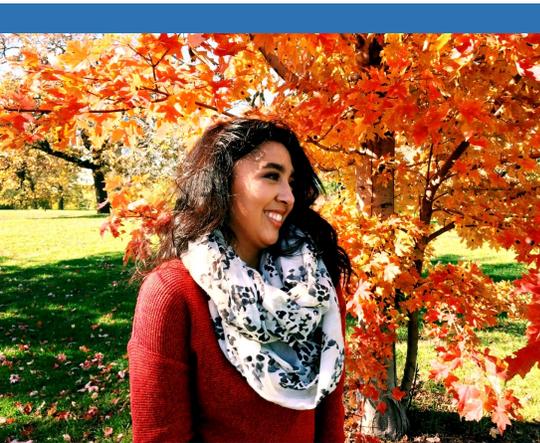




Scholarly Times

*"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."** McNair is proud to announce the end of our second 5-year grant AND the beginning of our new 5-year grant, starting October 1, 2017. See what we've been up to and anticipate the success to come! -Dr. Sam

* *"Closing Time", Semisonic*



"If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

- Frank A. Clark

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Rebeca Gurrola

Rebeca attended the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences (CEOAS) at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She was also named McNair Summer Photo Contest Winner.

Oregon State University



Samantha Perez

Sam attended the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) "Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region" summer program at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS).

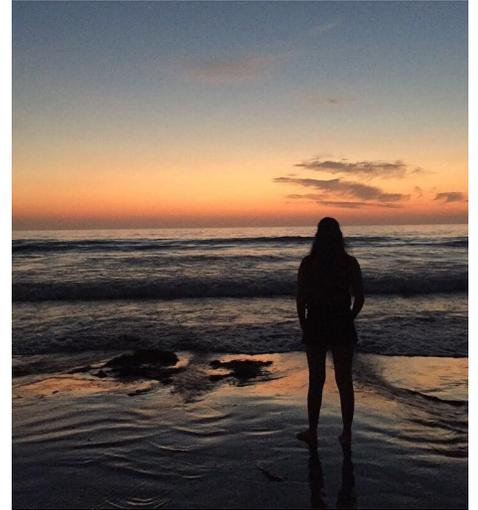
University of Michigan Biological Station

McNair on the Move

Ashleigh Morales

Ashleigh attended the Summer Program for Women in Philosophy held at UC San Diego. The program provides undergraduate women with an engaging philosophical learning experience and prepares them to apply to graduate school in philosophy.

University of California San Diego



Brenda Lopez

Brenda “flew” to Miami for the FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference this past October. Our scholars had a chance to “ruffle feathers” in Miami and create quite a “squawk”.

Abstract Title: An analysis of sexual assault rates for Texas colleges and universities: A comparison of public and private institutions

Florida International University

Maricruz Espinoza

During the summer, Mari was at the University of Notre Dame researching the roles of proteins ARID3B and CD133 in cancer stem cells originating in the ovaries. She took part in the Harper Cancer Research Institute open house and visited the Genomics Core and Tissue Core.

University of Notre Dame





Lorena Perez

Lorena did her summer research in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Her research was focused on the integrative physiology of arthropods, particularly stress tolerance, dormancy-induced changes, and reproduction using sanguinivorous and non-sanguinivorous arthropod models. Cincinnati photo above was taken by Lorena.

University of Cincinnati

Iliana DeLaCruz

Iliana attended the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at the University of Notre Dame. Her mentor was Dr. Micha Kilburn in the department of Physics.

Iliana (left) and another REU student practice “peer bonding”.

University of Notre Dame



Trey Gonzales

Trey was at the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at Michigan State University (MSU). In addition to research, activities also included workshops and group discussions to complement the research experience.

Michigan State University





Ashleigh Morales

Ashleigh presented her research at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference Effects on Mosquito in October.



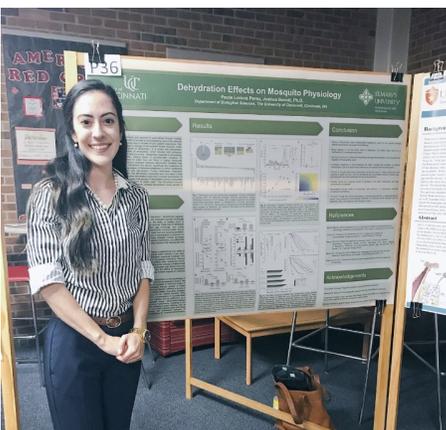
Brenda Lopez & Daisy Jordan

Brenda and Daisy after presenting at the FIU McNair Conference in Miami, Florida.



Cody S, Gisela R, & Ximena M

Students attend an etiquette workshop hosted by St. Mary's.



Kimberly DeLaFuente

Dr. Sam

Dr. Sam and Kimberly (above) attended TRiO Priority 2 Training in Philadelphia this October. Much walking was done, much learned.

Lorena Perez

Lorena (left) presented her research at the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology Student Summer Research Symposium at St. Mary's.



Tenth Annual Summer Research Symposium

Hosted by St. Mary's University McNair Scholars Program

McNair Scholars' Abstract Titles

Juan Ordonez, *Melanoma Response to Chitosan-Thin Films with Gold Nanoparticle Deposits*.
Mentor: Samantha Franklin, PhD

Gabriela A. Aquino Aguilar, *The Relative Advantage of One-Way to Repeated-Measures ANOVA with Missing Cases*.
Mentor: Rick Sperling, PhD

Daisy Jordan, *The Impact of Race and Sex in Media Publicity of Missing Children Cases*.
Mentor: Armando Abney, PhD

Brenda Lopez, *An analysis of sexual assault rates for Texas colleges and universities: A comparison of public and private institutions*. Mentor: Armando Abney, PhD

Jacqueline Lucero, *Color-blindness is so 2016: The Effect of the Trump Election on the CoBRAS as a Measure of Color-blindness*. Mentor: Rick Sperling, PhD

Paloma Silva, *Flirting, Playing, or Bonding? Socio-Sexual Behavior in Immature Beluga Whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) During the Third Year of Life*. Mentor: Heather Hill, PhD

Christa Herrera, *Gender Portrayals in Contemporary Palestinian and Israeli Films*.
Mentor: Patricia Owen, PhD

Ximena Mondragon, *"Agua Para el Pueblo:" A Preliminary Examination into Group Motives to Protest during the 2000 Bolivian Water Wars*. Mentor: Betsy Smith, PhD

Gisela Reyes, *Finessing Privilege: A Characterization of Passing and Its Influence on Implicit Biases Through Latina Experiences*. Mentor: Eric Chelstrom, PhD

Ashleigh Morales, *Identities Forged Under Oppression: Exploring how Sexual Assault's Contributions to Oppression Affect a Woman's Identity*. Mentor: Eric Chelstrom, PhD





A Spooktacular Halloween

Dr. Zwahr-Castro (top left) dressed as a character from the hit show Stranger Things. Scholar Maricruz Espinoza was dressed as a dragon. She took first in our McNair Costume Contest! Dr. Sam and Dr. ZC were sporting the white coats in the Psychology department. Dr. Sam dressed as "Dr. Hyde" from the classic story, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Rising Scholar Jennifer Padron (below left), dressed as a vampire. Admin Kimberly DeLaFuente (below right) with the evil villain, Ursula, from *The Little Mermaid*.



Recent McNair Alumni



Monica Perez (StMU 2016) skypes in for a workshop with our rising scholars.



Nancy Urbano (StMU 2016) on her first day at NIEHS.



Brian Diaz (StMU 2017) at Univ. of Iowa with Math cohort (right). Visiting StMU after his first semester (left).



Genne Liu (StMU 2017) is in D.C. at American University School of International Service.



Anna Villarreal (StMU 2017) with cohort at Texas A&M.



Alexis Gonzalez (2017) and Billy Rodriguez (2017) at StMU Xmas tree lighting.



Monica Perez (StMU 2017) at Univ. of Notre Dame move-in day.



Dr. Daniel Araujo

Dr. Zwahr-Castro and Family

This Thanksgiving the family visited Louisiana and took a photo at the monument for The Battle of New Orleans (1815), Chalmette Battlefield.



Congratulations to McNair's newest PhD, Daniel Araujo (above), who received his PhD in Neuroscience at UT Southwestern in May 2017.

This Fall we held our first McNair Scholars Retreat. Our students took part in "peer bonding" activities and set group goals for the semester (below).



Fall McNair Scholars Retreat

Meet our Newest Rising Scholars



Major: Criminology and Psychology

Hometown: Pharr, TX

Why McNair? To gain a doctorate in the field of emotional expression, specifically in criminal deception and suicidal intent.

Extracurricular Activities: President of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and member/ founder of Forensic Science Organization

Alejandro Carrillo



Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Tucson, AZ

Research Interests: Aerospace

Extracurricular Activities: Secretary of Society of Hispanic Engineers StMU

Brian Mendoza



Kimberly Salazar

Major: Psychology

Hometown: League City, TX

Research Interests: Animal and Human Behavior

Extracurricular Activities: President's Ambassadors, Zaragoza Leader, Emerging Leaders peer mentor, ARC peer mentor



Brandon McClellan

Major: Biochemistry

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Extracurricular Activities: American Chemical Society for Students, Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society, HOSA-Future Health Professionals

Fun Fact: Spent Summer REU at UTHSCSA focused on Autoimmune Disease research



Anthony Robledo

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Santa Ana, CA

Why McNair? I want to get my PhD in comparative politics and become a professor.

Research Interests: Peace talks and conflict resolution



Ashley Yates-Contreras

Major: Environmental Sciences

Hometown: El Paso, TX

Research Interests: Marine populations and ecosystem dynamics

Fun Fact: Sharks are my favorite animal.





Josue Jaramillo

Major: Biology

Hometown: Kerrville, TX

Why McNair? To begin my research in cell biology/ biomedical research.

Extracurricular Activities: Marianist Leadership Program and Undergraduate Research



Gonzalo Guerra

Major: Psychology

Hometown: Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico

Research Interests: Comparative Psychology, Behavioral Psychology, Developmental Psychology

Extracurricular Activities: Presidents Ambassadors, Psi Chi National Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honour Society



Major: Criminology

Hometown: Grand Saline, TX

Why McNair? To get the guidance and experience in order to pursue a doctorate degree

Hobbies: running, socializing

Fun Fact: I love cream cheese on my Chips Ahoy cookies

Madesson Silva



Jennifer Padron

Major: Forensic Science, Criminology

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Why McNair? Because of the available resources and support McNair provides to their students.

Extracurricular Activities: I am the risk manager for the Forensic Science Club and an active member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.



Jonathan Hernandez

Major: Mechanical

Engineering and Spanish

Hometown: Brownsville, TX and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico

Why McNair? I joined McNair to attend graduate school and participate in research.

Fun Fact: I'm an amateur e-sports player.



Major: Theology

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Why McNair? To help me achieve my goal of becoming a professor

Research interests: Moral Theology

Extracurricular activities: Bike riding

Hobbies: Reading books, specifically theology of the body

Sadie Villarreal

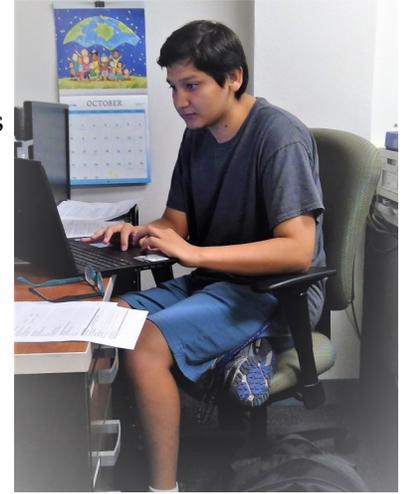
Meet the Newest Additions to the McNair Staff



Nicole (left) is our GRE Math tutor AND a graduate student in English. She is very patient and wise—as our scholars already know.

Juan Rivera

Juan (right) is a freshman from Decatur, TX. He enjoys art & organizing McNair paperwork. He also has a twin, Pedro—don't think you're seeing two of Juan!



Man “Nicole” Xiao



Celebrate Achievement and Give the Gift of Success

McNair gave the opportunity for scholars to share their success from the semester and give helpful advice to the new rising scholars. We created a space in our office to relax and have fun between the stress of final exams. Dr. ZC, Dr. Sam and Cody S (above) were preparing for the day ahead. Kim and Juan (top right) were helping with workshop prep. Scholars, Gonzalo, Gaby, and Cody (right) along with other students enjoyed marshmallows by the fire.

We hope everyone had a great Fall semester! Happy Holidays from the McNair Staff!

