

# McNair *Newsletter*

Fall 2010



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### GRADUATING CLASS OF 2010

Find out where everyone went!

### MEET THE NEW JR. COHORT and NEW STAFF

See and read more about the new McNair family.

## Statement from the Director

It is a pleasure to begin the 2010-2011 academic year of the UCSB McNair Scholars Program. Fourteen June 2010 graduates began graduate training this month at universities around the country, and 18 seniors are currently organizing their materials, updating their CVs, putting finishing touches on their writing samples, and agonizing about the GRE as they apply to MA and Ph.D. programs in a wide range of fields – from aquatic biology to sociology.

Fall Quarter is always very busy. While the seniors prepare their applications, they, along with the juniors, continue on their research. Some of the McNair Scholars will present their scholarly work at professional meetings. For example, Eduardo Mercado is presenting his work in chemistry at the 2010 Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in Groton, CT, and in November, Eziaku Nwokocha will be discussing her work on Haitian deities at the 2010 National American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Five McNair Scholars will also travel to present their research at the National McNair Research Conference sponsored by the University of Wisconsin. This year two of our McNair Scholars (Lynette Cortes Chavez in mathematics and Nancy Martinez in psychology) are attending the 2010 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, a program organized by the Compact for

Faculty Diversity, which is a partnership of regional, federal and foundation programs that focus on increasing the number of minority students who earn doctoral degrees and become college and university faculty.

When instituting a new program, changes to personnel and additions to the services offered are predictable. Beginning with summer 2010, the UCSB McNair Scholars Program has had the good fortune to include amongst its staff, Writing Consultant Dr. Ellen Broidy, Emerita Librarian, UCLA, who has been invaluable in enhancing students' writing abilities. We will also be able to offer hands-on training in research methods for the humanities and social science students organized by former McNair Graduate Mentor Bernadette Gailliard, and we look forward to marshalling campus resources to improve skills in mathematics for all McNair Scholars.

The newsletter provides more detail on the events and accomplishments of the program. We look forward to an intellectually exciting year for our UCSB McNair Scholars. Students, faculty, and staff are all invited to visit us at Building 477 to get an up-close look at our offices and facilities and a chance to talk to our staff.

Dr. Beth Schneider

The UC Santa Barbara McNair Scholars Program is funded by the US Department of Education  
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program as part of the Federal TRIO Program

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## Summer Research Around the Country

This past summer, three of our McNair Scholars were selected to participate in summer research experiences on other campuses.

They undertook 7-10 weeks of intensive research training with faculty and students throughout the country and had the opportunity to gain additional graduate school preparation as well.

**Precious Boone** participated in the Leadership Alliance program at Howard University in Washington, DC. She conducted research under Dr. Constance Ellison in the Education Department on the topic of "Critical Pedagogy: Student Centered Learning and the Importance of Technology in the High School Classroom." She also presented her research at the 2010 National Leadership Alliance Conference in New Jersey. Precious writes of these two months: "Attending a summer research program is a great opportunity but attending one in Washington DC was an experience like no other."

**Paul Monge-Rodriguez** was part of the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) program held at UC Berkeley. During this program he worked with other student leaders and faculty who are committed to serving underrepresented and under-resourced communities through public policy. He was able to advance his skills in policy research and analysis through courses in economics, statistics, policy analysis, and law with faculty. Paul describes as, "pioneers in their respective fields of policy work." The PPIA Fellows also receive counseling, GRE test prep, and once admitted to a graduate school, guaranteed scholarships.

**Marites Villarosa Garcia** attended an NSF-REU program on Biodiversity Conservation at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She worked under Dr. Patricia Kelley on a group project that looked at fossil assemblages from various localities in North Carolina from before and after a series of extinctions that occurred 2 to 3 million years ago. According to Marites, this experience provided many new skills: "I learned a lot about the mollusk community from the region as well as sampling methods and field methods." She also carried out an individual project that compared specific biodiversity metrics of a pre-extinction assemblage with those of a post-extinction assemblage.

## Scholar Profile

LYNETTE D. CORTES

My name is Lynette D. Cortes and I am a fourth year Mathematics major. My research interests include applied mathematics and number theory, specifically, mathematical physics and prime number theory. Currently, my research is on the topic of the Riemann zeta-function and the Riemann hypothesis, the primary focus of which is to find an equivalent statement of the Riemann hypothesis. My main academic goal is to obtain a PhD in Mathematics and to become a college professor.



As a Mexican-American first-generation woman from a low-income family, I feel that this goal is especially important to attain in order to encourage other minority women to do the same. My experience with the McNair Scholars program has helped me greatly throughout my academic career thus far; the program has provided me with guidance, financial support, and very importantly, research experience. With the McNair Scholars Program, I have grown as a student, researcher, and colleague. I hope to continue this path and ultimately represent what the McNair Scholars program is all about: perseverance in the face of poverty and prejudice and high standards of achievement as inspired by Dr. McNair's life.

## McNair @ UCSB Undergraduate Research Colloquium

The summer got hot when it was time for McNair scholars to present their summer research via poster boards on August 18th! It was a day filled with new knowledge, collegiality, a performance by McNair scholar Bashir Hassan and a farewell to David Campos, McNair economics undergraduate, who is currently studying abroad.

McNair had 25 scholars present during the colloquium. Their topics spanned the disciplines, covering topics such as identity formation, queer theory, language preservation, Haitian deities, educational programming, and foreign policy. The McNair program provided multidisciplinary scholarly conversations within a setting usually dominated by Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Of course, we too brought our own scientists and a mathematician (Eddie Mercado, Brianna Jones, Saul Martinez, Robert Norton, Sabrina Wu, and Lynette Cortes!)

For many of our scholars, it was a first step towards entering the world of conferences, roundtables, and poster presentations. Hearts pounded and mouths were dry. Many learned the wonder of water and the importance of a pen and pad to jot down the stimulating questions and concerns raised by their listeners. This was a big step in the road to graduate school and a wonderful opportunity to participate in this yearly UCSB collaboration.



Eziaku Nwokocha presenting at the Colloquium (article to the right)



## Our New McNair Scholars



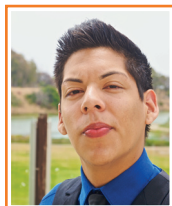
### David Campos

Major: Economics and Spanish  
Hometown: San Diego, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2013  
Mentor: Peter Rupert  
Mentor Department: Economics  
Research Interests: Finance



### Janai Harris

Major: Sociology/Feminist Studies  
Hometown: Palmdale, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: George Lipsitz  
Mentor Department: Black Studies/Sociology  
Research Interests: Effective rehabilitation strategies for incarcerated/delinquent African American



### Joel Mandujano

Major: Feminist Studies and Black Studies  
Hometown: Oceanside, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: George Lipsitz  
Mentor Department: Black Studies and Sociology  
Research Interests: Social Movements and Cultural Studies.



### Channel McLewis

Major: Psychology/Sociology; Minor: Black Studies  
Hometown: Bakersfield, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: Cynthia Hudley  
Mentor Department: Department of Education  
Research Interests: Urban Education and Higher Education for minorities; Transfer Students



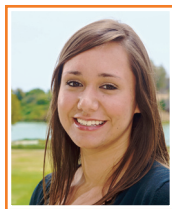
### Alexis Meza

Major: History and Latin American and Iberian Studies  
Hometown: San Fernando, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: Gabriela Soto-Laveaga  
Mentor Department: History and Latin American and Iberian Studies  
Research Interests: U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America



### Laila Nur

Major: Mathematics; Minor: Education  
Hometown: Detroit, MI  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: Jody Enders  
Mentor Department: French  
Research Interests: Rhetorical strategies to increase the academic success and K-12 African-American students



### Nicole Perez

Major: Sociology and Chicana/o Studies  
Hometown: Hayward, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: G. Reginald Daniel  
Mentor Department: Sociology  
Research Interests: Mixed-race identities



### Alaina Roberts

Major: History; Minor: American Indian and Indigenous Studies  
Hometown: Hayward, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: Ann Plane / John Majewski  
Mentor Department: History  
Research Interests: Culture and Identity Formation



### Ashley Scott

Major: Global Studies and Chinese; Minor: Classics  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Graduation Date: December 2011  
Mentor: Howard Winant and Ralph Armbruster-Sandavol  
Mentor Department: Sociology and Chicana/o Studies  
Research Interests: Inter-ethnic relations, Afro-Asian relations, affiliations and coalitions



### Luis Trujillo

Major: Chicana/o Studies and Black Studies  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: George Lipsitz  
Mentor Department: Black Studies  
Research Interests: Space and Place in Urban Los Angeles



### Sabrina Anne Wu

Major: Environmental Studies  
Hometown: Santa Rosa, CA  
Graduation Date: June 2012  
Mentor: Arturo A. Keller  
Mentor Department: Bren School of Environmental Science & Management  
Research Interests: Nanotechnology and the Environment

## McNair Class of 2010!

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In June, McNair graduated its second cohort of scholars. These were the first students to complete the full 2-year program at UCSB, and it is clear that all of their hard work has paid off. After many long hours spent in the lab, conducting interviews, running statistical analyses, writing up results, presenting their findings, and completing graduate school applications, these students are now beginning their graduate careers on the pathway to the PhD.

Lisette Arellano – PhD, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – University of Colorado, Boulder  
Lizette Arevalo – MA, Teacher's College – Columbia University  
Todd Avellar – PhD, Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology – University of California Santa Barbara  
Sondrina Bullitt – MPH, Health Promotion – The George Washington University Medical Center  
Angelica Camacho – PhD, Ethnic Studies – University of California Riverside  
Jorge Cuellar – MA, Critical Studies – School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California  
Shardè Davis – PhD, Communication – University of California Santa Barbara  
Racquel Domingo – PhD, Biomedical Science – University of Michigan Ann Arbor  
J. Sebastian Ferrada – Working in Los Angeles public school system; he will be applying to graduate school in Fall 2010  
Anita Juarez – MA, Education, Culture, and Society – University of Utah  
Gabriella Lopez – MA/PhD, Social Anthropology/Borderlands – University of Texas at Austin  
Jose Lumbreras – MA/PhD, Ethnic Studies – University of California Berkeley  
K. Eric Martin – PhD, School of Engineering and Applied Science – Harvard University  
Ahmad Nabhan – MA, Cell Biology – San Francisco State University  
Deseray Solis – MA, Teaching (with credential) – University of Southern California

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## Our New Staff!

We have welcomed three new members to the McNair staff this year: Micaela Morgan as Program Coordinator, Dr. Ellen Broidy as our Writing Consultant, and Carlos Jimenez as a Graduate Mentor.



**Micaela Morgan** holds a MA in Chemistry from UC Santa Barbara and a BS from UC Santa Cruz. Previously, she has served as the Program Coordinator for UC Santa Cruz's ACCESS Program, which is a Baccalaureate bridge to the biomedical sciences for community college students transferring to the university, and as the Administrative Coordinator for the Crews Research Group. She also has been a Teaching Assistant at UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, and Cabrillo College; her passion is helping students achieve their academic goals.



**Dr. Ellen Broidy** holds a PhD in U.S. History from UC Irvine and a Master's in Library Science from UC Berkeley. Prior to joining McNair, Dr. Broidy was the head of the Collections, Research and Instructional Services Department at UCLA's Young Research Library. In addition to her McNair responsibilities, she also teaches a graduate course in Women's Studies at UCLA and provides editorial and research services as well as dissertation coaching.



Carlos Jimenez is a MA/PhD student in the Department of Film and Media Studies at UCSB. He received his BA in Radio, Television & Film at DePaul University in 2009 where he was also a McNair Scholar. He has served as a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Cinema, Media Criticism, and also Silent Cinema for his department. He currently volunteers as a bike mechanic at BiciCentro in Downtown Santa Barbara.

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