

What is McNair?

The McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is a federally-funded program dedicated to increasing the ranks of under-represented 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 PhD programs nationwide.

TRIO
RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

On Our Campus

The McNair Scholars Program is housed within the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of California Davis. We are located on the second floor of the Student Community Center within the Undergraduate Research Center. Please share the news of this unique program with others in the UCD community. We begin accepting applications in the spring!



in this issue

Where Are They Now?	P. 1
2014 McNair Juniors	P. 2
New GSR Instructors	P. 3
GSR Farewells	P. 4

Where Are They Now?

by Rachel Messer

Fall is such an exciting time! Seniors have completed a challenging summer program and the newly accepted Juniors are just beginning their McNair Program journey, attending seminars and looking for faculty mentors. In this, our third installment of **Where Are They Now?**, we present UC Davis McNair Program alumni, **James Partridge, PhD**. James grew up in Southern California and went to Big Bear High School up in the San Bernardino Mountains. He attended Saddleback College in Orange County for 2 years before transferring to UC Davis in 2001. James entered the Cell Biology program, and minored in literature after attending a UC summer program in Ireland studying Irish Literature. While at UCD, James rowed crew team for two years and believes this was one of the most positive and influential parts of his UC Davis experience. In 2002, he joined the labs of Clark Lagarias and Jodi Nunnari. James credits McNair with getting him through his first summer of research and helping him pass the GRE. A second summer research program at Yale in 2003, connected him with schools back east and some



of the labs he would later work with at MIT. There, he worked on his PhD in Biology studying X-ray crystallography focusing on the nuclear pore complex, specifically the small protein sub-complexes that work together to assemble the nuclear pore. After earning his PhD in 2010, he went to UCSF for a post-doc in David Agard's lab. There he used X-ray crystallography to focus on protein dynamics and activation related to the heat shock protein, Hsp90. Recently, James began working for a small startup biotech in South San Francisco, Global Blood Therapeutics. At Global Blood he uses X-ray crystallography and other biophysical methods to study novel small-molecule compounds designed to treat chronic blood-based diseases. He has enjoyed his transition away from the university setting and his past year at Global Blood has been extremely exciting. He currently lives in San Francisco with his wife. They had a baby this past September named Daphne. Congratulations and thank you, James! We are proud to include you among the successes of the UC Davis McNair Scholars Program!



UC Davis McNair Program 2014 Juniors



Irene Yim

Food
Science



Joanna Ortiz

Environmental
Policy



Kathryn O'Neill

Genetics



Julie Ngo

Neurobiology,
Physiology &
Behavior



Stephanie Myers

Human
Development



Yvonne Munoz

Psychology



David Moyers

Aerospace
Engineering



Kayla Meza

Animal
Science



Alex Leal

Biochemistry



Ligaya King

Anthropology



Shane Hoang

Biomedical
Engineering



Mariana Henry

Nutrition
Science



Julie He

Physics



Pedro Gutierrez

Biotechnology



Azka Fayyaz

Political
Science



Austin Edmonson

Sociology



Abraham Corrales

Biochemistry



Sequoya Collins

History



Lucydalila Cedillo

Animal
Science

The McNair Program Welcomes New GSR Instructors



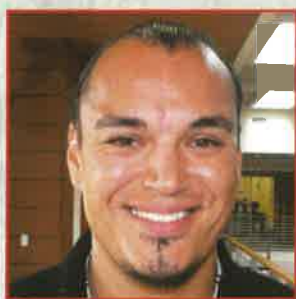
Ifeoma Ononuju
Research Seminar Instructor

Ifeoma Ononuju is a doctoral student in the School of Education at the University of California Davis where he is focusing on youth voice and academic resilience for at-risk youth in K-12 education. A graduate of Sacramento State University, majoring in Economics & Political Science, he has been able to combine his passions for youth voice, academic resilience and politics by working most recently as a program director for a civic engagement program which partnered with the City of Sacramento. Mr. Ononuju has also worked as a community based poet-educator providing youth literacy workshops throughout the Sacramento Region working with students from 7th-12th grades.



Kenya Mitchell
Analytical Seminar Instructor

Kenya holds a Masters degree in Language and Literacy from Harvard School of Education and is a Ph. D candidate in Writing Rhetoric and Composition at UC Davis' School of Education. Her research focus is supporting diverse student's writing and rhetoric in different contexts. In addition, Kenya has written poetry, creative non-fiction and literary criticism for a range of publications including New York Magazine, Stanford's Black Arts Quarterly, Howard University's Amistad Magazine, Tribes Magazine and the Adirondack Review. Kenya has also published two books *Aftermath of a Sociopath*, a collection of short fiction, and in 2010 she published *Blue Line to Wonderland*, a collection of poetry whose first edition was placed in the Poets House Library in New York. As the McNair Scholars GRE Analytic Instructor Kenya hopes to impart the skills she has developed through publishing and her research with students so that they too can use writing as a tool to manifest their dreams.



DJ Worley
Quantitative Seminar Instructor

DJ Worley's peoples include Navajo, Mescalero Apache, Ilocano -from the Philippine Islands, German and Irish. He holds dual citizenship in the Navajo Nation and the US. DJ is a PhD. Candidate in the Native American Studies department at UC Davis. His research focuses on the Intergenerational Leadership of the Patwin people - peoples Indigenous to Davis, California and it's surrounding areas. As part of his research he is assisting in the language revitalization efforts of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. He became a McNair Scholar in 2005 as an undergraduate student. The support and training he received from McNair has been essential in his development as a scholar, successful enrolment into graduate school and advancement to candidacy. DJ believes that the successful completion of advance degrees by diverse individuals - with multiple perspectives and distinct strategies of inquiry - is essential to the continual growth of knowledge within the academy.



Jamiella Brooks
Writing Instructor

Bonjour wa As-Salaam alaykum! My name is Jamiella and I am a Ph.D. candidate in the French Department. I grew up in a monolingual household with a family that didn't travel much, which gave me a lot of curiosity (and a lot of ignorance) about the rest of the world. While in undergrad at Oberlin College I decided to take French on a whim and fell in love with it, even though it was a challenging—often frustrating—endeavor; this led me to apply for and receive a Fulbright Grant to teach English to high school students in a little town outside of Paris, France. I am now writing a dissertation that focuses on North African literature written by female authors in the French language. As I reflect on my journey to graduate school, I realized I was very much inspired by my professors at Oberlin, where I was a McNair Scholar as well as a Mellon Fellow (a similar program), doing “nerdy” research during very humid, firefly-filled summers. I look forward to meeting and engaging with each one of the scholars, who are the inspiration for my own desire to become a university professor.

GSR Farewells to Seniors

Angelica Cortes

As you prepare for and work on graduate school applications, remember you have a support system you can rely on: the McNair Scholars Program staff and your fellow cohort members. Writing and rewriting statements of purpose and personal statements takes hard work and perseverance; I wrote eight revised drafts of one statement of purpose, which I then had to personalize for 11 different schools. Writing is easier if you get together with others and you work on your materials together. Take advantage of resources such as the conference room in the URC, even if you have to meet on weekends. Read each other's statements, offer constructive suggestions, share what you know, and encourage each other. Remember that getting into grad school takes a village! While applying to grad schools and taking coursework may be very stressful, making time to relax and celebrating the small accomplishments along the way is very helpful. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I wish you the best!

Carmen Fortes



One year - I am happy and proud to say that I was your instructor and you were my students. Now, at our point of divergence I want to leave you two messages. **First:** Don't be afraid. Each one of you has so much potential. Make the best of this opportunity to enter graduate study. The hardest parts of the journey are behind you. Remember how you struggled through writing thesis sentences, constructing research questions, conducting your research projects and presenting them? Not so easy at first, but your perseverance paid off! You learned how to balance your personal, academic, and professional lives. The hard work you put in and your successful conduct of research will help prepare you for every struggle. **Second:** Thankyou. Thanks to everyone of you. Because you committed yourselves to academic excellence and I had the privilege of watching you grow. It was a pleasure to walk part of the way with you! I wish you the best in all your endeavors - keep striving!

UC Davis McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Program at UC Davis is part of the Office of Graduate Studies. We are located on the second floor of the Student Community Center in Suite 2300 with the Undergraduate Research Center. Please share the news of this unique program. We are now accepting applications!

Program Benefits:

- Academic Counseling
- GRE Preparation Seminars
- Assistance with Graduate School Applications
- Independent study with a faculty mentor
- \$2,800 Summer Research Stipend

Program Requirements:

- UCD GPA of 3.0 or higher
- US citizenship or Permanent Resident
- 90 quarter units or 60 semester units
- Low-income and first generation college student, or member of a group underrepresented in graduate study (e.g. Chicano/Latino, African American, Native American or Asian Pacific Islander)



Ronald E. McNair, PhD

10/21/50 - 01/28/86
 Scientist, Scholar,
 Musician, Athlete,
 Parent and
 Astronaut

Director

Siria Martinez
 smmartinez@ucdavis.edu
 (530) 754-9777

Program Adviser

Jacques Bowyer
 jbowyer@ucdavis.edu
 (530) 754-6531

Program Specialist

Rachel Messer
 rmesser@ucdavis.edu
 (530) 752-7486

Graduate Student Instructors

Ijeoma Ononuju, ieononuju@ucdavis.edu
 Jean-Yves Merilus, jrmerilus@ucdavis.edu
 Jamiella Brooks, jnortiz@ucdavis.edu
 DJ Worley, djworley@ucdavis.edu