

Scholarly Times

St. Mary's University • McNair Scholars Program • Spring 2015



Letter from the Director

Spring is a unique time of year – full of endings and beginnings. As the school year draws to a close, we send another class of McNair scholars onward to graduate school, but we also welcome a new class of rising scholars as they transition into the program. Dorms are cleared-out by one group as the next group staggers up the stairs with arms full of boxes and so the cycle continues... Since the inception of the McNair Scholars Program in 1989, thousands of undergraduates at hundreds of universities have entered the program; since 1990, thousands of McNair scholars have transitioned to graduate study. Usually in these remarks, at this



classic farewell/welcome adage, "Once McNair, always McNair." This year I think I'll try something new, at least new when used in this context- "You can check our anytime you like, but you can never leave." Thanks to Hedley, Felder, and Frey and farewell and welcome!

-Dr. Zwahr-Castro

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

TRiO

RONALD E. McNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

St. Mary's University 16th Annual Research Symposium and Creative Activities Exhibition



Gabriela, Hannah, Nicole, Aron

At the annual Research Symposium and Creative Activities Exhibition, faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from HSS, SET, BGSB, and the Law School have the opportunity to showcase disciplinary accomplishments.

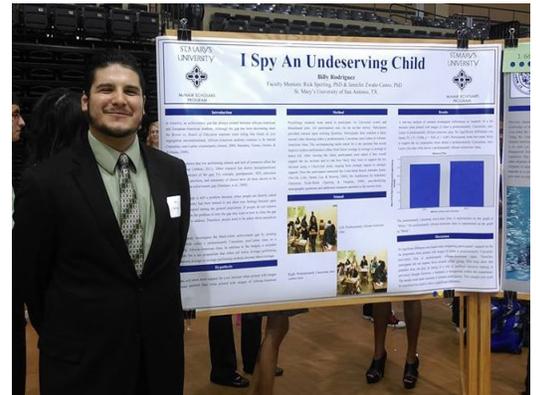
Participants design posters or exhibits that provide an overview of their study or project and the resulting data and conclusions, just as researchers do at inter/national conferences.



Crystal Chavez



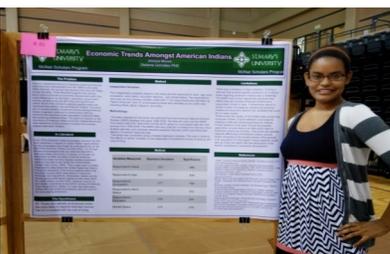
Joshua Prudhomme



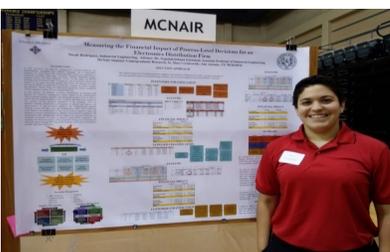
Billy Rodriguez



Genesis, Anna, Monica



Jessica Moore



Nicole Rodriguez



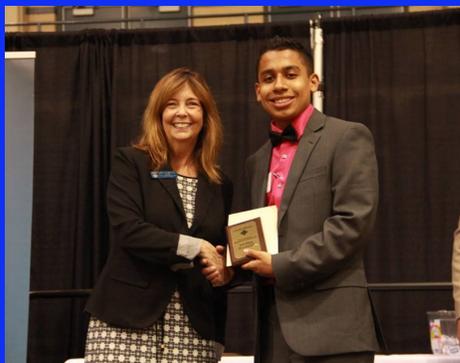
St. Mary's University 16th Annual Research Symposium and Creative Activities Exhibition McNair Submissions



Graduating scholars Rachel M & Hannah G (Photo below) took top places in Humanities and also in Social Sciences at the undergraduate research symposium!



Hannah Garcia won 1st place in HSS.



Scholar Kevin Vallecillos took place and represented McNair.



Jennifer Nunez and Hannah Garcia with Dean of HSS Dr. Dizinno. McNair took third and first in the H of HSS.

Jennifer Nunez, Alex Eakins
Digital humanities or humanities of the digital?
Faculty Advisor: Alice Kersnowski

Jennifer Nunez *Narrative, Illness, and Heteroglossia*
Faculty Advisor: Mary Lynne Hill

Kevin Vallecillos, Edith Torres, Albert Garcia
Do Elliptical Trainers Accurately Estimate Energy Expenditure?
Faculty Advisor: Mark Roltsch

Mariana Sandoval *Women during the American Civil War*
Faculty Advisor: Teresa Van Hoy

Genesis Calderon, **Monica Perez**, **Anna Villarreal**, Christian Avila
Effect of consistency between gender role beliefs and gender-typed occupation on marital satisfaction. Faculty Advisor: Gregory Pool

Joshua Prudhomme, Jennifer Salazar, Loriann Martinez
The Influence of Gender and Education Level on Altruistic Behavior
Faculty Advisor: Greg Pool

Billy Rodriguez *Video Advertisement*
Faculty Advisors: Rick Sperling & Jennifer Zwahr-Castro

Nancy Urbano *Trace Metal Content in Soils as an Indicator of Rooftop Runoff Water Quality* Faculty Advisor: David Turner

Jessica Moore *Economic Trends Amongst American Indians*
Faculty Advisor: Stefanie Gonzales

Maya Cuellar *Fantasy Orientation's Influence on Children's Theory of Mind and Social Responsiveness* Faculty Advisor: Jillian Pierucci

Crystal Chavez *For Better or Worse: Cooperation in Married and Dating Relationships* Faculty Advisor: Amy Bohmann

Nicole Rodriguez *Measuring the Financial Impact of Process-Level Decisions for an Electronic Distribution Firm* Faculty Advisor: Gopalakrishnan Easwaran

Gabriela Sepulveda
Portrayals of Psychotherapy and Psychotherapists in Popular Cinema
Faculty Advisor: Patricia Owen

Hannah Garcia *The Influence of Music on African-American Social and Political Movements* Faculty Advisor: Charles Cotrell

Rachel Mialkowski *Therapeutic Tunes: What to Listen to When You Are Stressed?*
Faculty Advisor: Jillian Pierucci

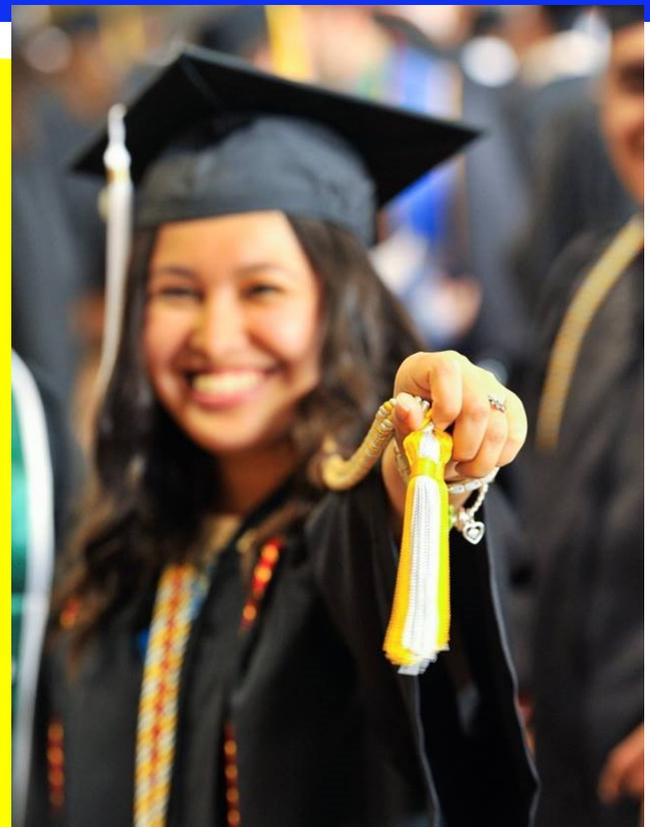
Caroline Kuhn
Ideology or Placating?: Cognitive Load and Latinos' Attributions for "The Gap"

* **McNair Scholars are listed in Bold**



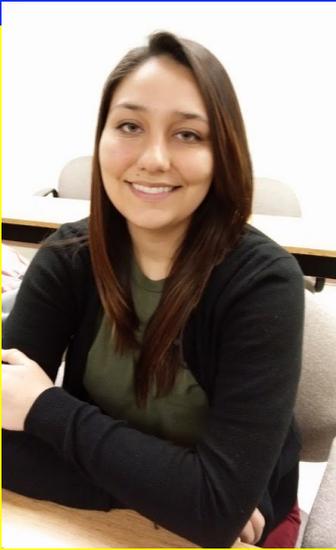
Congratulations McNair Class of 2015!

Rachel Mialkowski
Christopher Trevino
Maya Cuellar
Diego Luna
Oscar Gonzalez
Kelsey Houtkooper
Yesenia Castaneda
Diego Escobar-Garcia
Gabriela Sepulveda
Sara Cabrera
Caroline Kuhn



Scholar Maya Cuellar showing her McNair Cords at St. Mary's 2015 Graduation.

Meet Our Spring 2015 Rising Scholars



Name: Chantelle Ruidant

Major: Sociology, Minor: Anthropology

Home Town: Corpus Christi, Texas

Expected Graduation Date: May 2016

McNair Mentor: Dr. Armitage

Mentor's Department: Sociology

Research Interests: Food desserts, fresh produce availability, health, and environment

Extra-Curricular Activities: Anthropology Club President and community service

Hobbies: Art, music, ballet, graphic design, and cooking

Fun Fact: My father was born in Belgium and I danced ballet for 14 years.



Name: Kevin Vallecillos

Major: Exercise and Sports Science

Home Town: Tarzana, California

Expected Graduation Date: May 2017

McNair Mentor: Dr. Rolsch

Mentor's Department: Exercise and Sports Science

Research Interests: Exercise Physiology

Extra-Curricular Activities: Involved in church activities and youth group

Hobbies: Playing Tennis

Fun Fact: I like walks on the beach.



Name: Vanessa Perez

Major: Theology/ International Relations

Home Town: Brownsville, TX

Graduation Date: FALL 17

Mentor: Dr. W. Buhrman

Mentor's Department: Theology

Research Interests: My research this summer 2015 involves Gustavo Gutierrez's liberation theology. I am still exploring my options and trying to figure out what exactly I am passionate about. At the moment I am curious about systematic theology.

Extra-Curricular Activities: I altar serve at mass, and I going to be a FAM program peer mentor for 2015-2016 in St. Mary's University.

Hobbies: I draw and doodle when I am stressed and in a tranquil state of mind.

Fun Fact: I have visited Niagara Falls twice in the American and Canadian sides.

Meet Our Spring 2015 Rising Scholars



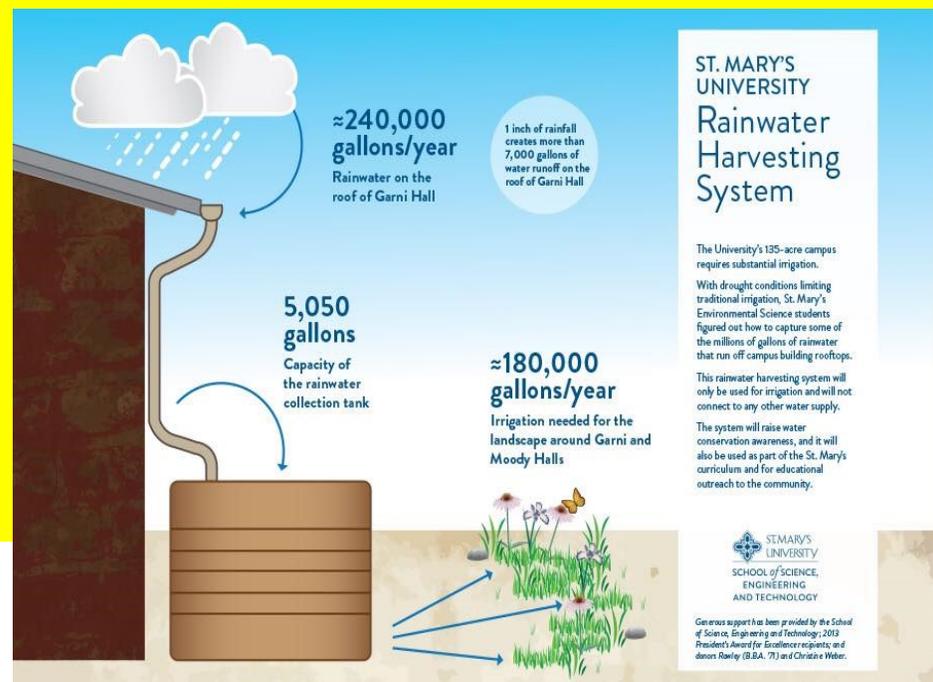
Name: José Parrilla
Major: Information Systems Management
Home Town: Miami, FL
Graduation Date: May 2017
Mentor: Dr. Monica J. Parzinger
Mentor's Department: Finance and Quantitative Management
Research Interests: Corporate Social Responsibility, Green Computing, Internet of Things
Extra-Curricular Activities: Residence Life,
Hobbies: Yoga, swimming, skin care, vegan cuisine, learning about different cultures, mindfulness
Fun Fact: I speak four languages with varying degrees of professional fluency. I am always picking up little tid-bits of different languages.



Name: Genesis Calderon
Major: English & Psychology
Home Town: Houston, Texas
Graduation Date: May 2016
Mentor: Dr. Mary Lynne Hill
Mentor's Department: English
Research Interests: I am interested in learning more about how language can be used to construct identity and assert power. I am also interested in exploring how the relationship between language, power, and identity have shaped the minority experience in the US.
Extra-Curricular Activities: I enjoy editing videos and working on video shoots as part of my work-study at the Academic Media Center.
Hobbies: I really enjoy drawing, painting, and reading.
Fun Fact: I am an animal lover at heart!



Name: Mariana Sandoval
Major: History
Home Town: Houston, Texas
Graduation Date: May 2017
Mentor: Dr. Van Hoy
Mentor's Department: History
Research Interests: My areas of interests focus on the nexus of military, gender, and medicine. This summer I will be looking at women who served in the military medical services during WWII and examine whether or not their postwar civilian careers were successful due to their service in the military.
Extra-Curricular Activities: Violin— Previously a music major, currently music minor. Has played the violin for 12 years and am active in string ensemble on campus.
Hobbies: I enjoy knitting, I love hiking and try to go every weekend, I also like trying new foods.
Fun Fact: I went to the same elementary school as Beyonce so we're pretty much best friends.



Nancy Urbano – Environmental Science Major

Our own McNair Scholar, Nancy Urbano (Pictured Above), spoke at the unveiling of St. Mary's new rainwater harvesting system. She is one of the student who spearheaded the project.

A 5,050-gallon tank will collect some of nearly 240,000 gallons of rain that fall onto Garni Hall's roof each year. With a small pump, the captured rainwater will irrigate landscaping in that section of campus.

David Turner, Ph.D. 's students proposed the project to University administration. As the first of its kind on campus, the system will save water and become the centerpiece of St. Mary's sustainability efforts.



StMU Homecoming Baby Bake

Homecoming at St. Mary's University is filled with many activities for alumni and current students. Every year students are nominated by their organization to be in the running for the homecoming court. Once nominated, the students submit an application and are interviewed by faculty and staff from the university. This year, two McNair scholars were nominated, Oscar Gonzalez and Christopher Trevino. Oscar Gonzalez was selected our 2015 Homecoming King.

Congratulations to Oscar Gonzalez for winning the crown.



McNair Scholars: Oscar, Maya, Christopher

Bingo with the Marianist Brothers



McNair Scholars ventured to the St. Mary's Marianist Residence to spend time with retired Marianist brothers. The scholars took a study break and exercised their stress reliever skills by playing Bingo, winning festive prizes, and bonding with the Brother.



You have **BRAINS** in your **HEAD**.
You have **FEET** in your **SHOES**.
You can **STEER** yourself any
DIRECTION you **CHOOSE**.
~ Dr. Seuss

Mentor Thoughts

