



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.



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!

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Where Are They Now?

by Rachel Messer

Summer has arrived! Commencement ceremonies have commenced and Finals Week is a distant memory. The Summer Research Program has just begun with students gearing up for a very busy ten weeks of continuing research projects and preparing presentations. In only a few weeks the UC Berkeley McNair Symposium will take place and

Powerpoint presentations must be created and practiced. In this chapter of **Where Are They Now?** we would like to introduce you to a UC Davis McNair Scholar alumni who recently became a tenured professor at UC Davis, **Professor Beth Rose Middleton**.



Dr. Middleton is of Afro-Caribbean and Eastern European descent. She is Associate Professor of Native American Studies at UC Davis. Beth Rose's research centers on Native environmental policy and Native activism for site protection using conservation tools. Her broader research interests include inter-generational trauma and healing, rural environmental justice, Afro-indigeneity,

and qualitative use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Beth Rose received her BA in Nature and Culture from UC Davis, and her Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from UC Berkeley. Her book, *Trust in the Land: New Directions in Tribal Conservation* (University of Arizona Press 2011), explores Native applications of conservation easements. Beth Rose has published on Native economic development in *Economic Development Quarterly*, on political ecology and healing in the *Journal of Political Ecology*, on Federal Indian law as environmental policy in *The CQ Guide to US Environmental Policy*, on mapping allotment lands in *Ethnohistory*, and on using environmental laws for indigenous rights in *Environmental Management*. Thank you, Professor Middleton, for sharing your interests and extensive knowledge with us in the UC Davis community. We are proud to include you among the successes of the UC Davis McNair Scholars Program!



The UC Davis McNair Program

2014 Graduates



Jay Yu

Attending the UC San Francisco Master of Science program in Biomedical Imaging



Obdulio Ochoa

Attending the MS Program in Aerospace Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Raymond Tsao

Attending the University of Michigan PhD program in Chemistry



An Nguyen

Attending the PhD Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UC San Francisco



John Tran

Attending the PhD Program in Plant Biology at Michigan State University



Christopher Jenkins

Attending the PhD Program in Food Science at Washington State University



Jared Szi

Attending the PhD Program in Mathematics at the University of South Carolina



Monse Garcia

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Deborah Scearce-Miles

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Destiny Garcia

Attending the PhD Program in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at UC Davis



Susan Samborsky

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Patricia Chavez

Attending the MS Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Davis



Gladys Preclado

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Gabriel Bonilla

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Scott Pittman

Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Rebecca Belloso

Attending the Master of Public Health Program at UC Davis



Tuong Pham

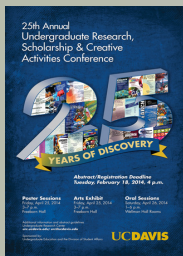
Applying to graduate programs in Fall 2014



Aaron Alvarado

Attending the UC Riverside PhD program in Chicano Studies

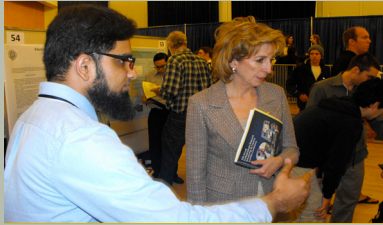




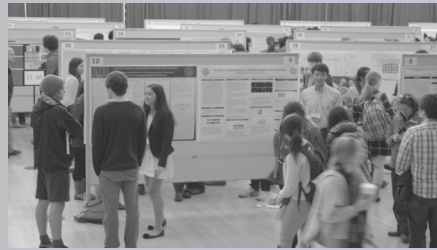
McNair Scholars Attend the 25th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference

April 25 - 26

Freeborn Hall



Ahmed Khan explains his research to Chancellor Katehi



474 Student Presenters
2,778 Total Attendance



Carmen Fortes
GSR Instructor

The 2014 Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference at UC Davis could very well have been titled, “Research and Re/presenting Family at the URC” (tip of the hat to Justin Phan!). “Family” in this case means biological kin, faculty mentors, McNair colleagues, classmates, and friends. Indeed, “Family” and faculty were out in full force to lend their ears and their support to all of the very promising young scholars. And the erudition in the air was palpable. From the Artwork, to the posters, to the oral sessions, one could feel it rise, dissipate and descend - the power of knowledge and the creation of knowledge. This was the event to attend!



Rahwa is supported by her mom



Jacques assists with student registration



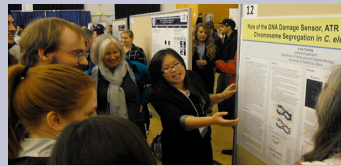
John Tran's parents attended



Ciara Main points out details in her research results



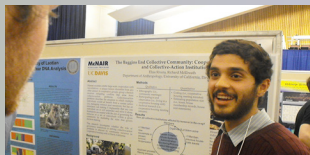
Zi Yao and Jorge Gonzalez



Lisa Truong's poster attracts a sizeable crowd



Siria Martinez, McNair Director



Eli Rivera answers questions



Scott Pittman presents his research



Chancellor Linda Katehi



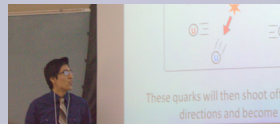
Sarita Hernandez goes into detail



Jorge presents his historical research



Gladys Preciado, Antonio Cuevas and Jesus Banderas



Gabriel Bonilla does a powerpoint presentation



Everardo Olide presents a poster of his research



Sarita's research presentation includes a film



Zi Yao is also a recipient of the prestigious Beckman Scholarship



180 Oral Presentations
289 Poster Presentations



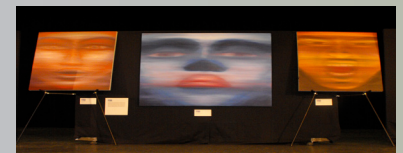
Justin Tran and Naomi Ambriz



Professor Harada, Deborah Scarce-Miles, John Tran, Rebecca Beloso and Jacques Bowyer, McNair Adviser



Carmen congratulates John on a great oral presentation



The Undergraduate Research Conference included 5 Artists' Exhibits

GSR Words of Wisdom

Angelica Cortes



In the Quantitative Seminar we've been working all year to improve problem-solving skills, presentation skills, review math concepts, and build a community of learners who collaborate with one another. These skills are not only helpful as the scholars prepare for the GRE, but they will also prove to be very fruitful as future graduate students. For this summer, we will apply all these skills we've been practicing during the past three quarters as scholars embark on intensive GRE preparation filled with both paper and computer-based practice tests, challenging problems of the day, and presentations of solutions to all the problems.

Jean-Yves Merilus



Seniors are about to graduate and many will move to distant locations. Is that the end of relationships with faculty mentors and social networks at UC Davis? The answer is a big "No!" In fact, this is the time when seniors will need their professors and other mentors the most. They may need their guidance and advice or their feedback to develop a research topic. Or, more importantly reference letters, fellowship applications, student employment or research collaboration. Whatever the reason, the fact is they will continue to need the help of former professors and others throughout their careers. It is critical that we nurture relationships with faculty mentors and others. Send them an email update at the end of every quarter or semester. Start now. Do not wait until you need them.



Ronald E. McNair, PhD

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

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UC Davis McNair Scholars Program

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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)