Welcome New McNair Scholars for 2019-2020

Gisselle Balderas, Psychology; Valentina Campos, Kinesiology; Abigail Champion, Engineering; Julie Enriquez, Marine Biology; Sayge Flores, Biology

Gabriella Garcia, Anna Longoria-Porterfield, Psychology; Eduardo Luna, Ryan Nerios, Natalia Pellum-Mackey, Kinesiology

Damaris Sanchez, Daniel San Miguel, Health; Brandon Scott-Taylor, Science

Calendar of Events

Research Overview
1/31/2020

Library Research Process Workshop
1/31/2020

Writing a Great Literature Review
2/14/2020

Research Methods
2/14/2020

Research Statistics
3/6/2020

Financial Aid Literacy
3/6/2020

Speed Interviewing
4/10/2020

McNair Scholars Annual Research Presentation and Recognition Luncheon
4/14/2020
Congratulations to the 2019 McNair Scholar Graduates

LaRreshia Brumfield
B.S., Bio-Medical Science
Fall 2019

Naila Flores
B.S., Bio-Medical Science
Fall 2019

Andrew Garcia
B.S., Electrical Engineering
Fall 2019

Yadira Martinez-Gomez
B.A., Psychology
Fall 2019

Cerina Ramirez
B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies
Fall 2019

Rudy Salomon
B.S., Mechanical Engineering
Fall 2019

Angelia Val
B.S., Biology & Psychology
Fall 2019

Thank you to the following Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty members who support the program by mentoring and directing research. McNair would not be a successful program without their dedication.

College of Science and Engineering
Dr. Eugene Billiot
Dr. Fereshteh Billiot
Dr. Chris Bird
Dr. Gregory Buck
Dr. Kirk Cammarata
Dr. Luis Garcia
Dr. Xavier Gonzales
Dr. James Hogan
Dr. Yuxia Huang
Dr. Scott King
Dr. Chuntao Liu
Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu
Dr. Paul Montagna
Dr. Dorina Murgulet
Dr. Valeriu Murgulet
Dr. Cosmina Nicula
Dr. Dara Orbach
Dr. Chris Patrick
Dr. Frank Pezold
Dr. David Portnow
Dr. Brandi Reese
Dr. Lee Smeec
Dr. Greg Stunz
Dr. Jeffrey Turner
Dr. Dugan Um
Dr. Benjamin Walther
Dr. Kim Withers
Dr. Ning Zhang

College of Business
Dr. Mohan Rao
Dr. Lawrence Smith

College of Education
Dr. Toyin Ajisafe
Dr. Randy Bonnette
Dr. Daniel Newmire
Dr. Donald Metrose
Dr. Bethanie Fletcher
Dr. Lon Seiger
Dr. Frank Spaniol
Dr. Corinne Valadez
Dr. Heather Webb

College of Nursing
Ms. Carmen Hernandez
Dr. Cathy Miller
Dr. Christina Murphy

College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Isabel Araiza
Dr. Olga Berkout
Dr. Pamela Brouillard
Dr. Lisa Companini
Dr. Charles Etheridge
Dr. Gina Glanc
Dr. Mark Hartlaub
Dr. Sam Hill
Dr. Amy Houlihan
Dr. Melissa Jarrell
Dr. Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer
Dr. Pamela Meyer
Dr. Miguel Moreno
Dr. Catherine Quick
Dr. Michael Ramirez
Dr. Phillip Rhoades
Dr. Carey Rote
Dr. Collin Scarince
Dr. Steve Seidel
Dr. Yulianna Zaikman
Dr. Anthony Zaccollillo
The McNair Scholars Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi hosted McNair Day on April 18 to recognize McNair Scholars that conducted research in the Spring/Summer of 2018 in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

Thirteen McNair Scholars presented the following poster presentation:

- **Mariya Aleksich:** “NMR Investigation and Characterization of Leucine-Based Surfactants Bound to Various Counterions.” Mentor: Dr. Eugene Billiot.
- **Micah Bachner:** “Using Landmark Morphometrics to Detect Fishery-Induced Evolution in Response to Varying Human Population Density.” Mentor: Dr. Chris Bird.
- **LarReshia Brumfield:** “Reproducibility of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Characterizing the Virulence Gene vcgC in Known and Unknown Vibrio vulnificus isolates from the Coastal Bend Region of Texas.” Mentor: Dr. Gregory Buck.
- **Clay Clarkson:** “Quantifying the Relationship between Methane Concentration and mcrA Genes of a Cultured Surface Sediment Methanolobus spp.” Mentor: Dr. Brandi Reese.
- **Mariah Clay:** “The Relationship between the Convergence, Divergence, Recognition, Tracking Skills Response Time, and Reading Achievement of Elementary School Students.” Mentor: Dr. Frank Spaniol.
- **Alisha Cowan:** “I Got You Covered: Couple-Serving Biases as Predictors of Relationship Satisfaction.” Mentor: Dr. Steve Seidel.
- **Andrew Garcia:** “Digital Switchable Magnet as a Power Efficient Alternative for Electromagnets in a Mobile Robotic System.” Mentor: Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu.
- **Kathrin Gibson:** “Thinspiration and Fitspiration Effects on Body Satisfaction and Motivation to Diet and Exercise.” Mentor: Dr. Yuliana Zaikman.
- **Tony Long:** “The Effects of Group Empowerment Drumming on State Anxiety in Selected Populations.” Mentor: Dr. Lon Seiger.
- **Michael Martinez:** “The Effects of Static Magnetic Fields on the Effect in Conductos.” Mentor: Dr. Cosmina Nicula.
- **Arianna McDonald:** “Salivary Cortisol and Testosterone Response to a Farmers Walk.” Mentor: Dr. Heather Webb.
- **Doina Morales:** “Image Processing for Mapping of Controlled Game Environment.” Mentor: Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu.
- **Ashley Rodriguez:** “The Reverse Double Standard among Relationships with a Power Disparity.” Mentor: Dr. Yuliana Zaikman.
Fall 2019 Conference Presentations

Naila Flores

“Water Samples from South Texas and Northern Mexico Borders”

Faculty Mentor: Jeffrey Turner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor; Department of Life Sciences

- 2019 SACNAS-The National Diversity in STEM Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii; October 2019

Cerina Ramirez

“Primary Grade Teacher Attitudes toward using E-Books in the Classroom”

Faculty Mentor: Bethanie Pletcher, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor; Department of Curriculum and Instruction

- 2019 National Council of Teachers of English, Baltimore, MD; November 2019

Andrew Garcia

“PCR Amplification of McrA Gene from Organic Rich Terrestrial Riverine Sediments”

Faculty Mentor: Brandi K. Reese, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor; Department of Life Sciences

- 2019 SACNAS-The National Diversity in STEM Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii; October 2019
- PATHWAYS Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M International University; November 2019

Rudy Salomon

“UAV Design for Non-Destructive Impact Collision”

Faculty Mentor: Luis Garcia Carrillo, Ph. D.
Assistant Professor; Department of Engineering

- IAARHIES International Conference ICET-2019, New York, NY; November 2019
Sandra S. Morales

Sandra S. Morales (Psychology, 2015) is currently attending Pacific University and is seeking a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.

Looking back in time, McNair was one of the best things that could have ever happened to me but being part of this program was quite intimidating at first. I felt like I was unprepared and that I would fail to achieve others’ expectations. I felt as if I was unqualified and someone had made an error in accepting me in the program. Quickly, I realized that I was surrounded by people that just wanted to see me succeed and continue to acquire knowledge about psychology and what it takes to conduct research in this field. McNair not only allowed me to discover a passion for psychological research, but it also gave me the experience and ability to be a competitive candidate for graduate school. This program provided me with the opportunity to attend a regional psychological conference and practice oral presentations, which becomes handy when presenting at a graduate level. I will continue to use the skills that I learned from McNair such as time management, the brainstorming process, and how to effectively communicate with others. Please absorb as much as you can from the resources provided to you by McNair and remember to choose the program that fits your future goals!

This program allowed me to feel more comfortable in my ability to succeed in my future goals and be a face in places where Latinx is underrepresented. More importantly, I would like to thank the McNair Scholars Program for providing minorities with the ability to further their education, research experience, and have a voice in the research world.

Fall 2019 Graduates: Where are they Headed

We would like to congratulate the Fall 2019 graduating scholars. They have done many wonderful things during their time at TAMUCC and are representing the TAMUCC McNair Scholars Program well in their respective graduate programs.

Naila Flores: Plans to attend the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Fall 2020.

Cerina Ramirez: Plans to attend Texas A&M University-Commerce in the Fall 2020.

Rudy Salomon: Plans to attend Rice University in the Fall 2020.
GIVE US AN UPDATE!

The U.S. Department of Education requires all McNair programs to provide Annual Performance Reports and keep track of alumni until the attainment of a doctoral degree. Alumni can update their information by completing the form below and mailing the information to the McNair Scholars Program or by contacting Anabel Hernandez at anabel.hernandez@tamucc.edu.

Name: ___________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________
City & State: ___________________________________ Zip Code: _______________________________
TAMUCC Cohort Year: _______________________________
Highest Degree Attained and When: _______________________________
Degrees in Progress: Master’s______ Ph.D.______or Education Complete_________
Field of Study: _______________________________________________________________
Expected Year of Completion _______________________________________________
School in Attendance: ____________________________________________________________
Email Address: _______________________________________________________________

Alumni News

Jessica Barrera (Accounting, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at the College of William & Mary.

Marla Bantigue (Psychology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Clay Clarkson (Biology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Mariah Clay (Kinesiology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Alisha Cowan (Psychology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Freiderike Davis (Bio-Medical Sciences, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Kathrin Gibson (Psychology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas State University.

Tony Long (Psychology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Doina Morales (Electrical Engineering, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Quynh Chi Quach (Marketing, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Trecia Rodgers (Psychology, 2019) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2019 at the University of North Texas.

Justin Williams (History, 2009) obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in August 2019 from the University of North Texas.