

# GRADSTAR/MCNAIR GAZETTE

# Grad Fair 2011

## Grad Schools are here!!

Gather information about...

- ◆ Graduate School Admissions
- ◆ Various Academic Programs
- ◆ Paid Research Opportunities
  - Funding
- ◆ And much, much more!!

Monday, October 24th, 2011 10 am - 2 pm  
University Center Ballroom

Volume 21, Issue 2

October 2011

### Special points of interest:

- 50+ scheduled to be present at the 2011 Grad Fair
- GradStar/McNair is now accepting applications!
- Sign up for upcoming Open Houses!

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# Grad Fair 2011 Tips: from the Director's Desk



Fall's 2011 Grad Fair is quickly approaching. This event is especially important to those that are looking to conduct research or enter programs within the next couple of years. This is not just for Juniors or Seniors; all students can take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with graduate school representatives. You get to speak to someone, as opposed to solely reading up on the school via the web or other literature. Secondly, you have the opportunity to look beyond the schools you know, as there will be a myriad of schools and programs in attendance,

you may find something that you may have been searching for. From research opportunities to graduate school admissions, this is a chance to increase your knowledge base of graduate school and create relationships that will be more than beneficial in the future. To gain the most from this event you must come prepared. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- ◆ Business attire is not required, casual attire will suffice. You are not going to a formal interview. However, please be presentable and remember that your appearance is representative of you.
- ◆ Be yourself and be relaxed.
- ◆ Have at least 3 copies of your

Curriculum Vitae (CV). You never know what opportunities you will come across.

- ◆ Do some preliminary research on the schools, programs and possible faculty. There is a lot of ground to cover; this will maximize your time spent.
- ◆ Articulate yourself with confidence. Confidence can take you a long way.
- ◆ Be honest with yourself and the representatives. Understand that you are an asset to any program; do not underestimate yourself. Conversely, do not over-exaggerate, it is not as beneficial as one may assume.

**Damon Williams Jr., Director**

## Grad Fair 2011 School Listings *Did your school RSVP??*

American University of Antigua  
College of Medicine

Brooklyn Law School

Clark Atlanta University Graduate  
School

Emory University

Florida Coastal School of Law

Hofstra University

LSU School of Public Health

LSU Law Center

The New School

New England Law School

Nova Southeastern University

Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Roger Williams University of Law

Saint Louis University School of  
Public Health

St. John's University of Law

Samford University Cumberland  
School of Law

South Texas College of Law

Southern University Law Center

Southwestern Law School

UALR William H. Bowen School  
of Law

University of Alabama

University of Chicago

University of New Orleans

University of Notre Dame

University of Rochester

University of Tennessee College  
of Allied Health Sciences

University of Virginia

Washington University in St.  
Louis - Brown School

Widener University School of Law

Xavier University - Graduate  
School

## **\*\*Upcoming Open Houses/Campus Visits\*\***

University of Missouri Open House

**October 26-29**

Raleigh, NC Campus Visit

**October 31-November 1**

Ohio State University Open House

**November 7-9**

Annual Biomedical Research  
Conference, St. Louis, MO

**November 9-12**

University of Michigan Open House

**November 12-14**

UGA Open House

**November 13-15**

# Want to be a McNair Scholar?

- ⇒ Do you want to pursue a PhD?
- ⇒ Want to do paid summer research?
- ⇒ Will you graduate in 2012 or 2013?
- ⇒ Is your GPA above a 2.75?

If you answered yes,  
then GradStar/McNair is for you!

## Xavier's GradStar Program

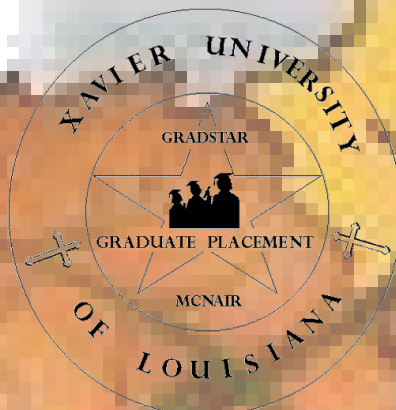
is geared towards helping students who are wanting to pursue a graduate degree, including but not limited to a Ph.D. Seminars as well as travel are included in the program as preparation for the application process and admission into a graduate program. All classifications are encouraged to apply. Contact the Office of Graduate Placement for more details and application materials.

504.520.7633

gradstar@xula.edu

*"Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them. You are eagles! Stretch your wings and fly to the sky."*

Ronald E. McNair  
Physicist, NASA Astronaut



Join us for our next  
meeting:

Thursday, October 27th  
NCF 135

Xavier's Ronald E. McNair Program is the seminar/travel component of GradStar's programming that is designed specifically to help students who will pursue a Ph.D. Funded by the Department of Education, McNair scholars participate in semi-monthly seminars featuring guest speakers and topics of importance for prospective Ph.D. students. McNair scholars are selected for travel during the year and research internships in the summer. Contact the Office of Graduate Placement for more details and application materials.

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## Alumni Corner



A. Gabriel Thompson, Xavier '10 Alum, is continuing the tradition of Xavier University of Louisiana. Gabriel, a New Orleans native, has embodied the core values of a Xavierite. He has earned the Mother M. Agatha Ryan Service Award (second highest award one graduate receives from the votes of faculty and staff), the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs' Annual Student Leadership Award, the Highest Overall GPA of All Senior Business Majors Award and the Highest Overall GPA of all Accounting Majors Award. He was also a productive member of the Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society

in Business, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, National Association of Black Accountants, and the Peer Dean Planning Committee. In Gabriel's last semester, he expanded his undergraduate studies internationally. In the spring 2010 semester, he attended City University of Hong Kong, where he received the opportunity to study Mandarin and Money and Banking, travel to Shanghai, Xi'an, and Beijing, and intern at the U.S. Dept of Commerce. Upon his return, he continued his education at Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business. While being active in Burkenroad Reports and Beta Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. in Accounting, he worked his way to

become a graduate of Tulane's Master of Finance program (class of 2011). During my conversation with Gabriel, he asks that I tell the current undergraduate students to attend more career fairs in order to expand their opportunities. It's not just about what you know or who you know but more about who knows you and what you are interested in. Make your presence felt. Keep in mind that you need to gain practice in talking to representatives of schools and companies until it becomes natural and experience is the best teacher. The Office of Graduate Placement provides you with necessary tools but it is up to you to use them.

# Grade Yourself on the Graduate Admissions

Graduating Seniors, take a look at this timeline & see how you're doing on the graduate admissions process.

## SENIOR YEAR

### Fall Semester

1. Visit graduate and professional schools during open houses, preview days or GradStar/McNair-sponsored campus visitations.
2. Attend professional conferences and present your research.
3. APPLY to graduate or professional school!

### September

1. Contact faculty members to write recommendations for you. Provide the writer with a C.V., cover letter with clear instructions on the recommendation process (electronic or paper), date you would like the recommendation sent by (not just deadlines) and examples of information that you would like included in the recommendation. Be sure to ask your research mentor for a recommendation.
2. Work on a draft personal statement that will later be tailored to each graduate program.
3. Identify external sources of graduate funding, noting their deadlines.

4. Register for and attend GRE Workshop (for graduate programs).
5. Meet with your advisor to make sure you are on track for graduation. Apply for graduation.

### October

1. Take the GRE no later than November 7. (Please note, if you wait this late, you will miss Nov. admissions deadlines and many national fellowship deadlines).
2. Ask your mentor/advisor and McNair staff to review your personal statement. Make revisions as necessary.
3. Complete applications with November deadlines.
4. Participate in Campus Visitations.

### 5. Attend Graduate Fair on Monday, October 24, 2011.

### November

1. Complete applications with November or December deadlines.
2. Apply for external funding sources; many will have deadlines between November 1 and January 1.
3. Participate in Campus Visitations.
4. Present Research at the National

McNair Conference in Delavan, WI (McNair Scholars only).

### December

1. Request official transcripts from all colleges attended.
2. Complete applications with January deadlines.

### January to February

1. Call the departments to which you have applied to be sure that all applications are complete.
2. Apply for financial aid, assistantships and fellowships at your prospective graduate school(s). Fill out your FAFSA after filing your taxes.
3. Some graduate programs will require interviews (ex. Clinical Psychology).

### March to April

1. Schools will probably notify you about your admissions status. (Accepted, Provisionally Accepted, Rejected, or Waitlisted).
2. Graduate programs will make financial offers (Assistantships and Fellowships).
3. Some institutions may request your decision by April 15.

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**We're on Facebook !!**

**Xavier University of  
Louisiana/Ronald McNair  
Program**

### Acknowledgements:

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