The Academic Success Centers want to express to you our most sincere and personal appreciation for all your hard work and collaboration in assisting our students achieve academic success. A great many of you—faculty, staff, administrators—have worked very hard to help make this Spring semester successful.

~ Dr. Gerardo Moreno
McNair Scholars

The McNair Scholars Program is proud to have watched Brittany Stoker graduate Summa Cum Laude this past December with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Dr. Michael Ramirez served as Stoker’s McNair mentor. She has presented her research at several conferences and will be in the upcoming spring 2012 McNair Scholars Research Journal.

Numerous McNair Scholars have traveled to present their research at prestigious conferences around the nation. McNair Scholar Katherine Heeb presented her research, “Will You Have Me? A Content Analysis of Gendered Pursuance in American Romantic Dramas” at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference in New York City. She and her TAMUCC mentor Dr. Michael Ramirez also attended a cultural event on Broadway, “The Book of Mormon”.

McNair Scholar Ardie Grady presented her research, “Understanding Social Marginalization through the Vision of Jean-Michel Basquiat’s Artworks” at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference in Miami, Florida with her TAMUCC mentor Dr. Cary Rote. Another McNair Scholar, Elizabeth Grant, presented her research, “State and Trait Happiness as Predictors of Affective Choice” at the Thirteenth Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference in San Diego, California, with her TAMUCC mentor Dr. Steven Seidel.

The campus community will have an opportunity to view the incredible research done by McNair Scholars at their first scheduled research poster presentation on April 16th.

SUCCESSFUL STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Blair Sterba-Boatwright is using his statistical expertise to solve problems dealing with coastal ecology, marine animals, and other areas of biology. The associate professor of mathematics is also helping College of Science and Engineering graduate students analyze various data.

Sterba-Boatwright came to the University in 1989 and returned in 2005 to pursue an M.S. in Statistics. Two years later, he earned his degree, which led him to discover fresh ways to apply his newly-acquired skills in collaboration with scientists on campus. Last fall, he began teaching an online statistical research methods course at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Through these classes, Sterba-Boatwright is focusing on using the opportunities provided by the Internet to teach in new ways.

As early as junior high school, Sterba-Boatwright knew his career path would lead to mathematics. But his enthusiasm for teaching developed when he was a graduate assistant. “Just like my dad, I see myself as a storyteller and that’s how I conceptualize my lessons in the classroom,” he said. “I really enjoy the interaction with students. The best part is when you can tell that your students understand the concept.”

Sterba-Boatwright, past chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, was the 2010-2011 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation’s Piper Professorship, which honors professors from across Texas for their outstanding academic, scientific, and scholarly achievement. He has also received The Texas A&M University System’s Student Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence.

McNair Scholars visited the renowned research institution, University of Maryland Baltimore College.
As a science tutor for the Center for Academic Student Achievement and Supplemental Instruction Leader, Megan Arnold, demonstrates the common belief that we learn best by teaching. Throughout Arnold’s four-year tenure helping others achieve academic success, she has had a strong student following with many expressing their sincere gratitude for her help. These rewarding encounters prompted Arnold to consider pursuing a certification to teach science courses. Future plans also include obtaining a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Arnold attributes her successful collegiate career to internal motivation and her parents’ desire to take advantage of educational opportunities not available to them.

Arnold contributes to the Biomedical Sciences field and continues to expand her knowledge base with numerous independent research projects. Arnold is a model student and employee, as she was nominated for the 2012 Student Employee of the Year for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Most importantly, Arnold is an outstanding individual, learner, and citizen. She will make her mark in the world as a compassionate veterinarian.
Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is accepting applications into the program. In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education guidelines for the grant, students need to meet at least one of the following criteria: first generation, low-income, disability, and/or veteran status. Students selected into the program must also have academic need. In approaching the conclusion of the 2011-2012 academic year, SSS still seeks qualified students and welcomes anyone who is interested to stop by the Glasscock Student Success Center and complete an application. More than 40 students have been added in the past academic year to the program. Numerous outreach events at University gatherings have been held, in addition to emailing and calling interested students.

SSS staff have also participated in various opportunities for professional development by attending conferences such as the 40th Annual SWASAP Conference (Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs), TRiO Training Institute, conducted by the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (CAEO) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the 13th Annual Financial Research Administration Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Award-Winning GO Centers

The GO Center Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi received the CollegeKeys Compact 2012 Innovation Award for the Southwestern Region from the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center in the category of “Getting In”.

The CollegeKeys Compact Innovation Awards program was established to recognize institutions and agencies for their innovation and demonstrated efficacy in increasing the percentage of low-income students who get ready for, get into, or get through college successfully.

The GO Center program, funded by a $330,000 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board grant, seeks to provide students and parents with an increased understanding of the benefits of higher education. The GO Centers operate in 14 Coastal Bend high schools and assist students with filling out college and scholarship applications, the FAFSA, and provide general college information. The GO Centers are closely aligned with the Closing the Gaps by 2015 initiative and strive to increase college awareness and readiness for all high school students and their families.

“Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement.”
~ Peter F. Drucker
SOAR Above the Rest

The SOAR Program is in the midst of hiring full-time employees to assist with the development of the program. This semester the program offered Supplemental Instruction (SI) for 18 different STEM courses and will offer SI for 12 courses in Summer I and nine in Summer II. SOAR also supports 10 Peer Leaders for the Computer Science department; Peer Leaders are similar to SI leaders but are geared a little more towards providing individualized attention to students.

Mrs. Laura Molina-Guzman, was recently hired as the first full-time individual who will serve as the SOAR Program’s Business Support Specialist I. She comes from Miller High School, and is a familiar face on campus (she worked on campus back in 2006). With her help, SOAR plans to get several new services off the ground that will support faculty, staff, and students to include a Conference funding program and a classroom/lab renovation program. The goal is to get both programs up and running in the summer.

As the SOAR Program develops, suggestions or questions regarding the services being offered and/or funding are welcomed. Please email them to Leslee Basse at leslee.basse@tamucc.edu. The SOAR staff looks forward to starting and maintaining a successful retention program for STEM students here at TAMUCC.

SUCCESS EXPRESS

CASA Tutoring

The tutors are ready to help students! The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), winner of the National Tutoring Association Excellence Award, is committed to providing academic student support services to assist students in successfully achieving their educational goals in the university environment. CASA offers face-to-face tutoring for many subjects including: math, biology, chemistry and physics. Additional subjects will vary from semester to semester depending on demand by students and faculty. The tutoring program is designed as a central location to assist both individual and group study. Tutoring is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Tutors are peer students highly recommended by faculty in their area of expertise and trained with the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) guidelines. CRLA provides national recognition and professional training for individuals to become successful tutors. The cost of CLRA training and tutoring is built into the tuition and student fees, requiring no additional charge at time of service. All tutoring is on a walk in basis; faculty is encouraged to send students to CASA. Tutoring works! Schedules can be found at: casa.tamucc.edu.

“The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.”

~ Harold Taylor
If you would like to make a recommendation for student or faculty/staff spotlights, please contact Julianne Schroeder at Julianne.Schroeder@tamucc.edu.

We are always looking for those students and faculty/staff who go above and beyond to exemplify success here at TAMUCC.

Look for our next edition of Success Express rolling into your inbox in May!