

ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY



McNAIR SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

Scholarly Times

Issue 6 — Fall 2015



“I am thankful for McNair because they have made it possible for me to visit and apply to grad schools. As a first generation student, McNair provides me with a lot of information that is needed in order to succeed.”

-Nancy Urbano

Environmental Science Major



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The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

“I absolutely loved Wisconsin! It was an eye opening experience and really got me excited about presenting more research in the future.”

-Genesis Calderon
Psychology Major

“If you go to Wisconsin, you have to bring back cheese.”

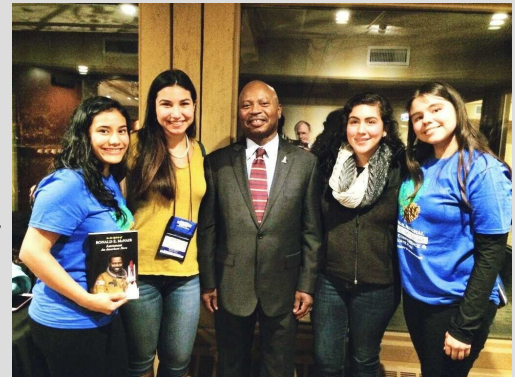
-Josh Prudhomme
Psychology Major



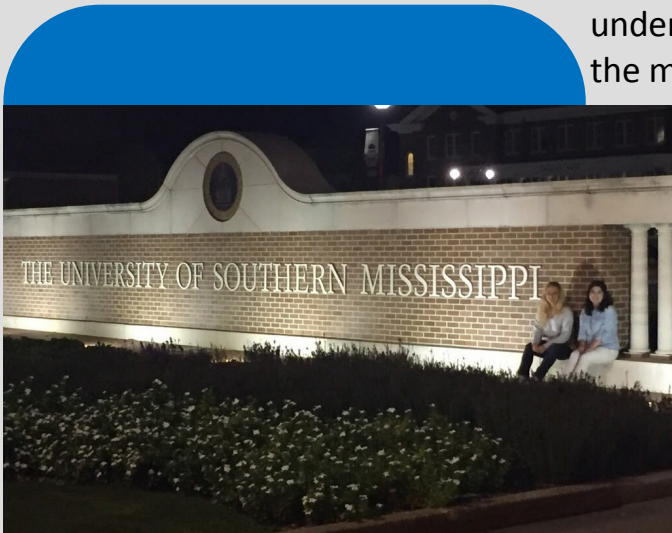
Mariana, Monica, Vanessa, Josh, and Genesis at the University of Wisconsin.

“Presenting was just one small part of the experience. During the conference, students were supportive and understanding. Advice: Enjoy the most you can eat.”

-Vanessa Perez
Theology Major



Genesis, Monica, Mariana, & Vanessa with Carl McNair, brother of Ronald McNair.



Anna and Dr. Heather Hill

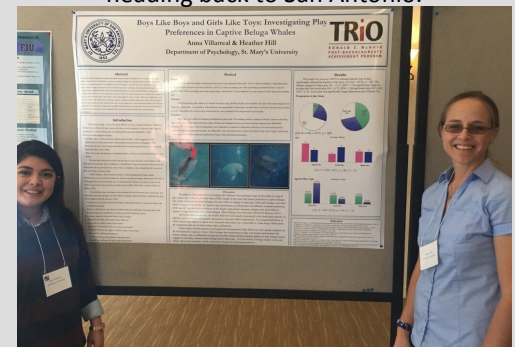
“Traveling to the University of Southern Mississippi was my first time out of Texas.

Overall, I really enjoyed this trip. I learned a lot of neat stuff. I also met a lot of graduate students and faculty.

-Anna Villarreal
Psychology Major



Mariana, Genesis, Josh, Vanessa, & Monica heading back to San Antonio.



Anna & Dr. Hill presenting research.

Campus Visit to the University of Southern Mississippi



Crystal Chavez



My name is Crystal Chavez and I am a senior Psychology student set to graduate this December. Last summer I completed a research project on traditional Mexican cultural beliefs and acculturation under the tutelage of Dr. Patricia Owen from the Psychology Department at St. Mary's University. This semester I interned with Sunrise Psychological Services, a private psychology practice that primarily completes psychological assessments for those applying for VA disability income or for Social Security benefits. My summer McNair research and current internship have both shaped my current research interests in both cultural factors in cognitive and psychological assessments, and potential health disparities in minority populations. I am also currently working on a class research project with my classmates in the Social Psychology of the Zombie Apocalypse class taught by Dr. Zwahr-Castro. I am currently in the process of applying to Clinical and Counseling PhD programs. Eventually, I would like to work as a clinical psychologist in an area similar to my hometown of El Paso Texas, which has a large Latina/o population. When I'm not trying to complete my schoolwork and graduate school applications, I serve as the Treasurer of the Psychology Club/Psi Chi. I am also a member of the Tau Zeta Theater Honor Society, where I help with the more behind-the-scenes aspects of the theater here on campus. When I have downtime, I enjoy watching either The Walking Dead or reality TV, reading scary stories, and creating art.

Alex Salinas

Environmental Science Major

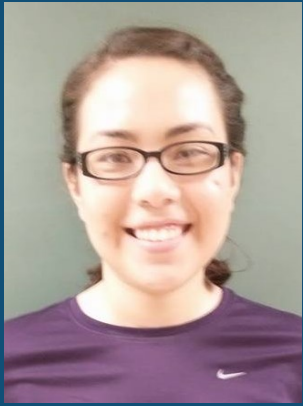
This summer Alex Salinas conducted research that focused on studying plants and fungi within the world-renowned Biosphere 2 in Tucson, Arizona. Her work was through the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates Program.

"My job was to try to figure out what role roots, mycorrhizae (a fungus that has a symbiotic relationship with plant roots) and microbial activity have on the biological and chemical weathering of rock during its initial stages of soil formation," she said.

In other words, "we were growing plants in pure, plain rock without fertilizer and extra nutrients," Salinas said.

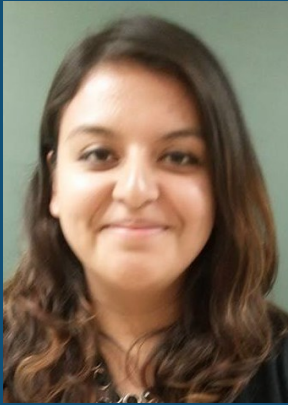
Alex described the internship experience as "Incredible!"





Christa Herrera Daisy Jordan Daniel Vargas Lauren Garcia Ernest Salinas

2015-2016 McNair



Magdalena Banda Raul Mejia Paloma Silva Alexis Gonzalez Anne Ojo

Rising Scholars



Genne Liu Cody Sanders Amira Santin Brian Diaz Maricruz Espinoza

Welcome to our program! We look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Not Pictured: Adelind SiFuentes

Farewell, Aron!

Our Graduate Assistant, Aron Martinez, has departed back to his hometown in Phoenix, Arizona. He is an amazing GRE tutor to our scholars and responsible for the rising of GRE scores throughout his time here. Aron plans to travel and develop his own software programs. He will definitely be missed by our McNair staff and scholars.

Thank you and best of luck!



Aron tutoring Diego.



Aron loves to travel and sightsee.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you happiness and blessings this holiday season and a New Year filled with joy and new beginnings.

Mentor Thoughts

"A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could." - unknown

