

McNair Scholars Program NEWSLETTER

UCSB McNair Scholars Program Newsletter • Vol. 1.1 • Winter 2009

A Message from McNair

In June 2008 the UCSB campus welcomed the new TRIO/McNair Scholars Program team. McNair Director Professor Beth Schneider was joined by Assistant Director Monique Limón, Program Coordinator Lynn Becerra, and Graduate Student Mentors Francisco Fuentes and Emily Tumpson Molina. The McNair staff greeted 16 scholars who were eager to begin their summer research and learn about the graduate school process.

Over the past two quarters, Faculty Mentors assisted by the McNair staff, have guided scholars to explore new questions and research interests. Some of these research interests include: Black and Filipina/o relations, Mexican-origin musical styles, herpetology, youth gangs, aquatic ecology, and Black mental health. The scholars are doing incredible undergraduate research across the disciplinary spectrum.

The McNair seniors can be especially commended for their work and drive to enter graduate school. In addition to a full class load, these student leaders applied to a M.A. or Ph.D. program during the fall quarter. The program eagerly awaits word on the outcome of their applications.

The program will have 25 McNair Scholars by the beginning of Spring 2009. Six transfer students were recently admitted to the program (see their profiles on page 2). The Winter admissions cycle will bring many more students to the program for the 2009 Summer research experience. The McNair Scholars Program will serve as a vehicle to increase the number of first generation and underrepresented students in higher education who pursue doctoral degrees.

Many departments, faculty, staff and organizations have been a part of getting the UCSB McNair Scholars Program off the ground. The McNair team and scholars are very appreciative of their efforts.

In This Edition



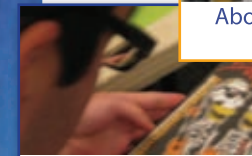
2009 Brings New Scholars
page 2



Obama speaks on TRIO
page 4



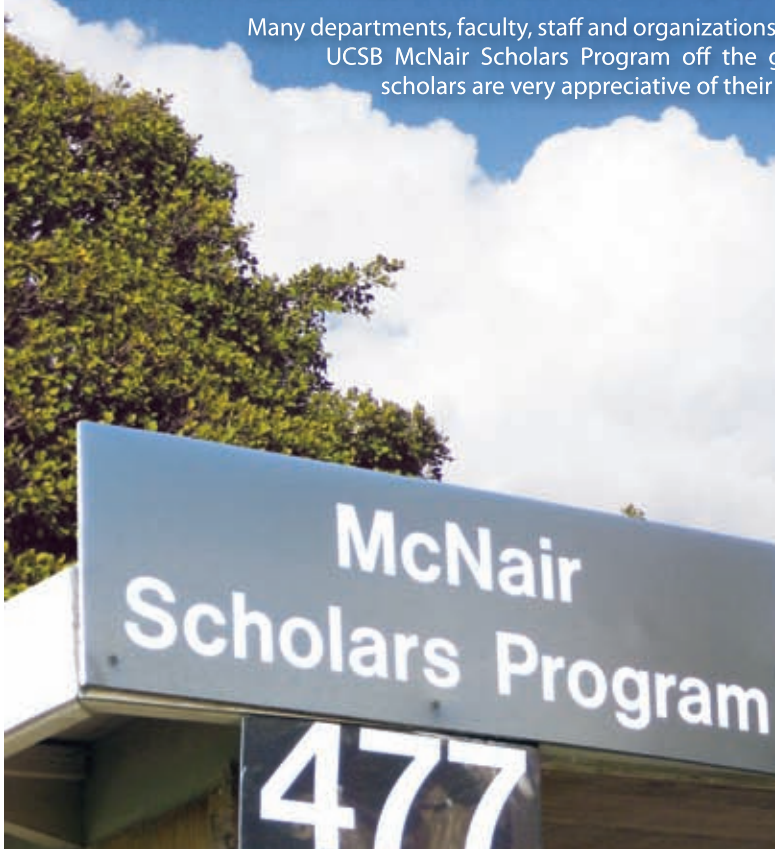
About the Program
page 4



Ph.D. Job Options
page 2



Junior Scholar Profile
page 2



2008 McNair Scholars and Staff
page 3

The UC Santa Barbara McNair Scholars Program is funded by the US Department of Education Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program as part of the Federal TRIO program.

Job Market Options for Ph.D.s

A Doctor of Philosophy degree, abbreviated Ph.D., is the highest academic degree one can earn. Because earning a Ph.D. requires extended study and intense intellectual effort, only one percent of the population attains the degree. Even fewer first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students hold a Ph.D.

Research-Oriented Career: There are three classifications for research universities. The "RU/VH" title is reserved for research institutions that are research intensive. RU/H and DRU institutes are research-oriented but provide faculty more time to interact and mentor undergraduate and graduate students.

Teaching-Oriented Career: Colleges, including community colleges, are always an option for those holding a Ph.D. degree.

Administrative Careers: A Ph.D. is the de facto "union card" for an academic position. Academic Deans, Deans of Students, and Chancellors are the most recognized academic positions that require a Ph.D. degree.

Featured Junior Scholar Shardé Davis

Hi My name is Shardé Davis and I am a third year Communication and Feminist Studies double major here at UC Santa Barbara.

Over the past two quarters, I have been working under my faculty mentor, Dr. Tamara Afifi, on her current project studying Divorce in Collectivistic Cultures. For this particular study, we interviewed parents and adolescents in Latino families to see if the collectivistic values of the culture have any influence on the divorce process of a family. In conjunction with her project on divorce, I am studying divorce process among Black/African American families. We are interested in seeing if there are



any similarities between these two communities, and, also, how their experience with divorce coincides or goes against the experiences of families with a more individualistic model typically assumed in research studies.

Working with Dr. Afifi has opened my eyes to the desperate need of a more inclusive perspective by incorporating people of color as

New McNair Scholars



Todd Avellar
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Fresno, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Tania Israel
Mentor Department: Gevirtz Grad School of Education: Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychology
Research Interests: Mental health and social support services for multicultural and LGBTQ minorities



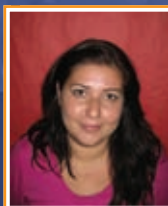
Jorge Cuellar
Majors: Film & Media / Latin American & Iberian Studies
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentors: Cristina Venegas and Peter Bloom
Mentor Department: Film and Media Studies
Research Interests: Pre-Cinema Latin America 1890-1920, Third World Cinema and the Subaltern



Gaby Lopez
Major: Cultural Anthropology
Hometown: Redwood City, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Juan Vicente-Palerm
Mentor Department: Anthropology and Chicano/a Studies
Research Interests: Family organization of immigrant families in immigrant communities in rural California



K. Eric Martin
Major: Physics
Hometown: Oceanside, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Beth Gwinn
Mentor Department: Physics
Research Interest: Physics, Biophysics, Biomaterials, and Biomimetics



Christina Navarro
Major: Cultural Anthropology
Hometown: Bakersfield, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Anabel Ford
Mentor Department: UCSB Mesoamerican Research Center (MARC)
Research Interests: Mesoramercia-El Pilar



Deseray Solis
Major: Chicano/a Studies
Hometown: La Puente, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Mary E. Brenner
Mentor Department: Gevirtz Grad School of Education
Research Interests: After school programs' impacts on writing and reading comprehension skills of students

primary sample populations, and most importantly, as the primary focus of research in this field.

Working under Dr. Afifi has provided a more vivid direction for my current research and research endeavors for the future. I will continue to work on the project with the Latino families for next quarter.

I am in the early stages of researching divorce, divorce in Black families, and within the Black community as a whole for my literature review.

I am currently exploring my options in continuing this research project at one of several summer research programs I have applied and been admitted to.

2008 McNair Scholars

**Darcy Alcantara**

Major: Psychology and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: David Sherman
Mentor Department: Psychology
Research Interests: Latina/o students' perceptions of acceptance

**Lisette Arellano**

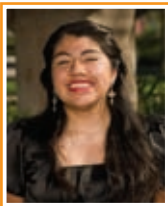
Major: Biology and Creative Studies
Hometown: Cupertino, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Armand Kuris
Mentor Department: The Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
Research Interests: Parasitology, Malacology, Herpetology, and Aquatic Ecology

**Lizette Arévalo**

Major: Sociology and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: Compton, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Denise Segura
Mentor Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Urban education, youth culture, and critical pedagogy

**Sondrina Bullitt**

Major: Sociology and Black Studies
Hometown: Hawthorne, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Denise Segura
Mentor Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Black mental health

**Angelica Camacho**

Major: Black Studies and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: Santa Paula, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: Winter 2010
Mentors: Gaye Johnson and Clyde Woods
Mentor Department: Black Studies
Research Interests: Criminalized youth, school to prison pipeline, prison industrial complex

**Viviana Cantero**

Major: Sociology
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: Laura Romo
Mentor Department: Education
Research Interests: Access and Equity in Education

**Christopher Carlay**

Major: Asian American Studies and Sociology
Hometown: Oakland, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: Jon Cruz
Mentor Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Sociology of Hip Hop, Black & Filipina/o relations

**Shardé Davis**

Major: Women's Studies and Communication
Hometown: San Diego, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Tamara Afifi
Mentor Department: Communication
Research Interests: Women in the Black family

**Lucia Diaz**

Major: Black Studies and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: San Rafael, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentors: Gaye Johnson and Clyde Woods
Mentor Department: Black Studies
Research Topic: Black-Brown relations

**Raquel Domingo**

Major: Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology
Hometown: Hayward, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Karen Szumlinski
Mentor Department: Psychology
Research Interests: Role of mGluR5-Homer protein interactions in brain and behavior

**Juan Sebastian Ferrada**

Major: Global Studies and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: Whittier, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Ines Casillas
Mentor Department: Chicana/Chicano Studies
Research Interests: Immigration in the media

**Ricardo Garcia**

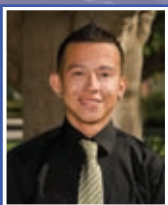
Major: Chicana/Chicano Studies and Studio Art
Hometown: Porterville, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: Ines Talamantez
Mentor Department: Chicana/Chicano Studies
Research Interests: Native Americans and Higher Education

**Anita Juarez**

Major: Sociology and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: East Los Angeles, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Tara Yosso
Mentor Department: Chicana/Chicano Studies
Research Interests: Chicana/Latina educational aspirations and experiences

**Jose Lumberras**

Major: Sociology
Hometown: Compton, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2010
Mentor: Victor Rios
Mentor Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Youth of color

**Brian Ponce**

Major: Sociology and Chicana/Chicano Studies
Hometown: East Los Angeles/Montebello, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: Victor Rios
Mentor Department: Sociology
Research Interests: Youth and Self-Perception

**India Williams**

Major: Black Studies
Hometown: Bay Area, CA
Anticipated Graduation Date: June 2009
Mentor: Christopher McAuley
Mentor Department: Black Studies
Research Interests: Residential segregation in New Orleans, Louisiana

President Obama

speaks on the TRIO program

Prior to becoming the 44th president of the United States of America, President Barack Obama delivered a speech, "What's Possible for Our Children," at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts in Thornton, Colorado. Below is an excerpt from the speech given by then Senator Obama on May 28, 2008 that highlights the importance of TRIO programs, including McNair, in addressing educational disparities on a national level.

"In this kind of economy, countries who out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. Already, China is graduating eight times as many engineers as we are. By 12th grade, our children score lower on math and science tests than most other kids in the world. And we now have one of the highest high school dropout rates of any industrialized nation in the world. In fact, if the more than 16,000 Colorado students who dropped out of high school last year had only finished, the economy in this state would have seen an additional \$4.1 billion in wages over these students' lifetimes.

... There are too many children in America right now who are slipping away from us as we speak, who will not be accepted to college and won't even graduate high school. They are overwhelmingly black, and Latino, and poor. And when they look around and see that no one has lifted a finger to fix their school since the 19th century, when they are pushed out the door at the sound of the last bell — some into a virtual war zone — is it any wonder they don't think their education is important? Is it any wonder that they are dropping out in rates we've never seen before?

I know these children. I know their sense of hopelessness. I began my career over two decades ago as a community organizer on the streets of Chicago's South Side. And I worked with parents and teachers and local leaders to fight for their future. We set up after-



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama speaks at a town hall-style meeting at Mapleton Expeditionary School for the Arts in Thornton, Colo., Wednesday, May 28, 2008, en route to Denver, Colo., for another campaign stop. (AP | Chris Carlson)

school programs, and we even protested outside government offices so that we could get those who had dropped out into alternative schools. And in time, we changed futures.

And so while I know hopelessness, I also know hope. I know that if we bring early education programs to these communities, if we stop waiting until high-school to address the drop-out rate and start in earlier grades — as my Success in the Middle Act will do — if we bring in new, qualified teachers, if we expand college outreach programs like GEAR UP and TRIO and fight to expand summer learning opportunities for minority and disadvantaged students — like I've done in the Senate — or if we double funding for after-school programs to serve a million more children, as I've proposed to do as president, if we do all this, we can make a difference in the lives of our children and the life of this country. I know we can. I've seen it happen. And so have you.

... This is the commitment we must make to our children. This is the chance they must have. And I will never forget that the only reason I'm standing here today is because I was given that same chance. And so was my wife."

Program Details

The UCSB McNair Scholars Program is designed to encourage talented and eligible undergraduates who are first-generation and low-income students or who are from a group underrepresented at the doctoral level to pursue advanced academic studies.

The McNair Scholars Program is designed to provide research experience and training for those who are interested in obtaining a Ph.D. degree. UCSB sophomores and incoming transfer students who hold a GPA of 3.0 are qualified to apply. All of our scholars are either low-income and first-generation college students, or belong to an underrepresented ethnic group in higher education (African-American, Latino-American, Native American or Asian Pacific Islander).

Program Benefits

Every McNair Participant receives:

- An academic research internship and mentored faculty research experience.
- A summer research stipend of \$2,800 and UCSB summer tuition.
- Opportunities to present research at academic and professional conferences.
- Course credit for seminars designed to prepare scholars to apply for graduate school and conduct academic research.
- GRE test-preparation and graduate school application waivers.
- Comprehensive undergraduate academic advising from staff, graduate mentors, and faculty.
- Publication of research in the UCSB McNair Scholars Journal.

For more information, visit us at mcnair.ucsb.edu