



Grant #: 0602740

Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation
at Jackson State University

4th National Research Symposium

Mark Your
Calendars
5th National
Research
Conference:
October
5, 6 and 7,
2008

The 4th Annual National Research Symposium was held on October 8th and 9th, 2007 at Jackson State University in the e-Center. Over 200 students, faculty, and LSMAMP site coordinators and staff attended this year's conference. The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation (LSMAMP) program and by the Minority Access to Research Centers (MARC) program and by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Undergraduate Program's (HBCU-UP's) Science and Technology Access to Research and Graduate Education (STARGE.) Its intent is to positively impact students and their entrance into the workforce and academic pipelines.

Over 200 students (undergraduate and graduate students including the Bridge to the Doctorate students) and faculty from all of the alliance sites, Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Valley State University, the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi and our new site, Tougaloo College, came to the symposium to hear their peers present faculty-mentored research in oral or poster presentations. They also had the opportunity to meet outstanding scientists from

across the nation and to foster their leadership and professional development.

Keynote Speakers presented their research at the National Research Symposium and also interact with students

about their path to the Ph.D. This symposium featured the following keynote addresses: Dr. Daniel Sarpong, Director and Senior Biostatistician of the Jackson Heart Study, Jackson, MS; Derrick R. Dean, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Engineering, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dean James Bertram, Ph.D., Instructor, Department of Polymers & High Performance Materials, Hattiesburg, MS.; Michael J. Witt, Ph.D., Senior Engineering Manager RS68 Propulsion System SABIC Innovative Plastics, Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne; Lyn Stabler, Ph.D, Vice President for Policy and Analysis, Mississippi Technology Alliance, Ridgeland, MS; and Christopher White, Ph.D., Research Chemist, National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), Washington, D.C.

Winners of the poster presentations in the undergraduate category were as



William Cole from the University of Mississippi gives his poster presentation

follows: 1st Place, Andrea Marshall, University of Southern Mississippi; 2nd Place, William Gray, University of Southern Mississippi; 3rd Place, Lesia Graham, Jackson State University. The Graduate student winners in poster presentations were: 1st Place, Charity Mosley, Jackson State University; 2nd Place, Lenore Hicks, Jackson State University; 3rd Place, Generique Stewart, Jackson State University. Oral Undergraduate winners were: 1st Place, Elizabeth McClinton, Mississippi Valley State University; 2nd Place, Janelle Alleyne, Tougaloo College; 3rd Place, Desmond Henderson, Tougaloo College. Graduate Oral Presentation prizes all went to the following JSU Bridge to the Doctorate students: 1st Place, Will Johnson; 2nd Place, Delphine Woody and 3rd Place, Victoria Crockett.



Andrea Marshall: Poster winner from the University of Southern Mississippi

Cohort One: Expects 4 Ph.D.'s This Year

"The Bridge to the Doctorate Program opened many doors. I was able to attend prestigious conferences, conduct summer research with Dr. Jose Centeno of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, met other distinguished scientists and improve my research and presentation skills by working with my mentor, Dr. Hongtao Yu."

Charity Mosley

Doctoral Student in Chemistry at JSU

The ultimate goal of the Bridge to the Doctorate program is being realized this May and August by four (4) of the members of Mississippi's Cohort One. These Bridge to the Doctorate fellows will be receiving their Ph.D.'s in Chemistry from Jackson State University: Brian Napolion, Eric McClendon and Charity Mosley in August and Tomekia Simeon in May. (Eric McClendon will be attending medical school this fall.) All ten of the original Cohort One students are on track to obtain their Ph.D.'s in the next few years.

Expected to complete in

2009: Najealicka Armstrong, Microbiology at Howard University, Washington, DC; Kylie Nash, Industrial Engineering at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS; Cornelius Toole, Computer Science at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, and Tyisha Traylor Hathorn, Neurophar-

macology & Neuroscience at Albany Medicine College in Albany, NY.

In 2010: Mekel Richardson, Biomedical Sciences at University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN.

In 2011: Isi Tolliver, Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.



Charity Mosley



Brian Napolion



Eric McClendon



Tomekia Simeon

Spotlight on Former Participants

Angela Fortner

Currently a second year graduate student at Princeton University, Angela D. Fortner has recently passed her PhD candidacy examination and been awarded a Master of Arts in Chemistry. Angela will continue her research under her mentor, Dr. Michael Hecht, and will be using a high throughput screen created in her lab to look for small molecules that inhibit the aggregation of the peptide that causes Alzheimer's disease. She hopes to accomplish several research goals dur-

ing her tenure at Princeton, which include isolating the various physical states of the Alzheimer's disease protein that exist in a diseased brain; searching through compound libraries to look for molecules that inhibit aggregation with a novel fluorescence based screen; and test their toxicity and efficacy in a *C. Elegans* animal model.

So far, Angela has successfully mastered multiple analytical chemistry techniques and delved into the new field of Molecular Biology.

When Angela is not in the lab, she serves as Minister of Information for the Black Graduate Caucus and also teaches college preparatory classes for underrepresented, overachieving minorities in the Trenton Public Schools district. She plans to finish her doctoral degree by May 2011.

Through the Bridge program Ms. Fortner notes, "I learned that graduate school even at an Ivy League school is not some daunting, unachievable goal."



Angela Fortner
in her Princeton garb.

William Clay

William Clay joined the Bridge Program with a B.S. in Mathematics from Mississippi Valley State University. While at Jackson State, he focused on Applied Mathematics and spent his intensive summer research experience at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) with Dr. Linda Petzold.

His summer research led to an offer from UCSB to enter the doctoral program, where William continues his work with Dr. Petzold in the Systems Biology group and where he is supported by fellowships from both the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program from the National Science

Foundation and the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (GEM).

In his spare time, William goes to the gym to work out and he also has a passion for playing keyboards.



William Clay

Cohort Four Heads Toward Ph.D.'s

Cohort 4 is completing their second and final year of the BD program and, already, many of the students have been accepted into Ph.D. programs. Vyvyca Jones, Chemistry, will be attending the University of Michigan; Anthony Powell, Biology, will be going to the University of Southern Florida; Delphine Woody, who has been continuing her chemistry research at the University of Indiana, Indianapolis, has been accepted at the University of Illinois, Chicago; William Hardy, Chemistry, and William Johnson, Biol-

ogy, have been accepted by the University of Florida and Victoria Crockett, Chemistry, will be completing her Ph.D. at Jackson State University. The four Computer Engineering majors (Lamarious Carter, Miguel Gates, Kevin Pace and Justin Rice) have been accepted at Louisiana Institute of Technology. Computer Scientist major Tisha Brown and Lungile Sitole, Chemistry, will be finishing their masters degrees in December of this year and have just begun applying to doctoral programs.



Cohort 4 at an NSF conference: (l. to r.) Miguel Gates, Justin Rice, Lamarious Carter, Delphine Woody, Anthony Powell, Lungile Sitole, Vyvyca Jones, Victoria Crockett, William Hardy and William Johnson. Not Pictured: Tisha Brown and Kevin Pace.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to travel to Poland this summer and conduct research there."

Ivan Walker

Cohort 5: Computer Engineering Major

Cohort Five: Heading for Summer Research

At the end of their first year, each cohort is required to complete an intensive, external summer research experience. Cohort 5 members will be traveling to many parts of the country and even abroad this year to fulfill that condition of the program.

The two students traveling abroad will be going to Poland to the Wroclaw Technological University to conduct research. They are Computer Engineering major Ivan Walker and Electrical Engineering major Ricky McGruder.

Biology majors Cortessia Badie and Jetaime Ross, who work with JSU mentor Dr. Ernest

Izevbigie, will both be going to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. Before she goes to NIH, Jetaime Ross will be presenting her research at the 10th International Symposium on Metal Ions in Biology and Medicine, which will be held from the 19th through the 22nd of May in Bastia, Corsica, France.

Eric Evans and Diahanna Hackett, both in Biology, will embark on internships at the University of California Santa Barbara in their Graduate Research Internship Program (GRIP). Kelisha Turner, Biology, will also be at UCSB as a participant in their IGERT program. JSU has been able to send BD students to this program every year for the last five years.

Stephanie Hughes, whose research has already been

published, will be returning to the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA, to continue her research there with Dr. Daniel E. Neafsey. The Broad Institute is a research collaboration of MIT, Harvard and its affiliated hospitals and the Whitehead Institute and was created to bring the power of genomics to medicine.

Wanda Payne, mathematics, will be traveling to the University in Mississippi along with her JSU mentor, Dr. Aounia, to complete her summer internship.

For the second year in a row, BD students will be traveling to Indiana University for their summer STEM research program. The Cohort 5 participants will be Chemistry Majors Teresa Demeritte, Candace Perry and Danielle McShan.



Cohort 5 members gather for presentation. From left to right back row—Kelisha Turner, Stephanie Hughes, Candice Perry, Eric Evans, Teresa Demeritte. In front—Danielle McShan and Ricky McGruder.



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Recruiting: Cohort Six

JSU has applied to the National Science Foundation for a sixth cohort of BD students. In anticipation of the grant, JSU is actively recruiting for the 12 positions.

Interested students need to have been a member of a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program as an undergraduate, have a 3.5 average in a STEM major and a 3.0 average overall, be a U.S. citizen and be committed to achieving a Ph.D. degree.

The Bridge to the Doctorate program supports two years of study in preparation for entering a doctoral program. This includes payment of tuition and fees and a living stipend of \$ 30,000 per annum.

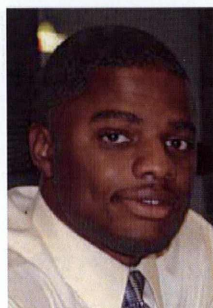
For an application and a flyer about the program: call 601-979-2076 or 601-979-1604. You can also e-mail: joan.blanton@jsums.edu.

Cohort 5 Students: Travel Abroad

Jetaime Ross will be presenting her research at the 10th International Symposium on Metal Ions in Biology and Medicine, which will be held from the 19th through the 22nd of May in Corsica, France.



Jetaime Ross



Ivan Walker



Ricky McGruder

Computer Engineering major Ivan Walker and Electrical Engineering major Ricky McGruder. will be traveling to Poland to the Wroclaw Technological University to conduct research for five weeks this summer.

LSMAMP Alliance Members



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