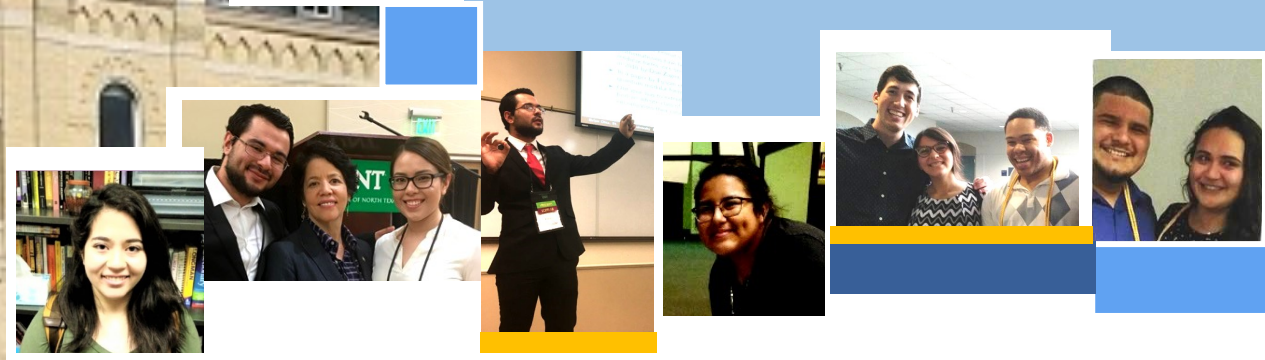


MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Scholarly Times

ISSUE 9 - SPRING 2017



Mastering the Fundamentals of Success

Highlights

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Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the St. Mary’s McNair Scholars newsletter! We have had a very busy & very exciting semester full of success, travel, research—and even romance (please see the story inside). Scholars have been accepted to & will be attending schools as diverse as American University in Washington, DC, Notre Dame, the University of Iowa, Fordham, Texas A&M, UC Davis, UTSA, UT Southwestern, and more. We are *very* proud of our graduates & Scholars and know we will see more greatness ahead.

On a slightly less happy note, the entire McNair Program was singled out for potential termination by the director of the Office of Management & Budget, who quoted inaccurate statistics for program success nationwide. Our students & staff at St. Mary’s and many other McNair programs immediately set about correcting his statistics and reaching out to legislators and other education leaders nationally & statewide. You can follow some of that dialogue on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/stmarysmcnairscholars/.

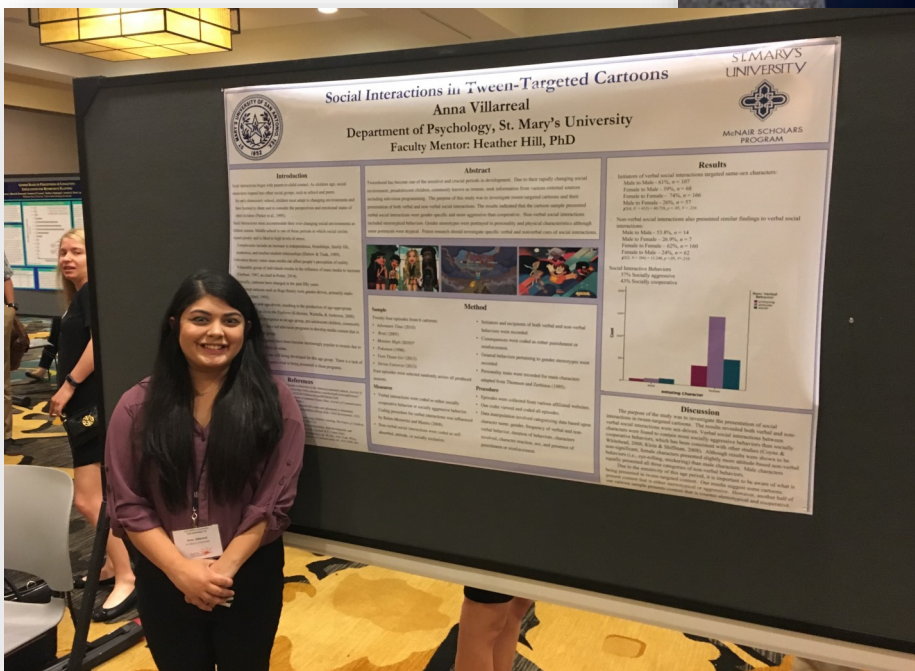
As always, thank you for your support of our Scholars & McNair Program!

--Dr. Sam, Assistant Director

Campus Visits and Conferences

Genne Liu

Senior, Environmental Science Major. Attended Graduate Day for the School of International Service at American University in Washington DC on April 10, 2017. Genne was able to meet with their world-class scholar-practitioner faculty; speak with current students in her perspective program; learn about the many study abroad opportunities available through SIS; meet one-on-one with an academic advisor; and visit their LEED-Gold certified SIS building.



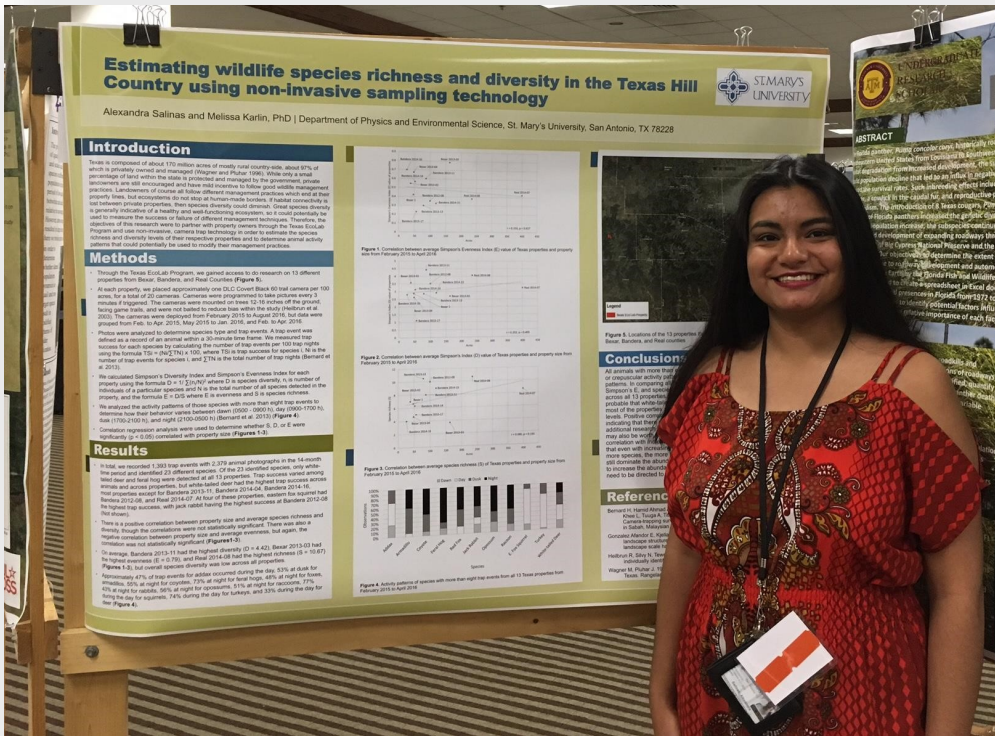
Anna Villarreal

Senior, Psychology Major. Attended the 2017 Southwestern Psychological Association Convention on March 31, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX.

Campus Visits and Conferences

Alexandra Salinas

Senior, Environmental Science Major At the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Conference, February 16-18, 2017.



Christa Herrera & Brian Diaz

Christa is a junior Psychology major; Brian is a senior Mathematics major and music minor. Both attended the 19th Annual Texas National McNair Conference at the University of North Texas in Denton, February 16-19, 2017.



Graduate School Experience Workshop

At our workshop, students were able to listen to St. Mary's professors discuss their unique graduate school experiences. A Q&A session followed the presentation.

Thank You to our Volunteer Faculty Presenters:

Samantha Franklin, PhD, Asst. Prof. of Physics

Ahmad Galaledeen, PhD, Assoc. Prof. of Biological Sciences

Jillian Pierucci, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. of Psychology

Sara Ronis, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. of Biblical Studies

Ryan Dunning, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. of Mathematics



Photo of Faculty Panel during workshop



Juan Ordonez and Dr. Sam Metta Bexar



Daisy signing into workshop



Brenda with Ruben Garcia



Photo of Networking 101 event

Networking 101 Workshop

McNair Scholars attended a *Networking 101* workshop hosted by St. Mary's University. Scholars met St. Mary's Alumni and learned helpful networking tips from various professionals.

McNair Scholars included Billy Rodriguez, Brian Diaz, Gisela Reyes, Brenda Lopez, Daisy Jordan, Iliana De La Cruz, Trey Gonzalez, Jacqueline Lucero, and staffer Kimberly DeLaFuente.

Later in the semester, scholars had the opportunity to meet one on one with Ruben Garcia, StMU Alumnus & a director at Assurance Investments, who presented on the topic of professional skills.

Continued Success Seminar



Anna and Dr. Zwahr Castro



Kevin pictured with parents

We held our very first Continued Success Seminar on May 11, 2017. The students heard closing remarks from the McNair staff. Graduating scholars were able to share their advice with continuing scholars in the program and expressed their appreciation to mentors, family, and friends. The St. Mary's community was invited to attend, as well as close family and friends of the scholars. Scholar achievements were highlighted and McNair graduation cords were given by Dr. Zwahr-Castro and Dr. Metta Bexar. A special thank you to Father Sean Downing, S.M., for his opening prayer and blessing to our students as they begin the next chapter of their education.

She Said YES!

Rattler romance! Near the end of the Continued Success seminar, Billy Rodriguez Jr. popped the question to Alexis Gonzalez. They met almost four years ago in Chemistry class, and they're going to grad school together in the fall at Fordham University. Let's wish the Scholar lovebirds well!





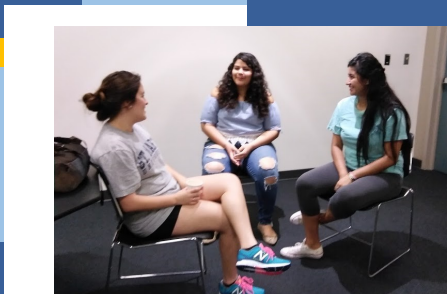
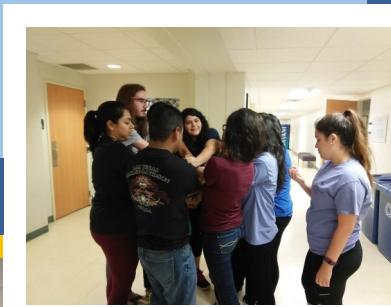
McNair Welcomes our Newest Scholars

Juan Ordonez, Biophysics & Business Management Major

Gabriela Aquino Aguilar, Psychology Major

Antonio Gonzalez, Psychology Major

Ashleigh Morales, Philosophy Major



18th Annual

University Research Symposium

& Creative Activities Exhibition

School of Science, Engineering and Technology

First Place- Lauren Garcia *Combination Therapy for Ovarian Cancer Using Estrogen Receptor Beta Agonist LY500307 and Epigenetic Drugs* Faculty adviser: Ratna Vadlamudi, PhD, Gary Ogden, PhD and Gangadhara Sareddy, PhD

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Second Place- Kevin Vallecillos, Matt Walk, Jennifer Kish, Melinda Denton, and Aliya Chaudry *Frequency of Provision of Pro Bono Services Based on State Physical Therapy Direct Access Level* Faculty adviser: Jason Denton, DPT

Third place- Jacqueline Lucero *Pride & Prejudice: How Ideologies are Affected by Everyday Discrimination* Faculty adviser: Jennifer Zwahr-Castro, PhD

Humanities

Second Place- Cody Sanders *The Diasporic Joyce* Faculty adviser: Alice Kersnowski, PhD

Third place- Cody Sanders, Cara Gobeia, and John Beckman *Who is Will in the World?* Faculty adviser: Alice Kersnowski, PhD



*McNair Scholars listed in bold

In the Community



Scholars support Colon Cancer Awareness month by dressing in blue. [#dressinblueday](#)



Alex helps out at our National TRiO day event, painting a mural at a local church.

Summer Research Opportunity Highlights

Scholar Maggie B will be off to Michigan for her summer research in psychology! She will be there with Rising Scholar Samantha Perez, who will be doing research in environmental science. Maricruz Espinoza & Iliana DeLaCruz will be doing summer research at the University of Notre Dame. Trey Gonzalez will conduct research at Michigan State University. Paula Lorena Perez will spend her summer at the University of Cincinnati. Rebeca will soon be off to Oregon State University to start her summer research program. Raul Mejia will be at Ohio State University, just to name a few. We wish all our scholars safe summer travels and rewarding research opportunities.



Congratulations Graduates!

Brian Diaz, Mathematics, will attend the University of Iowa

Alexis Gonzalez, Mathematics & Economics, will attend Fordham University

Genne Liu, Environmental Science, will attend American University

Vanessa Pérez, Theology & International Relations

Joshua Prudhomme, Psychology

Alexandra Salinas, Environmental Science

Billy Rodriguez, Jr., Psychology, will attend Fordham University

Nicole Rodriguez, Industrial Engineering, will intern in Boston this summer

Kevin Vallecillos, Exercise and Sports Science, will attend the University of Texas at San Antonio

Daniel Vargas, Computer Science

Anna Villarreal, Psychology, will attend Texas A&M College Station

Monica Perez, Psychology, will attend the University of Notre Dame

Jacob Becerra, History

2017
Graduation
twenty seventeen