Welcome 2015-2016 McNair Scholars

Clyde Avalos  
Major: Engineering

Lori “Jae” Cerda  
Major: Psychology

Alfonso Cohou  
Major: Engineering

John Johnson  
Major: Marine Biology

Michael Martinez  
Major: Engineering

Anthony Matheson  
Major: Engineering

Michelle McGaha  
Major: Biology

Sandra Morales  
Major: Psychology

Jermeka Morrison  
Major: Criminal Justice

Stacey Ogüninade  
Major: Psychology

Jennifer Ramirez  
Major: Kinesiology

Zoe Ramos  
Major: Biology

Calendar of Events

Writing a Great Literature Review  
1/29/2016

Research Methods Workshop  
2/5/2016

Research Statistics Workshop  
3/4/2016

Financial Aid Literacy Workshop  
4/8/2016

McNair Scholar Annual Research Presentations and Recognition Luncheon  
April 2016
The second McNair Scholars Research Journal article signing was held Wednesday, September 16, in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. This unique event allowed the 2014 McNair scholars to publicly sign their research articles for interested students, staff, and faculty.

The following Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi McNair scholars participated:

- **Marlena Bush**, "Project Read 3: The Effects of a Family Literacy Project on the Early Reading Skills of Three-and Four-Year-Olds." Mentor: Dr. Corinne Valadez, Associate Professor of Education
- **Correy D. Miller**, "Do Parents Pick More Than a Name? First Name Phonemes and Personality Traits." Mentor: Dr. Amy Houlihan, Associate Professor of Psychology

Thank you to the following Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty members who support the program by mentoring and directing research. McNair would not be a successful program without their dedication.

### College of Science and Engineering
- Dr. Mark Besonen
- Dr. Eugene Billiot
- Dr. Chris Bird
- Dr. Gregory Buck
- Dr. Luis R. Carrillo
- Dr. Xavier Gonzalez
- Dr. James Hogan
- Dr. Scott King
- Dr. Chuntao Liu
- Dr. Ruby Mehrbeoglu

- Dr. Paul Montagna
- Dr. Dorina Murgulet
- Dr. Petru Aurelian Smionescu
- Dr. Lee Smee
- Dr. Greg Stunz
- Dr. Pablo Tarazaga
- Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan
- Dr. Dugan Um
- Dr. Kim Withers
- Dr. Paul Zimba

### College of Education
- Dr. Randy Bonnette
- Dr. Donald Melrose
- Dr. Bethanie Fletcher
- Dr. Frank Spaniol
- Dr. Corinne Valadez

### College of Liberal Arts
- Dr. Isabel Araiza
- Dr. Pamela Brouillard
- Dr. Charles Etheridge
- Dr. Gina Gianc
- Dr. Mark Hartlaub
- Dr. Amy Houlihan
- Dr. Michael Jin
- Dr. Melissa Jarrell
- Dr. Miguel Moreno
- Dr. Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer
- Dr. Catherine Quick
- Dr. Pamela Meyer
- Dr. Philip Rhoades
- Dr. Michael Ramirez
- Dr. Steve Seidel
- Dr. Carey Rote
The McNair Scholars Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi hosted McNair Day on April 15 to recognize McNair scholars that conducted research in the Spring/Summer of 2014 in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

Ten McNair scholars presented the following poster presentations:

- **Teresa D. Aguilar**: “Taking one for the Team: Malleable Beliefs as a Predictor of Willingness to Sacrifice.” Mentor was Dr. Steven Seidel.
- **Marlena Bush**: “Project Read 3: The Effects of a Family Literacy Project of the Early Reading Skills of Three- and Four-Year-Olds.” Mentor was Dr. Corrine Valadez.
- **Amy Mackay**: “The Effect of Negative Information on the Justification of Chosen Alternatives.” Mentor was Dr. Steve Seidel.
- **Correy D. Miller**: “Do Parents Pick More than a Name? First Name Phonemes and Personality Traits.” Mentor was Dr. Amy Houlihan.
- **Megan Perkins**: “Individualistic Priming on Donation Choices.” Mentor was Dr. Miguel Moreno.
- **Samantha Valdez**: “Recognizing Hidden and Imperiled Coral Reef Fish Biodiversity in the Coral Triangle” Mentor was Dr. Frank Pezold.
- **Amarissa Vera**: “The Representation of Latinas in America’s Most Watched Shows.” Mentor was Dr. Isabel Araiza.
- **Mariela Vazquez**: “Bipyridinium-Based Polymer Sponges for the Selective of Pi-Electron for Rich Aromatic Hydrocarbons from Water.” Mentor was Dr. Mark Olson.
Lauren Hernandez

“Choosing to Enjoy: The Advantages of Malleable Beliefs about Enjoyment”

**Faculty Mentor:** Steven D. Seidel, Ph.D. Professor; Department of Psychology
- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2015

Maritza Hernandez

“Malleable Beliefs about Enjoyment Predict Exercise Attitudes and Health Outcomes”

**Faculty Mentor:** Amy Houlihan, Ph.D. Associate Professor; Department of Psychology
- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2015

Lynette Lambert

“Content Analysis of the Schneider Family Book Awards Children’s Division from 2004 to 2015”

**Faculty Mentor:** Corinne Valadez, Ph.D. Associate Professor; Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2015
Fall 2015 McNair Scholars Conference Presentations

TyEisha Lawson
“The Relationship between Convergence, Divergence, Recognition and Tracking Skills and Batting Performance of Professional Baseball Players”

Faculty Mentor: Frank J. Spaniol, Ed.D. Professor; Department of Kinesiology

- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2015

Danielle Tefft
“I Tested my Student – Now What?: Guiding Pre-Service Teachers to use Assessment Data to Plan Instruction in a University-Based Tutorial Program”

Faculty Mentor: Bethanie Pletcher, Ed.D. Assistant Professor; Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction

- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 2015 Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers in Costa Mesa, CA, November 2015

Correy Miller
“Do Parents Pick More Than Just a Name? First Name Phonemes and Personality Traits”

Faculty Mentor: Amy Houlihan, Ph.D. Associate Professor; Department of Psychology

- 12th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 2015
- 24th Annual National Ronald E. McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, November 2015
Six McNair Scholar students from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi presented their undergraduate research findings at the 24th annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair held October 30-November 1 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

“Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi McNair scholars provided excellent presentations of their valuable research at this national conference,” said Dr. Patricia Spaniol-Mathews, McNair Scholars Program Director. “The scholars’ experience was enhanced by having their posters reviewed by Dr. Carl McNair, the brother of Dr. Ronald McNair and the founder of the prestigious McNair Scholars Programs.”

The following Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi McNair scholars gave presentations:

- **Maritza Hernandez**, a senior psychology student: “Malleable Beliefs about Enjoyment Predict Exercise Attitudes and Health Outcomes”
- **Correy D. Miller**, a senior psychology student: “Do Parents Pick More Than a Name? First Name Phonemes and Personality Traits”
- **Lynette Lambert**, a senior education student: “Content Analysis of the Schneider Family Book Awards Children’s Division from 2004 to 2015”
- **Matthew Cruz**, a senior marine biology student: “Phenotypic Variations in Intertidal Limpets (Cellana sandwicensis) Along a Depth Cline in Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument”
- **TyEisha Lawson**, a senior kinesiology student: “The Relationship between Convergence, Divergence, Recognition and Tracking Skills and Batting Performance of Professional Baseball Players”
- **Lauren M. Hernandez**, a senior psychology student: “Choosing to Enjoy: The Advantages of Malleable Beliefs about Enjoyment”

**Fall 2015 Graduates: Where are they Headed?**

We would like to congratulate the Fall 2015 graduating scholars. They have done many wonderful things during their time at TAMUCC and are representing the TAMUCC McNair Scholars Program well in their respective graduate programs.

- **TyEisha Lawson**: Plans to apply to graduate school for a doctorate in physical therapy
- **Danielle Tefft**: Master’s program in educational administration at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Alumni Spotlight: Abby Quinonez

“Being part of McNair has been a life-changing experience. It helped me prepare for the fast-paced, busy schedule I would have as a graduate student. Before McNair, I knew I wanted to be an occupational therapist, but felt that I might not have the necessary resources or unique qualities that would set me apart from and enable me to compete with other students pursuing the same dream. The McNair staff helped me meet deadlines, find the necessary information needed to apply to graduate schools, and provided me with resources to take the GRE. Through McNair I was able to better prepare for the expectations of being a graduate student. Being able to participate in the program and conduct research has been my biggest influence as a graduate student. I went into my program knowing how to conduct research using the proper format, and I was a step above the rest of my cohort because of the training I received through McNair. The values and expectations that McNair sets forth for their students allow us to believe that we are able to achieve our dreams and goals. I have had such a great experience presenting my research nationwide, and I recommend this program to anyone pursuing higher education.”

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Gregory Buck

Dr. Buck shares his experience as a McNair Scholar Faculty Mentor

The main focus of the McNair Scholars Program is on preparing undergraduate students for doctoral studies through academic research opportunities under the guidance of a Faculty Mentor. The McNair Faculty Mentors are an essential component of this process. One of the many valued Faculty Mentors that has worked with the McNair Scholars Program is Dr. Gregory Buck, Professor of Biology in the Department of Life Sciences.

1. What characteristics do you look for in your mentees?

“It helps to have taken Microbiology (BIOL 2421) and done well in the course, but I also look at how well students performed in the laboratory component of the course. Can they work independently or as a team member, are they able to think critically, can they persevere through a problem in the lab, and are they able to take criticism well?”

2. What is the most rewarding part of being a Mentor?

“The most rewarding part is seeing the intellectual, emotional, and personal growth of students as compared to when they initially entered the lab, and to see them reach their goals upon graduation.”

3. What qualities does a Faculty Mentor need to possess in order to be effective?

“Patience in understanding how fast and how much an undergraduate can accomplish; the ability to know when to motivate the students using the carrot or when to use the stick; how to guide the student into career paths that work best for the student, given their interests, goals, and circumstances; how to guide students into doing hypothesis-driven research; and knowing when to be a father figure, when to be a mentor, when to be a teacher, and when to be a boss. I feel that having trained over 70 undergraduate students in over 14 years, I have accomplished these objectives with many students.”
GIVE US AN UPDATE!

The U.S. Department of Education requires all McNair programs to provide Annual Performance Reports and keep track of alumni until the attainment of a doctoral degree. Alumni can update their information by completing the form below and mailing the information to the McNair Scholars Program or by contacting Anabel Hernandez at anabel.hernandez@tamucc.edu.

Name:___________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City & State:______________________________________________ Zip Code:________
TAMUCC Cohort Year: ______________________________________
Highest Degree Attained and when: ____________________________
Degrees in Progress: Master's _____ PhD _____ or Education Complete ______
Field of Study:_____________________________________________
Expected Year of Completion ________________________________
School in attendance: ______________________________________ Email Address: ________________________________

Alumni News

Teresa Aguilar (Psychology, 2015) has entered a master's program in Fall 2015 at University of Texas at Dallas.

Melissa Beeler (Environmental Science, 2013) has obtained her master’s degree in communication on May 2015 from the University of Texas in Austin.

Sabrina Del Moral (Sociology, 2013) has obtained her master’s degree in sociology in December 2015 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Valerie Ferdin (Mechanical Engineering, 2013) has obtained her master’s degree in business administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Chenika Fowler (Psychology, 2010) has obtained a double master’s degree in education and psychology in May 2015 from Utah State University.

Arron Huss (Psychology, 2014) has entered a doctoral program in Fall 2015 at Argosy University in Chicago.

Cortney Parkhurst (Psychology, 2014) has entered a master’s program in Fall 2015 at Angelo State University.

Megan Perkins (Psychology, 2015) has entered a doctoral program in Fall 2015 at the University of Vermont.

Abby Quinonez (Kinesiology, 2015) has entered a master’s program in Fall 2015 at Abilene Christian Academy.