Congratulations To Our Seniors!

**2017 Cohort**

**Name:** Marie Akiki  
**Major:** Biomedical Sciences  
**Mentor:** Dr. Arturo Andrade  
**Title of research:** "Localization of the 37a Isidore of the presynaptic N-type calcium channel that plays a role in anxiety?"  
**Future Plans:** Marie will be working for Lonza, a major bioscience/tech company as a Manufacturing Associate in their Cell Therapy unit to gain field experience before she applies to graduate school.

**Name:** Rezwan Ali  
**Major:** Civil Engineering  
**Mentor:** Dr. Thomas Ballestero  
**Title of research:** "Investigation of coco pith in bioretention system media for nitrate removal from storm water runoff"  
**Future Plans:** Rezwan plans will be working as a Civil Engineer for TEC, Inc. His primary focus at TEC, Inc. will be land management and storm water management.

**Name:** Emily Berry  
**Major:** Genetics  
**Mentor:** Dr. Kevin Culligan  
**Title of research:** "Do RPA-dependent epigenetic modifications regulate flowering in Arabidopsis thaliana?"  
**Future Plans:** Emily will be entering the University of Rochester’s Ph.D. program in Genetics, Development and Stem Cells.

**Name:** Juan Gomez-Rivadeneira  
**Major:** Neuroscience and Behavior  
**Mentor:** Dr. Arturo Andrade  
**Title of research:** "Neuronal-specific knockdown of the CG4587 & CG42817 alpha-2-delta proteins in D. melanogaster"  
**Future Plans:** Juan is currently interviewing with Brown University for a research assistant position to gain experience for graduate school.

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**2018 Cohort**

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2017 Cohort

**Name:** Anna Haber  
**Major:** Genetics  
**Mentor:** Dr. Subhash Minocha  
**Title of research:** “Metabolic engineering of spermidine synthase in rice for holistic study of drought and salt tolerance”  
**Future Plans:** Anna will be entering Michigan State University's PhD program in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology-Horticulture.

2018 Cohort

**Name:** Faith Heredia  
**Major:** Sociology  
**Mentor:** Dr. Semra Aytur  
**Title of research:** “The effect of varying social identities on the experience of menstruation”  
**Future Plans:** Faith will be a Teaching Resident with the East Harlem Teaching Residency Program, while obtaining a Master's of Science in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) to then become a fully certified elementary school teacher.

2017 Cohort

**Name:** Nhen Hunter  
**Major:** Genetics  
**Mentor:** Dr. David Plachetzke  
**Title of research:** "Transgenic Hydra: Editing the Opsin Gene with CRISPR"  
**Future Plans:** Nhen will either start her first semester in the Master's in Bioinformatics Program at Brandeis University this fall or work as a Helen Fellow for the American Museum of Natural History.

2017 Cohort

**Name:** Hayden Proborowski  
**Major:** Political Science  
**Mentor:** Dr. Dante Scala  
**Title of research:** "Analyzing right-wing populism in rural New Hampshire: a look at the 2016 presidential election"  
**Future Plans:** Hayden is enrolled in the Accelerated Master's Program in Political Science at UNH and will start this fall.

**Donovan Scholarship Recipients**

Thank you to the Donovan family for their generous contributions which allows all four UNH TRIO Programs to award deserving UNH students a scholarship. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

- **Ram Acharya ('22)**  
  Educational Talent Search

- **Francis Gesel ('20)**  
  McNair Scholars Program

- **Kristen Graham ('21)**  
  Upward Bound

- **Erika Schofield ('22)**  
  Student Support Services

**McNair Current Statistics**

Since the UNH McNair Scholars Program began in 1991, it has served 370 students. Of those, 160 alumni have gone on to receive a master's degree, 37 have earned a doctorate degree, and 17 have earned other professional degrees. Thirteen alumni are currently enrolled in PhD programs at various universities across the country.

There are currently 33 UNH McNair Scholars enrolled in the program and 8 Pre-McNair students are currently on their way to become McNair Scholars in the fall.
2019 Research Conferences

Scholars at the 20th Annual University of Maryland National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research in College Park, MD

Scholars present their research at the 20th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH.
Alumni Spotlight

Steven Arias is a proud McNair and UNH alumni. During his undergraduate years, Steven studied Physics and is now working towards his PhD in Physics at UNH. Three years into graduate school, Steven is continuing his love for research under the guidance of his mentor, Dr. Shawna Hollen.

Steven is researching the physical and electrical properties of two-dimensional materials with scanning probe microscopy. 2D materials are materials that are only one molecular layer thick, like graphene, a sheet composed of a single-layer of carbon molecules. The properties of 2D materials are of interest in the development for next-generation solar panels and optoelectronic devices.

In his free time Steven enjoys traveling and finding novel places to visit. He tries to take road trips as often as possible to other states and cities in Canada. Steven has also worked as a Graduate Peer Adviser for the McNair Summer Research Program at UNH, last summer. During this time, Steven mentored aspiring undergraduate researchers at UNH. We are happy to have him serve in this capacity again this summer. Steven has this advice for aspiring researchers,

“My advice would be to keep looking for new opportunities to do research. There are plenty of ways to get started and there are plenty of people around who can help. There are going to be times when research seems tough and slow, but you must stay optimistic. Don't be afraid to ask for help and to take time off from time to time.”

Steven has found a passion in Physics research and wishes to continue it. He is unsure of his plans after graduate school, but he can see himself doing research in industry or at a national lab. Steven still has a couple of years left to decide and admits that even teaching is an option. For now, he continues his work in the Physics Department under Dr. Hollen and with the McNair Staff. We would like to thank him for his continued support of the UNH McNair Scholars Program.

The McNair Scholars Program wishes to acknowledge the McNair Advisory Committee for their service and continued support of our program and scholars

Dr. Carmela Amato-Wierda, Associate Professor, Materials Science
Dr. Arturo Andrade, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Steven Arias, PhD Student, Physics
Dr. Per Berglund, Professor, Physics & Astronomy
Dr. John Collins, Associate Professor, Molecular, Cellular, & Biomedical Sciences
Dr. Margaret Greenslade, Associate Professor, Chemistry
Danielle Lavendier, PhD Candidate, English
Dr. Michelle Leichtman, Professor, Psychology, Justice Studies
Andres Mejia, Coordinator of Connect Program
Dr. Lawrence C. Reardon, Associate Professor, Political Science
Dr. Randy Schroeder, Associate Director of TRIO/SSS
Jeanne Sokolowski, Director of the Office of National Fellowship
Dr. Fiona Wilson, Executive Director of the Center for Social Innovation and Enterprise, and Clinical Professor of Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest committee member, Dr. Daniel Howard, Assistant Professor in the Biological Sciences Department.
Randy Schroeder, is an Associate Director for TRIO, Student Support Service (SS). Randy's focus is on academic and personal support and major career decision-making with undergraduates, and preparing for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and graduate school. Randy teaches his "GRE Preparation" course for McNair Scholars during the summer research fellowship at UNH. We would like to thank Randy for his continued support of the McNair Scholars Program.

Dr. Barbara White, also known by many as "Barb", is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and the Executive Director of Undergraduate Academic programs. She teaches her 2-credit "Intro to McNair Research" course for McNair Scholars during their summer fellowship experience at UNH. Barb has also served as a faculty mentor for McNair Scholars throughout the years. We would like to thank Barb for her many contributions to the McNair Scholars Program.

Thank You!

We would like to thank our faculty mentors for the support and guidance they provided over the last year to our 2018 summer scholars. Your commitment to mentoring our scholars is appreciated!

McNair Scholars Program Staff

Tammy Gewehr, Director
Selina Taylor, Associate Director
Helen Lonek, Program Assistant
Juan Gomez-Rivadeneira, Undergraduate Peer Advisor

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Summer 2019
Research Fellowships & Internships

Julissa Freund received an OCEANUS fellowship to conduct research at Texas A&M University.

Francis Gesel received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) to conduct research abroad at McMaster University in Canada.

Stephanie Lo received a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) fellowship to conduct research at the University of Southern California.

Jaylene Velasquez will intern at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, CT.

Angelique Georges will study abroad for 8 weeks in Dijon, France at the Centre International d’Etudes Francaises.

Hamida Hassan will intern at Lamprey Health Group in Raymond, NH.

Brian Nguyen received a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) fellowship to conduct research at Oregon State University.

Upcoming Events

June 2
UNH McNair Summer Session Begins

July 18-20
Undergraduate Research Conference at University at Buffalo

July 24
UNH McNair Research Symposium 9:30 AM- 12 PM, NH Hall, Room 208 Open to UNH community

July 31-August
McNair Research Conference at UCLA