

McNair Junior Scholars: Summer Summary

As Spring Quarter winds down, Junior McNair Scholars are getting ready for a summer full of challenge, study, and maybe a bit of fun. Here are some of the highlights of the junior summer schedule:

- **June 17-21: Community Building Workshop.** Juniors will start the quarter working with other summer scholarship programs, like UC LEADS, to hone some of the skills that will let them continue building an academic community together.
- **June 24-July 19: Project Research and Seminars.** Through late June and July, scholars will continue their research projects while also attending weekly seminars on GRE preparation, grad school applications, and research.
- **July 22-31: Presentation Rehearsals.** As scholars prepare for the national McNair conference at UC Berkeley, they will have over a week to work on their PowerPoint presentations, including a formal presentation with scholars and mentors present.
- **August 1-5: National McNair Symposium at UC Berkeley.** As a culmination to their yearlong research projects, scholars will take a trip to Berkeley and present on what they have achieved to an audience of fellow McNair scholars from across the nation.
- **August 12-25: GRE Boot Camp.** As the final McNair program of the summer, scholars will attend a two-week long, all-day boot camp to rigorously prepare for the Graduate Record Exam which they will be taking by September.

Get ready for an exciting and busy summer, juniors!



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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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!

McNair Juniors Prepare for Berkeley

The junior McNair Scholars at UC Davis have spent the entire academic year forging relationships with faculty mentors and setting the groundwork for their summer research projects. Now, they are finally gearing up for the summer, where they will receive a stipend so that they can dedicate themselves full-time to research. The payoff? In addition to the skills they are polishing and the relationships they are developing, the scholars have the perennially exciting trip to UC Berkeley to look forward to.

Every year, the UC Davis McNair Program brings along all of its scholars to present their research at UC Berkeley's annual McNair Research Symposium. Each scholar is placed on a panel alongside scholars from across the nation with similar interests. They will have a chance to present their research, ask and answer questions, and continue making the connections and earning the experience that will follow with them throughout their graduate school careers and beyond.

The five-day trip to Berkeley will require a lot of preparation, but it also provides an opportunity

for Davis's McNair Scholars to bond together even more closely than they already have over a year of shared courses and collaboration. Will this year's scholars stick to the traditions of previous Berkeley trips, such as dinner at Henry's and after-hours karaoke, or will they forge their own new legacies? Whatever they choose, they may well come to appreciate the declarations from past students that the Berkeley trip was the culmination of all their work with McNair, and sometimes even of their academic experience at UC Davis.

Enjoy the trip, juniors, try the mac and cheese at Henry's, and don't forget to make some memories!



Skill Focus: Public Speaking

With Berkeley coming up, this is a good time for juniors to start developing your professional public speaking skills. It is extremely important that researchers learn how to convey the significance of what they are working on; what steps they are taking methodologically; why disciplinary examination is important; and how their project fits in to the big picture of our collective, essential needs. Begin by finding a suitable text (like maybe your PUF application or your URC presentation) and reading each page aloud. Pay attention to words that are difficult to pronounce and mark those words on the practice text. Then read text again, this time standing up and facing where an audience would be - not the mirror. Having completed these two steps, are you convinced that you sound well-versed? The typical answer is "no" because you are used to doing what you do, not *saying* what you do. Once you have practiced so much that it feels fluid and smooth, then start practicing in front of classmates, roommates and other prospective audience members to test your material for clarity to the general audience and have a separate test for disciplinary norms and accuracy for the specialist audience. You will generally need to have different presentation styles given the anticipated knowledge base of the audience members. When in doubt, employ your general audience presentation style. Make eye contact to engage your listeners. Clasp your hands together and inhale slowly through your nose if you get nervous or feel short of breath. And remember - you've got nothing to be afraid of!

2013 McNair Seniors Blast Off

As the year draws to a close, our graduating McNair Scholars prepare for their next steps as college graduates. McNair staff and fellow scholars alike are proud of the impressive achievements of this class, and we look forward to seeing more of them in the future!



Alfonso Aranda will be staying here at UC Davis to attend the Master's Program in Geography.



Steve Juarez will attend the PhD program in Sociology at UC San Diego.



Araceli Dagio will be applying to graduate programs starting in 2014.

Caprice Lee will be applying to graduate programs starting in 2014.



Jennifer Fabian will be headed down to Texas to earn her Masters degree in Psychology from Sam Houston University.



Gregory Loh will be studying in the University of Pennsylvania's PhD program in History.



Rebeca Figueroa will be staying here at UC Davis to pursue her PhD in Native American Studies.

Cindee Robles will be attending the PhD program in Psychology at Michigan State University.



Michael Ford will be attending the PhD program in Material Sciences at UC Santa Barbara.



Faiya Sellu will be headed to UC Berkeley to pursue a PhD in Film Studies.



Ryan Green will be applying to graduate programs starting in 2014.

Carolina Tavarez will be staying here at UC Davis to earn her PhD in Spanish.

