



The Orbiter

McNair Scholars Program

Volume 24: Spring 2017

Inside this Issue

2016 Summer
Research Fellows-
pg. 1

2017 Graduating
Seniors- pg. 2-3

New Associate
Director- pg. 3

Alumni Spotlight-
pg. 3

McNair Stats - pg. 3

Special Thanks - pg. 4

Upcoming Events -
pg. 5

2017 Summer
Fellowships &
Internships - pg. 5

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUMMER 2016
MCNAIR COHORT ON COMPLETING THEIR
RESEARCH AND PRESENTING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY
ANNUAL RONALD E. MCNAIR SCHOLARS
SYMPOSIUM!**



Front Row Left to Right: Rory Wilson ('18), Marissa DeCaro ('17), Moussa Siri ('17), Yamilex Bencosme ('18), Lorena Cruz ('18), and Cynthia Holler ('17); **Back Row Left to Right:** Sherlee Alvarez ('18), Alexandria Hidrovo ('18), Salimah Hussien ('18), Beau Garcia ('18), and Bryanna Dowcett ('17).

Congratulations Graduating McNair Seniors!



Marissa DeCaro

Comm. Sci. & Disorders

Mentor: Dr. Robert Ross, PhD

Marissa's research is titled, "Examination of the Relationship between Resting State EEG Neural Oscillations and Lexical Semantic Retrieval In Mild Traumatic Brain Injury." Marissa will be taking the year to gain professional experience, and plans to attend graduate school in the fall of 2018.



Cynthia Holler

Neuroscience

Mentor: Dr. Robert Mair, PhD

Cynthia's research is titled, "The Influence of Medial Thalamus on the Response Properties of Neurons in Medial Prefrontal Cortex." Cynthia will take a year off to work in a research lab, travel, and apply to graduate school.



Thanh Dinh

Chemical Engineering

Mentor: Dr. Kyung Jae Jeong, PhD

Thanh's research is titled, "Gelatin Hydrogel Combined with Polydopamine Coating to Enhance Tissue Integration of Medical Implants." Thanh plans to serve as an AmeriCorps member in City Year New Hampshire while applying to MD/PhD programs.



Debora Magalhaes

Occupational Therapy

Mentor: Dr. Shelley Mulligan, PhD & Dr. Barbara White, PhD, OTR/L

Debora's research is titled, "Inter-rater Reliability of the Sensory Processing 3-Dimensions Scale." Debora will be returning to UNH to complete her 5-year accelerated master's program for Occupational Therapy, and then pursue a PhD.



Bryanna Dowcett

Chemistry

Mentor: Dr. Marc Boudreau, PhD

Bryanna's research is titled, "Synthesis of Carbapenem B-Lactams Containing Bulky Hydrophobic C-6 Chains as Potential Inhibitors of Carbapenemases." Bryanna has applied to positions in the field of chemistry in the Boston area and plans to attend graduate school in the fall of 2018.



Mikey Sales

Psychology/ German

Mentor: Dr. Michelle Leichtman, PhD

Mikey's research is titled, "The Effect of Mother-Child Conversation on Science Learning in Kindergarten-Age Children." Mikey was accepted into Ohio State, Tufts, and UNH. He will be attending a fully funded PhD program in the cognitive area at Ohio State in the fall.



Ashley Gonzalez

Sociology & International Affairs

Mentor: Dr. Charlie Putnam & Dr. Barbara White, PhD, OTR/L

Ashley's research is titled, "Determining How Students Perceive Interactions with the Police." Ashley got accepted into a Master's in Sociology program at over six universities. She plans to attend one of these schools in the fall.



Suraj Sangroula

Biochemistry

Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Foster, PhD

Suraj's research is titled, "Do Fungal Relatives Prevent Infection by Pseudogymnoascus destructans." Suraj will be attending attending a fully funded Master's in Biochemistry program at the University of Maine-Orono in the fall.

Graduating Seniors Continued



Moussa Siri

Environmental Science

Mentor: Dr. Wil Wollheim, PhD

Moussa's research is titled, "Effect of Land use and Storm Event Flows on Sediment Transport in Streams Draining Coastal Watersheds." Moussa will be attending the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in the fall, working toward his master's in Environmental Conservation/Forest Resources and Agriculture.

McNair Current Stats

Since the UNH McNair Scholars Program began in 1991, it has served **350** students. Of those, **150** alumni have gone on to receive a master's degree and **35** have earned a PhD degree. **18** alumni have gone on to earn other professional doctorates and **22** alumni are currently in a graduate program.

There are currently **32** UNH McNair Scholars enrolled in the program and **21** Pre-McNair students are currently on their way to become McNair Scholars next year!



Meet the New
McNair Scholars

Associate Director

Selina Taylor, earned her B.A. in Psychology and later went on to obtain a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire (UNH). She has worked for the university's Office of First Year Programs for six consecutive years and served as the Liberty Mutual Sponsored Diversity Network Program for five years. Prior to working at UNH, she served as a Staff Assistant and Outreach Representative in Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's constituent services office. Selina brings a wealth of knowledge from the non-profit industry. She sits on two state boards and serves as the Treasurer for the Manchester NAACP, unit 2069. In addition to her current role as the Associate Director of McNair, she is a co-chair of the President's Commission on the status of People of Color, an advisor for NALA, the support group for women of color at UNH, and the advisor for Delta Xi Phi, Multicultural Sorority, Inc. She enjoys cooking, baking and playing with her new puppy, Milo. We are excited to have this TRIO alum join our McNair team.

McNair Alumni Spotlight



Shersingh Tumber-Davila, a McNair Scholar alum, graduated from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in May 2015 with a B.S. in Environmental Conservation. While a McNair Scholar, his research was titled "Quantifying Carbon Allocation to Mycorrhizal Fungi by Temperate Forest Tree Species Across a Nitrogen Availability Gradient." Shersingh's McNair faculty mentor was Dr. Andrew Ouimette, PhD. He is currently finishing his second year in the Earth Systems Science PhD program at Stanford University. Currently, he is working in the Jackson Laboratory with his advisor, Dr. Robert Jackson. In the lab, Shersingh is examining the effects of climate change and droughts on forest mortality and grassland ecosystems. Shersingh is a proud recipient of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate research Fellowship and the Ford Post-Baccalaureate Award. After earning his PhD, he hopes to teach at a public university or college. When not in the lab, you may find Shersingh and his wife hiking a trail with their dog or hanging out on the beach.



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

Faculty:

Dr. Carmela Amato-Wierda, PhD
 Dr. Per Berglund, PhD
 Dr. John Collins, PhD
 Dr. Michelle Leichtman, PhD
 Dr. Gonghu Li, PhD
 Dr. Ricardo Medina, PhD
 Dr. Lawrence (Chris) Reardon, PhD
 Dr. Cesar Rebellon, PhD
 Dr. Arturo Andrade, PhD

Staff:

Sean McGhee, Director, OMSA
 Andres Mejia, Coordinator, Connect Program

Students:

Danielle Lavendier, PhD Student, English
 Erica Brasely, PhD Student, Neuroscience
 Rhiannon Jacobs, PhD Student, Chem. Engineering

Randy Schroeder has been at the Center for Academic Resources (CFAR)/ Student Support Services since 1997 and with various schools and departments since 1979. At the Center, his 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," Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and Executive Director of Undergraduate Academic programs, teaches her 4-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.

McNair Scholars Program Staff

Tammy J. Gewehr, Director
 Selina Taylor, Associate Director
 Helen Lonek, Program Assistant

McNair Scholars Program, University of New Hampshire
 11 Garrison Ave, Stoke Hall, Room G50
 Durham, NH 03824
 P: 603-862-0088
 Email: mcnair.program@unh.edu

#TR|OWorks

Summer 2017 Research Fellowships & Internships

Upcoming Events

May 10th

UNH McNair Scholars Program
De-Stress Social, 10-4:30, Stoke G50

May 18th- 20th

McNair Scholars Research Conference
University of Washington at Seattle

June 5th

UNH McNair Summer Session Begins

June 22nd-25th

SAEOPP Conference
Atlanta, GA

July 26th

UNH McNair Scholars Research
Symposium
9:30-12, NH Hall

Open to the UNH Community. Please Mark Your Calendar!

July 27th- 30th

25th Anniversary Annual Ronald E.
McNair Scholars Symposium
University of California at Berkeley



Alexandria Hidrovo, '18

Environmental Engineering

Lexy received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) and will work with Dr. Jim Malley, PhD.



Yamilex Bencosme, '18

Sociology & Women's Studies

Yami received a \$5000 grant to study abroad in Thailand this summer.



Sherlee Alvarez, '18

Biochemistry

Sherlee was accepted into the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium and will conduct research with the Minority Health Disparities Program at the University of Arizona at Tucson.



Beau Garcia, '18

Zoology

Beau was accepted into the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. He will spend eight weeks conducting research in Costa Rica.



Rory Wilson, '18

Philosophy

Rory was accepted into the Taiwan United States Alliance (TUSA) Ambassador Summer Scholarship Program. He will spend two months studying the Chinese language (Mandarin).