.*

**Michael Santos, History**

"I intend to go to graduate school where I will work towards my Ph.D. in American legal history and become a professor. I would like to investigate the Supreme Court's decision in Santa Clara vs. Southern Pacific R.R. Company (1886), to learn why arguments were not heard concerning corporate protection under the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment."

*Mentor: Mark G. Schmeller, Ph.D.*

**Toni Scott, Sociology**

"I want to become a community advocate and I hope to work on my Ph.D. in Sociology specializing in Social Psychology. I'll focus on gender, family and community services. I plan to become a professor who inspires and challenge students to think critically and creatively."

*Mentor: Christina Gomez, Ph.D.*

**Wynne Turkington, Sociology**

"When I envision a career for myself, I see a variety of things happening that include writing, researching, presenting, collaborating, traveling and organizing. I'm concerned with the needs of poor and working-class women and children. I have a strong interest in education reform."

*Mentor: Erica Meiners, Ph.D.*

**Crispien Van Aelst, History**

"I have a desire to teach history at the college level. I intend to teach history as it was, beautiful, ugly, caring and cruel. I hope to inspire in my students the desire and ability to affect change in the future and to be aware of the connections of our past to our present and future."

*Mentor: Patrick Miller, Ph.D.*

**Ramon Viera, Justice Studies**

"I know that there are individual and structural forces that drive injustices to occur world wide. The psychology of the oppressor as well as the oppressed is key to understanding why these

things continue to take place. Ameliorating these circumstances is a key component of my work."

*Mentor: T.Y. Okunson, Ph.D.*

### Perfect GRE Score

Scholar **Jeremy Dolan** earned a perfect score on the GRE last fall. He now serves as the NEIU McNair GRE instructor, sharing his knowledge and skills with new Scholars as they prepare for the exam.

### Summer Research at Princeton University

Scholar **Jose Fulgencio** will spend this summer at Princeton University. He was accepted to the 2009 Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute, a focused and rigorous program that helps students gain a comprehensive understanding of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He will learn about the opportunities available in the fields of public policy as well as international affairs. This fellowship provides a stipend of \$1,500 and covers expenses for courses, textbooks, transportation, housing and meals.

### Traveling Scholars

McNair Scholars have traveled around the world to participate in academic activities.

**Tracy Navarro** went to Sagrada Familia, a rural town south of Santiago, Chile, to teach English through the Ingles Abre Puertas program for the Ministerio de Educacion. She taught high school sophomores, juniors and seniors and lived with a local family.

**Jose Fulgencio** participated in the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Visitation Program of the University of Southern California. The program introduces students to graduate school life from the application process to degree completion.

**Andrea Cottrell** is in Seoul, South Korea at Myongji University, a NEIU sister university. She is studying language and modern Korean society from March to June.

As an NEIU New Perspectives Fellow, M.A. student **Stacy Brill** traveled to India with other fellows and NEIU faculty and administrators.

## History of TRIO Programs

As a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstances, the U.S. Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as TRIO because originally there were three such programs. Today there are five TRIO programs: Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers and the McNair Scholars Program. TRIO Programs have been effective in helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed academically in high school and college with special assistance and support. More than 2,700 TRIO programs currently serve nearly 866,000 low-income Americans.

The basic goal of TRIO, expanding educational opportunity, is reflected in the McNair Program. The purpose of the McNair Program is to encourage low-income and minority undergraduates to prepare for doctoral study and to consider careers in college teaching. Currently, there are 179 programs nationwide serving 4,100 students.

Source: Council on Opportunity in Education website <http://www.coenet.us/>

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