We just began another productive year in the McNair Scholars Program at Sam Houston State University. Our scholars (Cohort XI) have been busy completing their research projects and presenting at research conferences. They presented their research at the 10th Annual McNair Research Conference at SHSU.

In October 2014, we selected a new cohort of scholars, Cohort XII, and they too have been busy with seminars and workshops. They are currently forging relationships with their faculty mentors and developing topics for their McNair research projects. It is so exciting to see new faces and to establish relationships with them. Personally, it is especially rewarding to be a part of this magnificent program and to share with our scholars as they begin their journey to graduate education. I look forward to being a part of their future professional lives.

~Dr. Lydia Fox

Congratulations Cohort XI!

Scholars from Cohort XI successfully completed and presented their research at our 10th Annual McNair Research Conference.
Meet Cohort XII

Alfredo Loera
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Phil Swicegood

Antonio Carrillo
Major: Chemistry & Chemical Engineering
Mentor: Dr. David Thompson

Ashanti Rouse
Major: Education
Mentor: Dr. Hayley Stulmaker

Daniel Agey
Major: History & English
Mentor: Dr. Stephen Rapp

Everett Moore
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Rick Bruhn
Gabrielle Ransom
Major: Geology
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Sumrall

Genevieve Osborn
Major: History & English
Mentor: Dr. Lila Rakoczy

Jennalee Turner
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. John de Castro

Gwendolyn Mitchell
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Janet Mullings

Gabrielle Ransom
Major: Geology
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Sumrall

Jessica Estrada
Major: Fashion Merchandising & Spanish
Mentor: Dr. Janis White
Kayla Hankins
Major: Biology
Mentor: Dr. Chris Randle

Luis Morales
Major: Criminal Justice
Mentor: Dr. Nathan Jones

Merary Bautista
Major: Biology
Dr. John Pascarella

Reynaldo Torres
Major: Accounting & Finance
Mentor: Dr. Shani Robinson
Reade’s Corner:
It is very common to conduct business over lunch or dinner. It is important for employees and interviewees to maintain similar levels of professionalism at the restaurant as in the office. Here are a few things about business dining etiquette.

1. Place your napkin in your lap after everyone is seated. Fold it once with the crease facing toward you.
2. When excusing yourself from the table, do so in between courses and indicate that you are still dining by placing your napkin in your chair or to the left of your plate.
3. If you need something additional, wait until the server returns. Do not attempt to wave down the wait staff.
4. Cup your hand in front of your lemon while squeezing so that you do not “juice” the person in front of you.
5. If you want coffee, order it after the main dinner, but before the dessert.
6. When eating a roll or slice of bread, tear off a bite-size piece, butter it, and lay the knife across the top of the bread plate.
7. Do not brush crumbs off the table.
8. Do not mop up sauces, gravy, or soup with your bread or crackers.
9. Eat chicken with utensils, not your fingers.
10. If you drop a utensil, ask the waiter for a new one.
11. Determine the appropriate price range by asking the host what he or she recommends.
12. When meeting someone in a restaurant, wait in the lobby unless other arrangements have been made.
13. Do not order alcoholic beverages during a dinner or luncheon.
14. It is appropriate and courteous to thank your waiter each time you are served.
15. Do not start talking business at the beginning of a meal. Allow the host to set the pace.
16. Maintain the same pace of eating as the person you are with. If the person is a slow eater, elaborate on a topic while he or she is eating. If you are a slow eater, ask the other person a question that takes time to answer such as the most gratifying part of his or her job.

Meet the New Coordinator

Tama Hamrick grew up in Pueblo, CO and later moved to Greeley, CO to attend the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) where she obtained a B.A. in Speech Communication, post baccalaureate teaching licensure in Secondary Education, and a M.A. in Human Communication. After earning her M.A., Tama served as the Coordinator of Tutoring Services and Special Projects for a TRIO Student Support Services program and as an Adjunct Instructor and Teacher Education Consultant for UNC’s Department of Communication Studies. She later attended the University of Denver where she taught courses in communication studies and worked as a research assistant while completing her coursework for a Ph.D. in Human Communication. Tama recently relocated from her native state of Colorado to join McNair in its efforts to prepare students from populations historically underrepresented in advanced degree programs for doctoral study. She also works with the Graduate Studies Office as a Dissertation Reviewer and Faculty Senate Liaison for the Committee Book.
Recent Achievements

Dr. San Juanita Garcia
Attained her Ph.D. in sociology from Texas A&M University in December 2014

Dr. Joanna Tucker
Successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at SHSU in February 2015

Miguel Arrelano-Arriaga
Accepted into the general psychology master’s program at SHSU

Dustin Hicks
Completed an internship at Urbach, Hacker, & Young during spring 2014

Paul Ruiz
Won the Ben Powell history department award in spring 2014

Jose Olivares
Completed an internship at Ernst & Young in summer 2014

Marcus Ussery
Accepted into a master’s program at Biola University

Chris Cruz
Accepted into the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University

Nohemi Rodriguez
Studied abroad in Italy in Summer 2014, Accepted into a master’s program in Art Education

Brenda Sanchez
Studied abroad in Italy in Summer 2014

Ron Little
Studied abroad in Korea in Summer 2014

Cristhian Cadena
Accepted into Harvard University’s Ph.D. program in virology

Alfredo Loera
Accepted into UT-Austin’s master’s program in special education

Babbie Suarez
Completed an internship for Lubbock Lake Landmark in summer 2014

Kayla Hankins
Accepted into an REU program at Cornell University for summer 2015

Tiffany Young
Accepted into an English master’s program at University of California-Long Beach