Welcome New McNair Scholars for 2018-2019

Mariya Aleksich  Marla Bantigue  Robert Bretzing-Tungate  Kathrin Gibson
Major: Chemistry  Major: Psychology  Major: Biology  Major: Psychology

Tony Long  Yadira Martinez  Ariana McDonald  Cerina Ramirez
Major: Psychology  Major: Psychology  Major: Athletic Training  Major: Education

Ashley Rodriguez  Rudy Salomon  Loren Walker  Loren Walker
Major: Psychology  Major: Engineering  Major: Geology

Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Congratulations McNair Fall 2018 Scholar Graduates

Kathryn Hamilton
Ruth Younger

Calendar of Events

Research Overview 1/25/2019
CITI Training & IRB Protocol Workshop 1/25/2019
Writing a Great Literature Review 2/8/2019
Research Methods 2/8/2019
Research Statistics 3/8/2019
Financial Aid Literacy 4/12/2019
Speed Interviewing 4/12/2019
McNair Scholars Annual Research Presentation and Recognition Luncheon 4/18/2019

Page 1  Introducing New McNair Scholars
Page 2  PASS Graduation Celebration Fall 2018 Faculty Mentors
Page 3  7th Annual McNair Scholars Poster Presentation and Faculty Mentor Recognition
Page 4  Fall 2018 Conference Presentations
Page 5  Prestigious Microbiology Conference at the Island University Where are they Headed?
Page 6  Give us an Update Alumni News
Congratulations to the 2018 McNair Scholar Graduates

Kathryn Hamilton  
B.S., BIMS  
Fall 2018

Ruth Younger  
B.A., Early Childhood Development  
Fall 2018

Faculty Mentors

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. Feri Billiot  
Dr. Chris Bird  
Dr. Gregory Buck  
Dr. Luis Rodalfo Garcia  
Dr. Simon Geist  
Dr. Xavier Gonzales  
Dr. James Hogan  
Dr. Yuxia Huang  
Dr. Scott King  
Dr. Chuntao Liu  
Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu  
Dr. Paul Montagna  

Dr. Donna Murgulet  
Dr. Valeriu Murgulet  
Dr. Cosmina Nicula  
Dr. Christopher Patrick  
Dr. Frank Pezold  
Dr. David Portnoy  
Dr. Brandi Reese  
Dr. Alaia Sheetla  
Dr. Lee Smee  
Dr. Greg Stunz  
Dr. Jeffrey Turner  
Dr. Dugan Um  
Dr. Benjamin Walther  
Dr. Kim Wilthers

College of Education

Dr. Toyin Ajisafe  
Dr. Randy Bonnette  
Dr. Donald Melrose  
Dr. Bethanie Pletcher  
Dr. Lon Seiger  
Dr. Frank Spaniol  
Dr. Corinne Valadez  
Dr. Heather Webb

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Isabel Araiza  
Dr. Olga Berkout  
Dr. Pamela Brouillard  
Dr. Lisa Companini  
Dr. Charles Etheridge  
Dr. Gina Gianc  
Dr. Mark Hartlaub  
Dr. Sam Hill  
Dr. Amy Houlihan  
Dr. Melissa Jarrell  
Dr. Daniel Mailland  
Dr. Michelle Maresh-Fuehrer  
Dr. Pamela Meyer  
Dr. Miguel Moreno  
Dr. Catherine Quick  
Dr. Michael Ramirez  
Dr. Phillip Rhoades  
Dr. Carey Rote  
Dr. Steve Seidel  
Dr. Yuliana Zaikman  
Dr. Anthony Zoccolillo

College of Business

Dr. Mohan Rao  
Dr. Lawrence Smith

College of Nursing

Ms. Carmen Hernandez  
Dr. Cathy Miller  
Dr. Christina Murphey
The McNair Scholars Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi hosted McNair Day on April 18 to recognize McNair Scholars that conducted research in the Spring/Summer of 2017 in honor of Dr. Ronald E. McNair.

Nine McNair Scholars presented the following poster presentation:

- **Shakira Barnes**: “Negotiation for Meaning: Views on Sexual Consent in Relationships.” Mentor: Dr. Olga V. Berkout
- **LarReshia Brumfield**: “Initial Characterization of *Vibrio vulnificus* Isolates from the Coastal Bend Region using PCR.” Mentor: Dr. Gregory Buck
- **Clay Clarkson**: “Culturing the Unculturable: Using Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting to Obtain Viable Isolates.” Mentor: Dr. Brandi Kiel Reese
- **Alfonso Cohuo**: “Condition as an Indicator of Resilience to Hypoxia by Atlantic Croaker in the Northern Gulf Mexico.” Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Walther
- **Andrew Garcia**: “Digitable Switchable Magnets used to Sort Ferromagnetic Colored Coins.” Mentor: Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu
- **Michael Martinez**: “The Effects of Static Magnetic Fields on the Effect in Conductors.” Mentor: Dr. Cosmina Nicula
- **Doina Morales**: “Autonomous Navigation of Controlled Game Environment Matrix Utilizing Point Comparison of Real and Ideal Image Regions.” Mentor: Dr. Ruby Mehrubeoglu
- **Zoe Ramos**: “Effects of pH and Counterion Choice of the Chiral Separation of Binaphthyl Derivatives by L-undecyl-leucine Surfactants.” Mentor: Dr. Fereshteh Billiot
- **Megan Woods**: “Characterization of a Pathobiome Contributing to a Disease Outbreak in Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei)*.” Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Turner
Fall 2018 Conference Presentations

LarReshia Brumfield

“Reproducibility of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Characterizing the Virulence Gene vgcC in known and unknown Vibrio Vulnificus Isolates from the Coastal Bend Region of Texas”

Faculty Mentor: Gregory Buck, Ph.D. Associate Professor; Department of Life Sciences
- PATHWAYS Student Research Symposium, West Texas A&M University; November 2018
- American Society for Microbiology(ASM) 2018 Fall Meeting, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC); November 2018

Clay Clarkson

“PCR Amplification of McrA Gene from Organic Rich Terrestrial Riverine Sediments”

Faculty Mentor: Brandi K. Reese, Ph.D. Assistant Professor; Department of Life Sciences
- 2018 SACNAS-The National Diversity in STEM Conference, San Antonio, TX; October 2018
- American Society for Microbiology(ASM) 2018 Fall Meeting, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; November 2018

Andrew Garcia

“Digital Switchable Magnet as a Power-Efficient Alternative for Electromagnets in a Mobile Robotic System”

Faculty Mentor: Ruby Mehrubeoglu, Ph.D. Professor; Department of Engineering
- PATHWAYS Student Research Symposium, West Texas A&M University; November 2018

Ruth Younger

“Little Learners, Tough Topics: The Use of Bibliotherapy in Primary Grade Classrooms”

Faculty Mentor: Bethanie Pletcher, Ed. D. Assistant Professor; Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- 2018 National Council of Teachers of English, Houston, TX; November 2018
Two McNair Scholars from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi presented their research findings at the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) held mid-November at the Island University for the first time.

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

- **LarReshia Brumfield**, a senior Microbiology student: “Utilization of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to detect the presence of vcgC in Vibrio vulnificus isolates from the Coastal bend region of Texas”

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**Fall 2018 Graduates: Where are they Headed?**

We would like to congratulate the Fall 2018 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.

**Ruth Younger**: Admitted to the Master of Science in Counseling at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for Spring 2019.
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______ Ph.D.______or Education Complete_____ 
Field of Study: ____________________________________________________
Expected Year of Completion __________________________
School in Attendance: ____________________________________________
Email Address: __________________________________________________

Alumni News

Bianca Arreola (Psychology, 2016) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2018 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Shakira Barnes (Psychology, 2018) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2018 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Zoe Ramos (Chemistry, 2018) has entered a master’s program in the Fall 2018 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Elisa Silva (Sociology, 2017) has entered a master’s program in the Spring 2018 at the University of Michigan.

Doctorate Recipient’s

Meagan Bryand (Communication, 2009) obtained her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership in December 2015 from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Samantha Hernandez (Political Science, 2011) obtained her Ph.D. in Political Science in May 2018 from Arizona State University.

Renae Hudak (Kinesiology, 2013) obtained her Doctor of Physical Therapy in June 2017 from the University of Texas Health in San Antonio.

Jerahme Martinez (Chemistry, 2009) obtained his Ph.D. in Bio-Chemistry in May 2016 from Rice University.

Amanda Whitmull (Bio-Medical Science, 2011) obtained her Ph.D. in Cell Biology in August 2016 from the University of North Texas.