



EMBRACE
HIS LEGACY
CREATE
YOUR OWN

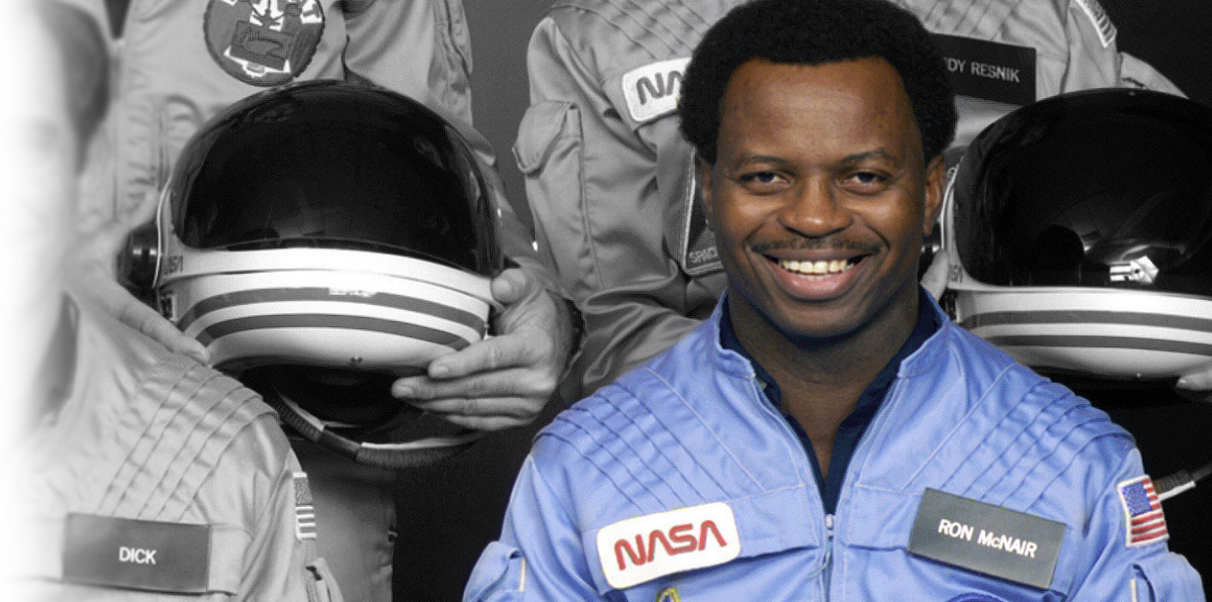
MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM | UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA | 2017

“WHETHER OR NOT YOU REACH YOUR GOALS IN LIFE DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON HOW WELL YOU PREPARE FOR THEM AND HOW BADLY YOU WANT THEM.”

— Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.



The McNair Scholars Program at UCF is a United States Department of Education TRiO Program supported by a combination of federal and university funds.



Since the Fall of 2003, the UCF McNair Scholars Program has served over 170 students. 87% of the scholars who have graduated from UCF enrolled in post-baccalaureate programs. Currently, 69 have earned master's degrees and 8 have earned doctoral degrees. Fifty-one participants are currently enrolled in Ph.D. programs. The continued success of our program lies in the collaborative effort of faculty mentors, program staff and the UCF community. Our faculty mentors and staff have gone above and beyond to help ensure our scholars' success.

As we move forward and celebrate our thirteenth year, we are proud of our graduating class of scholars as they look forward to the next step in their education. Our graduating Seniors have been excellent role models for the scholars following in their footsteps. We look forward to continued success and the notification this fall of our grant renewal in order to welcome the arrival of our newest McNair cohort.

Thank you again for your support and engagement with us. We hope that we can count on all of you to continue working with our amazing scholars.

Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries

McNair Grant Program Highlights

- 73% of program participants are first-generation college students (2003-2016)
- 87% of program participants (2003-2016) who graduated from UCF have enrolled in post-baccalaureate programs
- 40% of program participants have state college experience (2003-2016)
- Fifty-one program participants are currently enrolled in Ph.D. programs
- Eight McNair Ph.D. Recipients
- Fifteen National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Awards and five honorable mentions
- One Goldwater Scholarship Recipient
- Two Frost Scholarship Recipients
- One Austronaut Scholarship Recipient
- Three National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science Fellowship (GEM) Award Recipients
- One Udall Foundation Fellowship Award Recipient
- One Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
- Nine scholars awarded Order of Pegasus

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Recipients

Since 2007, fifteen UCF McNair scholars have been awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

UCF McNair Past Winners:

Antonia Bass

University of Pennsylvania ('17)

Stephanie Matos

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ('17)

Samantha Mensah

University of California Los Angeles ('17)

Serenela Pelier

University of Florida ('16)

Monica Thomas

Duke University ('13)

Tatiana Viecco

Cambridge University ('13)

Lilian Milanés

University of Kentucky ('13)

Christina Restrepo

University of Michigan ('12)

Elise Hernandez

University of Michigan ('11)

Rene Diaz

Georgia Institute of Technology ('10)

Keon Vereen

University of Washington ('10)

Anamary Leal

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ('10)

Roberto Miguez

University of Michigan ('09)

Melonie Sexton Williams

Vanderbilt University ('09)

Enrique Ortiz

University of Central Florida ('07)

Academic Advancement Programs Staff

Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries

Director

Dr. Natalia Leal Toro

Assistant Director

Arlene Ollivierre

Coordinator

Kathryn Thompson

Graduate Assistant

Michelle Aiello

Student Assistant

Genesys Santana

Research/Teaching Assistant

Gaviota Rivera

Student Intern, Creative Director

Faculty in Residence

Dr. Rosa Cintrón

Faculty Fellow

Dr. Natasha Jones

Faculty Fellow

Dr. Laurie Pinkert

Faculty Fellow



“**McNair** nurtures every aspect of its scholars’ development. It is, in the simplest of terms, the greatest support system I have ever known.”

Congratulations to our 2017 Graduating Cohort

First-Generation
College Students

85%

Average G.P.A

3.6

Attended a
State College

46%

100%

Presented in
External Research
Conferences

100%

Received Full Funding
for Graduate School*
(*students accepted to
graduate programs)

Over
\$500,000

Total First Year
Graduate School
Funding Received

About Dr. Ronald E. McNair

Dr. Ronald E. McNair was the second African American to fly to space. Although he faced many cultural and economic hardships as a youth, Dr. McNair earned a B.S. degree in physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971 where he graduated magna cum laude. In 1976, he obtained his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On January 28, 1986, Ronald E. McNair, along with six crew members, tragically died while aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Honoring his exemplary life, Congress approved funding for the McNair Scholars Program, intended to help other disadvantaged students achieve their educational dreams.

“True courage comes in enduring. . . persevering and believing in oneself.”

- Dr. Ronald E. McNair

GRADUATING SCHOLARS



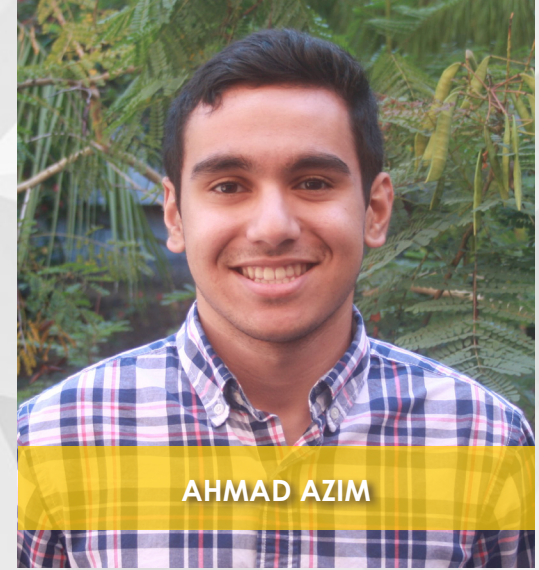
MICHELLE AIELLO

Major: Psychology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Mustapha Mouloua

Graduate School Program:
Doctoral Program in Counseling
Psychology
Georgia State University

“McNair program stands for ‘opportunity for all students.’ As a first-generation Latina, I was unaware of the resources and opportunities available to me. AAP and the McNair program has shown me that with hard work, the appropriate guidance, and support anyone can accomplish their goals!”



AHMAD AZIM

Major: Photonics Science Engineering

McNair Mentor: Dr. Lawrence Shah

Graduate School Program:
Doctoral Program in Optics and
Photonics
University of Central Florida

“Being a McNair Scholar means I am among a community of people who strive to become world leaders in their respective research area. It means I have to represent the community and my heritage for advancing myself and my field through rigorous and passionate research.”



DESIA BACON

Major: Psychology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Germaine Graham

Graduate School Program:

Doctoral Program in Psychology
University of Wisconsin at Madison

"McNair has come to mean that my educational and career goals are more accessible to me due to the relationships and resources provided to me through the program."



ITZA BELTRAN

Major: Mechanical Engineering

McNair Mentor: Dr. Jayanta Kapat

Graduate School Program:

Doctoral Program in Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado at Boulder

"McNair gave me the confidence to accomplish my goals. It gave me the best support system and mentorship that I could ever ask for. McNair will always be in my heart."



HARDEO CHIN
McNair Scholars Program

Major: Aerospace Engineering

McNair Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Kauffman

Graduate School Program:

Doctoral Program in Mechanical Engineering
University of Central Florida

"Being a McNair Scholar has changed my life. Everyone in the office is family to me, and struggling together is better than struggling alone. I will be forever grateful to this program for all the amazing memories, experiences, and opportunities it presented me."



SHIRLEY DORSAINVIL

Major: Psychology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Grace White

Graduate School Program:
Masters Program in Marriage and Family
Counseling
University of Central Florida

"Being a McNair Scholar meant being an inspiration to future underrepresented groups at UCF, specifically as transfer students unaware of the abundant opportunities at UCF."



MARVIN HOO

Major: Psychology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Matthew Chin

Graduate School Program:
Decision Pending

"Being a McNair has been a life changing experience. It has been the best opportunity to gain a family at UCF. It has meant financial but most importantly it has meant emotional support. The McNair scholars program has put me on the right path."



ROXANNE HOWES

Major: Literature

McNair Mentor: Dr. Cecilia Milanés

Graduate School Program:
Masters of Arts in English
University of Central Florida

"Being a McNair Scholar helped me believe in my potential and that I could achieve what I previously thought was unachievable. I am proud and thankful to be a McNair."



JEFFERY JORGES

Major: Physics

McNair Mentor: Dr. Adrienne Dove

Graduate School Program:
Decision Pending

"Being a McNair Scholar has been an amazing experience for me because it has allowed me to know about so many opportunities I would have never heard of beforehand."



MICHAEL LOPEZ-BRAU

Major: Electrical Engineering

McNair Mentor: Dr. Nazanin Rahn timer

Graduate School Program:
Doctoral Program in Psychology
Yale University

"Being a McNair Scholar has meant that I have a responsibility to help other first-generation, low-income, or otherwise disadvantaged students find their path to success."



SAMANTHA MENSAH

Major: Chemistry

McNair Mentor: Dr. Karin Chumbimuni-Torres

Graduate School Program:
Doctoral Program in Chemistry
University of California Los Angeles

"Being a McNair Scholar has been largely about having a family on campus with a common goal for you and each other."



ASHELYN SIDDERS

Major: Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Kyle Rohde

Graduate School Program:
Doctoral Program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"McNair has meant an unwavering support system. Being a part of the McNair family has meant that no matter how stressed I am, I have a group of people to turn to that will have my back no matter what - both now and for many years to come."



HEIDI WAITE

Major: Biology

McNair Mentor: Dr. Linda Walters

Graduate School Program:
Masters in Science in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management
University of Oxford

"McNair not only provided me with the knowledge and skills to apply for graduate school, but also gave me a family and support system I would not have been able to get elsewhere."

Alumni Scholars Entering Graduate School



Shekinah Fashaw

Interdisciplinary Studies
Brown University
Doctoral Program in Health Services Research
Mentor: Dr. Latarsha Chisholm



Natália Marques da Silva

Art History
Florida International University
Doctoral Program in Global and Sociocultural Studies
Mentor: Dr. Kristin Congdon



Ivory Paulk

Biotechnology
University of California Los Angeles
Doctoral Program in Molecular and Medical Pharmacology
Mentor: Dr. Alvaro Estevez



Brittany Murphy

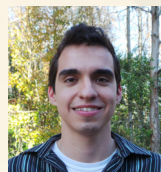
Humanities
University of California Los Angeles
Doctoral Program in Cinema and Media Studies
Mentor: Dr. Melody Bowdon

Summer Program Placements 2017



Lianne Britto

Civil Engineering
McNair Summer Research Institute
University of Central Florida
UCF Mentor: Dr. Kevin Mackie



Kevin Negy

Computer Engineering
Summer Undergraduate Program in
Engineering Research (SUPERB)
University of California Berkeley
UCF Mentor: Dr. Avelino Gonzalez



Jennifer Carvel

Psychology
Summer Training Academy for Research
Success (STARS) Program
University of California San Diego
UCF Mentor: Dr. Charles Negy



Antonett Nunez-delPrado

Physics
Undergraduate Research in Physics and
Astronomy (REU)
University of California Los Angeles
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ali Gordon



Sarah Davenport

Anthropology
Summer Training Academy for Research
Success (STARS) Program
University of California San Diego
UCF Mentor: Dr. Joanna Mishtal



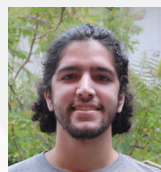
Gisselle Pombar

Chemistry
Summer Undergraduate Research Program for
Diversity in Chemistry
Princeton University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Yu Yuan



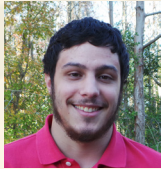
Chanelle Hunter

Biology
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
(SURF)
University of California Irvine
UCF Mentor: Dr. Seth Elsheimer



Thomas Rechtman

Mathematics
Leadership Alliance Summer Research - Early
Identification Program (SR-EIP)
Vanderbilt University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ram Mohapatra

**Tristan Reynoso**

Mathematics

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
(SURF)

University of California Irvine

UCF Mentor: Dr. Bhimsen Shivamoggi

**Cassandra Sarria**

Biology

Summer Research Opportunities Program
(SROP)

Michigan State University

UCF Mentor: Dr. Anna Savage

**Joey Velez-Ginorio**

Computer Engineering

NSF REU: Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

UCF Mentor: Dr. Georgios Anagnostopoulos
and Dr. Gui-Jun Qi

Pre-McNair Scholars Summer Research Placements

Samuel Deane

Mechanical Engineering

Summer Undergraduate Research in
Engineering/Sciences (S.U.R.E.)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Desiree Dominguez

Computer Engineering

Summer Undergraduate Research in
Engineering/Sciences (S.U.R.E.)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Nathalie Fernandez

Computer Engineering

NSF REU: Center for Brains, Minds, and
Machines

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Daniela Ojeda

Mechanical Engineering

Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing
and Materials (CIMM)

Louisiana State University

Victor Rodriguez

Mechanical Engineering

NSF REU: Nanotechnology for Health,
Energy & the Environment

Stony Brook University

George Walters-Marrah

Biotechnology

NSF Research Experience for
Undergraduates in Molecular Genetics and
Cell Biology (MGCB-REU)

University of Chicago

TRiO History and Mission

TRiO programs were first established by Congress in the mid-1960s as part of the commitment growing out of the 'War on Poverty' to extend educational opportunity to students from low-income and first-generation college families. The programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and, along with financial aid, constitute the major federal strategy for promoting higher education access in the United States. The name comes from the fact that there were originally three programs under the TRiO umbrella.

The Federal TRiO Programs (TRiO) are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through

Program	Program Description
Upward Bound (UB)*	Prepares high school students and veterans for success in postsecondary education. Types of projects include Regular, Veterans and Math and Science Centers. Regular project services include a summer-instructional component; instruction in subjects including mathematics through pre-calculus, laboratory science, and foreign language; mentoring programs; counseling; and exposure to cultural events.
Talent Search (TS)*	Identifies, prepares and assists individuals ages 11-27 with applying for financial aid and college admission. Services include tutoring and mentoring; personal, career and academic counseling; exposure to college campuses; and assistance with college entrance exam preparation and financial aid and college admissions applications.
Student Support Services (SSS)*	Helps low-income and first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities graduate from college. Services include assistance with securing financial aid; personal, academic and career counseling; academic instruction; assistance with transition to four-year programs from two-year institutions; assistance with applying to graduate and professional programs; and activities specially designed for students with limited English proficiency.
Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)	Provides educational and support services to enable veterans to make the transition to postsecondary education.
Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)	Helps primarily low-income adults who would be first-generation college students gain admission to college and find financial assistance for their education. Services include assistance with completing college admission and financial aid applications; guidance on secondary school re-entry or entry to a GED program; academic advice; and career counseling.
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program*	Prepares low-income, first-generation college students and students from groups underrepresented in graduate education for doctoral study. Services include research opportunities, summer internships, seminars, academic counseling, and assistance in securing admission and financial aid for graduate programs.
Upward Bound Math/Science (UBM/S)	Prepares high school students for college programs that lead to careers in math and science. Services include intensive instruction in math and science, including hands-on experience; opportunities to learn from mathematicians and scientists; and a summer instructional component.

**Indicates TRiO programs currently housed at*



To find out more about the McNair
Scholars Program contact:

Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries, Director
Academic Advancement Programs
Division of Teaching and Learning
University of Central Florida

Technology Commons II, Room 221
P.O. Box 162001
Orlando, FL 32816-2001
(407) 823-1815
aap@ucf.edu
www.aap.ucf.edu

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options, please contact Bridget Holt at
407.823.2877 or bridget.holt@ucf.edu.



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