INFINITY CEREMONY

IT’S OFFICIAL!

On Saturday October 24, 2015, twenty-one scholars were inducted into the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at Binghamton University. The program has been on the campus for twenty years and remains strong. The focus is to prepare students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Program participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. During the commemoration, faculty mentors from multiple disciplines were recognized for their work with the scholars. In addition, special recognition was given to David Cingranelli, founder of the program. David has stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the program. Dr. Melanie Ragin is now the new director for the program.

From left to right: Director- Dr. Melanie Ragin, Christian Salazar, Eunchong Lim, Jocelyn Solis Moreira, Fannie Chen, Jasmine Fosque, Victoria Lewis, Khadijah Boxill, Project Coordinator- Ivanna Smith, Alexei Hinkleman, Nayemai McIntosh-Green, Jose Gomez, Anly Palacios, Graduate Assistant Odilika Santiago, Jowell Padro, Jessica Dunn, Carolina Diaz, Emily Stranger and Jesus Cepin

Did you know?
- Ronald E. McNair was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.
- He was a 5th degree black belt Karate instructor and performing jazz saxophonist.
- Ronald McNair could read and write before entering school and was considered a mechanical genius, which earned him the nickname of "Gizmo."

Fast Fact:
The first cohort of McNair Scholars at Binghamton University consisted of twenty-seven students!

Alumni Spotlight (inside)
Do you wonder what are alumni are doing in the field? We have featured four alumni who share insights on their current jobs, how McNair helped them along with advice for current scholars in the program!
Alumni Spotlight

Robert Morton, III

**Degrees:** B.S. in Biochemistry from Binghamton University. PhD in Microbiology from Indiana University (expected 2016)

**Involvement @ Binghamton:** Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc

**Current Position/School:** I am currently transitioning from being a Microbiologist at Grain Processing Corporation to being a Production Supervisor at Boston Scientific. I am an ABD Microbiology PhD student. I will be finished writing this year.

**Research Interests:** My research interests lie in bacterial communications, I worked on quorum sensing during my undergraduate research, which was focused on communication between cells. My graduate research was centered on uncovering the affects of a phosphorelay pathway, which is communication within a single cell.

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Alumni Spotlight

Crystal Austin

**Degrees:** B.A. in Psychology and B.S. in Human Development, Binghamton University

**Involvement @ Binghamton:** McNair Scholars Program, U-TURN program (through BSU), Marriage and Family Studies Laboratory (w/ Matthew Johnson, Ph.D.), Chi Alpha Epsilon, C-STEP

**Current Position/School:** 4th Year Ph.D. student in Counseling Psychology at University at Albany

**Research Interests:** Biracial identity construction, the association between discrimination and mental health, race-based traumatic stress, and the stigma related to mental health treatment within historically oppressed groups

**Advice for current McNair Scholars:** Open yourself up to aspirations you may have circumscribed out because you didn't think you were good enough. As individuals who have been oppressed in one way or another, it is not uncommon for the messages about what we can achieve (from other individuals, from society) to seep into our own self-concepts and become our truths. It takes a lot of undoing, but McNair provides a foundation of support in the process of broadening our professional horizons.