2021 Summer Cohort

Congratulations to the summer 2021 McNair Cohort on completing their research and presenting at the University of New Hampshire annual Ronald E. McNair Scholars Symposium & the Undergraduate Research Conference.
SHOUT OUT TO OUR MENTORS

Thank you for all the work you do with our scholars, and for all your time and support!

Cliff Brown  Caitlin Mills
Pablo Chavajay  Alyssa O'Brien
Kurk Dorsey  David Plachetzki
Jeffrey Frenkiewich  Chanda Prescod-Weinstein
John Gibson  Judy Sharkey
Thomas Gruen  Harish Vashisth
Stephanie Harzewski  Thomas Weber
Amy Michael  William Woodward

And welcome aboard to our 2022 mentors! We look forward to working with you this summer!

Semra Aytur  Sherine Elsawa
Rachel Burdin  Thomas Gruen
Stephen Ciccone  Les Fitzpatrick
Ronald Croce  Tarkington Newman
Teresa Cohn  Wayne Smith
Steven Arias ('16), a physics major in his junior year, applied and was accepted into the McNair Scholars Program in 2014. He and his mentor, Dr. Karsten Pohl went on to conduct research on *Syntheses of Novel Two Dimensional Materials: Graphene* during the McNair Summer Research Program in 2015.

Fast forward to fall of 2016, Steven applied to the UNH physics department and was accepted into the PhD physics program under the guidance of Dr. Shawna Hollen and Dr. Jiadong Zang, with full funding.

Steven was always one to want to give back to the program that helped him succeed as an undergraduate. He participated in many graduate student panels to speak to new and potential McNair students about his experience in the program and encourage them to apply. Once in graduate school, Steven worked for the McNair program during the 2018, 2019, and 2021 summer programs as a peer advisor, where he took students on social outings all over the New England area, and gave great advice on what it's like to be a graduate student.

Steven Arias is the first UNH student to receive an award from the Department of Energy's Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) program. As part of the program, Arias will work at the Center for Functional Nanomaterials at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York for one year, which began back in November 2021. The award provides support for inbound and outbound travel to the laboratory, along with a monthly stipend of up to $3,000 for general living expenses while at the DOE host laboratory.

Arias, who is expected to complete his PhD in December of 2022, also completed his bachelor's degree in physics at UNH in 2016. He says the best part of his academic experience is the support he's received from the people at UNH.

"My advisors and all the faculty and staff members in the physics department provide constant support," says Arias, whose family lives in Colombia. "Sometimes it's hard to be so far away from home, but all the friends I've made in the department act like a second family."

On behalf of the McNair Scholars Program, we want to thank Steven for his years of service to the UNH McNair Program, as well as congratulate him on this prestigious Department of Energy Fellowship. We look forward to watching Steven continue to pursue his dreams as he completes his PhD this coming December 2022.
Dr. Catherine Moran is a Principal Lecturer in Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Moran teaches the two-credit introduction to McNair Research course we offer during the summer for our McNair research scholars. She prepares our summer scholars for local and national symposiums and conferences. We can't thank her enough for her continued support of the McNair Scholars Program.

Allison Giannotti, PhD served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at UNH while earning her PhD in Composition & Rhetoric. Allison was our writing tutor and taught the Writing Seminar for our 2021 summer program. She worked with our students to develop and hone critical writing skills our scholars will need to be successful in the program and in graduate school. Thank you, Allison for your great work with our McNair scholars!
The McNair Scholars Program wishes to acknowledge the McNair Advisory Committee for their service and continued support of our program and scholars:

PER BERGLUND
PAULA DINARDO
MARGARET GREENSLADE
STEPHANIE HARVEY
MICHELLE LEICHTMAN
JAMES MALLEY
CHRIS REARDON
RACHEL ROY
JEANNE SOKOLOWSKI

Upcoming Events

Summer Research Fellowship Program
Hosted by: UNH McNair
Begins June 6, 2022

Weekly Research Seminars
June 8-July 20, 2022

McNair & SSS Undergraduate Research Conference
Hosted by: SAEOPP in Atlanta
June 23-26, 2022

McNair Research Symposium
Hosted by: UNH McNair
July 26, 2022

2022 McNair Conference
Hosted by: UCLA
July 27-29, 2022
Rising senior, Joslyn Villavicencio and 2021 graduate, Julian Maduro have been published in the Spring 2022 issue of the UNH Inquiry Journal. Joslyn's research examines the effectiveness of video marketing across different generations. Her focus was on Generation Z and Baby Boomers.

Julian's research explores the diversity of New Hampshire high school reading lists and how the titles on these lists may impact student engagement.

We love to see the work our scholars have been doing both in the program and after they have graduated. The research they do makes ripples that have a positive impact on our communities and we are so proud of them! If you would like to check out their articles, visit https://www.unh.edu/inquiryjournal/
Joslyn Villavicencio is also the recipient of the 2022 Parents Council Award. UNH presents this award each year to recognize sophomore or junior level students who have shown an understanding and appreciation of the value of a university education, and who have accepted responsibility to share their education to better the community in which they live. She was nominated for this very prestigious award by multiple faculty and staff members, and we are very proud of her accomplishments this year!

Sabrina Kadariya, also a rising senior, has received the Theo-Steelman Public Service Fellowship from the College of Health & Human Services at UNH. This fellowship was established to create opportunities for CHHS undergraduate & graduate students to gain either practical experience or research experience focused on the public service sector. Sabrina will be conducting her research over the upcoming academic year.

Congrats!
2013 graduate, Dr. Shersingh Joseph Tumber-Davila has a recent publication in *The Phytologist, Plant Sizes and Shapes Above- and Belowground and their Interactions with Climate.*

2015 graduate, Janice Disla recently graduated from the University of California, Merced with a PhD in Psychological Sciences. The next steps of her journey will take her to the University of South Carolina Upstate where she will begin her career as an Assistant Professor of Psychology.

**Congrats!**
Notable Achievements

from our Alumni

2016 graduate, Stephanie Yee just graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a PhD in Counseling Psychology. Among her accomplishments, Stephanie was a Three-Minute Thesis winner for her presentation on "Reentry Experiences of Formerly Incarcerated Black Women" in 2019. She also received the Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship in 2020. Stephanie will be teaching at UMD this summer, as well as working for a private practice.

Congrats!

McNair Current Statistics

Since the UNH McNair Program began in 1991, it has served over 390 students. Of those, 184 alumni have gone on to receive a master's degree and 42 have earned a PhD. 14 alumni have gone on to earn other professional doctorates and 38 alumni are currently in a graduate program.
Favour Alejo, Biomedical Science: Med Vet Sciences  
Mentor: Dr. William Woodward, Department of Psychology

Research
"I developed a historical biography of Beatrice Munyenyezi and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide."

Highlights
"A highlight from the program was presenting my research at the UNH McNair Research Symposium."

Accomplishments
"I received the COLSA Finishers Scholarship, participated in the Black Student Union, Connect Program, NALA [a student support group for women of color at UNH], was a Resident Assistant, and I'm excited to be graduating!!"

Future Plans
"I will be moving to Arizona to volunteer with the youth mentoring program, Arizonans for Children, [a non-profit organization that helps abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care]."
Elza Brechbuhl, Communication/Women's and Gender Studies
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Harzewski, Department of English

Research
"My research involved an analysis of media representation of collegiate hookup culture through a non-monogamous perspective."

Highlights
"One of my favorite moments as a McNair scholar was our recent trip to Miami [Florida International University]. I got to meet very intelligent and fun people at the conference, while also bonding with scholars from our program. The relationship I created with my mentor has been very special, too. Stephanie is a bright and energetic woman who has made my days at UNH more exciting."

Accomplishments
"I have recently been awarded the 2022 Gilman International Scholarship, which will help me study abroad this summer. I also became a COLA representative."

Future Plans
"I am going to Barcelona this summer to study marketing. What happens after that is still unknown, but I am hoping to get a job in marketing research that gives me geographic flexibility, and work on some personal projects. I want to spend a year with my family in Brazil to reconnect with my people and culture. I am also launching a multimedia website in September to talk about issues related to sexuality: SexuALL."
Research
"My research investigated cultural differences between Anglo-American elementary school age children with Guatemalan elementary school age children and their ideas about work (household chores, homework, school activities, and activities within the community)."

Highlights
"A highlight for me was getting to experience research with McNair and all the support I got from the team."

Accomplishments
"I served on the executive committee for MOSAICO [the Latinx Student Organization], participated in NALA, was an RA for two years, and I got into my dream school for graduate school, Gallaudet University."

Future Plans
"I will be attending Gallaudet University in Fall 2023. During the gap year, I will be looking for a job working with the deaf to improve my ASL. I will be continuing to practice my interpreting skills, as well in order to take the state screening test to be certified as an interpreter early next year."
Maria Chouinard, Linguistics/French  
Mentor: Dr. Judy Sharkey, Department of Education

Research
"My research is titled, Supporting the Oral Language Development of Young Dual Language Learners: Perspectives of EL Teachers in NH. I conducted surveys, interviews, and classroom observations to explore to what extent NH teachers of DLLs understand and enact research-based practices known to develop oral language."

Highlights
"A highlight of my research was presenting parts of my proposal to the Manchester School District and getting approved to observe in the classroom. A highlight of being in the McNair Program was developing friendships with the other members of my cohort."

Accomplishments
"Three accomplishments I am proud of besides being a McNair scholar are getting accepted to the Hamel Scholars Program, receiving a Gilman Scholarship, and assisting Professor Burdin with research in the summer of 2020 through the Hamel Research Center."

Future Plans
"I am applying to St. John's Seminary in Boston for a Master of Arts in Ministry, but immediately after graduation I am planning to live with religious sisters (Daughters of Mary Nazareth) in Quincy, MA."
Emmanuel Nkounkou, Neuroscience & Behavior
Mentor: Dr. David Plachetzki, Department of Molecular, Cellular & Biomedical Science

Research
"I conducted research on sensory pathway components and sensory receptors in Cnidaria."

Highlights
"Giving my presentation at the end of last summer for McNair was a great moment. Also, winning my first track medal my freshman year at an indoor conference."

Accomplishments
"I was captain of the UNH track and field team. I was a member of the Black Student Union and MOSDEF [Men of Strength Diversity Education & Family, a student group for men of color at UNH]."

Future Plans
"I will begin my one-year research assistant position at the University of Illinois Chicago this coming September and will matriculate into their Neurobiology graduate program in the fall of 2023."
Nicole Sarette, Sociology, Justice Studies & Educational Studies
Mentor: Dr. Cliff Brown, Department of Sociology

Research
"For my project, I examined the effect of socioeconomic status on students' attitudes toward taking on student debt. I conducted this research through survey data, as well as interviews with UNH students."

Highlights
"A highlight for me was presenting my research in person for the first time at the McNair research conference at Florida International University in Miami last November."

Accomplishments
"I'm going to be graduating as a triple major (sociology, justice studies, and educational studies). I was also in Delta Xi Phi (the multicultural sorority), was a member of the Young Democratic Socialists of America, and an undergraduate representative on the UNH Basic Needs Committee."

Future Plans
"I will be attending Columbia University in NYC in the fall in the masters of sociology program. This summer I will be working as a field researcher for the University of Michigan. I also plan to travel to Europe at the end of the summer with my boyfriend and my roommates."
Zakiya Scott, Medical Microbiology
Mentor: Dr. David Plachetzki, Department of Molecular, Cellular & Biomedical Science

Research
"My research is focused on the evolution of neural circuits in Hydrazoans."

Highlights
"One of my favorite moments with McNair was presenting at the National McNair Conference at the University of Maryland, College Park."

Accomplishments
"I have an athletic scholarship for track and field. I am the chair of the Black Student Union, was a previous Connect mentor, and worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant."

Future Plans
"My plans for the future include working as a CNA while applying to dual public health and physician assistant programs."
Maria Seneres, Bioengineering  
Mentor: Dr. Harish Vashisth, Department of Chemical Engineering

**Research**  
"The title of my research is *Constructing Molecular Models of Tripeptides with Sequence-Encoded Properties.*"

**Highlights**  
"A couple of highlights for me were the ski trip to Gunstock Mountain Resort and presenting my research at the Undergraduate Research Conference."

**Accomplishments**  
"I received the CEPS Chemical Engineering Quasi Gift in May 2021. I was involved in the Connect STEM program, as well as the United Asian Coalition (UAC)."

**Future Plans**  
"I plan to work in the biotechnology industry, with interests in cell and gene therapy."
Research
"My research involved designing a platform for a sonar to look at the upper section of the ocean water column."

Highlights
"I enjoyed meeting new people and making friends."

Accomplishments
"I did well in all of my classes throughout my four years, along with being Treasurer and Vice President of the Handler Hall Council, and a member of the Marine Technology Society, American Sign Language Club, and Connect."

Future Plans
"I will be a coastal engineer at KS Associates in Ohio."
Mya Urena, Neuroscience & Behavior
Mentor: Dr. Caitlin Mills, Department of Psychology

Research
"Recreating the Psychedelic Experience in Virtual Reality: Effects on Creativity and Phenomenological Thought Processes"

Highlights
"A highlight for me was being accepted into a graduate program with the help of the wonderful McNair staff!"

Accomplishments
"I was Vice President of Nu Rho Si [a neuroscience academic fraternity]. I was also a member of Hercampus, an online magazine written by college women, and was part of the Affect Computation and Cognition Lab. And most recently, I was accepted into the Common Ground Consortium Program at the University of Minnesota, and was awarded a graduate assistantship by the university."

Future Plans
"I will be starting a PhD program in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota in the fall."
McNair Scholars Presented at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference, April 2022

Top to bottom, left to right: Katie Swenson, Eman Nkounkou, Jessica Roberts, Mya Urena Joslyn Villavicencio, Zakiya Scott, Maria Chouinard, Elza Brechbuhl and Tu Anh Duong
McNair Scholars Presented at the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference, April 2022
2021 Summer Cohort Presented at the University of Maryland National Conference for McNair Scholars & Undergraduate Research, March 2022

Eman Nkounkou, Zakiya Scott, Samantha DiNatale, Tori Schofield, Tu Anh Duong and Joslyn Villavicencio represented McNair in Maryland!
2021 Summer Cohort Presented at Florida International University McNair Scholars Research Conference. November 2021

Top to bottom, left to right:
Nicole Sarette, Joslyn Villavicencio, Patricia Louis, Tori Schofield, Eman Nkounkou, Tu Anh Duong, Katie Swenson, Jessica Roberts and Elza Brechbuhl
Our scholars visited Drexel University, Temple University, and UPenn in Philadelphia, March 2022

Harry Potter Exhibition at The Franklin Institute
Philadelphia, PA
Presenters from top to bottom, left to right:
Patricia Louis
Eman Nkounkou
Zakiya Scott
Maria Chouinard
Jessica Roberts
Katie Swenson
Tori Schofield
Tu Anh Duong
Elza Brechbuhl
Samantha DiNatale
Joslyn Villavicencio
Social/Cultural Events
2021-2022

Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, NYC

Top of the Empire State Building, NYC
Social/Cultural Events

2021-2022

Gunstock Mountain Ski Trip

Art Around Town, Downtown Portsmouth
Farewell to Tammy

AFTER 14 YEARS SERVING MCNAIR SCHOLARS!

Tammy championed TRIO because she believed in its mission and purpose. Thank you, Tammy for your years of leadership, mentorship, and service! We are all going to miss seeing you and Frank on campus. We hope the years ahead are filled with glorious adventures. Farewell and best of luck!
UNH McNair Program Staff

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