

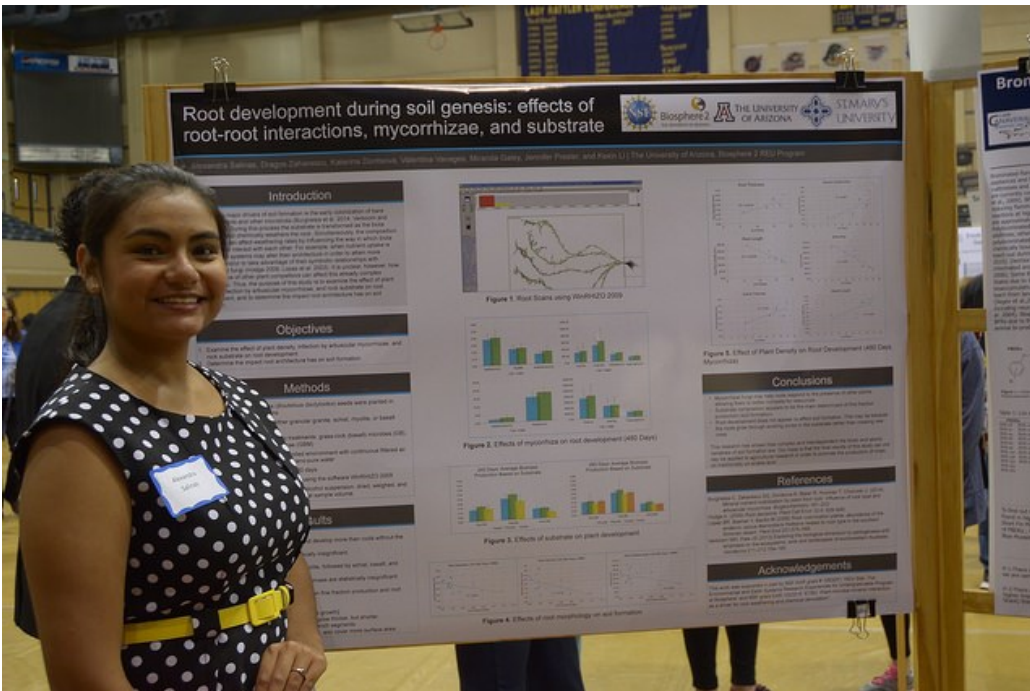
# Scholarly Times



Issue 7

Spring '16

## To Grad School and Beyond



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Welcome to another McNair Scholars Program Newsletter! As you can see, our Scholars have been hard at work, out and about doing research, visiting campuses, and presenting at conferences. We're very happy and a little sad that four Scholars are graduating May 2016—Josh V, Genesis C, Chantelle R, and Nancy U—but after all, that's part of the whole McNair process! This year has been a very successful one again for our new and second-year scholars; once again McNair did well at the URO Symposium, with four awards, 3 of them to Rising Scholars. In addition, this summer our Scholars were accepted to research programs as diverse as Harvard Forest, Purdue, Kentucky, and Iowa.

Enjoy the newsletter and as always—celebrate student success!

- Dr. Sam



ST. MARY'S  
UNIVERSITY  
McNAIR SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM

# St. Mary's University 17th Annual



## Undergraduate Research Symposium

McNair Scholars Paloma Silva, Lauren Garcia, Kevin Vallecillos, and Cody Sanders received awards at the 17th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

**Third Place in Science, Engineering, and Technology** Lauren Garcia (McNair Scholar), Gangadhara Sareddy, and Ratna Vadlamudi, Biological Sciences: *Estrogen Receptor  $\beta$  Agonists: Novel Therapy for Brain Tumors* (Faculty mentor: Ratna Vadlamudi, PhD)



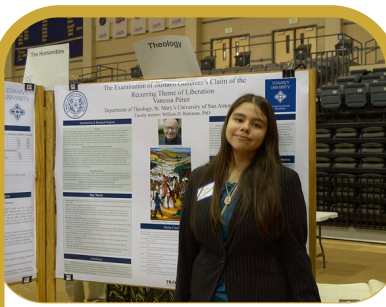
**First Place in Social Science** Paloma Silva (McNair Scholar), Psychology: *Socio-Sexual Behavior in Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Calves from Seven to Twelve Months of Age* (Faculty mentor: Heather Hill, PhD)

**Third Place in Humanities** Cody Sanders (McNair Scholar), English Communications Arts: *James Joyce, Ulysses, and the New York Censorship Case* (Faculty mentor: Alice Kersnowski, PhD)

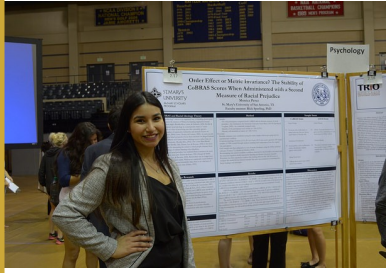


**Third Place in Social Sciences** Kevin Vallecillos (McNair Scholar), Kelsey McLaughlin, Bethany Noack, and Jorge Granados, Exercise and Sport Science: *Elliptical Trainers as Alternative Field for Cardiorespiratory Fitness* (Faculty mentor: Mark Roltsch, PhD)

# St. Mary's University 17th Annual Research Symposium McNair Submissions



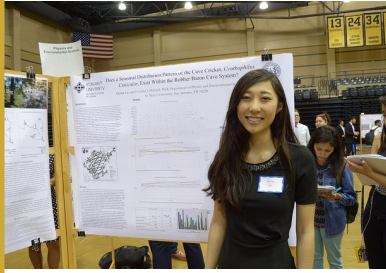
**Cody Sanders** *James Joyce, Ulysses, and the New York Censorship Case*  
Faculty Advisor: Alice Kersnowski, Ph.D.



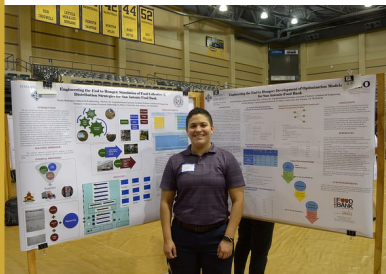
**Genesis Calderon** *Performativity in Kendrick Lamar's "The Blacker the Berry"*  
Faculty Advisor: Mary Lynne Hill, Ph.D.



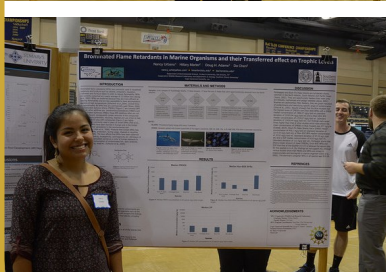
**Vanessa Perez** *The Examination of Gustavo Gutierrez's Claim of the Reoccurring Theme of Liberation*  
Faculty Advisor: William Buhrman, Ph.D.



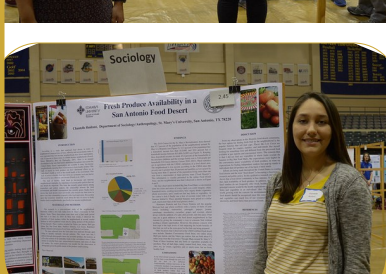
**Kevin Vallecillos**, Kelsey McLaughlin, Bethany Noack, Jorge Granados *Elliptical Trainers as Alternative Field for Cardiorespiratory Fitness*  
Faculty Advisor: Mark Roltsch, Ph.D.



**Mariana Sandoval** *War and Women's Work: Medical Military Duty in WWII and Women's Status*  
Faculty Advisor: Teresa Van Hoy, Ph.D.



**Monica Perez** *Order Effect or Metric Invariance? The Stability of CoBRAS Scores When Administered with A Second Measure of Racial Prejudice*  
Faculty Advisor: Rick Sperling, Ph.D.



**Joshua Prudhomme** *The Effect of Sex, Age, and Socioeconomics Status on the Development of Altruism*  
Faculty Advisor: Art Vega, Ph.D.

**Billy Rodriguez** *Effortful Control in Disadvantaged and Minority Children*  
Faculty Advisor: C. Emily Durbin

**Anna Villarreal** *Boys Like Boys and Girls Like Toys: Investigating Play Preferences in Captive Beluga Whales*  
Faculty Advisor: Heather Hill, Ph.D.

**Paloma Silva** *Socio-Sexual Behavior in Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Calves from Seven to Twelve Months of Age*  
Faculty Advisor: Heather Hill, Ph.D.

**Christa Herrera** *Cartoon Stereotypes for 10-13 Year Old Children*  
Faculty Advisor: Heather Hill, Ph.D.

**Magdalena Banda** *Where Are All the Beluga Whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Vocalizations At?*  
Faculty Advisor: Heather Hill, Ph.D.

**Chantelle Ruidant** *Food Deserts within Low-Income Neighborhoods*  
Faculty Advisor: Janet Armitage, Ph.D.

**Maricruz Espinoza** *PEITC-Activated AMPK Activation in Cervical Cancer*  
Faculty Advisor: Thomas Sloga

**Lauren Garcia** Gangadhara Sareddy, Ratna Vadlamudi *Estrogen Receptor B Agonists: Novel Therapy for Brain Tumors*  
Faculty Advisor: Ratna Vadlamudi

**Genne Liu** *Does a Seasonal Distribution Pattern of the Cave Cricket, *Ceuthophilus Cunicular*, Exist Within the Robber Baron Cave System?*  
Faculty Advisor: Evelyn Mitchell, Ph.D.

**Alexandra Salinas** *Root Development During Soil Genesis: Effects of Root-Root Interactions, Mycorrhizae, and Substrate*  
Faculty Advisor: Dragos Zaharescu

**Nancy Urbano**, Da Chen, Hillary Marler *Brominated Flame Retardants in Marine Invertebrates and their Transferred effect on Higher Level Organisms*  
Faculty Advisor: Da Chen

**Nicole Rodriguez** *Engineering the End to Hunger: Development of Optimization Models for San Antonio Food Bank*  
Faculty Advisor: Gopalakrishnan Easwaran, Ph.D.

**Joshua Villanueva**, Christopher Chavez, Ian Dominguez, Adam Lopez *2016 IEEE Region 5 Conference Student Robotics Competition*  
Faculty Advisor: Mehran Aminian, Ph.D.

**Brian Diaz** *The Cycle of a Particular Congruence Modulo Relationship*  
Faculty Advisor: Paul Stanford

**\*McNair Scholars are listed in bold**

# McNair Spotlight



McNair Scholar, **Dr. Samantha Franklin** (Ph.D. 2016 UTSA, Physics), was the featured speaker at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Symposium and is now an Assistant Professor of Physics at St. Mary's University.

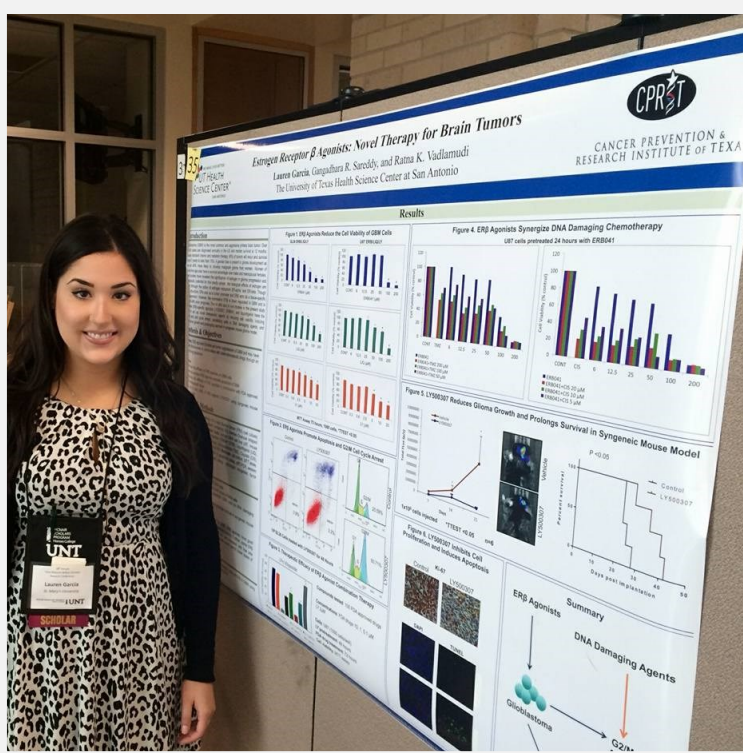
Chantelle Ruidant was honored with the 2016 Marianist Heritage Award. The Marianist Heritage Award recognizes members of the University community who, by their professional lives and personal interactions on campus, devote themselves to our Catholic and Marianist mission.

Chantelle was one of three Marianist Heritage Student Leadership recipients. Since first presented in 1981, more than 60 members of the St. Mary's community have been recognized.



Chantelle Ruidant seated on the right.

# McNair Spotlight



"McNair has allowed me to grow as a student and researcher by having the opportunity to attend meetings like the American Association for Cancer Research; at this annual meeting, I was able to communicate my research with scientists from all over the globe and attend late-breaking seminars concerning novel cancer therapies. I made meaningful connections in my discipline, discussed collaboration with scientists I would not have otherwise met, and expanded my opportunities for graduate school."

- Lauren Garcia

McNair Scholars attending the 3rd Annual 2016 McNair Scholars Graduate School Bootcamp with Donald Asher. Donald Asher focuses on strategies to help students gain admission to highly competitive programs. The scholars also learned how to identify and contact faculty in programs of interest, and much more.



From Left to Right: Raul Mejia, Brian Diaz, Amira Santin, Ernest Salinas, Daisy Jordan, Paloma Silva, and Maricruz Espinoza. *Not shown: Cody Sanders, Christa Herrera*



**Kevin Vallecillos attended the *2016 Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic Networking Conference* in Salt Lake City.**

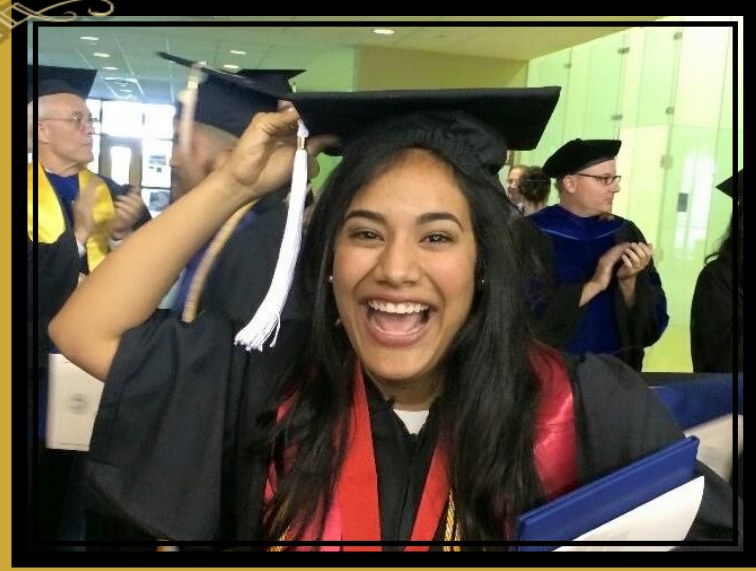
**“I enjoyed the entire experience! Going to the 2016 Physical Therapy Conference made me realize the importance of a Ph.D. Networking with experts in my field is a crucial part of applying to grad school. This conference helped get me one step closer toward my educational goals.” -Kevin Vallecillos**

**Brian Diaz attended the *University of Maryland National Research Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research*.**

**“I had a great time and met some great people. Can’t wait for the next conference!” - Brian Diaz**

# COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2016



## McNair Graduates

Genesis Calderon

Chantelle Ruidant

Nancy Urbano

Joshua Villanueva

