

THE PHASE

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The Our Lady of the Lake University McNair Scholars Program Newsletter



THE WORK CONTINUES

By Director Dr. Jessica M. Quintero

Hello Scholars,

We kept the momentum of summer research and scholarly activities going and had a very busy and productive Fall semester. Scholars continued to enhance and present their work throughout the semester, engaged in cultural and campus activities, and invested many hours in applying for graduate programs.

We have also been excited to hear about the wonderful work that our alumni have been engaged with, thank you for sharing! Your success is celebrated and shared with aspiring and current scholars, who are encouraged by your progress.

We are so proud of the work that everyone is doing.

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WELCOME SRI 24

This semester, 12 students were accepted into the program.

Catherin Blood
BIOL

Steven Engbrecht
History

Natalie Esqueda
KINE

Adriana Guerrero
KINE

Alyna Guerrero
PSYC

Abigail Jimenez
CSCD

Kimberly Padilla Ponce
ENGL

Vanessa Rodriguez
BIOL

Janessa Roney
BIOL

Roger Salas
CISS

Bianca Villalobos
PSYC & SOWK

Diego Zuniga
KINE

CULTURAL OUTINGS

Dinner and Theatre

Students from across cohorts came together for dinner and to attend the 39 Steps performance in September. Over dinner, they were formally introduced to each other. They discussed their research interest, the McNair program expectations and experiences, and their academic aspirations.



From left to right: Roger, Marcus, Francisco, RaLisa, Steven, Adriana, Isis, Aliyah, Angelique, Dr. Q, Stephanie, Natalie, Abigail, Destiny, Naomi, Casandra Alyna, & Frankie,

S.A. McNair Cultural Event

Scholars from OLLU, UTSA, & Trinity gathered to attend the Beauty & the Beast Ballet followed by dinner. This cultural outing represents efforts by McNair programs within San Antonio to create opportunities for scholars to network with peers across campuses in a social setting.



OLLU Scholars listed from left to right: Marcus, Anut, Naomi Casanova, Casandra Rodriguez, & Angelique Luna.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

September 05-08

This Fall, OLLU participated in the University of New Mexico McNair Scholars Research Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As one of the largest delegation of students at the conference, all 13 students were active participants with each providing an oral presentation, participating in the graduate school fair, and networking with other scholars and faculty at the conference.

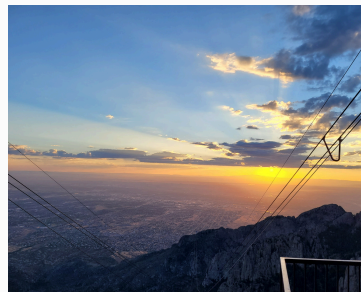


From left to right; Angelique Luna, Isis Esparza, Kimberley Carrizales, Aaliyah Delgado, Stephanie Sandoval, Frankie Saldana, Nicholas Salas, RaLisa Bernal, Francisco Frade, Marcus Antu, Casandra Rodriguez, Naomi Casanova, and Destiny Arenas.

Scholars made the most out of their time in New Mexico and engaged in cultural activities such as attending a folklórico performance, touring Old Town, and taking the aerial tramway up to the top of the Sandia Mountain.



From left to right: Nick, Isis, Angelique, Aaliyah, Stephanie, Destiny, RaLisa, Casandra, & Naomi



Top left: Isis Top right: Stephanie, Casandra, & Naomi



ALUMNI UPDATES

GRADUATION

Four scholars join the ranks of alumni. Marcus Antu received his BA in Psychology and plans on enrolling into a Social Psychology Ph.D. program in the Fall. Angelique Luna received her BS in Kinesiology and plans on enrolling into a Kinesiology Masters program in the Fall. Jacqueline Baldazo, received her BS in Kinesiology and will be attending the University of Texas at El Paso's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program this semester. Casandra Rodriguez received her BA in Psychology & BA in Criminal Justice and plans on enrolling into a graduate program in the Fall.

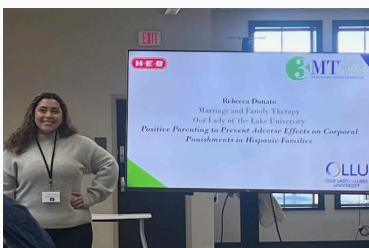


Top left: Angelique Luna, mentored by Dr. Emily Sauers. Bottom left: Casandra Rodriguez, mentored by Dr. Brittany Chozinski. Top right: Marcus Antu, mentored by Dr. Kathryn Anderson. Bottom right: Jacqueline Baldazo, mentored by Dr. Josiah Johnson.

RESEARCH



Amber Taylor (C/O 2022) presented her research “Mississippi and Hawaii: A Health Equity Comparison” at the Rowan University Research Symposia. Amber is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts in Writing from Rowan.



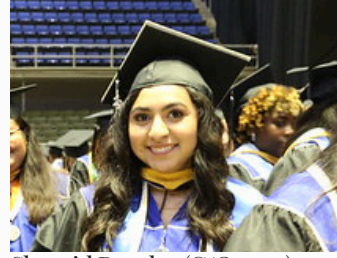
Rebecca Donato (C/O 2023) presented her research “Positive Parenting to Prevent Adverse Effects on Corporal Punishments in Hispanic Families” at the Inaugural OLLU Regional 3MT Competition. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Psychology with a Concentration in Marriage and Family Counseling.

DOCTORAL STUDIES



Stephanie Garza (C/O 2019)

Stephanie started her Ph.D. in Political Science at University of Texas at Austin this Fall.



Sheccid Rosales (C/O 2022)

Sheccid started her Ph.D. in Social Work at Capella University this Fall.

The OLLU McNair Scholars community is rooting for you as you embark on this new chapter in their academic careers.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. JAMES HERNANDEZ



DR. JAMES HERNANDEZ (C/O 13)

Dr. James Hernandez earned his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching from the University of Texas at San Antonio. His dissertation titled “GAMES AND LEARNING: SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND LANGUAGE USE OF 2ND GRADE STUDENTS PLAYING A DIGITAL GAME IN PAIRS” aimed to examine ways young children practice social skills and use language while playing the digital game Roblox in pairs, using a single electronic device, as framed through Vygotsky’s Socio-cultural theory of learning. In the study,

participants were four seven-year-old 2nd-grade students paired to play the digital game Roblox at a charter school. Dr. Hernandez observed and recorded how the children interacted with the game, their language while playing, and their behavior toward each other. His study sought to answer the following questions: (1) How does playing Roblox influence social interaction and learning for 2nd-grade students? (2) How does playing Roblox promote language skills development for 2nd-grade students? Data sources included audio and video recordings, field notes, pre- and post-gameplay meetings, and observations. He transcribed and analyzed the data using open coding to understand how young children interact and learn socially while playing a digital game.

His study found that 2nd-grade students playing in dyads expressed two significant behaviors while playing a digital game. They were turn-taking and managing disagreements. They also practiced several forms of language use, including helping language, descriptive language, using background knowledge, specialist language, suggesting language, and questioning. It was concluded that when children play a digital game such as Roblox in dyads, they practice higher-order thinking, self-regulation, and cooperative and collaborative behaviors.

PLANS FOR SPRING 2024

In preparation for the spring semester, we took the time to reflected and discuss what is working well, what needs improvement, and what innovative ways we can support all scholars to reach their academic goals, including alumni. One area that surfaced was, alumni connections. When we are able to connect with alumni and stay engaged with their process, we are able to provide needed support. We have had success with this in the past and see the value in being proactive and making intentional efforts to reach out and build these connections.

Our goal this semester is to connect with all alumni who have graduated in the past five years by March 8th and ten years by May 8th. Program staff including Dr. Quintero, Mari, & Rebecca will accomplish this goal by reaching out on social media, making phone calls, and sending both electronic and postal messages.

Accomplishing this goal will allow us to identify any need for support you may have and the best way to make it accessible to you.

STAY CONNECTED

There are several ways to stay connected with us. Follow us on Instagram, view our Newsletter, and Contribute to our Scholar Support Fund. This fund is set up to offset costs accrued by scholars not allowable by the Department of Education, such as professional organization and GRE fees. Share your talents, sign up as a coach, connector, speaker, advisory board member, etc. Tell us how you're doing. As a grant recipient, the Department of Education requires that we provide information on your progress to Ph.D. Additionally, current scholars need to see what is possible for them, and it is important to celebrate your success. We want to highlight alumni in all future issues of The Phase.

You are always welcome to reach out via phone at 210-431-4099, email us at mcnair@ollusa.edu, or stop by our offices located in Lower Level Moyer.



Our Ladies of the Lake University

McNair Scholars Alumni

- INSTAGRAM
- NEWSLETTER
- SCHOLAR SUPPORT FUND
- VOLUNTEER WITH US
- TELL US HOW YOU'RE DOING
- APPLICATION FEE WAIVER