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FSU McNair Scholars News



Class of 2019 100% Graduate School Acceptance



Top Row Left: *Brittany Anderson, Evansha Andre, Erykah Briggs-White, Jamonica Brown*

Middle Row Left: *Tiarah Bruno, Anjel Castro, Arshay Grant, Meaonka Hadden*

Bottom Row Left: *Destiny Ivey, Christina Jones, Jessica Riddell, Melanie Rodriguez-Beltran*

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Dr. Daniel Okunbor,
Principal Investigator

Dr. Charlesene McNeill-Blue,
Director

Mrs. Erika Bradford,
Program Coordinator

Ms. Esslita Williams,
Program Assistant

Greetings from The McNair Staff

Research is of critical importance to graduate education and having witnessed the tenacity and dedication with which each of you



approached your research, I am certain that you are on your way to pursuing a doctoral degree. I am truly proud of your engagement in research and your accomplishment thus far. As FSU McNair Scholars, I challenge you to soar high and fly like eagles. As the saying goes, the sky is now your limit. I also endear you to be good ambassadors for this program – remember that, “Once a McNair scholar; you

are always a McNair scholar”.

-Dr. Daniel Okunbor, Principal Investigator



The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair Scholars Program) has helped numerous students reach their academic goals by preparing interested undergraduates for their graduate studies through involvement in mentored research experiences and scholarly activities.

Preparation and training will make the difference for our scholars, and we are proud to have the opportunity to assist. My staff and I work with each student individually and as a group throughout their matriculation to help them gain academic successes and provide academic, career, and cultural activities to ensure leadership skills and acquire strong scholarship potential.

We are so grateful to our faculty mentors, advisors, and staff for your contributions in providing research opportunities for our scholars. It is my pleasure to introduce the 2019 cohort and thank everyone for their support. It could not have been possible without you.

-Dr. Charlesene McNeill-Blue, Director

I realize that with my opportunities and exposure, McNair works! If it really does take a village to foster success, then I feel reassured that McNair is certainly the right village. As long as I am willing to put in the work, I know that I too can earn my doctorate degree. –
Brittany Doss, Senior, Psychology Major

TRiO
RONALD E. McNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM





Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them....Before you can make a dream come true, you must first have one.

Dr. Ronald E. McNair

TRiO
RONALD E. McNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Meet the 2019 Cohort



Summer Research Internship Opening Ceremony 2019

(Left to right) *Mrs. Erika Bradford, Queonnah Coleman, Jennifer Williams, Layla Rashad, Demetria Murphy, Shaniqua Moore, Brittany Doss, Maudeline Clervoix-Frank, Dr. McNeill-Blue.*

Maudeline Clervoix-Frank

Major: Psychology

Research: *Effectiveness of Online Career Intervention on Psychology Students' Resume-Building Knowledge, Skills and Confidence*

Queonnah Coleman

Major: History

Research: *Gender Analysis of Women in Higher Education in North Africa and the Middle East, 1920 -2018*

Brittany Doss

Major: Psychology

Research: *African American Males' Perceptions of the Responsibilities, Roles, Significance, and Impact of Fatherhood*

Shaniqua Moore

Major: Social Work

Research: *Exploring Self-Identity and Self-Awareness through Art-Making*

Demetria Murphy

Major: Social Work

Research: *Attitude, Perception, and Knowledge of Systematic Design of Rehabilitation and Prison Reform Among Social Work, Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Psychology*

Layla Rashad

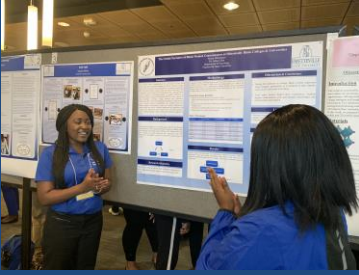
Major: Computer Science

Research: *Performance Analysis of Machine Learning Algorithms for Peptide Binding Predictions*

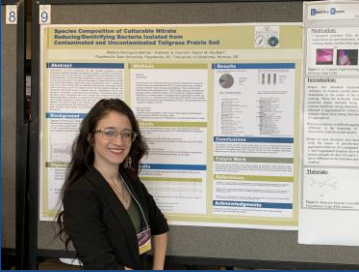
Jennifer Williams

Major: Psychology

Research: *The Psychological Effects on Minor Male and Female Children with Incarcerated Parents*



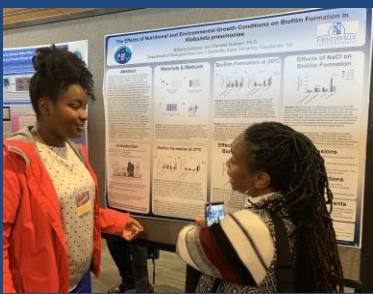
Neysa Wellington, Senior, Fine Arts



Melanie Rodriguez-Beltran, Senior, Biology



Christina Jones, Senior, Education



Brittany Anderson, Senior, Biology



Jessie Cook, Senior, Forensics

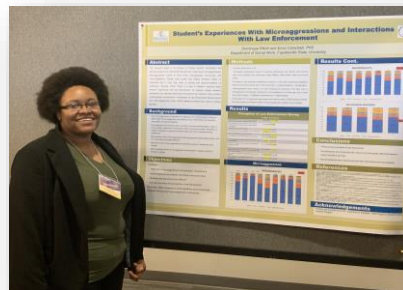
Student Activities: Conferences, Colloquium, Camp & HOLLYWOOD!

McNair Scholars around the country are rigorously prepared for entry into graduate school through many venues. Students are afforded the opportunities to present their research at local, regional and professional conferences; they network with other scholars through colloquiums; and, they learn the tricks of the trade for the graduate school application process through graduate school prep boot camp!



FSU McNair Scholars at 2019 McNair Colloquium

During the 2018-2019 academic year, FSU McNair Scholars presented research for various venues which included the following: 2018 State of NC Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium, Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Inc. 84th Conference, 1st Annual Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposium Fayetteville State University 2019, XIII Womack Army Medical Center Symposium, and UCLA McNair Scholars Conference.



*Dominique Elliott, Junior, Sociology
2nd Place Winner 3MT Competition*

During the spring students participated in the 2019 NC Statewide Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Colloquium at UNCG. This forum was a networking event for McNair scholars from six institutions represented in NC. The event featured seminars on navigating life in graduate school and beyond,

question and answer sessions with a graduate panel, a networking lunch with directors from various graduate programs, and a 3 Minute Thesis competition. FSU's very own Dominique Elliott, Junior, Sociology Major came in 2nd Place for her research: *Student's Perceptions and Experiences of Microaggressions By Law Enforcement.*



*I came away with a new conference and understanding of how I measure up among other McNair students. I do not feel this work is a competition. I feel encouraged by other student's I've met and the positive research feedback I've received. I look forward to continuing to share my research and meeting new students with varying perspectives. – **Shaniqua Moore, Senior, Social Work Major***



The 2019 Graduate School Boot Camp was designed to prepare, promote, and prime students for the rigorous graduate school application process. Every aspect of the process was given concentrated effort from preparing the elevator speech, how to make meaningful contact with faculty, crafting a statement of purpose, finding the program that fits, financial literacy, how to find funding, interview skills and self-care! Students spent 12 to 14-hours each day for four days planning their future for graduate school. Everyone was inundated with information but felt thoroughly prepared to move forward.

*The most memorable moment from the camp that I will hold fast to while applying to a graduate program was mentioned by Dr. Belle, that your willpower and drive to succeed will carry you further than your intelligence. – **Jennifer Williams, Senior, Psychology Major***



On July 31- August 3, UCLA hosted its 2nd Annual McNair Conference for over 500 McNair scholars, directors and staff from all over the country to promote student research, scholarship and diversity. The conference, which was held at the Luskin Conference Center, was filled with oral and poster presentations, seminars on funding for graduate school and tackling the GRE, graduate school fairs, and numerous networking opportunities. The culminating cultural event was a trip to the Hollywood Bowl for an outdoor concert featuring Gypsy Kings, a Latin American singing group. Traveling to the West coast enabled FSU Broncos to have an undeniable experience that raised their confidence and created a hunger to aim for the stars!

*I also enjoyed meeting and mingling with other McNair scholars. It was very nice listening to their stories. I met a young lady with her own nonprofit organization who was around my age. This was significant to me because it showed that I could achieve these types of feats early in life just like she had. – **Queonnah Coleman, Senior, History Major***

Extramural Research Summer 2019

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

- Ronald E. McNair



McNair Scholars Cohort Year	Major	2019 Summer Internship
Leslie Ann Charles 2017 Cohort	Biology & Chemistry	East Carolina University Summer Biomedical Research Program at Brody School of Medicine
Dominique Elliott 2018 Cohort	Sociology	Fudan International Summer 2019 Shanghai Summer School Scholarship Student
Andre Harris 2018 Cohort	Social Work	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Youth Health Equity Model of Practice Fellowship (YHEMOP)
Andrea Wilson 2017 Cohort	Biology	Tuskegee University Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) REU Program in Nano-Bio MSE



FSU McNair Goes Global Summer 2019

Scholar Highlights



Andre Harris, senior, Social Work major, participated as a Youth Health Equity Model of Practice Health Equity Fellow at the Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research, Hollywood, FL. His contribution to the foundation included finding innovative ways to address health inequities and disparities that uniquely plague the sickle cell community. Florida is home to the most sickle cell patients in the United States with almost 8,000 patients. He worked on their MedicAlert program, managed the patient ambassadors, spoke at several of research meetings and conferences, met the Admiral of the United States Public Health Services. As a result of his service Andre received an award recognizing his outstanding achievements as a sickle cell advocate.



Neysa Wellington, senior, Fine Arts major received her first artist publication in the Fayetteville City View Magazine in April 2019. Her artwork has also been featured in the *Stop It: International Women Exhibition*, March 2019 and *Art & Social Justice: Art For the People Exhibition* in February 2019. Neysa has received glowing commendations from her department and will be applying to MFA programs fall 2019.



Dominique Elliott, senior, Sociology major, studied abroad in Shanghai, China at Fudan University as a scholarship student. Her scholarly emphasis included classes on China's Belt and Road Initiative. As an African American student and one of several from around the world, Dominique describes her experience as culturally rewarding and fun!

2019 McNair Graduate Achievements!

Student	PhD/Graduate Program Acceptances	Attending
Shante' Elliott	PhD Program, Northwestern University, Learning Sciences	PhD Program, Northwestern University, Learning Sciences
Asia Scales	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Biological & Physical Sciences Program	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies
Whitney J. Watson	University of Baltimore, Master of Science Criminal Justice	University of Baltimore, Master of Science Criminal Justice
Brittany Anderson	University of Massachusetts Amhurst, PhD Microbiology Program	PhD Program, University of Massachusetts Amhurst, Microbiology Program
Evansha Andre (BS, Sociology)	State University New York (SUNY) Albany, PhD program in Sociology University of Central Florida, Sociology MA Program	University of Central Florida, Sociology MA Program
Erykah Briggs-White (BS, Healthcare Management)	University of Alabama Birmingham, Master of Science in Health Administration Program University of Alabama Birmingham, Master of Business Administration	Dual Degree, University of Alabama Birmingham, Master of Science in Health Administration Program & Master of Business Administration
Jamonica Brown (BS, Psychology)	East Carolina University, Human Development & Family Science Master's Program UNC Greensboro, Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies Program	UNC Greensboro, Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies Program

Tiarah Bruno (BS, Psychology)	NC A&T University , MS Program Mental Health Counseling University of Michigan , Master of Social Work Program	NC A&T University , MS Program Mental Health Counseling
Anjel Castro (BS, Biology)	University of Puerto Rico de Mayagüez , MS Biology	University of Puerto Rico de Mayagüez , MS Biology
Arshay Grant (BS, Biology)	Georgia Institute of Technology , PhD program in Biology	PhD Program, Georgia Institute of Technology , Biology
Meaonka Hadden (BS, Criminal Justice)	University of Maryland College Park Criminology & Criminal Justice, Master's Program Indiana University of Pennsylvania Criminology MA Program University of North Carolina Wilmington , Criminology & Sociology Master's Program NC State University , PhD in Sociology Program Temple University , PhD Program in Criminal Justice	PhD Program, Temple University , Criminal Justice
Destiny Ivey	NC A&T University , Master of Science Program in Chemistry	NC A&T University , Master of Science Program in Chemistry
Christina Jones (BS, Education)	Howard University , Political Science MA Program	Howard University , Political Science MA Program
Jessica Riddell (BS, Psychology)	Ball State University , PhD Program Educational Psychology NC State University , Master of Science Curriculum and Instruction Program UNC Wilmington , M.Ed. Higher Education Specialization	NC State University , Master of Science Curriculum and Instruction Program

	<p>Appalachian State University Higher Ed and University Leadership, MA Program</p> <p>NC A&T, LSAD (Adult Education) MS Program</p>	
<p>Melanie Rodriguez- Beltran (BS, Biology)</p>	<p>UNC Greensboro, Master of Science in Biology Program</p> <p>NC A & T University, Master of Science in Biology Program</p>	<p>UNC Greensboro, Master of Science in Biology Program</p>



Ronald E. McNair...

was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. Dr. McNair received a bachelor's degree in physics, from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971. In 1976, he received his Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology becoming nationally recognized for his work in the field of laser physics.

Dr. Ronald McNair lived an accomplished life as a research scientist, family man, pioneering astronaut, karate expert, jazz musician and a man of faith. As a crusader for education, his lifelong commitment was to continue his course to inspire students to dream big. Dr. McNair proclaimed, "I believe that in urban and rural cities there are great minds and talents with the hands that can control a spacecraft with the same dexterity that they control and handle a basketball. This talent must not be wasted."

Dr. McNair was selected as one of thirty-five applicants for the NASA astronaut program in 1978. In 1984, he was the second African American to fly in space aboard the STS-41-B *Challenger* mission. Sadly, on January 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle *Challenger* exploded after launch from the Kennedy Space Center; he was one of the seven-person crew who died.

After his death, Dr. McNair was awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, and members of Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Their goal was to encourage first-generation, low-income college students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups to expand their educational opportunities by enrolling in a Ph.D. program. Dr. Ronald E. McNair story serves as a model for people from all walks of life. His story is one that must be passed on from generation to generation.

Contact Us

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The Ronald E. McNair project is 100% federally funded at \$242,136.00 annually.

The enclosed materials were compiled through a grant from the US Department of Education. However, the contents have not been reviewed by the Department and no endorsement should be inferred.

Interested in McNair?

Eligibility Requirements

- 1. Low income, first generation college graduate
Or
Underrepresented minority**
- 2. GPA at least 3.0**
- 3. U.S. Citizen or permanent resident**
- 4. Must have a minimum of 60 credit hours**

Benefits

Summer internship with a \$2,800.00 stipend

Workshops and Seminars

GRE Prep

Graduate school application assistance

Graduate school visits

Travel and present at professional conferences