UC Davis McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is housed within Graduate Studies at the University of California Davis. We are located in Suite 2300 of the Student Community Center, and provide year-round staff support and mentorship to our distinguished scholars. Please share the news of this unique program with others in the UC Davis community. We are now accepting applications!

Program Benefits:
• Academic Counseling
• Free Tutoring
• GRE Preparation Seminars
• Assistance in Graduate School Applications
• One-on-one independent study with a faculty mentor in your field
• $2800 Summer Research Stipend

Program Requirements:
• UC Davis GPA of 3.0 or higher
• US citizen or legal resident status
• Apply at the end of your sophomore year
• Low-income and first-generation college student, or member of a group underrepresented in graduate study (e.g. Chicano/Latino, African American, or Native American)

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Find Out More and Apply Online!
mcnair@ucdavis.edu
http://mcnair.ucdavis.edu

Help Our McNair Scholars Help the World

Several junior McNair Scholars are taking great steps to bring much-needed help to Haiti, and you can help! When Carolina Tavárez recognized the difficulty that poor Haitians face in finding affordable training in foreign languages (primarily English and Spanish), she decided to take an active step to make things better by forming the group Ann Prepare Lavni (Haitian Creole for “Let us prepare our future”) to bring supplies and training that would help equip Haitian teachers to provide free language instruction for the students who need it most.

They are accepting contributions of money and school supplies here on campus. Do what you can to help our McNair Scholars make a difference! For more details, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AnnPrepareLavni, or their website at annpreparelavni.webs.com.

Junior McNair Scholars and Ann Prepare Lavni executive staff interview at Univision! From left: Scholar Jennifer Vergara, Univision reporter Maribel López, and Scholars Carolina Tavárez and Monserrat Garcia.

What Is McNair?
The McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally-funded program dedicated to increasing the ranks of underrepresented groups in graduate study. The McNair Program provides a select number of promising scholars with mentoring and fellowships to improve their chances of being admitted to doctoral programs nationwide.

ON OUR CAMPUS
Visit us on the second floor of the new Student Community Center, in Suite 2300 with the Undergraduate Research Center. More information about the program and applications are available online at mcnair.ucdavis.edu. If you have any questions about the program, please drop by our office or send us an email at mcnair@ucdavis.edu

Trío
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program

Interview with a Mentor

What is it like to be a McNair Scholar? Interview with a mentor for the UC Davis McNair Scholars Program.

Student Awards and Accolades

International Student Outreach

National Conferences

Annual California McNair Scholars Symposium

Scholars Help the World

The McNair Scholars Program is helping to bring an introduction to the world of academic conferences and travel that these scholars will experience in graduate school!
This year’s McNair Junior Scholars are soaring! Alfonso Aranda has spoken at four conferences so far this year. He was a guest speaker at the UC Davis Students of Color Conference in November, the weekly MECA workshop in February, the UC Davis Undergraduate Research Conference in April, and the Raza Youth Empowerment Conference in May.

Caprice Lee was awarded the Botanical Society of America’s Undergraduate Research Award and their P.L.A.N.T. grant.

Greg Loh was elected president of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honors Society.

Destiny Garcia was awarded the Steve Montoya Caless Scholarship for Latinos in engineering.

Carolina Tavarez won the UC Davis Blum Center PATA Grant and the Miguel Velez Scholarship. She made the Dean’s List for Fall and Winter quarters this year, and was named a First Year Outstanding Academic Scholar.

Steve Juarez has made Dean’s Honor Roll every term of his two years at UC Davis, is in the Sociology Honors Program, and is currently a finalist competing for the John and Lyn Lofland Award for undergraduate research in sociology.

Jennifer Fabian is a 2012 Silver Recognition Recipient of the UC Davis Community Service Award for over 300 hours of volunteer work at the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center.

Monserrat Garcia has been accepted as a representative of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research at the Summer Institute for Latino Public Policy.

Michael Ford received the ACS 2012 Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry.

We congratulate our juniors for these awards, and for all those to come!

This year’s cohort of graduating McNair Scholars is setting a new standard for Davis undergraduate scholars, taking off for advanced degree programs across the state and country.

Ken Fung will be matriculating in the Mechanical Science and Engineering doctoral program at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Fausto Gonzalez will be heading to the University of California Berkeley doctoral program in Social-Personality Psychology.

Nidia Trejo will be attending Cornell University’s combined Masters-doctoral program in Fiber Science.

Helen Trejo will join her in Cornell’s Apparel Design Masters program. Both Helen and Nidia Trejo have received SUNY fellowships from the graduate school.

Rosana Womack will be entering UC San Diego’s doctoral program in History. She has also been nominated for the UC Davis History Department’s Senior Excellence Award, and presented at the Undergraduate Resource Center symposium, where she holds the title of URC Ambassador.

Gloria Toriche will be entering UC Santa Barbara’s doctoral program in Chicana/o Studies, and has received a fellowship to fund her first quarter there. She also made the Dean’s List for Winter Quarter and was nominated as Student of the Year for the Chicana/o Studies Department.

Treasien McDaniel will be attending Howard University’s Masters in Education program.

Sarah Palmer will be attending Mills College’s Masters of Public Policy program.

Best of luck to our graduating seniors!

Diana Davis is an Associate Professor of History and faculty mentor to one of our McNair Junior Scholars. She agreed to discuss with us the benefits and surprises of the mentor-student relationship. As the granddaughter of a coal miner, Professor Davis says she was raised to work hard at just about everything and to value education above all else. She grew up wanting to be a doctor but later decided to pursue a Masters degree in geography. In the course of conducting her fieldwork, she worked with a group of nomads in Morocco suffering through a severe drought that was killing many of their livestock; in order to do something to help, she went to veterinary school so she could treat their animals while pursuing her doctoral degree in geography. She attended Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and had the opportunity to work with Afghan nomads in western Pakistan for a summer while studying ethnovenery in medicine and gender. After graduating, she entered the doctoral program in Geography at UC Berkeley where she conducted her doctoral fieldwork with nomads in southern Morocco, on the edge of the Sahara. By listening to these nomads, and talking seriously about their environment, that it was not degraded, she decided to research the history of the widely accepted notion that Morocco is overgrazed and deforested. This research, published in her first book, revealed the deep environmental history of the region, including Algeria and Tunisia and how it was primarily constructed during the French colonial period. She says, “I became an environmental historian by listening to nomads on the edge of the Sahara!”

When meeting with prospective mentees, what qualities do you look for in a student scholar? I keep my eyes open for bright students that have a spark of passionate curiosity about the world and how it works as well as the drive to try to make a positive contribution to our society in some way. They usually ask a lot of excellent questions in class and in office hours, etc. My current mentee (Alfonso Aranda) has all of these traits and working with him is a pleasure.

How should a student prepare for his/her first meeting? The first meeting should not be a stressful one but a meeting about exploring different options and setting expectations. It is very helpful if the student can write down a bit about what kind of graduate/professional programs they are interested in and also a short paragraph on what topic they think they might want to research over the summer to present at the conference. I do feel that the first meeting should lead to a series of regular meetings with the student to keep the research process on track.

What criteria should a student use for choosing a mentor?

Different students will need different things from their mentors but...