

Sam Houston State University

McNair Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we begin another grant year, we are delighted to report that we have just accepted our third cohort of McNair scholars. Once again, we are fortunate to be working with a group of talented and motivated undergraduate students from many disciplines. Please see scholar profiles on pages 2 and 3 for more information about each scholar. We look forward to another productive and eventful year. Our third cohort of scholars is currently beginning research collaborations with their mentors, and they will take part in our summer research program in a few months.

I am also happy to report that a few of our alumni are now enrolled in graduate programs across the country. We are proud of their numerous accomplishments and of the success they have had in their various graduate programs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many faculty mentors who work with our scholars. It is their endless time and dedication that make this program a success.

—Dr. Lydia C. Fox

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Cohort I:

Jamila Boyd: SHSU, Clinical Psychology M.A.

Angie Cartwright: SHSU, Counseling M.A.

Frances Crawford-Fennessy: SHSU, English M.A.

Andrea Gauthier: SHSU, Music M.A.

Robert Huizar III: UNC, Charlotte, Geography M.A.

Geraldine Johnson: SHSU, Clinical Psychology M.A.

Penny Pitrucha: SHSU, English M.A.

Henry Pittman: SHSU, Counseling M.A.

Nickie Pittman: SHSU, English M.A.

Veronica Salgado: High School Spanish teacher, Huntsville ISD

Mayra Sanchez: SAAFE House, Bilingual Crisis Intervention Advocate

Sara Spikes: UTHSC, Houston, Biomedical Sciences M.A.

Lawrence Taylor: TSU, Counseling Psych M.A.

Cohort II:

Nelda Axley: SHSU, Counseling M.A.

Hector Esparza: SHSU, Criminal Justice M.A.

Donna Henley-Jackson: Howard University, DDS

Congratulations to the following Fall graduates!

Randall Ischy
Chris Pembelton
Roxanne Sustaita



Sam Houston State University

Karen Escobar

I'm a senior criminal justice and Spanish majors. I decided to major in criminal justice because I am a firm believer in "justice." I speak Spanish and I love Spanish literature.



I have had many professors, but Dr. Kay Raymond is the only professor with whom I have built a strong relationship. Nowadays there are many topics that are interesting, but studying the women of Juarez is a research topic that many scholars have not researched extensively, which is why it is worth studying. My emphasis is on these poor women for whom justice has not been served.

My main goal is to become an FBI special agent. To me working for the FBI is one of the challenges which I will work hard to achieve.



San Juanita Garcia

I am from Houston, Texas. I graduated from Galena Park High School and attend Sam Houston State University where I will get my B.A. in Criminal Justice and Spanish. I consider myself to be a well-



rounded and dedicated person and I enjoy participating in community service activities, facing new challenges, learning, and making a difference. I am a Peer Mentor for the Bearkat Learning Community and *El Siguiente Paso*. I am an active member of Kappa Delta Chi Sorority which is dedicated to community service, the Criminal Justice Honor Society and Alpha Phi Sigma. I recently participated in assisting the Female Intervention Program by speaking to them about challenges people may encounter in getting to college. My interests are juvenile delinquency and I plan to pursue a Master's degree in sociology to better assist me in helping others. I will be collaborating with two mentors— Dr. Janet Mullings and Dr. Jennifer Schulerberg.

Angela Quebedeaux

I am a graduating senior with a major in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. Upon receiving my Bachelor's degree, I plans to pursue a Ph.D. in forensic psychology. My primary school of interest is John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. I am interested in conducting research involving the impact of both jury selection as well as witness preparation on the outcome of a trial. Of particular fascination to me, is child witness preparation. My ultimate goal is to own my own jury consulting firm, where I would be actively involved in trial preparation, selecting jurors, and training witnesses to stand trial.



Andrea Shanks

My name is Andrea Shanks. I am from the small town of Lago Vista, Texas. I am majoring in psychology, and my minor is criminal justice. Craig Henderson is my mentor. The research topic I am interested in concerns children from broken homes and the relationships they have with their grandparents and how this affects their adjustment to the divorce. I have been involved in the New Student Orientation program at the university for three years and I am a member of Sigma Phi Lambda, "Sisters for the Lord." I love to run and usually spend my spare time with my friends watching horrible reality television shows.



David Sweeten

I was born in Houston, Texas, across the street from the Museum of Natural Science. Having arrived at Sam Houston State University, I have come to study English and history, not being able to choose between the two. While here, however, I have had the luck to meet and study under Dr. Kimberly Bell, who has opened my eyes to the field of Medieval Literature. Herein I have been able to obtain some validation to my personal readings, my appetite for reading having never discovered limit, and to the iconic figures of superheroes that fascinated me in my childhood and still pull my attention today as the epic heroes of our time.



2005-2006 McNair Scholars



Perla Hernandez

My name is Perla Hernandez, and I was originally born in Mexico. My major is academic studies with a minor in bilingual Education, early childhood to 4th grade. Dr. Long from the Education department will be my mentor for the research project, which will be related to bilingual education. I am not sure on what exactly my research will be on, but it will be related to bilingual education. I plan to graduate in May of 2007, and will continue my studies and get a Master's degree in psychology or counseling. My Master's degree will be related to bilingual education.



Belen Polanco

I was born and raised in Pharr, Texas. I am in the process of obtaining a Baccalaureate of Arts degree in both criminal justice and Spanish. I enjoy watching baseball games, movies related to Hispanics in America and reading Spanish novels that describe everyday life. My favorite books are Gabriel Garcia Lorca's "One Hundred Years of Solitude" and Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quijote".



With the help of Dr. Margo L. Frasier from the School of Criminal Justice, I plan to conduct a comprehensive research study related to the rationality behind the recently established Minuteman Project.

Carlye Schulte

My name is Carlye Kamaria Schulte. I am a junior biology major with Spanish and chemistry minors at SHSU. I would like to pursue a career in medicine, but I am also applying for graduate programs in immunology, pathology, medical microbiology and microbiology. I teach freshman and upper level biology labs here at SHSU, and I work for the Computer Services department as a computer technician. My mentor is Dr. Theodore Brummel, with whom I conducted research for my genetics course honors contract in spring 2005. I also worked as a student laboratory assistant with Dr. Brummel over summer 2005. My current research topic will probably be related to microbiology. Currently I am either going to look at the possible beneficial relationships within the bacterial environment of a *Drosophila melanogaster* gastrointestinal tract or conduct sensitive disc assays on necrotic wound bandage treatments using common microorganisms found in hospital environments.



Jerry Westergaard

I have taken the school motto, "*The Measure of a Life is its Service*", literally. Having served the government in both the Navy and Federal arenas, I am now coming back as a non-traditional student studying in the Mass Communications department. I am a native son of Texas, but have traveled extensively across the country and elsewhere. I am currently working on a historical documentary that may be broadcast in the fall semester. After graduation I hope to continue my education in the Public Affairs sector, where I would like to help shape the ideas that make our country great.



Ryan Williamson

Greetings from W. Ryan Williamson! I am a biology major interested in a lifetime research in neuroscience and systems biology. Currently, I conduct research with Dr. Brummel in his *Drosophila* genetics lab in preparation for a quality graduate school application. My target graduate school currently is UT Southwestern in Dallas. This would take me back to my hometown of Dallas, near which I graduated from high school. A diamond in the rough, UT Southwestern Medical Center is among the highest ranked research institutions in the United States.





Spring Semester Birthdays

1/13 KACEY GRIMES

1/17 SAN JUANITA GARCIA

1/27 MAYRA SANCHEZ

1/27 ANGELINA GALVEZ

2/13 JACKIE ENGELHARDT

2/20 DONNA HENLEY-JACKSON

2/22 DR. LYDIA FOX

3/2 ROBERT HUIZAR III

3/6 KELTON TAYLOR

3/26 CHRISTOPHER PEMBELTON

5/10 ANDREA GAUTHIER

5/15 JASON SHANKLE

5/24 SARA SPIKES

5/30 DAVID SWEETEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

EVENTS TO COME:

February 17-19: UNT McNair Research Conference, Denton, Texas

May 4: Cohort III Research Proposals Due

May 31—July 12: McNair Summer Research Program (Cohort III)

July 20: Second Annual McNair Research Conference



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