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AAP student Nicole Stevenson takes a trip to the Amazon on **page 2**.

## Academic Achievement Programs



# AAP Insider

Summer Transitional Program • Student Support Services • Intensive Educational Development • Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program • Educational Opportunity Center  
Spring 2010

## IED History Released Online

By Dr. Jerry L. Lewis & Marsha Turner Botts

April 25th marked the official unveiling of the Intensive Educational Development (IED) program's online history, *Meeting the Challenge of Diversity 1968-1976*, researched by Dr. Andrea Hill Levy, former Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Sponsorship of the history project was coordinated by Dr. Donna B. Hamilton, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies with support from the Office of the Provost.

The history of IED is central to the desegregation of the campus in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Dr. Jerry Lewis, AAP Executive Director, remarked that "this is a major mile-



Cover of the History of IED, located online at [www.ugst.umd.edu](http://www.ugst.umd.edu)

stone in the history of the University. To my knowledge, this is the single most comprehensive body of information and scholarship on the contributions and experiences of black students, faculty and/or staff on this campus. This is a critical part of the Univer-

sity of Maryland's history."

President Dan Mote and Provost Nariman Farvardin addressed guests from AAP's past as well as current students and staff, emphasizing the importance of IED/AAP in promoting diversity and serving low-income, first generation, and traditionally under-represented students. The counseling and academic support services provided by the programs continue to be a necessity, and the impetus is revealed online at [www.ugst.umd.edu](http://www.ugst.umd.edu). ▲

[WWW.UGST.UMD.EDU](http://WWW.UGST.UMD.EDU)

## Cultivating the Next Generation of Faculty Scholars

by Wallace Southerland III, Ph.D

In addition to achieving programmatic goals, the McNair Scholars Program (MSP) sponsored its 11th National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research on March 11-14, 2010. This year's conference drew a record number of 250 scholars from McNair programs across the U.S., including Puerto Rico. The conference has played a supportive role in helping the University diversify its graduate student population over the past 11 years. Many McNair scholars first introduced to the University of Maryland through

the National Research Conference are now enrolled in masters or doctoral level degree programs here at the UM.

"We are finally beginning to see the fruits of our intent, purpose and efforts", commented Dr. Jerry L. Lewis, McNair program director and Executive Director of AAP. Dr. Lewis further explained that since the inception of the conference, he intended to infuse the pipeline of graduate programs at the UM with low-income and traditionally under-represented



The 11th annual National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research

students. "Eventually, this means we help to increase the number of faculty of color in higher education institutions nationally." With the record numbers this year, Lewis believes even more of the McNair conferees will apply to the UM graduate school in the future.

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## Executive Director's Message

AAP continues to provide services to enhance the academic and personal success of its students. The fall semester represented another successful term for freshmen in particular, 48% of whom earned a 3.0 or above, and another seven who earned a 4.0 GPA. The retention rate for the same group continues to demonstrate successful transition. In fact, over the past three years, AAP's freshman retention rate has averaged 96.3% compared to the University's 93% retention rate.

Likewise, the Reach Out and Reach Up Initiative has been launched to improve the success of

AAP upper-class students after they declare their major, aiding their timely graduation. AAP staff and UGST Dean Donna Hamilton have worked diligently to examine academic articulations among the colleges enrolling AAP students, clarifying transition and prerequisite standards. Additionally, AAP staff offer assistance to students as they face personal or academic challenges in the pursuit of their major. This outreach effort maintains a connection with AAP students and improves their chance for successful matriculation.

Jerry L. Lewis ▲

## Student Profile: Nicole Stevenson

by Marsha Turner Botts

She has experienced weeks in New Orleans, San Francisco, the jungle of Peru's Amazon River and Andes Mountains, and completion of an undergraduate degree within 4.5 years. Does this sound like a fairy tale? This is in fact reality for Kinesiology major and McNair Scholar Nicole Stevenson who has shared photographs and details after each Alternative Spring Break (ASB) and Winter Term (WT) adventure. At the conclusion of her undergraduate studies, she will begin graduate work in family science, possibly at the University of Pittsburgh.

Nicole entered the University of Maryland through the 2005 Summer Transitional Program (STP). Even as a student at Baltimore's Western Senior High School, she had an interest in medicinal plants and a desire to develop recreational space for youth to engage in physical activity and the arts. The kinesiology and family science degrees coupled with the community outreach experiences through ASB seemed like a natural progression to reaching that goal.

In 2007, Nicole's ASB experience took her to New Orleans' 9th Ward with a team of 45 UM students who gutted Hurricane Katrina-damaged houses in preparation for rehabilitation or demolition. In 2008, the ASB found her in San Francisco talking to inmates housed in the "safe" areas of San Quentin Prison. Another part of the trip gave her the opportunity to share with high school students who were learning productive alternatives to street life and criminal activity.

The Academic Achievement Programs supported Nicole for each of



Nicole Stevenson in the Andes

her ASB experiences including the most recent trip to Peru. Her McNair program participation is due, in large part, to another scholar who "harassed" her until she completed and submitted the application to the program. Nicole says that peers, tutors, advisors, and a supportive system have made the difference in her success at the University.

For all the insight and knowledge that she gained in New Orleans and

San Francisco, the studies in Peru proved to be a real "back-to-nature" experience for Nicole. Accompanied by UM Faculty, the students were enrolled in a 3-credit course, PLSC 489-Medicinal Plants of the Amazon and the Andes. The jungle and mountain habitats meant that the plants were examined in places where there was no indoor plumbing, electricity, or air conditioning. But sacrificing the comforts of home led to interaction with traditional healers and a glimmer of their knowledge about various cures; notably, the many uses of the cocoa plant (e.g., food, altitude sickness cure, soap, nutritional supplement). Nicole completed the class requirements with a presentation on the noni fruit plant and its effects on hypertension. Despite the constant high humidity and discomforts, Nicole said she would not complain because the knowledge and experience gained were well worth the investment. ▲

### Cultivating the Next Generation

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At the conference, Graduate School Dean Charles Caramello announced the formation of a McNair fellowship, an added measure to recruit the nation's most talented McNair scholars. In support of the fellowship, the McNair Scholars Program will assist the University to identify, recruit, and enroll national McNair scholars for graduate study. A

number of talented national McNair scholars interested in the University of Maryland have already been identified and their names shared with the Graduate School. When a scholar applies, our office will follow up by sending their profile to the graduate program of interest. This process will hopefully facilitate the McNair scholar's application and increase the likelihood that the student will be accepted into one of our graduate programs.

The McNair program also enjoyed successes on other fronts this academic year. As reported in its Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Department of Education, six of the seven objectives (or 86%) were either achieved or exceeded. For example, the number of students from the University of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Frostburg State University applying for participation in the program has increased significantly. Last year, the MSP exceeded its enrollment target

# UM-EOC Takes Opportunity to the Community

by Lisa Peyton-Caire

The winter season was full of opportunity for Prince George's County residents who benefited from two stellar events hosted by the University of Maryland's Educational Opportunity Center (UM-EOC). The season kicked off on Saturday, December 12th with the first ever Community Opportunity Day, a partnership effort with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning's Kentland Community Center in Landover, Maryland. Students and parents from across the county converged on the beautiful Prince George's Ballroom for a mini college/career and financial aid fair, and to learn about the wealth of resources in the community and the organizations that provide them. Among the featured agencies were the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, the Prince George's One-Stop Career Center, the Latin American Youth Center, the Scholarship Academy, the Literacy Council of Prince George's, several local trade unions, and other organizations offering employment assistance, youth programs, and other services.

Following on the heels of Community Opportunity Day was College Goal Sunday 2010, hosted for the second consecutive year on Sunday, February 21st at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex. More than 100 local high school seniors, parents, and adults with college aspirations attended to get hands-on help in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Over twenty-five volunteers from partner organizations attended to lend their assistance, including representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the U.S. Census Bureau, the Prince George's



UM-EOC staff and volunteers at College Goal Sunday 2010

by 35%. This growing demand and interest in the program is evidence of a need for additional institutional, private, corporate, and or governmental resources to expand services. The program exceeded its baccalaureate degree attainment goal by 42% as well as its post-baccalaureate enrollment target by 14%. Two prior McNair scholars received their Ph.D. during the past year.

This year, scholars have been accepted into a master's or a PhD program at University of Maryland, University of Connecticut, Syra-

cuse University, Oklahoma State University, Frostburg State University, University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel University.

We look forward to a new year of challenges and successes, recruiting a new cohort of talented scholars and future faculty to cultivate. Under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Lewis, we are also looking forward to another year of great expectations, of partnering with campus units and the Graduate School, and entering the 19th year of service to the University. ▲



UM-EOC Staff member Nakita Dolet ('08) at Community Opportunity Day

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AAP is now temporarily located on the first floor of Marie Mount Hall. Our mailing address remains the same; please check our website for correct phone numbers. 

### **Giving Back to AAP**

**A**cademic Achievement Programs is committed to providing students with extensive academic and financial support. In these trying economic times, grants and scholarships have become increasingly difficult to come by. As members of the AAP community, there are a number of ways you can give back to current and future AAP students to ensure that they have all the resources they need to succeed.

For more information, visit [WWW.AAP.UMD.EDU/SUPPORTAAP.HTML](http://WWW.AAP.UMD.EDU/SUPPORTAAP.HTML) 

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