McNair Scholars Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS
2-5: To graduate school and beyond!
6: Presidential Award Spotlight
7: 19th Annual Research Symposium & Creative Activities Exhibition
8: Mentors, thank you!
9-10: Until next time, Scholars!

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.
- Theodor “Dr. Seuss” Geisel

The school year comes to an end and for some, their undergraduate career does, too. Smile for the friends made, knowledge you’ve gained, and future you’ve made possible. Smile for yourself.
-Billy Rodriguez
TO GRADUATE SCHOOL AND BEYOND!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATING SCHOLARS!

MAGDALENA BANDA
B.A., PSYCHOLOGY

ILIANA DE LA CRUZ
B.S., PHYSICS
B.A., MATHEMATICS
TO GRADUATE SCHOOL AND BEYOND!

MARICRUZ ESPINOZA  
B.S., BIOLOGY

ANTONIO “TREY” GONZALEZ  
B.A., PSYCHOLOGY

CHRISTA HERRERA  
B.A., PSYCHOLOGY

DAISY JORDAN  
B.A., CRIMINAL JUSTICE

BRENDA LOPEZ  
B.A., CRIMINOLOGY

RAUL MEJIA  
B.A., SOCIOLOGY
To Graduate School and Beyond!

Anne Ojo
B.S., Biology

Cody Sanders
B.A., English

Paloma Silva
B.A., Psychology

Paula Perez
B.S., Biology

Lauren Garcia
B.A., Biology
Below are some of the schools to which our McNair scholar graduates have been accepted:

University of Colorado Denver
University of California Berkeley
University of North Texas
University of Georgia
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Colorado Boulder
Texas Women’s University
Point Park University
North Carolina State University
Washington State University
George Washington University
University of Texas El Paso
Dartmouth University
University College Dublin
University of Iowa
UT Southwestern
Texas A&M, College Station
Columbia University
University of Texas Austin
Boston College
Indiana University
University of Idaho
Of the 702 fall 2017 and spring 2018 graduates, Iliana De La Cruz was one of only fourteen who received a Presidential Award. Potential award recipients were nominated by faculty & were then selected by a committee of faculty, staff, & administration. Nominees must have earned at least a 3.0 GPA, be involved in student activities, & represent St. Mary’s University in the community by promoting the spirit & charism of the university while embodying the Marianist tradition through servant leadership.

Iliana demonstrated her servant leadership by tutoring and mentoring for St. Mary’s Jumpstart program, a program designed to provide first year students with an introduction to higher education mathematics. Iliana provided a warm, productive environment to learn academic skills necessary for success in STEM fields. She also assisted in laying the foundation for these young adults by sharing her experiences in regards to the often-difficult transition many first year students experience.

As a researcher, Iliana flourished; she won several research awards, presented at multiple conferences with varying subject matter, and was accepted to several, diverse graduate programs. Iliana will attend Texas A&M University at College Station starting fall 2018 to pursue her Doctor of Philosophy in Science Education.
Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one.

-Ronald E. McNair

19TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES EXHIBITION

ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD RECIPIENT

First place: Rebeca Gurrola, Magnetotelluric Investigations of the Yellowstone Caldera: Understanding the Emplacement of Crustal Magma Bodies

Third place: Iliana De La Cruz, The Effects of Summer Camp on Participants’ Affective Views of Science

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD RECIPIENT

First Place: Lauren Garcia, PELP1 as a Novel Therapeutic Target for Glioblastoma

SOCIAL SCIENCES POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Third Place: Kimberly Salazar and Kassandra Guillen; Is it Worth it? The Effects of Public versus Private Secondary Education on Self-Esteem and Overall Collegiate Performance
MENTORS, THANK YOU!

Year round, faculty offer their time to mentor scholars. In addition to their full time positions, many have other institutional obligations such as being department chairs and sitting on committees. Outside of their respective universities, they have families, volunteer commitments, and other demands of daily life. Needless to say, mentors are busy; however, each faculty member understands the effect a lack of diversity in academia has on scholars and recognizes the need for guidance. Therefore, they sacrifice time to assist in many ways, including meeting with students regularly to discuss research, help decide which graduate programs would be best to apply to, and provide critique that fosters professional and personal growth. The mentor-scholar relationship is vital to our program, and the McNair staff understands the impact mentors have on student success and confidence. Having experienced this relationship themselves, the staff is grateful that mentors are willing to not only introduce scholars to research, but to also instill the values needed when doing ethical and robust research. Without mentors, the McNair Scholars program would not exist—so thank you, mentors, for the countless hours you have dedicated to our scholars.
UNTIL NEXT TIME, SCHOLARS!

¡Hasta la vista!