

UC Davis McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is housed within Graduate Studies at the University of California Davis. We are located in Suite 2300 of the Student Community Center, and provide year-round staff support and mentorship to our distinguished scholars. Please share the news of this unique program with others in the UC Davis community. We are now accepting applications!

Program Benefits:

- Academic Counseling
- Free Tutoring
- GRE Preparation Seminars
- Assistance in Graduate School Applications
- One-on-one independent study with a faculty mentor in your field
- \$2800 Summer Research Stipend

Director

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Program Requirements:

- Must be pursuing a degree in a STEM field
- 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)

Graduate Student Assistants

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Find Out More and Apply Online!

mcnair@ucdavis.edu
<http://mcnair.ucdavis.edu>

How to Grab Your Undergraduate Education by the Horns

These ten quick tips will help you make the most of your time as a college student!

- When you have a big project, break it down in to small steps and calendar each action item. You can plan this out as soon as you get the class syllabus!
- Timing is everything. Keep a schedule for everything. Remember the UCD bookstore has calendars for sale. And many smart phones have great calendar apps available.
- Prioritize and number your goals. Make sure every day has balance: class time, work time, and you time!
- If at first you don't succeed then go for round two! Perfection is a process!
- Utilize faculty office hours before a crisis strikes, and get to know the TAs' availability.
- Write drafts early enough that your final class project is actually the 3rd or 4th revision. Your professor will be beyond impressed by the extra effort!
- Be the best academic consumer you can be; this is your education!
- Classmates are resources. Share email addresses and assemble study groups.
- We all get sick from time to time. Think ahead of what it will take to catch up. Working ahead means you don't get behind!
- If class seems too hard on the first day, consider speaking with an advisor and replacing it or adding it later in your studies.



ISSUE 7 • FALL 2012

McNair Aggie News

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 doctoral programs nationwide.



ON OUR CAMPUS

Visit us on the second floor of the new Student Community Center, in Suite 2300 with the Undergraduate Research Center. More information about the program and applications are available online at mcnair.ucdavis.edu. If you have any questions about the program, please drop by our office or send us an email at mcnair@ucdavis.edu!



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Finding Fun in the Fall

The new Junior McNair cohort is just entering and with a high amount of transfer students, several of our scholars will be new to Davis. At the same time, our senior scholars are bracing for their last year and gathering their final memories of this quaint campus and town. With that in mind, here is a list of things to do and see in Davis this fall.

The UC Davis Arboretum is made up of 200 acres of lush gardens and a lovely creek. Several events from tours to poetry readings are held in the arboretum. It's also a lovely location for a casual picnic with friends or an evening dog walk. You can check out the full schedule of events online, but we suggest you kick off your fall on Thursday, October 4 at 7pm with Readings by the Creative Writing Faculty on the arboretum's Wyatt Deck, featuring readings from award-winning fiction writers and poets from the UC Davis Creative Writing Program, including Joshua Clover, Greg Glazner, Pam Houston, Yiyun Li, Joe Wenderoth, and Alan Williamson.

The town of Davis is surrounded by a string of bike and walking paths called the Green Belt. You'll often get to chat with other local Davisites walking the path and can usually catch a view of a wild turkey wandering in the tall grasses. It is another great location for a picnic. You will also find several tennis courts and small parks for children and adults. You can access more information about

several of the greenbelt entry points at http://daviswiki.org/the_greenbelt.

Throughout the year, the town of Davis hosts one of the most famous farmers' markets in the country (really!). The market takes place in downtown Davis' Central Park at C and 4th Street. On Saturdays from 8am-1pm and on Wednesdays from 4:30-8:30pm you can find anything from local honey to fresh fish. Several local restaurants also have food stands serving anything from hotdogs to curries. On Wednesdays you can usually find several picnickers enjoying music in the park. They are also holding the Fall Festival this year on Saturday October 27th. The festival is full of free family fun--from a pig petting zoo to an arts-and-crafts fair for kids.

The Mondavi Center is a world-class music hall that hosts several concerts and events throughout the year. This fall you can catch anything from a comedy show by Eddie Izzard to one of the greats, B.B. King. Check www.mondaviarts.com for more info.

Finally, If you're looking for a way to celebrate Halloween, you may want to check out the Art Department's Haunt Night at Wright Hall from October 25th to the 28th from 7:30pm to 12:00pm.

Have a great fall!

Meet the New GSRs!

With two of last year's McNair Graduates Student Researchers, Natalie Strobach and Dalia Magana, on full fellowship this year, the McNair Scholars Program is proud to announce that continuing GSR Michael Graziano will be joined by two new GSRs: Jean-Yves Merilus and Julie Setele.

Jean-Yves Merilus is a native of Haiti and moved to the United States in 1999 to join his family in New York. He began his college career at Nassau Community College and earned his Bachelor of Arts in History, with a focus in Latin American History, from Hofstra University in 2007. Jean-Yves receives his Master degree in Geography at Miami University in Ohio in 2010. While pursuing his master degree at Miami, his research focused on Haitian migration and development relationship in the Caribbean. He taught as an adjunct faculty at Nassau Community College in New York and is currently pursuing his PhD in Geography at the University of California, Davis. His area of study is on international development and policy failures in Haiti. Upon graduation, he plans to return to Haiti to help strengthen the country's education system. After Haiti was devastated by an earthquake in January 2010, Jean-Yves decided to bring attention to the poor conditions in his homeland where he lost relatives to both the earthquake and the cholera epidemic that followed. Jean-Yves gave interviews to both the Ohio News Network and News 9 in Cincinnati Ohio, addressing the issue of humanitarian aid and recovery efforts. He is currently writing a paper on post-quake Haiti and the continuation of neoliberal economic policies.



Julie Setele is a Doctoral Candidate in the Sociology Department, currently writing her dissertation on the involvement of former prisoners in advocating for local criminal justice reform in the San Francisco Bay Area. While her previous work focused on abortion and reproductive politics, she is most intrigued by the intersections between the criminal "justice" and social welfare systems, particularly their function as state tools to manage marginalized populations. Julie has worked for the UC Davis Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, training graduate students to be better teachers, and the Davis Humanities Institute's Civility Project, investigating the hate and bias-related incidents that occurred on campus in Spring 2010. She is thrilled to support the McNair Scholars Program, assisting a new generation of scholars to thrive and fostering the diversification of academia. A feminist and critical criminologist, she will graduate with a PhD in Spring 2013. Having taught in the Sociology Department at UC Davis and with the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison, Julie is eager (but nervous!) to secure a full-time teaching job at a community college. Originally from Ohio, Julie lives in Oakland with her adorable cat.

A History and Heritage of the McNair Scholars Program

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger catastrophically disintegrated during its launch, killing its entire crew. Among that crew was a physicist named Ronald E. McNair, the first African American astronaut. He was such an inspirational and determined researcher that when the U.S. Department of Education sought to create a program to foster the diversification of graduate students, Dr. McNair became its namesake. In his short life, he became a prominent physicist, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971 and a PhD in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976; he was also presented an honorary Doctorate of Law from North Carolina A&T State University in 1978, an honorary Doctorate of Science from Morris College in 1980, and an honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of South Carolina in 1984.

Not only did he attend and excel in his studies, he was always the most determined scholar, earning numerous honors and fellowships and becoming: magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T (1971); a Presidential Scholar (1967-1971); a Ford Foundation Fellow (1971-1974); a National Fellowship Fund Fellow (1974-1975); a NATO Fellow (1975); and winner of Omega Psi Phi Scholar of the Year Award (1975), Los Angeles Public School Systems Service Commendation (1979), Distinguished Alumni Award (1979), National Society of Black Professional Engineers Distinguished National Scientist Award (1979), Friend of Freedom Award (1981), Who's Who Among Black Americans (1980), an AAU Karate Gold Medal (1976), five Regional Black Belt Karate Championships, and many proclamations and achievement awards.

He also participated in numerous professional organizations such as: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Optical Society, the American Physical Society (APS), the APS Committee on Minorities in Physics, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees, the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee, Omega Psi Phi, and a visiting lectureship in Physics at Texas Southern University.

In addition to the excitement of being an astronaut, he also had the honor of working at some of the world's best physics labs, including one in Les Houches, France. His papers are widely published and still read today. And while at NASA, between 1984 and 1986, he logged nearly 200 hours in space. He leaves a lasting inspiration on the National McNair community. When we think of being the best in our fields, of sharing our research and publications, of being distinguished fellows, we think of being like Ronald E. McNair—the epitome of maximized potential. This is the McNair heritage; what will you contribute to it?

