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Note from the Director

The UCSB McNair Scholars Program begins its 5th year this October. It is a pleasure to continue our work on campus. We were especially excited to be honored with the William J. Villa Departmental Services to Students Awards for "devotion to students and extraordinary and unselfish team service to the university, its students, and the community."

Fourteen June 2011 seniors began graduate training this month at universities around the country, and 11 seniors are currently organizing their materials, updating their CVs, and putting finishing touches on their writing samples as they apply to M.A. and Ph.D. programs in a wide range of fields – from environmental studies to sociology. Four of our students (Angel Rodriguez, Robert Norton, Luis Trujillo, and Eziaku Nwokocho) were honored with Emeriti Association prizes for their poster presentations at the May Undergraduate Research Colloquium, and several received

research. Some of the McNair Scholars will present their scholarly work at professional meetings. For example, Channel McLewis is presenting her work with Dr. Hudley's research team at the 2011 annual meetings of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, and three juniors (Anthony Hearst, Mayra Perez, and Katherine Santizo) are offering poster sessions at SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science). This year two of our senior McNair Scholars (Angel Rodriguez in history and Nicole Perez in sociology and Chicana/o Studies) are attending the 2011 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Atlanta, a program organized by the Compact for Faculty Diversity, which is a partnership of regional, federal and foundation programs that focus on increasing the number of minority students who earn doctoral degrees and become college and university faculty.

The staff of the McNair Scholars Program is central to its success. This year, the program has the good fortune of continued service on its staff of Assistant Director Monique Limón, Program Coordinator Micaela Morgan, and Writing Consultant Dr. Ellen Broidy, Emerita Librarian, UCLA, who has been invaluable in enhancing students' writing abilities. We also have three Graduate Student Mentors, Carlos Jimenez (Film and Media Studies), Nicole Garcia (Chicana and Chicano Studies), and Todd Avellar (Clinical, Counseling and School Psychology) all three of whom were undergraduate McNair Scholars.

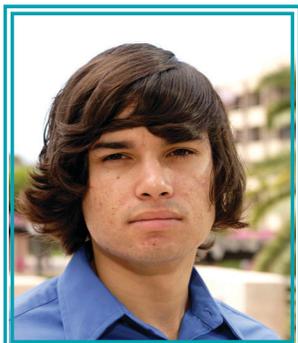
The newsletter provides more detail on the staff, recent events, and the accomplishments of the students. We look forward to an intellectually exciting year for our UCSB McNair Scholars. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to visit us at Building 477 to get an up-close look at our offices and facilities and a chance to talk to our staff.

Dr. Beth Schneider

the most prestigious university service awards at graduation, including Paul Monge-Rodriguez (Thomas More Storke Award for Excellence, the campus's highest student honor).

Fall Quarter is always very busy. While the seniors prepare their applications, they, along with the juniors, continue with their

Scholar Profile: Eduardo Mercado



McNair Scholar Eddie Mercado graduated in June 2011 and began his graduate training in the Department of Chemistry at UC-Berkeley this Fall semester under the auspices of Dr. Richmond Sarpong. Eddie was awarded a highly prestigious National Science Foundation Fellowship in addition to receiving a 5-year university fellowship. Eddie is extremely excited about the pioneering work he will begin in the lab with his graduate mentor and his research team, building synthetic molecules that resemble human cells and producing medicines holding the potential to treat cancer.

During the two years that Eddie was a McNair Scholar, he had one faculty mentor, Dr. Thomas Pettus from the UCSB Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, as well as a graduate student mentor who facilitated his research activity with the faculty and the others in the lab where he worked. Eddie published a scholarly paper with Dr. Pettus in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. He also received support and honors for his research from the Pfizer-La Jolla (AIR Diversity Research Fellowship) and the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry (SURF).

Eddie grew up in Hesperia in a family of 10 children, the first to graduate from college and the first to go to graduate school. It was during his first summer with McNair that he realized he could seek graduate training and have a career in chemistry. Eddie notes that the UCSB McNair Scholars Program gave him the “encouragement to apply” and the “support that he could actually do it.”

McNair Scholars Summer Program @ UCSB



Summer 2011 was an exciting time for the UCSB McNair Scholars Program! From developing new research projects to presenting at national research conferences, our scholars certainly were busy. While many of the scholars left UCSB to participate in summer programs with faculty from universities across the nation, many remained at UCSB to experience the highly-structured and research-intensive UCSB McNair Scholars Summer Program.

Working alongside their Faculty Mentors, the scholars began to cultivate and carve out unique and innovative research projects to contribute new knowledge to their individual fields. In addition to providing the scholars with an academic support community through weekly meetings with faculty, staff, and peers, our summer program also

required the scholars to complete weekly assignments such as research plans, literature synopses, curriculum vitas, and written components of what would ultimately become their summer research paper. By parsing out the various components of a research paper into weekly assignments, the scholars learned how to conduct academic work in an organized manner.

For the seniors, working on research was accompanied by an additional task—beginning the graduate school application process. With many of their applications due by the end of 2011, they began the process of identifying appropriate graduate programs and gathering information on application requirements and deadlines. They also began to put together the first drafts of their application packets. Without a doubt, because of their summer efforts, these senior scholars are ahead of the game.

At the culmination of the McNair Summer Program, the scholars completed the first stage of their individual research by drafting academic research papers. They also developed oral and poster presentations based on their research. All of our scholars acquitted themselves with distinction. As junior scholar Guadalupe Cruz can attest: “I am truly honored to be part of such a prestigious program. I am very grateful for this opportunity along with all the resources the program has provided for me. I truly look forward for what is yet to come!”

Summer Research Around the Country



Hiram Dominguez Cruz participated in the National Science Foundation Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology Summer Internship for Undergraduates at the University of California, Davis. While there, Hiram worked with Dr. Robert F. Berman on his project titled: "Hippocampal Theta Rhythm Stimulation Restores Cognitive Ability In Rats Following Traumatic Brain Injury." He presented his summer's research at the Annual Summer Internship Scientific Meeting at UC, Davis. Hiram speaks to the implications of his work: "I especially enjoyed this project because the ultimate goal is to develop a treatment for human trauma patients with memory deficits."

Alexis Meza participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program at the University of California, Irvine. She worked with Dr. Susan Coutin in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society. Under Dr. Coutin's mentorship, Alexis conducted research on the "Discourse on Undocumented (Im)migration." She also presented at The University of California, Irvine's Summer Research Program Symposium. Alexis writes: "The program also provided sufficient support and resources to academically and mentally prepare for the challenges of graduate education."

Laila Nur took part in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She conducted research under Dr. Rachael Kenney in the Department of Mathematics & Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Dr. Jill Newton in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction on her project titled "What Does SHE Have to Say? Describing the Mathematical Experiences of African-American Females." Laila presented this research project at the CIC/SROP Summer Research Conference, the Ohio State University undergraduate research poster presentation, and the

Ohio State University undergraduate research roundtables. Laila said that the Purdue University SROP was "an amazing and insightful experience that allowed me to think critically about applying to graduate school and my future research interests."

Nicole Perez attended the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience through Leadership Alliance at Princeton University. Her research project, "Empowering Students: The Relationship between Multicultural Curricula and Educational Achievement," was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Angel L. Harris in the Sociology Department. She had the opportunity to present this work at the Leadership Alliance Symposium in Greenwich, Connecticut. Nicole describes her experience as intense and rigorous and felt that the program "solidified my interest in applying to graduate school and further instilled confidence in my research abilities." She also said that, "In addition to demystifying graduate school the program allowed me to create and maintain relationships and contacts with various sociology professors at Princeton."

Alaina Roberts participated in the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Alaina worked under the guidance of Dr. Reginald Hildebrand in the Department of History and African and Afro-American Studies on her research project titled: "Thank God Almighty, I's Free at Last! An Examination of the Emancipation Experience of Chickasaw Freedmen." She presented her work at the 17th Annual MURAP Academic Conference on Immigration and its Discontents: A Cultural Dialogue. Alaina said, "MURAP was a great program!" She said she was able to create her own research project in the ten weeks of the program and that she "found primary sources that included the words of my own great, great, great uncle, Eli Roberts."

Angel Rodriguez took part in the Oaxaca Summer Institute in Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico under the guidance of his UCSB McNair Faculty Mentor Dr. Gabriela Soto-Labeaga in the History Department. The title of his research project was: "Special Period in a Time of Peace": Cuba 1989-1998, and he presented this research in August at the 19th Annual McNair Research Conference at UC Berkeley. Angel said, "This program was an excellent experience in where I was able to put to practice the theory and methodology I learn in the classroom." He felt that this allowed him to "experience a more in depth feel for the life of a [graduate] scholar" (Cont'd on back).

Our New Graduate Mentors



Todd Raymond Avellar is a counseling MA/PhD student in the Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology at UCSB. Todd is a 2010 UCSB McNair Scholar alumni where he graduated with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Applied Psychology. Todd strives to develop and apply mental health services for underserved sexual and ethnic

minorities through community based participatory research and clinical work. Todd serves as a Teaching Assistant and guest lecturer both in his own department and in the Department of Feminist Studies.



Nichole Garcia is a MA/PhD student in the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at UCSB. She received her BA in a self-created major entitled Gendered-Ethnic studies at the University of Utah in 2010. As a McNair alum, Nichole conducted research in regards to how non-bilingual Chicanas/Latinas negotiate their ethnic/culture identities while navigating through institutions of higher education. Her research interests include Chicana feminist epistemologies and pedagogies, Critical Race Theory in education, and language and identity formations. Nichole serves as a Teaching Assistant for Chicana feminism and Chicana/o culture.

In Honor of Dr. Clyde Woods by Afiya Browne

From developing a research project to presenting my work at a National McNair Research Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, my first year participating in the McNair Scholars Program has been hectic, to say the least. Though I was not a transfer student, I applied and entered the McNair program with the transfer/junior class under the mentorship of the late Dr. Clyde Woods. Since I had previously worked with Dr. Woods on a literature review on gang girls' violence, I availed myself of the opportunity to expand my research within the McNair program under his guidance. Although Dr. Woods and I knew we wanted to continue our focus on gang girls, I did encounter some problems when it came to developing my research project. However, these problems became small once Dr. Woods fell gravely ill toward the end of fall quarter. Luckily for me, by mid-winter quarter, Dr. Woods was back on campus and ready to develop a research project that both of us would be proud of. Following his philosophy that scholarship and service goes hand to hand, I decided to focus on the gang intervention activists that worked with young Black women in gangs within Los Angeles. As the year progressed, Dr. Woods and I worked on developing another literature review, contacting possible research participants, and getting our project approved by the Human Subject Committee. By the beginning of the McNair Summer Research Program, I had the privilege of presenting my preliminary research to fellow McNair scholars in Atlanta, Georgia. Unfortunately, during this time Dr. Woods's illness worsened and he passed on July 6th. Dr. Woods' death was just the beginning of a difficult summer for me; however, under the guidance of Dr. Beth Schneider and with the support from the McNair staff, I was able to continue and finish my project in honor of Dr. Woods.



One Year Later: Alumni Reflection with Lizette Arévalo

Just one year after her UCSB 2010 graduation, Lizette Arevalo has earned her MA in Sociology of Education from Columbia University's Teachers College. She credits the UCSB McNair Scholars Program with helping her hone the skills needed to navigate the development of a research project and the mechanics of research. While at Teachers College, her training in policy gave her a new perspective on and appreciation of both sides of a debate. What Lizette found most challenging was the transition from a quarter to a semester system. The semester system brought upon a bigger workload and as a result, she had to adapt to producing a lot of writing in a short amount of time. In Fall 2011, Lizette will attend the PhD program in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Riverside. She understands the importance of remaining balanced and in control of her academics. If there is one piece of advice that she has to offer current McNair scholars it is that, "You have to learn how to craft and carve yourself in all of that. You have to remember who you are and who has helped you get you to where you are at. When in moments of low confidence you should remember that you got into McNair for a reason and to trust that you belong and all else will fall into place."

Our New McNair Scholars



Dalma Arreola

Major: Political Science
Hometown: Santa Barbara, CA
Graduation Date: June 2012
Faculty Mentor: Paige Digeser
Faculty Mentor Department: Political Science
Research Interests: Concept of the common good and its relationship with government



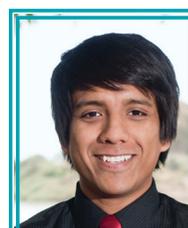
Guadalupe Cruz

Major: Sociology
Minor: Applied Psychology
Hometown: Azusa, CA
Graduation Date: June 2013
Faculty Mentor: Melissa Morgan
Faculty Mentor Department: Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology
Research Interests: Academic resilience in first-generation college students at UCSB



Afiya Browne

Major: Sociology and Black Studies
Hometown: Reseda, CA
Graduation Date: June 2012
Faculty Mentor: Clyde Woods/Beth Schneider
Faculty Mentor Department: Black Studies/Sociology
Research Interests: Young Black Women in Los Angeles Gangs



Manuel Hiram Dominguez Cruz

Major: Bio-Psychology
Hometown: Atwater, CA
Graduation Date: June 2012
Faculty Mentor: Aaron Ettenberg
Faculty Mentor Department: Psychology and Brain Sciences
Research Interests: Neurobiology underlying negative effects of cocaine self administration



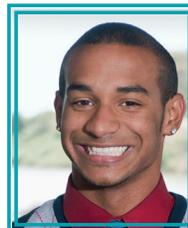
Marlon Fernandez Castro
 Major: Sociology and Chicana/o Studies
 Minor: Philosophy
 Hometown: Anaheim, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Victor Rios
 Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology
 Research Interests: Outreach programs and their effects on "at risk" youth



Elizabeth Gonzalez Jimenez
 Major: History and Chicana/o Studies
 Hometown: Inglewood, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2012
 Faculty Mentor: Gabriela Soto Laveaga
 Faculty Mentor Department: History
 Research Interests: History of gender, sexuality and social movements.



Anthony Hearst
 Major: Chemical Engineering
 Hometown: San Francisco, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Dar Roberts/ Keely Roth
 Faculty Mentor Department: Geography
 Research Interests: Remote-sensing of plant species



Dwayne Jackson
 Major: Sociology
 Minor: Education
 Hometown: Oceanside, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Cynthia Hudley
 Faculty Mentor Department: Education
 Research Interests: Achievement motivation and racial identity with African-American adolescents



Francisco Jasso
 Major: Political Science and Chicana/o Studies
 Minor: French
 Hometown: Santa Rosa, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Edwina Barvosa
 Faculty Mentor Department: Political Science and Chicana/o Studies
 Research Interests: Cross-cultural engagement and transformation in open democracy



Amy Martinez
 Major: Feminist Studies and Sociology
 Minor: Education
 Hometown: Costa Mesa, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Victor M. Rios
 Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology
 Research Interests: Negotiating street tribe identity, and resilience among latino young men



Juan Osuna
 Major: Political Science and Chicana/o Studies
 Hometown: San Ysidro, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Fernando Lopez-Alves
 Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology
 Research Interests: Cooperation amongst Latin American countries



Mayra Perez
 Major: Cell and Developmental Biology
 Minor: Spanish
 Hometown: Santa Maria, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Tom Soh/ Jackelyn Alva
 Faculty Mentor Department: Mechanical Engineering and Materials/ Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies
 Research Interests: Molecular and cellular biology



Angel Rodriguez
 Major: Philosophy
 Hometown: Downey, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2012
 Faculty Mentor: Gabriela Soto-Laveaga / Laura Kalman
 Faculty Mentor Department: History
 Research Interests: Socio-economic development of Cuba in the 20th century and shifting policies post-Cold War



Katherine Santizo
 Major: Chemical Engineering
 Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Arturo Keller/ Samuel Bennett
 Faculty Mentor Department: Bren School of Environmental Studies
 Research Interests: Polymers and enzymes, drug delivery



Veronica Togual
 Major: Bio-psychology
 Hometown: Fontana, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Tod E. Kippin
 Faculty Mentor Department: Psychology and Brain Sciences
 Research Interests: Neuroscience and behavioral sciences



Olivia Turnross
 Major: Creative Studies and Biology
 Hometown: Sebastopol, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2013
 Faculty Mentor: Gretchen Hofmann
 Faculty Mentor Department: Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
 Research interests: Ocean acidification impacts on larval sea urchins



Rosalía Zárate
 Major: Mathematics
 Hometown: Delano, CA
 Graduation Date: June 2012
 Faculty Mentor: Richard Duran
 Faculty Mentor Department: Education
 Research Interests: Latinos in STEM fields, mathematical modeling and linear regression

Summer Research Around the Country (Cont'd)

Luis Trujillo attended Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences - Leadership Alliance Summer Research Program. He



conducted a research project titled: "Re-Colonization and the Police State: Concentrated Hyper Incarceration and Gentrification in two Racial Enclaves" under the guidance of Dr. Samuel Roberts in the Department of History. Luis presented his research at the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences- Leadership Alliance 2011 Summer Research Program Symposium and the Leadership Alliance National Symposium. Luis said, "These past few months took me down a path that I started before this summer and exposed me to new worlds that I only once knew through secondary accounts." He enjoyed the "world of academia in the Ivy League" and felt this was "an enlightening experience from which I benefitted from tremendously."

Olivia Turnross participated in the Blinks-NSF REU Internship Program at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friday Harbor, WA under the guidance of Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dr. Dawn Vaughn, and Dr. Emily Carrington, both of whom are in the Department of Biology at the University of Washington. The title of her research project was: "Effect of increased aerial temperature on sex specific foraging behavior in *Nucella ostrina*" and she presented oral presentations on this work at the Blinks-REU Research Symposium and the Western Society of Naturalists. She said, "Having the opportunity to design, carry out, and analyze the results from an experiment was an extremely valuable experience."

Rosalia Zárate took part in the NSF-REU, Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute (MTBI) at Arizona State University under the guidance of Dr. Erin McKiernan in the Mathematical, Computational & Modeling Science Center. Her project was titled: "My BIG Fat Math Model: β -Cell Compensation and Type 2 Diabetes" and she presented this work at her program's symposium at the end of the summer. Rosalia said of her summer experience that "I was challenged and that made me feel like I have so much more potential. I feel I can contribute to society in many different ways." She also learned that "having a math background has more advantage than I thought."

McNair Class of 2011!

In June, McNair graduated its third cohort of scholars. After many long hours spent in the lab, conducting interviews, running statistical analyses, writing up results, presenting their findings, and completing graduate school applications, these students are now beginning their graduate careers on the pathway to the PhD.

Janett Barragan - PhD, Chicana/o Studies - University of California, Santa Barbara

Kristen Dunkinson - MA, Linguistics - Eastern Michigan University

Precious Boone - MSW, Social Work - California State University, Fullerton

Lynette Deborah Cortes Chavez - MS, Mathematics - California State University, Fresno

Richard Espinoza - PsyD, Clinical Psychology - Wright Institute

Marites Villarosa Garcia - PhD, Geophysical Sciences - University of Chicago

Anna Giang - Non-profit work helping at risk youth; she will apply to graduate school in the future

Bashir Hassan - MA, Africana Studies - Cornell University

Brianna Jones - Working at Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories; she will apply to graduate school in Fall 2011

Nancy Martinez - MA, Applied Developmental & Educational Psychology - Boston College

Saul Martinez - MA, Kinesiology & Sport Sciences - University of Miami

Eduardo Mercado - PhD, Chemistry - University of California, Berkeley

Paul Monge-Rodríguez - Participant in the NY City Urban Fellows Program; he will apply to graduate school in Fall 2011

Ashley Scott - Currently working in Los Angeles; she will begin Teach for America June 2012

Robert Norton - Working at GreenYug, a green chemical company; he will apply to graduate school in the future.

Eziaku Nwokocha - MA, Theological Studies - Harvard Divinity School

Carla San Jose - Post-Baccalaureate Program at CSU Fullerton; she will apply to graduate school in Fall 2011

Nathaniel Scheidemen - PhD, Sociology - University of Southern California

Corinne Stanley - MA, Clinical Psychology, Marital and Family Therapy - Chicago School of Professional Psychology