

McNair Scholars Program
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McNair Scholars Program

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

Program Benefits:

- Academic Counseling
- Free Tutoring
- GRE preparation seminars
- Assistance in graduate school applications
- One-on-one independent study with a faculty expert in your field

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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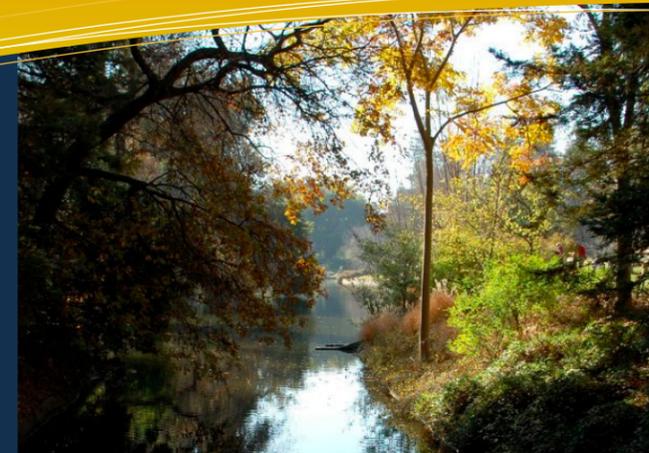
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ISSUE 5 • WINTER 2012

McNair Aggie News



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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 PhD programs nationwide.



ON OUR CAMPUS

The McNair Scholars Program is housed within Graduate Studies at the University of California Davis. We are located on the second floor of the new Student Community Center in Suite 2300 with the Undergraduate Research Center. Please share the news of this unique program with others in the UCD community. We begin accepting applications in the spring, and the deadline is June 30!

A New Face at McNair

The McNair Scholars Program at the University of California Davis is proud to introduce our new Graduate Student Assistant, Bess-Carolina Dolmo. Bess-Carolina comes to us from the Department of Biomedical Engineering where she is a Ph.D. candidate.

Ms. Dolmo completed her Masters in Public Policy at Harvard University, where she studied science and technology policy. She is currently working on her dissertation, "Measuring Cortical Thickness Via Point Set Surfaces," which concerns measurements of grey matter of Alzheimer's patients.

Bess-Carolina says she hopes to "share her passion for learning and research with McNair Scholars, and hopefully instill enthusiasm and confidence for their continued success."

She will be working with the Junior Scholars during Winter Quarter's Research Seminar, which is aimed at applying for the President's Undergraduate Research Fellowship (PUF). She will also begin organizing poster presentations for this Spring's University of Washington at Seattle Undergraduate McNair Symposium, the Undergraduate Research Conference at UC Davis, and the summer's University

of California Berkeley Undergraduate McNair Symposium.

Bess-Carolina is the third Graduate Student Assistant currently working with the McNair Program, alongside Comparative Literature doctoral candidates Natalie Strobach, who teaches writing and analytical GRE preparation, and Michael Graziano, who teaches data analysis and quantitative GRE preparation. Together with the McNair staff and faculty mentors, they will work to ensure that each and every McNair scholar has expert help not only in preparing for the Graduate Record Exam and mastering the graduate school application process, but also gaining the research and academic experience they will need to flourish in academia.



Taking Notes: What Is Glossing?

What does it mean to gloss a text? Glossing (or marginal notation) is a form of note-taking that you do in the margins of the text. That's right – the little scribbles you've been writing all over your textbooks is part of a literary tradition that dates back to the medieval period. That marginal space is often used to ask and answer questions in order to enrich the text, as well as provide you with an easy reminder of your own thought processes as you were reading. Often in grad school, you'll be responsible for reading and recalling a huge amount of information; glossing is one way of sorting through that data.

Traditionally, glossing involves writing in ink on the page, but if you're concerned about keeping your texts in pristine condition, pencil or Post-It notes work well too.

The key to useful glossing is making sure that you note the key points of the text as you go, and that you jot down your own insights in enough detail that even years later, you'll be able to glance at them and remember your original impression. Plus, next time you're in class and your teacher asks for key points and questions, you can just open your book and find them in one quick glance!

McNair Honor Roll

The junior McNair cohort has started the year off with a great fall quarter! Araceli Dagio, Rebeca Figueroa, Michael Ford, Steve Jaurez, Caprice Lee, Gregory Loh, Julia Ruble, Jared Szi, and Carolina Tavarez were among the students (listed alphabetically) to beat a 3.5 GPA for their fall quarter, along with seniors Faiya Sellu, Rosana Womack, Helen Trejo, and Nidia Trejo!



Winter Fun!

Maybe you've just survived the application process, or perhaps you are trying to brace yourself for the turbulent year to come—whatever the case, you need to schedule some down time in order to make all of that work time that much more rewarding! One of the biggest risks we run as academics, is burnout. The simplest way to avoid this and to make sure your brain has time to recharge! Go see a movie, take in a play, grab a great dinner with friends, or clear your mind during a peaceful walk. Here are five great ideas for how to escape for a day this winter.

Check out the Mondavi center. They have countless events per month and offer tickets to students at

a discount. This quarter they have anything from swing music to full-on orchestra performances!

Take a walk in the beautiful UC Davis arboretum. You could plan a lovely afternoon picnic—a great surprise for that special someone! Wink wink, Valentine's Day is fast approaching!

And for a relaxing meal if you are looking to treat yourself, try out some of Davis' more elite restaurants like Tucos or The Mustard Seed at lunchtime when the menu has many budget-friendly options. Bon Appetit!

Make your 2012 resolution to take care of yourself in every which way!

Research Tips: Preparing an Abstract

Have you ever wondered, is this journal article relevant to my work? Or, should I attend this conference presentation? If so, most of the information you are looking for can be found within the abstract.

Abstracts play an important role in the realm of academic writing and conference presenting. By providing the reader with a glimpse of what is to come, abstracts give a condensed account of the larger research or study. Ranging from 150-300 words, abstracts are typically one paragraph long and state the significance of the study, research question, methods used, findings, and implications or future directions. If you need help writing your own abstract, it is always a good idea to ask others within your field for suggestions or look to the

literature to understand the concept of an abstract for your specific discipline. When writing an abstract it is important to remember the four C's as a guide for your work; Complete, Concise, Clear and Cohesive.

Complete: Your abstract should cover all major parts of your research study.

Concise: Make sure to remove excess words or unnecessary information.

Clear: Your article should be organized, easy to read, and free from unnecessary jargon.

Cohesive: Your abstract should flow easily between the parts of your study.

See more at

<http://undergraduateresearch.ucdavis.edu/>.

making
TIME

The Winter Quarter can be one of the most difficult times of the year. Senior Scholars are waiting to hear from graduate schools and fellowships, Junior scholars are forming mentor relationships and digging into their research, and, amidst all of this, it is chilly, the sky is grey, and winter vacation left you sluggish. You already know the basics of balance: eat three square meals, exercise, and sleep, but even the simplest things can become difficult to maintain under stressful conditions (just look at all those haggard graduate students eating a sandwich while running across campus). With this in mind, we want to share with you a few tips for making it all work and making it work in a way that allows you extra time for relaxation (and maybe even some fun).

Have you purchased your 2012 calendars yet? Or did you already fill out your 2011-2012 university calendars? Get to it! Make sure to fill in even your regular activities and classes so that you can see, week-by-week, the extra time that you have. Perhaps you are trying to fit in three hours of Calculus on Saturday, but why not spread that out between that hour gap you have between English and Physics on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday? Block out a few hours on the weekend or on a slow Thursday evening to cook for the upcoming week. Try to divide activities so they avoid becoming exhausting or

mundane: grocery shop on a Monday and do all of the cooking on another day.

Do you have a giant heap of laundry that you dread lugging to the Laundromat? Divide your colors and just do one load a day (bonus if you can multitask some studying into the time!).

Be sure to write down weekly, monthly, and quarterly goals for yourselves. Schedule in a day to do your taxes as well as a day to get a manicure or go shopping for your friend's birthday party. Make shopping and grocery lists so that you can manage your budget and get in and out of the stores efficiently and without temptation.

If you're honest about the wide variety of things you will spend time on, then you can fully maximize your schedule and capitalize on the gaps in time. Set both personal and professional goals! Are you always running to grab a gift at the last minute? Make it a goal to buy that March birthday present on March 1st. Do you feel shy going to your professor's office during finals week? Pick a date and pay your professor a visit before midterms! You'll stand out in their mind and you will also save yourself loads of stress! The more you start building these skills and prioritizing, the more successful you will be in all aspects of your life!