

It's another spring quarter and excitement is in the air at the offices of the McNair Scholars Program. Most important this year, we are honored that Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas and the Deans of the College of Letters & Sciences are funding the continuation of the McNair Scholars Program. With this support, we are moving forward to a future with cohorts of students able and ready to continue the program's success.

Second, there is the spectacular success. At this time of the year we celebrate our McNair scholars. After two years of faculty mentored research, participation in seminars and workshops which prepare them for entrance to graduate school, and the arduous process of making application to graduate programs, 100% of the 2013 Seniors who applied to Master's or Doctoral programs are going. (A list of the seniors and their destinations appears inside). California destinations predominate; this year, many of the seniors have been admitted to nationally highly ranked departments in the University of California system including at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, San Diego, and Santa Barbara; the numbers going to the UC far surpasses any previous cohort of our students.

We love to showcase the work of our scholars. This year, the third edition of the UCSB McNair Scholars Research Journal was published in June 2013; comprised of two issues, Volume III includes 18 papers by students from the 2012 and 2013 cohorts. The issues are available on our website. The articles range from excellent work in Feminist Studies to Biopsychology, from History to Chemical Engineering.

All campus supporters and friends in the California McNair community are invited to visit with us in the coming months so we might share our stories of success and collaborate on ways to continue the very worthy goal of bringing more low-income, first generation students, into the pipeline to the professoriate in the United States.

Note from the Director

Inside McNair News

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Beth Schneider

Graduate School Bound

Student Profile: Annie Alexandrian

Annie is graduating with a BA in Feminist Studies and English. She will be attending the Maternal and Child Health MPH program at UC Berkeley. Annie's decision to obtain an MPH stems from her personal experiences with a lack of health care. She says that "growing up uninsured affected my family, and had an especially devastating impact on

the women in my family." Through her own family's struggle, Annie became aware that for many people, especially lowincome women, "healthcare, even



with the affordable health care program, remains inaccessible and inadequate." Along with her McNair research, she also completed an Honors thesis through the Feminist Studies department which examined the level of contraceptive knowledge among college-aged, low-income women of color and their awareness of genetic health risks. With her MPH, Annie hopes to work in the community and to research low-income women's experiences with birth control and childbirth. While working, Annie "aims to obtain a PhD in Public Health so [she] can continue researching and documenting the lived experiences of marginalized individuals



in order to analyze and address the social stratification of health care." Annie says that "without the support of the McNair program, I would not have been aware of all the steps necessary to get into graduate school."

Master's to Ph.D.

Alumni Profile: Ahmad Nabhan

UCSB McNair alum Ahmad Nabhan graduated just three years ago, in June of 2010, with a Bachelor's of Science in Pharmacology. After graduating he began a program at San Francisco State



University, where he earned a Master's of Science in Molecular Biology. During this time, Ahmad was asked by faculty at the University of California, San Francisco to work in a Biochemistry lab; with such a great opportunity in front of him, Ahmad decided to split his time between UCSF and SFSU. Upon completion of his Master's degree, Ahmad decided to remain on the project for an additional year, funded by a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine research fellowship. In addition to his project work, he utilized that time to apply to doctoral programs in Biology. In fall 2013, Ahmad will be attending Stanford University where he will work towards a PhD in Biochemistry. When asked how McNair prepared him for graduate school Ahmad said that, "Dr. Schneider, Monique and others in the program helped me set the right goals and choose the right lab [...] which was really the most critical factor in my academic and empirical success." He

maintains that, "McNair gave me my first chance to do research; without the program, none of this would have been possible."



University of Maryland McNair Conference

As the UCSB campus prepared for winter quarter finals, six McNair scholars took an exciting trip to present their research at the 14th National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research held at the University of Maryland-College Park. Our scholars participated in various conference

activities, including research presentations and informative workshops. The scholars found the inspirational talk from keynote speaker, Dr. Calvin Mackie, who is an award-



winning author, lecturer, and entrepreneur, a conference highlight. In their spare moments, they enjoyed visiting the D.C. area. They had the opportunity to see some of our country's historic national monuments and sample an array of different cuisines. It comes as no surprise that our scholars felt both accomplished and exhausted. They look forward to conference participation in the years to come.

UCSB Undergraduate Research Poster Colloquium

Our McNair Scholars participate in various research presenting activities. such as their work at conferences and colloquia throughout the country. On a local level, scholars take part in the annual UCSB Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) colloquium. Here, the McNair Scholars have an opportunity to network with faculty and other researchers and present their research, but they also have a chance to win prizes in the annual poster colloquium. McNair Scholars had placed in this competition every year. At this poster colloquium current McNair scholars presented cutting edge scholarship on a wide range of topics and research interests. Some of this year's presentations included: "Mass Standards for Nanometrology: Method to Enable Confirmation of Binding Experiements," "Civic and Integration Without Intercultural Engagement," "Substant Use Perceptions Among Street-Oriented Young Latino Men." to name a few.









Summer Research Programs, Near and Far

National Summer Research Programs

Nathan Alamillo

Johns Hopkins
University Bloomberg
School of Public Health
Summer Internship
Program

Jorge Ballesteros

The University of Maryland-College Park School of Public Health Summer Research and Training (STAR) program

Erenis Lemus

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Program

Michelle Len

Harvard University Research Experience for Undergraduates in the Institute for Applied Computational Science

Noe Lopez

Brown University
Leadership Alliance
Summer
Research-Early
Identification Program

Katherine Santizo

Cooperative International
Science and
Engineering Internships
(CISEI) in
Sweden



Summer is an exciting time for the McNair Scholars Program at UC Santa Barbara because many of our students get the opportunity to partake in research projects without the distraction of co-curricular activities and class work. While many of our students will be working on projects with their faculty mentors at UCSB, a number of scholars will be participating in national research programs at top ranked institutions. We hope that this one-of-a-kind experience will spur our scholars towards achieving even higher levels of academic and professional success throughout their academic careers.

Next Stop, Graduate School!

At the end of this Spring quarter, another group of talented McNair Scholars will embark on new and exciting academic journeys of research and scholarship across a myriad of disciplines.

Annie Alexandrian: MPH, UC Berkeley Funding: GATES Millennium Scholarship & School of Public Health Fellowship

Dalma Arreola: MA Political Science, San Diego State University Funding: Terhune Political Science Scholarship

Guadalupe Cruz: MA Counseling Psychology, University of Missouri-Columbia Funding: Journal Editorial Assistantship

Marlon Fernandez Castro: MA in Education, University of Southern California

Anthony Hearst: PhD Engineering, Purdue University
Funding: National Science Foundation (NSF)
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

Francisco Jasso: PhD Political Science, UC Irvine Funding: Social Science Teaching Assistant Award

Amy Martinez: PhD Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley Funding: Chancellor's Graduate Study Fellowship

Alexis Meza: PhD History, UC San Diego Funding: San Diego Fellowship

Juan Osuna: MPP, American University
Funding: Graduate Research Assistant Award

Mayra Perez: MS Biotechnology, San Francisco State University Funding: National Science Founation (NSF) Science Master's Program Scholarship

Billi Jo Starr: PhD Education, UC Santa Barbara

Olivia Turnross: PhD Biology, UC Davis Funding: National Science Foundation (NSF) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship