FSU McNair Scholars News

Class of 2019 100% Graduate School Acceptance

Meet the 2019 Cohort
Student Activities: Conferences, Colloquium, & Hollywood!
Extramural Research Summer 2019
2019 McNair Graduate Achievements

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
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
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
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 colloquia; and, they learn the tricks of the trade for the graduate school application process through graduate school prep boot camp!

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.

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 Dominque Elliott, Junior, Sociology Major came in 2nd Place for her research: Student’s Perceptions and Experiences of Microaggressions By Law Enforcement.
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

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
### McNair Scholars

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>McNair Scholars</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>2019 Summer Internship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Ann Charles</td>
<td>Biology &amp; Chemistry</td>
<td>East Carolina University Summer Biomedical Research Program at Brody School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominque Elliott</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Fudan International Summer 2019 Shanghai Summer School Scholarship Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Harris</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Youth Health Equity Model of Practice Fellowship (YHEMOP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Wilson</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Tuskegee University Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) REU Program in Nano-Bio MSE</td>
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<blockquote>
“True courage comes in enduring ... persevering ... and believing in oneself.”

- Ronald E. McNair
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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.

Dominque 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, Dominque describes her experience as culturally rewarding and fun!
## 2019 McNair Graduate Achievements!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>PhD/Graduate Program Acceptances</th>
<th>Attending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shante’ Elliott</td>
<td>PhD Program, Northwestern University, Learning Sciences</td>
<td>PhD Program, Northwestern University, Learning Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Scales</td>
<td>Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Biological &amp; Physical Sciences Program</td>
<td>Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitney J. Watson</td>
<td>University of Baltimore, Master of Science Criminal Justice</td>
<td>University of Baltimore, Master of Science Criminal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Anderson</td>
<td>University of Massachusetts Amherst, PhD Microbiology Program</td>
<td>PhD Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Microbiology Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evansha Andre (BS, Sociology)</td>
<td>State University New York (SUNY) Albany, PhD program in Sociology</td>
<td>University of Central Florida, Sociology MA Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erykah Briggs-White (BS, Healthcare Management)</td>
<td>University of Alabama Birmingham, Master of Science in Health Administration Program</td>
<td>Dual Degree, University of Alabama Birmingham, Master of Science in Health Administration Program &amp; Master of Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamonica Brown (BS, Psychology)</td>
<td>East Carolina University, Human Development &amp; Family Science Master’s Program</td>
<td>UNC Greensboro, Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies Program</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Education Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tiarah Bruno</td>
<td>NC A&amp;T University, MS Program Mental Health Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Psychology)</td>
<td>University of Michigan, Master of Social Work Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NC A&amp;T University, MS Program Mental Health Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anjel Castro</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico de Mayagüez, MS Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Biology)</td>
<td>University of Puerto Rico de Mayagüez, MS Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arshay Grant</td>
<td>Georgia Institute of Technology, PhD program in Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Biology)</td>
<td>PhD Program, Georgia Institute of Technology, Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meaonka Hadden</td>
<td>University of Maryland College Park Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice, Master’s Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Criminal Justice)</td>
<td>PhD Program, Temple University, Criminal Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana University of Pennsylvania Criminology MA Program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of North Carolina Wilmington, Criminology &amp; Sociology Master’s Program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NC State University, PhD in Sociology Program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temple University, PhD Program in Criminal Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destiny Ivey</td>
<td>NC A&amp;T University, Master of Science Program in Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NC A&amp;T University, Master of Science Program in Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Jones</td>
<td>Howard University, Political Science MA Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Education)</td>
<td>Howard University, Political Science MA Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Riddell</td>
<td>Ball State University, PhD Program Educational Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(BS, Psychology)</td>
<td>NC State University, Master of Science Curriculum and Instruction Program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNC Wilmington, M.Ed. Higher Education Specialization</td>
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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.
Eligibility Requirements

1. Low income, first generation college graduate
   Or
2. Underrepresented minority
3. GPA at least 3.0
4. U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
5. 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

Interested in McNair?

Contact Us
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