Scholar Chat

Scholar Chat is compiled by the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs, and chronicles some of the activities of both Carolina and McNair Scholars. For more information, contact the office at (803) 777-0958 or e-mail USCFellowships@gwm.sc.edu.

National Award Winners

Carolina Scholar Thomas Scott was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar. One of 75 awarded nationally, the Truman is awarded for students pursuing careers in public service. Scott is a Baccalaureaus Artium et Scientiae major, a rigorous interdisciplinary degree awarded from the Honors College.

McNair Scholar Alexis Stratton has been awarded a Fulbright Teaching Grant to Korea. Stratton is majoring in English and Film Studies.

McNair Scholar Jeffrey Kent is a 2006 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. Kent is majoring in Biology and Chemistry.

Matt Elder has won two national graduate fellowships: from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense. A Carolina Scholar, Elder is a majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics. In addition, fellow scholar Stacey Ivol, a McNair Scholar, has also won a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Two scholars from the School of Engineering and Information Technology were awarded Tau Beta Pi Undergraduate Scholarships. Karen Wigal (McNair) and John Bedenbaugh (Carolina) were awarded these national awards. Both are in Chemical Engineering, and Wigal is also in Chemistry.

Laura Sima, a McNair Scholar, has won the Morris K. Udall Scholarship for a second year. Sima is majoring in Chemistry with an environmental focus.

National Internships

McNair Scholar Matt Enright has been awarded a national research summer internship in Germany this summer through the DAAD Rise program.

Carolina Scholar Rita Czako will spend several weeks in Paris this summer conducting lab research through her Pasteur Internship, one of three awarded internationally. Czako is a Biology major.

Carolina Scholar Jeremy VanderKnyff will spend 10 weeks in Washington, DC this summer with the online editorial staff of National Public Radio (NPR). He will serve as an illustrator and designer. VanderKnyff is a Media Arts major.

Thomas Scott, a Carolina Scholar, will work on Capitol Hill this summer as an intern for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Chanda Cooper, Carolina Scholar, will complete an internship at the NOAA National Weather Service in Columbia, SC this summer through the national Hollings Scholar Program. Cooper is a Biology major.

Summer Plans

Mary Kathryn Keane, Carolina Scholar, will intern this summer in Washington, DC through the Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service at a program through Georgetown University. She is awaiting her placement. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Keane was elected president of Omega Phi Alpha service sorority for 2006-2007. Keane is a Physics major.
Matthew Brown, McNair Scholar, spends his breaks continuing an internship at Marathon Petroleum Company. **Brown is working on a double major within engineering: chemical and mechanical**, and is the ASME President (American Society of Mechanical Engineers).

McNair Scholar Tiffany Terrell will volunteer at a physical therapy clinic near her home, Allen Spine and Sportscare. **She is majoring in Exercise Science** with plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Carolina Scholar AJ Alon has a summer research internship in bioinformatics in USC’s Computer Science and Engineering department working with Dr. John Rose. He has joined three honor societies this semester: Phi Beta Kappa, Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE) for computing sciences and he was elected president, and Mortar Board. **He is majoring in Computer Science.**

Samantha Hayford, Carolina Scholar, travels to Romania for a summer internship at the National Theatre of Constanta, working as assistant to scenic designer, Prof. Nic Ularu of USC’s Department of Theatre and Dance. She will also tour with “The System,” performed by a group of USC graduate students as they travel to the International Theatre Festival in Sibiu, Romania. She will serve as stage manager and costume designer on the show. Locally, she designed a show in the new undergraduate lab theatre in Booker T. Washington, “The Shape of Things.” She served as scenic artist on the mainstage of *Measure for Measure* for Theatre South Carolina this year (normally reserved for graduate students) and assistant on both *Buried Child* and *Country Wife*. **Hayford is a Theatre major.**

Karly Miller, McNair Scholar, will spend 12 weeks this summer with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). She will volunteer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in North Dakota and her area is fire education: dealing with the threat of forest fires in that area and trying to protect the environment, as well as the local people. **At USC, Miller is the treasurer for Students Engaged in Aquatic Sciences (SEAS), and she is majoring in Marine Science.**

**USC-Awarded Scholarships**

McNair Scholar Steve Smith has been awarded the Professor John E. Stinton Insurance Scholarship. The recipient is selected by members of the insurance faculty at the Moore School and the winner is awarded $3000. **Smith is a Mathematics major with interest in the field of Actuarial Science**, and on campus he serves as National Communications Coordinator for the Residence Hall Association.

Carolina Scholar Hannah Dykes received the Distinguished Senior majoring in Women’s Studies scholarship. This summer she will study in Paris, France. Dykes was recently re-elected as vice president for Hillel for a third term, and also elected vice president of the Student SC Education Association chapter at USC. **Dykes is a Women’s Studies major.**

**Scholars In the Arts**

Carolina Scholar Ben Hankinson was featured in the Student Speak column in the USC Times. **Hankinson, majoring in Mathematics and Dance**, appeared in USC dance performances at the Koger Center and in New York. He has studied ballet since age 8. To access the article online, see [http://www.sc.edu/usctimes/articles/Student_speak/hankinson_ben.html](http://www.sc.edu/usctimes/articles/Student_speak/hankinson_ben.html)

Carolina Scholar Trey Lawson will be in England this summer (July 2-22) taking two classes at Oxford University: “Shakespeare - Sources to Stage” and “Shakespeare in Performance." **Lawson is majoring in English with a Theatre minor.** He was recently elected president of Off-Off Broadway, a musical theatre club at USC.
Scholars Conduct Research

Carolina Scholar Kathy Niu, received an Undergraduate Biomedical Summer Internship. She will be assisting with all aspects of a new type of research where "10 families from all over the U.S. with children who are post-hemispherectomy (removal of one cortical hemisphere due to epilepsy) will receive physical and cognitive rehabilitation. They will investigate cortical plasticity associated with training using functional imaging technique (fMRI)." Niu's mentor is Stella de Bode, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Arnold School of Public Health. **Niu is majoring in Biology.** In addition, Niu was named vice president of AMPS, the Association of Minority Pre-Health Students.

Carolina Scholar Catherine Whitt has an Honors College Undergraduate Research Fellowship to create a scrapbook on *Rites of Passage in America* with Dr. Nicholas Cooper-Lewter. She is also a part of a research group with Dean Davis Baird to provide ideas for the new honors residence hall currently in the planning stages. **Whitt is a Business major.**

Stephanie Paolini, Carolina Scholar, will be working at MUSC in Charleston this summer conducting research in the space-related life sciences funded through a grant from NASA. **She is majoring in Chemical Engineering.**

MORE Research -- *Discovery Day Winners*

- Tina Zhang, Carolina Scholar, first place in the Biomedical Category. **Zhang is a Biology major.**
- McNair Scholars swept the Earth and Marine Sciences Category with all three winners: Corinne D'Ippolito, first place; Beth Anne Bell, second place; and Bonnie Coggins, third place. **Their majors are, in order, Marine Science, Geology, and Marine Science.**
- Two McNair Scholars took second place in both Social Sciences 1 and 2 Categories: Amy Goddard, Social Sciences 1 Category and Amanda Kay Seals, Social Sciences 2 Category. **Goddard is a Psychology major, and Seals is an International Studies major.**

Scholars Active on Campus

USC Greek life has recently had as many as three scholars who have served as president of their sorority or fraternity. They are: Alicia Buddin in Chi Omega (Business, McNair); Brooke Russ in Zeta Tau Alpha (Accounting, McNair), and Matt DeAntonio in Delta Tau Delta (Economics, Carolina).

Sonam Shah, Carolina Scholar, was recently elected president of USC’s chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Honor Society. She was also appointed Student Government Secretary of Campus Health and Wellness on the Executive Cabinet, which places her as the official student member of the Healthy Carolina Advisory Board. **Shah is majoring in Biology.**

Nicole Colwell, McNair Scholar, is a Young Life leader at Hammond School and writes for the *The Gamecock*, USC’s student newspaper. **Colwell is a Sociology major.**

Annie Boiter-Jolley, Carolina Scholar, will serve as secretary of institutional affairs for the Student Government executive cabinet next year, as well as chair of outreach for the Young Democrats at USC. **Boiter-Jolley is majoring in Political Science.**

Yasmin Patel, McNair Scholar, was elected as the vice president of fundraising for Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity as well as the treasurer of the Indian Cultural Exchange at USC. **She is majoring in International Business.**

Jessie Walters-McCarthy is a McNair Scholar who was elected as treasurer for her sorority Alpha Delta Pi. She was recently elected president of National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) and is a Bible study leader at St. Thomas More. **Walters-McCarthy is a marine science major.**
Tina Shah is a Carolina Scholar, and is active on campus. She also serves as Omega Phi Alpha pledge class treasurer, is the freshman class representative for the Carolina Scholars Association, Honors Council Treasurer, and is a member of the SHARE peers executive board. In addition, she was in the Vagina Monologues play this spring, which raised money for the Rape Crisis network. Shah is majoring in business.

Guy Boudreaux, Carolina Scholar, is Treasurer for the Newman Club. He is a Mathematics major.

Kayla Porter, Carolina Scholar, worked as a part-time intern for the SC Democratic Party this past semester, and was a cast member in the 2006 Vagina Monologues. She is a member of Omega Phi Alpha service sorority, and Young Democrats. Porter is majoring in Political Science.

Scholars Teach in the Community
Carolina Scholar Steven Byrd has been selected for Teach for America. He will teach in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in ensuring educational equity and excellence for all children. Their mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort. Byrd is a Political Science major. The TFA website is http://www.teachforamerica.org/flash_movie.html.

Scholars Teach on Campus through University 101 this Fall
Each year, outstanding junior and senior level students are selected to assist University 101 instructors and serve as role models for the incoming first-year students. The central principle behind the Peer Leaders Program is that first-year students will relate particularly well to exceptional upper-class students and be encouraged to excel both academically and as campus leaders. Four Carolina Scholars will serve as Peer leaders for Fall 2006:
Brittany Cencula, Accounting major
Alexa Erbach, English major
David Johannesmeyer, Biology major
Patrick McCormick, Mathematics major

Scholars Serve in Columbia
Tamera Beam, McNair Scholar, sits on the Board of Directors for the Central South Carolina Red Cross. She is also the president of the American Red Cross student organization at USC. Beam is a Biology major.

Amy Jackson is a McNair Scholar and part of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Through this organization, she will serve as the leader for BCM’s work with Inside Out SC – a local trailer park ministry serving both the physical and spiritual needs of residents in these parks. Jackson will organize the college student team that volunteers at the park each Tuesday, as well as coordinating communications and promotions for the ministry to recruit students to participate. Jackson is an Education major focusing on middle grades.

Scholars Serve Katrina Victims
Each year, numerous USC students travel over spring break to spend their week in service to the community. Students travel both domestically and abroad.

Four scholars traveled to New Orleans, LA to help rebuild houses in St. Bernard’s Parish through Common Ground. They are McNair Scholars Drew Cutright, Mary Lohman and Sarah Moran, as well as Carolina Scholars Kathy Niu and Tina Zhang. The trip was offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising and AMPS, the Association of Minority Pre-Health Students. Their majors are: Cutright, English; Lohman, Exercise Science; Moran, Philosophy; Niu and Zhang, Biology.
Scholars who traveled to Pass Christian, MS for Katrina relief are McNair Scholar Emily Mitchell and Carolina Scholars Guy Boudreaux and Derek DeBruin. They re-shingled two roofs. Mitchell is a Religious Studies major, Boudreaux is a Mathematics major, and DeBruin is a Computer Science major.

Scholars Serve Abroad

Each year, numerous USC students travel over spring break to spend their week in service to the community. Students travel both domestically and abroad.

McNair Scholar Alexis Stratton and Carolina Scholar Mary Allison Joseph were part of a trip to Venezuela with the Methodist Student Network at USC. They worked in a small town in the Andes Mountains called Carorita, doing construction work, leading Vacation Bible School, staffing a local medical clinic, and interacting with the youth and town members through various social, church, and educational activities. Their majors are: Stratton -- English and Joseph -- Spanish. They both served as co-president of the Methodist Student Network, and as Stratton graduates, Joseph will continue and fill the position of Social Justice coordinator.

McNair Scholars Amy Goddard, Rachel Bowman, and Tamera Beam along with Carolina Scholar Mary Kathryn Keane went to Oaxaca, Mexico over Spring Break on a mission trip funded by USC’s Dobson Scholarship Program. The students laid concrete floors and painted a medical clinic. Their majors are, in order, Psychology, Biology, Biology, and Physics.

Over Christmas Break, McNair Scholar Dan Williams traveled to Niger with an organization called the LINK, which seeks to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the people in this traditionally Muslim nation. Williams is a Business major.

Scholars Recognized at University Awards Day

Thomas Scott received the Steven N. Swanger Leadership Award, one of the highest honors a USC student can receive. The award is named for a former president of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), which sponsors Honors and Awards Day, and is given to a graduating senior for exemplary leadership and for making significant contributions to the Carolina community

Departmental Award Winners:

- Beth Ann Beth, McNair Scholar, received the Joseph R. LeConte Outstanding Junior Award from the Department of Geological Sciences.
- Matt Bell, Carolina Scholar, was named an Outstanding Senior in Engineering from the College of Engineering and Information Technology.
- Angela Bingham, McNair Scholar, received a Kappa Psi Award from the College of Pharmacy.
- Allyson Bird, a recent Carolina Scholar graduate, won the J. Rion McKissick Award from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
- Grace Blakely, McNair Scholar, won a Jeong S. Yang Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics.
- Allison Champion, Carolina Scholar, received a M. Kershaw Walsh Award for Academic Achievement from the Department of Psychology.
- Richard Chapman, Carolina Scholar, won a Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key from the Moore School of Business.
- Bonnie Coggins, McNair Scholar, was named an Outstanding Undergraduate in Marine Science from the Marine Science Program.
- Susan Crook, McNair Scholar, received the College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award from the Department of Mathematics. Crook is currently abroad in France.
• Kathleen Curtin, McNair Scholar, received the McDuffie Award from the Department of English.
• Corinne D’Ippolito, McNair Scholar, was awarded the Traci J. Heincelman Memorial Scholarship. Heincelman was a McNair Scholar who was killed over spring break her senior year.
• Matt Elder, Carolina Scholar, was named an Outstanding Senior in Engineering from the College of Engineering and Information Technology. He also was named an Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics.
• Benjamin Garrett, Carolina Scholar, received the Pi Mu Epsilon Award from the Department of Mathematics.
• Amy Goddard, McNair Scholar, received a M. Kershaw Walsh Award for Academic Achievement from the Department of Psychology.
• David Johannesmeyer, Carolina Scholar, won the James T. Penney Award from the Department of Biological Sciences.
• Mary Kathryn Keane, Carolina Scholar, won the College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award in Physics from the Department of Physics and Astronomy.
• Roger Keane, Carolina Scholar, won the Robert Van Doren Award from the School of Music.
• Chris Mitchell, McNair Scholar, received the Distinguished Academic Achievement Award from the Department of Geological Sciences.
• Emily Mitchell, McNair Scholar, won the Cary K. Smith, Jr. Mathematics Scholarship from the Department of Mathematics.
• Kellie Sharpe, McNair Scholar, received the Freshman Council Marie-Louise Ramsdale Scholarship from Student Government. Sharpe is majoring in International Studies.
• Corinne Sheridan, Carolina Scholar, was named an Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Mathematics from the Department of Mathematics.
• Alexis Stratton, McNair Scholar, was awarded the Cary K. Smith, Jr. Award from the Department of English.
• Jessica Sullivan, Carolina Scholar, was named an Outstanding Senior Major in Sociology from the Department of Sociology.
• Marissa Vawter, McNair Scholar, was named the Joseph H. Gibbons ODK Outstanding Senior. Vawter is majoring in International Studies.
• Jason Wheeler, Carolina Scholar, won the Hiram and Lawanda Allen Scholarship for Excellence in Chemistry from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.
• Jeremy VanderKnyff, Carolina Scholar, received the Rising Senior Award in Media Arts, Department of Art, although this award was not presented at Awards Day, it is a departmental award.

Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities:

1. Elizabeth Bakanic, McNair Scholar
2. Alicia Buddin, McNair Scholar
3. Richard Chapman, Carolina Scholar
4. Rachel Perkins, Carolina Scholar
5. Thomas Scott, Carolina Scholar
6. Corinne Sheridan, Carolina Scholar
7. Rachel Spence, McNair Scholar
8. Alexis Stratton, McNair Scholar
9. Marissa Vawter, McNair Scholar

USC Outstanding Senior Awards – Scholars won 42% of the Awards Given.
1. Alicia Buddin, McNair Scholar
2. Richard Chapman, Carolina Scholar
3. Beth Fortnum, Carolina Scholar
4. Amy Goddard, McNair Scholar
5. Anne Harvey, Carolina Scholar
6. Thomas Scott, Carolina Scholar
7. Corinne Sheridan, Carolina Scholar
8. Rachel Spence, McNair Scholar
9. Alexis Stratton, McNair Scholar
10. Marissa Vawter, McNair Scholar
11. Bill Vigen, McNair Scholar

### Studying Abroad or Off Campus (Co-Op, National Exchange [NSE] and the Washington Semester Program)

These programs are extremely popular among our Carolina and McNair Scholars. Those scholars who are studying or who have recently studied outside USC are as follows and can be contacted via e-mail by request:

**Maymester 2006**

Five Carolina Scholar business majors will spend their Maymester in a class, “Doing Business in Europe.” The course focuses on Europe as a context for global business. The scholars are: Brittany Cencula, Austin Collie, Silvia Hunziker, Scott Spivey and Catherine Whitt. The eleven-day trip includes stops in London, Paris and Prague.

Six Carolina and McNair Scholars will spend their Maymester in an Honors College course led by Dr. Hal French called "The Cultural Legacy of Greece and Turkey," and students will travel there to experience the cultures firsthand. The scholars are: Dimitri Basilakos (Carolina, major), Guy Boudreaux (Carolina, Mathematics), Corinne D'Ippolito (McNair, Marine Science), Mary Kathryn Keane (Carolina, Physics), Emily Mitchell (McNair, Religious Studies), and Raleigh Youmans (Carolina, Mathematics).

**Summer 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Baker, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Hannah Dykes, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlyn Gallagher, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Hankins, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Samantha Hayford, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Trey Lawson, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>England – Oxford University</td>
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<td>Amanda Kay Seals, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>Tina Shah, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Kellie Sharpe, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah VanderWood, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessie Walters-McCarthy, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yasmin Patel, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Sky, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>University of Kent, Canterbury, England (full year)</td>
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<td>Susan Crook, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Grenoble, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Saylor, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Granada, Spain (full year)</td>
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<td>Patrick McCormick, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
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<td>Andy Schwark, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Turner, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Virginia Tech, conducting research</td>
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<td>Megan Mueller, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Townsville, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luay Hammami, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
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<td>Michael McFadden, Carolina Scholar</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marisa Niparts, McNair Scholar</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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*Spring 2006 as of 26 April 2006*