

Recognitions and Awards

Katie Correia, majoring in History, was selected as the recipient of the 2016-2017 Dean of Undergraduate Education Award in the College of Letters and Science. The award recognizes outstanding academic and personal achievement in L&S by a graduating senior. The Dean of Undergraduate Education makes the award on the recommendation of the Division of Undergraduate Education's Council of Deans.

Francisco Olvera, a junior majoring in English, was selected by the Department of English as the recipient of the Christopher Michaels-Martinez Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, established to honor Christopher's life, recognized Francisco for his academic excellence and research in Chicano literature.

Marina Quintanilla, a senior double majoring in Global and Feminist Studies, will receive the Luis Leal Social Sciences Undergraduate Award for outstanding interdisciplinary achievement in the social sciences. The award was established in honor of the late Don Luis Leal, a distinguished visiting professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies, whose presence and scholarship greatly enriched the UCSB campus.

Christian Rodriguez, a junior Physics major, was selected to receive an award from the Gene and Susan Lucas Undergraduate Research Fund in support of his research this summer at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Chris Turner, a junior transfer student in Anthropology, was recently published in Volume 30 of the SCA Proceedings. The citation: Turner, Christopher J.; Bustamante, Noemi; Arellano, Kathy. 2016. "An Archaeological Study of CA-Lan-192: A Complete Surface Survey of Sorenson Park." SCA Proceedings 30: 315-23. <https://scahome.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/27-Turner-Chris.pdf>.

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UCSB McNair Scholars Newsletter



Note from the Director

It's another spring quarter with many changes and great excitement at the offices of the McNair Scholars Program. At this time of the year we celebrate our McNair scholars. After two years of faculty mentored research, participation in seminars and workshops which prepare them for entrance to graduate school, and the arduous process of making application to graduate programs, our 2017 Seniors applied to Master's or Doctoral programs, and 80% are on their way to post-baccalaureate training in the Fall. We will showcase the scholarship of six of our seniors and one of the juniors in the 7th edition of the UCSB McNair Scholars Research Journal, which will be available in June. Thanks again to the faculty mentors whose efforts on behalf of our students allow them to produce a first publication in what we hope is a long and stellar academic career.

More of our McNair Scholars from the first cohorts have attained their doctorates. We are pleased to announce that this spring we will have six former students with doctoral degrees from institutions such as the University of Iowa, Indiana at Bloomington, and Berkeley. At last count, we have close to fifteen other McNair students working on the last stages of their dissertations. This year, a goodly number of our alumni completed their Master's programs, and a sizable number are moving from that course of study to PhD programs. One example is Marlon Castro, who has gone from a Master's in Postsecondary Education from the University of Southern California to Pennsylvania State University doctoral program in Higher Education; another is Michelle Parra who completed a Master's in Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State who will begin a doctorate in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz this fall.

It is also a time of tremendous change. After eight years as Assistant Director, Monique Limón ran a very successful campaign for California Assembly and is now in Sacramento representing the 37th Assembly District. Two exceptional new staff have stepped in to serve our students and the program, Dr. Yvette Martínez-Vu as Assistant Director and Mr. Marcus Mathis as Program Coordinator. You can read more about this major transition and meet our new personnel in this issue. Change comes also with an influx of new students. We admitted seven transfer students with majors in Electrical Engineering, Psychology, Biochemistry, Anthropology, Sociology, and Geography who are already mastering the UCSB ropes, seeking faculty research mentors, and most ambitiously preparing for application to graduate schools in Fall 2017. We introduce our new transfer students in this issue. Additionally, ten new students who will be "rising juniors" at the start of our summer research program in the summer have joined the McNair Scholars family.

As always, we welcome all students, staff, and faculty to visit us at the McNair Scholars Program offices in Building 477.

Dr. Beth Schneider

Contents

- Meet Our New Staff
- Scholar Profile: Andrea Mora
- A Farewell to Monique Limón
- Meet Our New Transfer Scholars
- Awards, Honors, Recognitions

Welcome to our New Transfer Student Cohort



Kylie Baker

Major: Psychology and Black Studies
Minor: Applied Psychology
Hometown: Santa Rosa, CA
Graduation: June 2018
Mentor: Dr. Melissa Morgan-Consoli
Research Interests: Cultural Variables and Social Justice Perspectives in African American Communities



Roberto Chavez

Major: Chemistry
Hometown: Tijuana, Mexico
Graduation: June 2019
Mentor: Dr. Craig Hawker
Research Interests: Photochemistry, Molecular Machinery, Environmental Chemistry



Natalie Bernal

Major: Psychology
Minor: Applied Psychology
Hometown: Fontana, CA
Graduation: Spring 2018
Mentor: Dr. Miya Barnett
Research Interests: Child Development, Latin@ Mental Health, Parent-Child Relationships, Academic Achievement



Jeremy Neill

Major: Geography/Geographic Information Science
Hometown: Riverside, CA
Graduation: June 2018
Mentor: Dr. Keith Clarke
Research Interests: Water and Energy Systems, Systems Management, Social Policy



Rodolfo Cerda

Major: Sociology
Minor: Education
Hometown: El Monte, CA
Graduation: June 2018
Mentor: Dr. Rebeca Mireles-Rios
Research Interests: Masculinity, Educational Achievement, Higher Education, Education Equality



Chris Turner

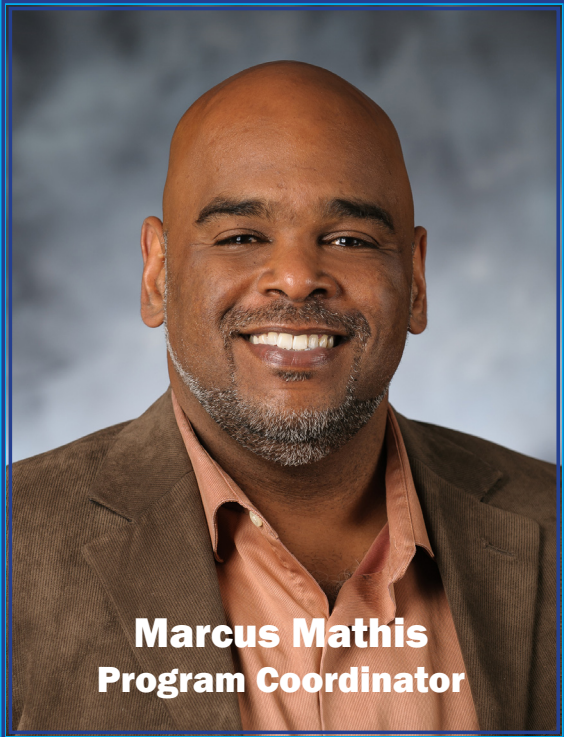
Major: Biological Anthropology
Hometown: Glenrothes, Scotland
Graduation: Spring 2018
Mentor: Dr. Michael Gurven
Research Interests: Osteology, Bioarcheology

Meet the New Staff



Dr. Yvette Martínez-Vu
Assistant Director

New Assistant Director, Dr. Yvette Martínez-Vu, joined the staff on January 23, 2017. She received her PhD in Theater and Performance Studies from UCLA where she wrote a dissertation titled *Transindigenous Materialities: Gender, Indigeneity, and Objects in Mexicana and Chicana Performance*. Dr. Martínez-Vu has extensive experience working with undergraduates, including positions at UCLA's Scholarship Resource Center and Undergraduate Research Center as well as serving as Graduate Mentor for the Mellon Mays Fellowship Professional Network. Author of several scholarly articles and a frequent presenter at conferences, Dr. Martínez-Vu is uniquely qualified to help McNair Scholars navigate the complicated academic terrain and prepare for what awaits them in graduate school. When she is not working with and for students, she enjoys delving into novels and memoirs by women of color, attending live theater performances, practicing yoga (for mind and body), and spending time with her husband and 3-year-old son Emiliano (Emi).



Marcus Mathis
Program Coordinator

Marcus Mathis became Program Coordinator for the McNair Scholars Program in December 2016 after a long and varied career at UCSB. His commitment to undergraduate students is evident from the types of positions he has held on campus, ranging from Student Information Services Representative in the Registrar's Office to Counselor, Cultural Center Coordinator, and Social Media/Graphic Design Lead at the Educational Opportunity Program. Marcus received his BA from UCSB, double majoring in Art History and Black Studies and is working towards a graduate degree at UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. Marcus has a depth and breadth of knowledge about the challenges facing undergraduates from underrepresented communities and has devoted his professional life to helping students overcome these hurdles. A self-described "speculative sci fi nerd," Marcus is an avid photographer and father of two, 13-year-old Preston and 10-year-old Amani.

Scholar Profile: Andrea Mora



Graduating senior Andrea Mora is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Applied Psychology. Andrea has been working with her faculty mentor, Dr. Maryam Kia-Keating, from the Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology Department in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. Andrea transferred to UCSB in summer 2015 from Santa Barbara City College. During her first summer as a McNair Scholar, Andrea completed a research project titled: Barriers to Help-Seeking among Latino/a Parents which she presented at the Undergraduate Research Colloquium (URCA) in spring 2016. Andrea's clinical and teaching experiences as a crisis counselor for the Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center and tutor at Santa Barbara City College have informed her decision to earn a doctoral degree. She is passionate about pursuing research on developing and disseminating

effective intervention programs to increase the utilization of mental health services among Latinx populations. Andrea believes her greatest challenge in getting to this point in her career has been balancing her responsibilities as student and mother of two small children, while holding various part-time jobs to offset the costs of her education. She reports that although it can be draining at times, the support she has received from her coworkers, friendship network, and the McNair Scholars Program has encouraged her during hard times. Andrea was admitted to several graduate programs and ultimately selected a combined MSW/PhD program at the University of Michigan, with a concentration in Developmental Psychology. She credits the McNair program with providing her with the tools needed to pursue a doctoral degree. She states, "The advice and support I have received has focused not only on my academics and research, but also on the development of my self-esteem and confidence that as a first-generation, Latina young mother, helped me pursue graduate studies and succeed." She advises other McNair Scholars to take advantage of all the resources offered at the program and the university. She encourages others to always put their best effort forward, utilize the mentorship opportunities provided through McNair mentors, and seek additional opportunities outside of McNair to continue growing as scholars.

Farewell to Monique Limón



With tremendous sadness, the staff and students of the McNair Scholars Program said farewell in December to Monique Limón, who served as the Assistant Director for eight years. Monique, along with Director Dr. Beth Schneider, built the framework for the program, and Monique provided exemplary leadership, offering outstanding service to undergraduates and the campus more generally. For our students, she was also an important role model as a first-generation Latina who excelled in her education at Berkeley (BA) and Columbia University (MA). Before McNair, Monique was the Director of Diversity for the Graduate Division. In recent years, she also served on campus as an instructor for the STEP Program, participated on the task force on the Black Resource Center and was the lead campus representative for the California Diversity Forum. Those of us who have been with McNair watched her skillfully combine her full-time job at UCSB with service to the community and then in elected office as a Trustee of the Santa Barbara Unified School District. We know that Monique will be serving the campus and local communities well as our representative in the California Assembly.

