Message from the Director

We just began another productive in the McNair Scholars Program at Sam Houston State University. Our scholars (Cohort VIII) have been busy completing their research projects and presenting at research conferences. We are extremely proud of their numerous accomplishments.

In October, we selected a new cohort of scholars, Cohort IX, and they too have been busy with seminars and workshops this fall. 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 successful lives.

~Dr. Lydia Fox

Congratulations Cohort X!

Nine scholars from Cohort VIII successfully presented and completed their McNair Research at our Fall 2011 Conference
Meet Cohort X

Laura Chavez
Psychology / Spanish
Research Interest: Thought suppression
Mentor: Dr. Gordon Lamb

Christopher Cruz
CJ / Middle Eastern Studies
Research Interest: Foreign language education in American Schools
Mentor: Dr. Andrist

Virginia Curran
Psychology / Philosophy
Research Interest: Aesthetics
Mentor: Dr. Stuart West Gurley

Jimmy Dunham
Psychology / Philosophy
Research Interests: Adolescent addiction, survivor guilt, jury selection, LGBT issues
Mentor: Dr. Craig Henderson

Monique Edwards
Psychology
Research Interest: Reactions to the offers of social support
Mentor: Dr. Rowland Miller

Dustin Hicks
Accounting
Research Interest: Internal control & height in Corporate America
Mentor: Dr. Bill Brewer
Tony Itzep  
CJ / Legal Studies  
Research Interest: History of the police department  
Mentor: Dr. Roth

Aurelia Mapps  
Biology / Chemistry  
Research Interest: Developmental Biology  
Mentor: Dr. Patrick J. Lewis

Paige Martinez  
Psychology / Criminal Justice  
Research Interest: Human Trafficking

Ugo Onochie  
CJ / Information Assurance & Middle Eastern Studies  
Research Interests: Criminal investigation & Intelligence analysis  
Mentor: Dr. Cihan Varol

Macie Pena  
Nursing  
Research Interest: Younger patients’ perception on quality of life while faced with a terminal illness  
Mentor: Dr. Mary Vincent & Dr. Buccafurni-Huber

Brigitte Pernia  
Psychology / Spanish  
Research Interest: Psychopathology and paraphilia  
Mentor: Dr. Jorge Varela
Travis Tate  
Biology / Statistics  
Research Interest: Ecology of grasshopper mice & the co-evolution of bark scorpions  
Mentor: Dr. Matthew Rowe

Amber Price  
Psychology / Criminal Justice  
Research Interest: Athlete and coach relationships and its effect on in game performance  
Mentor: Dr. Bill Hyman

Clara Sirmons  
Mathematics  
Research Interest: Knot theory  
Mentor: Dr. Brandi Doleshal

Elizabeth Rahman  
Biology / Chemistry  
Research Interest: Forensic biology and disaster victim identification through the preservation of DNA samples  
Mentor: Dr. Hughes-Stamm

Claudia Zuniga  
CJ / Psychology  
Research Interest: Women in drug trafficking business  
Mentor: Dr. Howard Henderson
Reade’s Corner:
Here is a list of possible questions to ask during a graduate school interview. They are interviewing you, but remember you are interviewing them to find the best program for you.

1. Where are recent graduates of your program employed?
2. Do most students publish an article before graduation?
3. How long does it take most students to complete the program?
4. What characteristics are specific to this program and distinguish it from other universities?
5. Are assistantships available?
6. What criteria is used for receiving assistantships?
7. Are there teaching opportunities, such as teaching assistantships or adjunct positions?
8. What are some examples of past internship placements?
9. Does the department prefer students right out of undergraduate programs or are applicants with work experience preferred?
10. If applicants with work experience are preferred, what type of experience are you looking for?
11. How are mentoring and advising relationships established?
12. On which campus will most of my classes be taught?
13. How do students qualify for in-state tuition?
14. How do students from this program perform on licensing exams?
15. What is the faculty to student ratio?
16. Are minors available or required?
17. Are there opportunities to present at conferences?
18. How diverse is the student body?
19. Are there support services for minorities and women?
20. Are students admitted as a cohort?
21. May I speak with students who are currently enrolled in your program?
22. What is the thesis or dissertation process like in your program?
Recent Achievements

Ryan Williamson
Obtained his PhD in neuroscience in December 2012.

Cather Fern
Has been accepted into the University of Central Florida’s sociology master’s program.

Travis Franks
Will be enrolling in an English PhD program in Fall of 2013.

Julius Michael
Obtained a master’s degree from Florida Atlantic University in December 2012.

Amber Massey
Has been accepted into the University of Central Florida’s clinical psychology master’s program.

Cristhian Cadena
Will be attending a summer research program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Clarissa Sirmons
Has been accepted into SHSU’s mathematics master's program.

Aurelia Mapps
Has been offered a summer research program at Johns Hopkins University.