

## 2014–2015 Welcome McNair Scholars



▲ 2014–2015 Cohort, December 2014

**Emily Dalton**

Environmental Science

**Diana Hernandez** Religious and  
Theological Studies

**Vanessa Lerma**  
Psychology; Behavioral  
Neuroscience

**Jordan McCannon**  
Social Work

**Roman Morales**

Mathematics

**Nohely Najar**  
History

**Schaddai Pina**  
Marketing

**Leslie Ramirez**  
Special Education

**Isavannah Reyes**

Bioinformatics

**Gilbert Rivera**  
Mathematics

**Cheyenne Rohmann**  
Psychology

**Ashley Vance**

History

**Rebecca Zapata**  
Organizational Leadership

## Congratulations, McNair Graduates 2014–2015

### December 2014

Mirna Garza  
April Navarro

### May 2015

Kellee Coleman	Dianey Leal
Kelly-Kate Crossland	Carol Lu
Erik Escobar	Iman Ortiz
William Haynes III	Lydia Rhodes
Samantha Herd	Cynthia Tapia
Austin Hestdalen	

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE MARTINEZ Associate Professor of Communication



Stephanie Martinez, PhD, received her BS in Advertising from Kent State University, MA in Speech Communication with a concentration in Organizational Communication from Eastern Illinois University and her PhD in Communication Studies from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. For her dissertation, Martinez performed an ethnographic study regarding communication styles at Alexian Brothers Salus

Place — a community for people affected by HIV/AIDS and addiction in St. Louis, Missouri. She is an invaluable resource to the McNair Scholars Program, and we asked her to reflect on her experiences with the scholars.

### In what ways have you been involved with the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at St. Edward's University?

I was a research director and mentor during the first year of McNair being implemented at St. Edward's. Also, after Professor Molly Minus created the advisory board, I was asked to serve on that the first year as well.

### Why did you choose to get involved with the McNair Scholars Program?

I was a first-generation college student. My father did not finish high school. Instead, he went off to fight in WWII like many of his friends. I wish I had had a program like McNair.

### How do you think the McNair Scholars Program helps prepare students for graduate school?

McNair offers so much to our future graduate students. It gives them experience developing questions and creating a longer research project while working closely with a faculty mentor. They then go on to present this information in front of an audience at different conferences and to publish in our McNair journal. They have study prep for the GRE. They also have Molly Minus and the McNair staff who are great mentors and resources.

### How long have you been at St. Edward's, and what led you to join the Communication department?

Twelve years. The joke in my family is that I said I would never move to Texas. I don't like heat. I had never been to Texas, let alone Austin, before I interviewed here. I fell in love with the students, my department and the school — in that order. I work with wonderful scholars in my discipline who are doing amazing things.

# From the Director's Desk



Each spring we have an annual event, our recognition reception, which coincides with the publication of our annual newsletter. We take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our scholars and our alumni over the past year. As we reviewed not only the past year, but also the last 12 years, we compiled a report of our alumni for our website, and seeing all the accomplishments of our alumni since receiving their bachelor's degree was quite wonderful and inspiring. Our scholars and alumni have been incredibly successful in their graduate studies because of their hard work and strong commitment to achieve their goals. To date, 28 of our scholars achieved master's degrees, three achieved a DPT and two achieved PhDs, with two more PhDs to be awarded in 2015. Our second McNair scholar to receive her

PhD, Ilse Carrizales '06, graduated from Oklahoma State University with a doctorate in Counseling Psychology in 2013. Following her graduation, she received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington Child Study and Treatment Center. She will be the keynote speaker at our annual recognition reception on May 1, 2015.

As usual, spring is a tension-filled but exhilarating time in the McNair office. We eagerly await our scholars' notification of graduate school and conference acceptances, as well as scholarships and fellowship awards. For the sixth year in a row, we had a 100% acceptance rate for our scholars who submitted abstracts to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, a highly competitive conference. The four scholars accepted this year are in the fields of Global Studies, Political Science, Communication and Psychology. As the April 15 deadline for graduate school acceptances is fast approaching (some decisions are still pending), we are pleased to announce that so far we have an 80% acceptance rate this spring. Since 2003, we have served 159 scholars, including the 28 scholars who are currently enrolled at St. Edward's. Of the 129 scholars who graduated prior to this academic year, 79 have gone on to graduate or professional school. That is 61% of the total since the program began in 2003. Of the scholars who graduated in the last academic year, 77% were enrolled in graduate school this fall.

In addition to acknowledging the accomplishments of our scholars and McNair alumni, we also owe our success to the tremendous support and assistance from faculty, staff and administration across the university. We could not do this program without your support and contributions in time and ideas. Thank you for all you do.

## Molly Minus, PhD

Director, McNair Scholars Program  
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Professor of Education

*Thank you to the following St. Edward's University faculty members who support the program by mentoring students and directing their research. The McNair Scholars Program would not be successful without their dedication.*

## 2014–2015 MCNAIR FACULTY MENTORS

### School of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Stacey Borasky, PhD  
John Cotter, PhD  
Michael Disch, PhD  
Anna Escamilla, PhD  
Russell J. Frohardt, PhD  
Daniel Glenn, PhD  
Mity Myhr, PhD  
Rachael Neal, PhD  
Rodrigo Nunes, PhD  
Tomas Yufik, PhD

### School of Natural Sciences

Jason Callahan, PhD  
Paula Raelynn Deaton, PhD  
Charles Hauser, PhD  
Fidelma O'Leary, PhD  
Mary Kopecki-Fjetland, PhD  
Paul Walter, PhD

### University Programs

Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, PhD

### School of Humanities

Shannon Butler, PhD  
Mark Cherry, PhD  
Mary Rist, PhD  
Teri L. Varner, PhD  
Jennifer Veninga, PhD

### The Bill Munday School of Business

Mike Harris, PhD  
Gary Pletcher, PhD  
William Martello, PhD

### School of Education

Kris Sloan, PhD  
Terry Newton, PhD  
Amy Nathan Wright, PhD



## McNair Scholars Program at St. Edward's University

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is dedicated to providing research-related experiences and academic support to talented undergraduates who are interested in pursuing a PhD degree.

This federally funded TRIO program targets first-generation college students from low-income families and students from populations underrepresented in graduate education.

### Program benefits include:

- Academic, career and personal counseling
- Research mentoring by a faculty mentor
- Preparation for GRE
- Assistance in applying to graduate school
- Professional development seminars
- Paid travel to professional and research conferences
- Training in research methodology
- Summer research internship with research stipend of up to \$2,800
- Graduate school application waivers from more than 200 universities

### Eligibility requirements include:

- GPA of 2.7 or better
- Undergraduate status with 45 or more credit hours
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Low-income and first generation college student, or member of a group underrepresented in graduate study (i.e., Hispanic, African-American, Native American or Pacific Islander [Guamanian, Native Hawaiian or Samoan])

For more information, visit [think.stedwards.edu/mcnair](http://think.stedwards.edu/mcnair) or call **512-428-1268**.



▲ Journal cover design by  
Laurel Kemper '15, Graphic Design

## McNair Scholars Program Research Journal, Volume VII, Spring 2015

The McNair Scholars Program proudly announces the publication of Volume VII of its annual research journal. The journal features articles by the following scholars:

Kellee Coleman  
Kelly-Kate Crossland  
William Miller Haynes III  
Jazmine Hernandez  
Austin Hestdalen  
Dianey Leal  
Mario J. Lira  
Cynthia Tapia

## McNair Research Journal Faculty Editorial Board 2014–2015

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Peter Wake, PhD  
Corinne Weisgerber, PhD



▲ 2013–2014 McNair Scholars Research Internship Cohort

## McNair Scholars Prepare for Summer Research Internship in Summer 2015

Every summer following their induction, McNair scholars enroll in the McNair summer research internship at St. Edward's University, each working alongside their respective faculty mentor to formally conduct a research project of their interest. Scholars will then present their findings at our annual research symposium and at national academic conferences across the U.S. the next year.



## Auburney S. Jackson Joins McNair Program

We would like to welcome Auburney S. Jackson, our new project graduate assistant, to the McNair Scholars Program. Jackson is a recent honors graduate from Southwestern University (May 2014) with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with concentrations in Race and Ethnic Studies and Political Science. She has ample experience working on issues regarding racial and social justice, diversity and "inclusion," gender and sexuality, and students from underrepresented and low-income backgrounds. Prior to this role, she was a senior student director in the Office of Diversity Education as well as the research assistant for the Philosophy and Religion departments at Southwestern University. She is currently pursuing a dual doctorate degree in African and African Diaspora Studies and Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. Her scholarly work seeks to employ the praxis of (Black) Existentialism; (Black) Political Philosophy; Afro-Pessimism and Liberation Theory; and Psychoanalysis to investigate and interrogate the notion of political alliances across inter-identity lines — with attention given to inter-racial lines.

Jackson is the only daughter of a military family, leading her to grow up in Arkansas, New York, Louisiana and Texas. She, her partner and their two fluffy dogs have made Austin their home. When she is not avidly reading to prepare for her qualifying exams, she can be found either enjoying a movie with her family or cruising a Texas back road on her motorcycle.



# McNair Scholars Research Presentations

## KELLEE COLEMAN

**Major:** Sociology

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Infant and Maternal Mortality and Racism: Experiences of Double Jeopardy in Austin, Texas"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 22nd Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, September 2014



## ▲ WILLIAM M. HAYNES III

**Major:** Global Studies

**Graduation:** May 2015

"The Impacts and Implications of Remittances from the United States to Morocco"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 18th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference, Kansas City, September 2014



## ▲ AUSTIN HESTDALEN

**Major:** Communication

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Of Poetics and Politics: Reconsidering the Rhetorical Nature of Comedy in Modern Political Discourse"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 22nd Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, September 2014
- Texas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, Austin, Texas, March 2015
- National Conference of Undergraduate Research at Eastern Washington University, April 2015



## ▲ JAZMINE HERNANDEZ

**Major:** International Business

**Graduation:** May 2016

"Foreign Direct Investment from Mexico into the United States: The Case of Grupo Bimbo"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014



## ▲ DIANEY LEAL

**Major:** Political Science and English Writing and Rhetoric

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Segmented Assimilation in the Rio Grande Valley: Second-Generation Adults and Educational Attainment"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014
- University of New Mexico McNair Research Conference, Albuquerque, October 2014
- National Conference of Undergraduate Research at Eastern Washington University, April 2015

## ▲ KELLY-KATE CROSSLAND

**Major:** Philosophy

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Does Liberty Mean Freedom? A Comparison of Two Philosophical Accounts"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014

## ERIK ESCOBAR

**Major:** Biology

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Agent-based Computational Model of the Prevalence of Gonococcal Infections after the Implementation of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Guidelines"

- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, San Antonio, Texas, November 2014

## ARMAND FERRECCIO

**Major:** Global Studies

**Graduation:** December 2015

"Effects of Two Major Waves of Foreign Occupation of Afghanistan on the Civilian Population: A Trans-generational Analysis"

- National Conference of Undergraduate Research at Eastern Washington University, April 2015

## MARIO LIRA

**Major:** Psychology

**Graduation:** May 2016

"Acculturative Stress and Migrant Farmworker College Students' Mental Health"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 22nd Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, September 2014

## CAROL LU

**Major:** Sociology

**Graduation:** May 2015

"The Purpose of a College Degree: Comparing Financial Aid and Educational Mobility in the United States and Japan"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 22nd Annual McNair Scholars Research Conference at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, September 2014



## IMAN ORTIZ

**Major:** Accounting

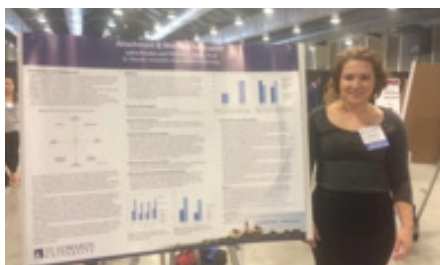
**Graduation:** May 2015

"Influence of Tax Rates in the Choice of Operating Locations by a Multinational Company"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014

## Congratulations to Our Scholars for Another Successful Year!

You have made us proud by your continued efforts as you strive for excellence.



## LYDIA RHODES

**Major:** Psychology

**Graduation:** May 2015

"Relationship Attachment and Memory"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014



## CYNTHIA TAPIA

**Major:** Biology

**Graduation:** May 2015

"The Effects of Imidacloprid on the Central Nervous System of a Non-target Organism *Caenorhabditis elegans*"

- 11th Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium at St. Edward's University, July 2014
- 20th Annual McNair Research Conference at University of Buffalo, New York, July 2014
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, San Antonio, Texas, November 2014



## Congratulations to McNair Scholars

Dianey Leal, Austin D. Hestdalen, Mario J. Lira and Armand Ferreccio have been accepted to present at the NCUR Conference at Eastern Washington University.



# McNair Alumni Highlight: Dianey Leal



**Dianey Leal, BA Political Science and English Writing and Rhetoric**

As a first-generation college student, I was unaware of the professional and academic opportunities that graduate school offered. With the guidance of the McNair Scholars Program, I was able to learn about the application process and financial opportunities, and develop communication and research skills that will serve as stepping stones for graduate school. In addition to practical and informative workshops on graduate school, McNair also gave me the opportunity to learn about the realms of conducting research as an undergrad — an opportunity that would not have been possible without the support of the

McNair Scholars Program. From providing us with a GRE tutor to allowing us to participate in the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Internship program, the program has played an instrumental role in the continuation of my educational career. Throughout my participation, I have been blessed with continuous support from the McNair Scholars Program and cohort — their helpful suggestions, moral support and friendship have been invaluable.

My summer undergraduate research on second-generation adults and their educational attainment was the most impactful experience

that assisted in shaping and clarifying my graduate study objectives and career goals. During the development and planning of my research study, the McNair Program provided my cohort and me with useful research skills and allowed us to get a glimpse of what graduate school had to offer. Moreover, I was given the opportunity to present my research at major conferences in different states, allowing me to polish my presentational and interpersonal skills as I was also able to meet other intellectual scholars at these conferences. I conducted my summer research under the direct supervision of Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, PhD — an amazing professor who not only assisted me during the development and planning of my research, but who also invested in me intellectually and continuously encouraged me to pursue my academic goals. What I appreciated most about Professor Hernandez-Ehrisman was her patient guidance during my research, her useful critiques, and her invaluable and constructive suggestions on how to better my research — her efforts reminded me that there was always room for improvement, which motivated me to do my best.

Being a McNair scholar has been such a blessing and honor. My academic opportunities have expanded thanks to this program. There were times when the workload seemed endless, but as a graduating scholar, I can say that it is all worth it. Do not be afraid to ask for help — that is what the McNair Program has been built for — to guide and help students as they pursue their graduate study objectives. The McNair Program prepared me for graduate school, and I would advise scholars to take advantage of the resources and guidance this program offers.

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## Intellectual Entrepreneurship Internship: Mentor's Perspective

McNair Scholars participate in the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Internship program, which pairs them with doctoral student mentors from the University of Texas at Austin. Scholars shadow their mentors by sitting in on graduate classes, assisting with doctoral research, attending graduate seminars and programs, and meeting with their mentors to discuss life as a graduate student.



**Motolani Ogunsanya, B. Pharm, MS, PhD Candidate**

**What program are you enrolled in at the University of Texas at Austin, and what are you currently researching? How did you relate it to your IE mentee's interest?**

I am currently a PhD candidate at the College of Pharmacy, Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division at UT-Austin. I earned my B.Pharm (Hons) from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, in 2008. I was a pharmacist in Nigeria before moving to the U.S. in 2011. My research interests center on the areas of cancer prevention and health disparities. Currently, I am working on capturing disease burden using PROs and Health-

Related Quality of Life measurements in patients with rare diseases such as cutaneous lupus erythematosus. My McNair Scholar mentee April Navarro's interests are in psychology and behavioral neuroscience. My background in behavioral sciences was a vantage point and served as a common ground for April and me to talk about her prospective research ideas and potential programs she plans to apply to.

**How did you hear about the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Internship Program? What inspired you to become an IE Mentor?**

I heard about IE through my own mentor. I decided to give it a try and I am glad it worked out! It was my way of paying it forward and to try to make an impact in someone's life. Typically, mentoring involves a hierarchical relationship in which one is supposed to guide others, but I would say that for the most part of this mentorship, I have learned a lot more from April.

**What topics did you and April discuss during your time together?**

April and I talked about career prospects (for her), interviewing tips, résumé building and how to make oneself attractive during interviews for graduate school.

**What events, activities and courses did you invite or encourage April to participate in with you on campus at the University of Texas at Austin?**

April has been to a couple of my on-campus presentations where I talked about my thesis and my summer internship experience at a major biotech company. April also attended a couple of the speaker series sessions that my organization put together. She got to listen to speakers from the pharmaceutical and academic industry talk about their job and work experience.

**What advice would you give to incoming graduate students or undergraduates wanting to pursue graduate studies?**

For those planning to pursue graduate school, I would suggest that you first make a list of potential schools you plan to apply to and send the graduate coordinators a letter of inquiry (attach your résumé) to find out if you are a good fit for the program, and you could also ask if the program is funded. Also, get involved in volunteer opportunities that are relevant to your program and make sure you get someone to review your résumé/CV and statement of purpose. This will make your application competitive.

To incoming graduate students, remember to take deep breaths as often as you can. Also remember that this is just for a short while, so bask in the euphoria of all the challenges and triumphs alike. Build a strong network while you are there; do not be intellectually isolated. There are so many organizations for grad students on campus; find one that fits your interest. For example, I enjoy public speaking and I have been an active member of UT Science Toastmasters since 2011. Finally, time management can be another challenge. I am in my fourth year of grad school and I have not been able to tame the beast that is time. However, I can say that I am not where I used to be and every day gets better. Don't forget to strike a balance between work and play! Do everything in moderation.

**Would you participate in the Intellectual Entrepreneurship Program again? Would you encourage other graduate students to become involved?**

Yes! I will definitely encourage other UT graduate students to get involved. I have learned a lot from April. For example, seeing the hope and doggedness in her (especially in applying to top-tier graduate schools) awakens something in me and stirs me into the realm of achieving other possibilities. Suffice to say, there is safety in the counsel of many, so I encourage prospective mentees to be intentional in their pursuits of mentors. There are so many mentors who are looking for ways to give back and mentor others.



# Elvia Valle: from St. Edward's University McNair Scholar to Fulbright Fellow and Georgetown University Graduate



The McNair Office would like to congratulate Elvia Valle on all of her hard work and success as a McNair scholar. Thank you for taking the time to be interviewed by our office for the newsletter, and for providing brilliant words of wisdom to your fellow scholars — even from across the world. We wish you continued success!

## Academic Profile:

St. Edward's University  
Graduation Year: December 2013

Major at St. Edward's:  
Global Studies

Currently Attending:  
Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

Graduate Program:  
Diploma Program

Expected Graduation Year:  
June 2015

## How did the McNair Program help you prepare for graduate school/continuing education?

My experience in doing research while working one-on-one with an advisor was invaluable for preparing me for my graduate studies. Research is an indispensable part of graduate school; McNair helped by giving me the extra practice and many opportunities to present my research.

## Which McNair experience(s) do you find to be the most memorable, impactful and/or useful in assisting you with the completion of graduate studies?

The most impactful experiences I had as a McNair Scholar were attending conferences and presenting my research. I am not the most comfortable presenting, but having so much practice made me more comfortable and therefore better, I daresay. Furthermore, having the experience of speaking to different admissions experts at each conference informed me about different programs and helped me narrow down my list of potential graduate schools.

## Who did you work with on your McNair research and what do you most appreciate about your mentor/advisor?

I worked with Professor Peter Austin my first summer as a McNair Scholar and Professor Mity Myhr my second. Professor Austin was extremely supportive (and patient) in helping me narrow down my big ideas, and Professor Myhr really pushed me to be more concise in my writing. These are skills that every graduate student should possess.

## What advice do you have for our current McNair undergraduate and graduate students?

I advise students to go after every opportunity that interests them. In my experience, this has helped me determine my interests and the directions in which I want to go as far as research. One can learn a lot through reading and research, but nothing substitutes experience.

## What advice would you give any student contemplating seeking a PhD/graduate studies?

Every field is different. I advise students to become familiar with the typical professional journey of someone who has the career you desire. For example, professionals in the international relations field tend to do a master's degree first, gain some experience in the field and then go on to a PhD program.

## During your time as a St. Edward's McNair Scholar, you became the university's first student to win a Fulbright full research grant award! What advice would you give to McNair Scholars who are interested in applying for the Fulbright?

I advise students to just go for it — I was in danger of self-selecting myself out by not applying because I thought I did not have all the qualifications for my particular program. Because no one at St. Edward's had done

something like it before, I really had to seek out information to make myself competitive. The first, even the fifth draft of your personal statement is not going to be your final one — I went to the Writing Center twice a week for a few weeks before the deadline.

## Your Fulbright research was sanctioned to take place abroad in Vienna. How are things going in Vienna? What are you studying/working on?

Things in Vienna are great! I am currently completing the Academy's Diploma Program, a one-year postgraduate training course in the theory and practice of international relations. The program comprises courses in political science and international relations, the structure and functioning of the European Union, economics and international economic relations, international law, and contemporary political history. In addition, I am training to acquire internationally recognized language certificates in French and German.

## What are your future plans?

I will begin my master's degree at Georgetown's School of the Foreign Service this coming fall. Upon completion of my degree, I hope to gain some professional practice, perhaps in policy analysis. I believe this experience will be invaluable for continuing on to a doctorate program.



▲ McNair 2014 Summer Research Internship Cohort

## Alumni Spotlight: Where Are They Now?

Many of our scholars are currently pursuing a graduate degree, and they are well on their way to earning a doctoral degree. The following is a brief list of some of our successful scholars.

### SCHOLARS IN DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

**Heather Bruch,**

PhD Mathematical Sciences Program  
New Mexico State University

**Dellea Copeland,**

PhD Political Science  
Pennsylvania State University

**GiNell Elliott,**

PhD Computational Biology Program  
Washington University

**Patricia Garcia,**

PhD Information Studies Program  
University of California at Los Angeles

**Daisey Izaguirre,**

PhD Cancer Biology Program  
University of Texas Biomedical

**Danielle Jackson,**

PhD Depth Psychology  
Pacifica Graduate Institute

**Shanae Jefferies,**

PhD Sociology  
University of North Texas

**Daniel Lyles,**

PhD Science and Technology Studies Program  
Rennselear Polytechnic Institute

**Amalia Martinez,**

PhD Clinical and Industrial/Organization  
Psychology Program  
Alliant International University

**Elba Moise,**

PhD Education  
University of Washington

**Leslie Nix,**

PhD Biology  
Scripps Research Institute

**Kristina Rodriguez,**

PhD Counseling Psychology Program  
University of North Texas

**Victoria Rodriguez,**

PhD Education  
Stanford University

**Peter Rosa,**

PhD Philosophy  
Loyola University

**Rachel Banda Rothrock,**

PhD Education/Curriculum and  
Instruction Program  
The University of Texas at Austin

**Brenda Torres,**

PhD Immunology Program  
Stanford University

**Stefanie Torres,**

PhD English Creative Writing Program  
University of Kansas

**Leon A. Venegas,**

PhD Biological Science Program  
University of Illinois

### DOCTORATE DEGREES AWARDED IN 2014

**Gustavo Alonso, DPT**

University of Southern California

**Rosemary Galvan, DPT**

Texas Women's University

### 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 contacting Sonia Briseño at [sbrisen@stedwards.edu](mailto:sbrisen@stedwards.edu) — or visit us on Facebook and like our page, St. Edward's University McNair Scholars Program.

### McNair Scholars Program

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### Director

Molly E. Minus, PhD

### Assistant Director

Sonia Briseño, MSW

### Project Graduate Assistant

Auburney S. Jackson, PhD Candidate

### Senior Secretary

Maria D. Gómez, BA

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**Stephanie Martinez, PhD**  
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School of Behavioral and  
Social Sciences

### STEM Advisors

**Lisa M. Goering, PhD**  
School of Natural Sciences

**Jason Callahan, PhD**  
School of Natural Sciences

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