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Scholarly Times

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY : MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Webpage: <https://www.stmarytx.edu/academics/programs/mcnair/>

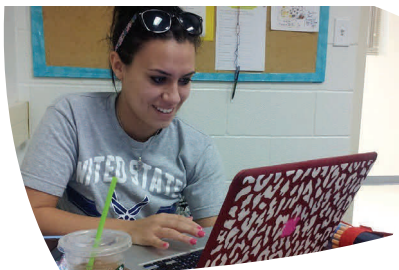
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

Scholars on the Move

Researching, Learning, Inspiring.

McNair Scholars were in attendance and presented at several university conferences this semester. Some traveled to the University of New Mexico, University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, and Purdue University. From workshops and panel discussions to networking activities, scholars share their travel experiences here:



Caroline K working in MPO.

Quotes from our Scholars

“I am very thankful for the McNair Scholars Program for the educational opportunities they have given me. Without McNair, I would not have been able to visit Purdue University and attend their Big Ten Grad School Conference. Because of your help and support, students like me are able to go to grad school and succeed.”

-Diego Luna



Kelsey H enrolled in a London program.



Scholars on the Move cont.



“I had a great time at the University of New Mexico McNair Conference. Everyone I met was welcoming and warm. The campus was big and had great amenities. My research presentation went well and the spectators gave me helpful feedback.”

-Jennifer Nunez



Nicole Rodriguez presenting at University of New Mexico.

“I had a great time attending the McNair Annual conference in Wisconsin. The people there were friendly and welcoming. I also made some good friends at the conference, and I had a good time during Karaoke night. I met with representatives of prospective graduate schools. I am thankful to McNair for giving me that opportunity.”

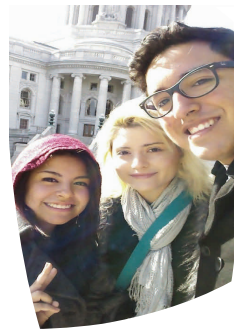
-Nancy Urbano



Nancy pictured with Carl McNair, brother of the late Ronald McNair.

“Traveling with fellow McNair scholars to conferences and symposiums has been the pinnacle of my undergraduate career. As a McNair Scholar, not only have I seen myself grow stronger academically, but I have seen how my cohort has grown along with me. Furthermore, I have seen how Hispanics are vastly underrepresented in the academic world beyond Texas. Thus, my research interests have also been greatly influenced and inspired by my travels as a McNair scholar.”

-Juan Valdez



Nancy, Rachel & Juan in Wisconsin.



Juan Valdez

I am a Political Science major and President of the Mu Psi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. I've been awarded "highest honors" 4 times in a row by the Dean of HSS. As a McNair Scholar, I've presented at 6 different conferences and symposiums around the country in the past year. I've also participated in three different summer research opportunities, including one at the University of New Mexico. My research interests include: American Politics, Political Psychology & Identity, and Latino Voting Behavior. I go by the motto of serving my research; not myself.

The McNair Program is now accepting applications for a few open spots in our program. Deadline is Monday, February 16, 2015 by 12 noon in Charles Francis 016. Please go online to see more information. Look for info tables in January!



Letter from the Director

Jennifer Zwahr-Castro, Ph. D.



Happy Holidays! Another semester has passed and we are poised to bid farewell to another year. Our graduating scholars are working diligently to complete graduate school applications while our continuing and rising scholars are beginning to focus on next year's research

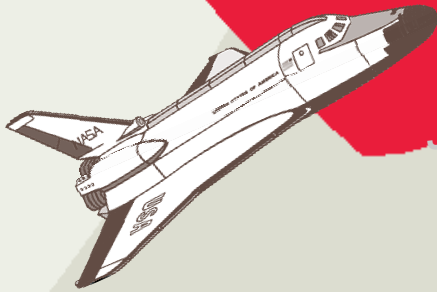
reaching out to graduated scholars. As you know, we follow all of our scholars for ten years or until they complete their first (!) doctoral degree. Those of you who have graduated, please

email the MPO or contact us on Facebook to update your file and let us know how you are progressing- if we don't hear from you soon, we will be chatting up your parents.



Provost, Andre Hampton, also in Photo

Congratulations to our Newest Rising Scholars!



Monica Perez
Joshua Prudhomme
Eddie Paniagua
Jessica (Alex) Dorrycott
Alexandra Salinas
Anna Villarreal
Karen Gonzalez
Billy Rodriguez, Jr

Mentor Thoughts



“When a young person, even a gifted one, grows up without proximate living examples of what she may aspire to become--whether lawyer, scientist, artist, or leader in any realm--her goal remains abstract. Such models as appear in books or on the news, however inspiring or revered, are ultimately too remote to be real, let alone influential. But a role model in the flesh provides more than inspiration; his or her very existence is confirmation of possibilities one may have every reason to doubt, saying, 'Yes, someone like me can do this.'”

— [Sonia Sotomayor](#)

Meet our Work Study

Name: Joshua Prudhomme
Year: Sophomore
Major: Psychology



What brought you to St. Mary's University?

The primary reason I decided to come to St. Mary's is because it is a small school; however I also wanted to somewhat get away from my hometown, Dallas without going too far from family.

What are the various activities you are involved in at St. Mary's?

Other than the McNair program I also am a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity, the community coordinator of the Psychology Learning Living Community, the historian of BSU, a member of the American Red Cross club, and like to go to the Bridge.



Summer Research Scholars 2014

Bottom Rows: Maya C, Gaby S, Caroline K, Hannah G, Nicole R, Jennifer N, Rachel M
Top Rows: Sara C, Chris T, Lucia A, Sergio A, Gina G, Crystal C, Jessica M

News from the Office

Meet our new administrative assistant!

Hello Everyone,

My name is Kimberly DeLaFuente and I am the new administrative assistant for the McNair Program. I am a proud St. Mary's alumna and so glad to be back on campus. I have already experienced one exciting semester with

McNair and am looking forward to many more.

Among other things, I also run the Melissa Villalpando Memorial Scholarship Fund, a small non-profit organization, working to provide tuition assistance to well deserving Catholic high school students. We work with St. Mary's organizations to hold fundraisers for our cause. I believe McNair's purpose parallels my own and I am so enthusiastic about being apart of this outstanding McNair Staff.

