



2019 McNair Spring Gathering

Inspiring the Future
and Changing Lives

Friday, May 24
4:00pm to 7:00pm
Spokane Club
1002 W. Riverside Avenue, Spokane



ewu.edu/mcnair
#2019EWUMcNair

Slide Show: 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Christina Ramelow, McNair STEM GSA
Sharing Success Strategies for Graduate School

Welcome: 5:00pm

Dr. Scott Gordon, Provost

Program Updates

Dr. Christina Torres Garcia, Director

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cheryl Dykstra-Aiello

Recognition of McNair Graduating Scholars

Ben Murray, McNair GSA

Scholar Remarks, Welcoming New Scholars

Elvin Cabrera, McNair Scholar

Introduction of New Scholars

Christina Ramelow, McNair STEM GSA,
Najeda Patolo, Academic Advisor

Faculty Research Mentor Remarks

Dr. Andrea Castillo, Biology

Scholar Remarks: Mentor Impact

Josiah Van Egdome, McNair Scholar

Recognition of Faculty Research Mentors

Cynthia Dukich, Asst. Director

Scholar Remarks

Ereisa Morales, McNair Scholar

Graduate Readiness Award

Dr. Christina Torres Garcia, Director

Closing Comments: 7:00pm

Dr. Christina Torres Garcia, Director

Our Mission: Eastern's TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares low-income, first-generation and/or underrepresented minority undergraduates for success in doctoral programs. McNair provides opportunities for scholarly activities and community engagement that empower participants to become agents of positive change in a culturally diverse world.



Most Recent McNair Alumni PhDs

Melissa Rhodehouse completed her Inorganic Chemistry PhD from Iowa State University.

Elizabeth Schriener completed her Counseling Psychology PhD from Washington State University.

Yolanda Gonzales Valencia completed her Geography PhD from the University of Washington.

Recent MAs & Graduate Acceptances

Esmeralda Adolf completed her Master's in Clinical Psychology from Boston College. She was accepted for PhD programs at the University of Connecticut's School of Psychology; Southern Illinois University Carbondale Child Clinical Psychology; and University of Colorado Denver's Clinical Health Psychology program, where she will attend with full funding.

Ricardo Ely completed his Master's in Biology at Indiana University. He was accepted for PhD programs in Virginia Tech's Department of Biological Sciences (Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior); and Indiana University's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, where he will attend with full funding.

Donya Quarnstrom completed an MA in Economics from Utah State. **Jon Panamaroff** was accepted to the Executive Business PhD program at the University of Denver.

Shawna Harshman was accepted to the MA program in Communication and Leadership at Gonzaga University.



Letter from the Director,

Welcome to our 24h Annual EWU TRIO Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program's May Gathering: *Inspiring the Future and Changing Lives!*

Another year has flown by, and the McNair program continues to have great success in providing the personalized and group workshops, seminars, research, and other scholarly experiences that fulfill the McNair grant objectives, and culminate in the student accomplishments highlighted in this program. Mandatory program objectives include student participation in research and scholarly activities, enrollment and persistence in graduate school, and completing the PhD within ten years. In addition to coordinating the McNair summer research internships that are successful because of the dedication of our McNair faculty research mentors, who we will honor today, the McNair program staff provides year-round services to support student success. These services include seminars in scholarly identity and research methods, graduate school application and writing workshops, as well as facilitating conference travel, among many other academic activities.

In our FY 2018-2019, we had 100% of our McNair Scholars accepted into graduate school. Currently, 37 McNair Scholars have earned a Ph.D., and 117 have earned a Master's degree. We have approximately 62 McNair Scholars enrolled in graduate programs, including 21 in Ph.D. programs.

I want to thank the Ronald E. McNair Staff for one more year of excellent collaboration and stimulation of ideas for new projects. I enjoyed working with everyone and hope to continue this positive momentum throughout our summer and next academic year.

I hope you enjoy this program as much as I have enjoyed working with such great individuals this past year.

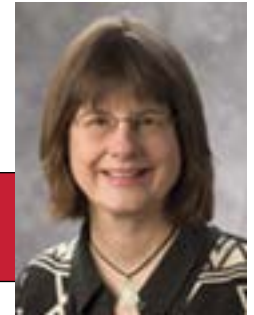
Sincerely, Dr. Torres García

Muchas Gracias!

My greatest gratitude to
the McNair Search Committee!



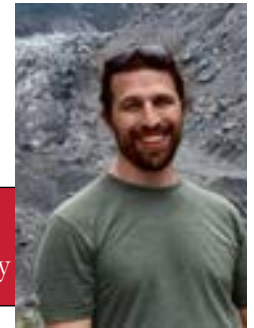
Dr. Judd Case
Department of
Biology



Dr. Margaret O'Connell
Department of Biology



Dr. Theresa Martin
Department of
Psychology



Dr. Stephen Tsikalas
Department of Geography



Dr. Martín Meráz García
Department of Chicana
Studies



Dr. Miguel Novella
Department of Modern
Languages & Literatures

Keynote Speaker:
Cheryl Dykstra-Aiello, Ph.D.
Eastern Washington University
McNair Scholar, graduated class of 2012



Dr. Cheryl Dykstra-Aiello is honored to be a McNair Scholar since 2010, where she was introduced to the wonderfully frustrating, yet very satisfying, world of scientific research. Her two summers of McNair research focused on sex and age differences in the effects of exercise on pain sensitivity. Cheryl is a proud Eagle alum, having graduated from EWU in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in biology. In 2017, she received her Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology from the University of California at Davis, where she focused her dissertation on blood gene expression in stroke patients. After graduation, she followed her heart back to Eastern Washington and is now completing her postdoctoral research training in the Krueger sleep lab at Washington State University. Recently, she accepted a position as Assistant Research Professor under the continuing guidance of her WSU postdoc mentor and is currently focusing research interests on the connection between sleep, stroke and the immune system.

We are Proud to Introduce the 2019 Cohort!

- Halim Acosta, Computer Science
 - Leanne Allen, History
 - Madelyn Brown, History
 - Miriam Carlson, Psychology
- Malachi Chukwu, Political Science
- Darlene Gilroy, Environmental Science
 - Theresa Lee, Psychology
 - Lily Ann Long, Psychology
 - Alex Lopez, Biology
- Wendolyn Martinez, Political Science

Ricardo Ely and Dr. Judd A. Case Publish New Findings in Science Direct!

“Phylogeny of a new gigantic paravian (Theropoda; Coelurosauria; Maniraptora) from the Upper Cretaceous of James Ross Island, Antarctica”

Highlights

- Imperobator recovered as non-dromaeosaurid (contra Case et al., 2007).
- Phylogenetic analyses (parsimony and Bayesian) suggest possible basal paravian.
- First comprehensive biostratigraphy of latest Cretaceous Antarctic dinosaur faunas.
- Presents first time of occurrence of dinosaur taxa from the Antarctic Peninsula.

Faculty Research Mentors

Eastern's TRIO McNair Faculty Research Mentors facilitate undergraduate research internship experiences by dedicating time, energy, and expertise in assisting scholars with the graduate application process and in presenting McNair research at local, regional, and national conferences. Without their dedication and guidance, the McNair Scholar Program would not be possible. Thank you, Faculty Research Mentors!

2018-19 Faculty Research Mentors

College of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics:

- **Dr. Andrea Castillo**, Associate Professor of Biology
Mentee, Marcos Monteiro
- **Dr. David Daberkow**, Associate Professor of Biology
Mentee, Christina Ramelow
- **Dr. Frank Lynch**, Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics
Mentee, Nathan Blair
- **Dr. Wes Steiner**, Professor of Chemistry
Mentee, Elvin Cabrera
- **Dr. Shamima Yasmin**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Mentee, Erik Almaguer

New & Continuing STEM Faculty Research Mentors 2019-20:

- **Dr. Carmen Nezat**, Professor of Geology
Mentee, Darlene Gilroy
- **Dr. Margaret O'Connell**, Professor and Co-Director Turnbull Laboratory for Ecological Studies, & **Dr. Paul Spruell**, Assistant Professor of Biology
Mentee, Alex Lopez
- **Dr. Yun Tian (Tony)**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Mentee, Halim Acosta
- **Dr. Shamima Yasmin**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Mentee, Erik Almaguer

2018-19 College of Health Science & Public Health:

- **Dr. Sarah Mount**, Program Director, Public Health
Mentee, Kianna Baker

2018-19 Faculty Research Mentors College of Social Sciences:

- **Dr. Edmundo Aguilar**, Instructor, Race & Culture
Mentee, Ereisa Morales
- **Dr. Amani El-Alayli**, Professor of Psychology
Mentee, Acea Sands
- **Dr. Martín Meráz García**, Associate Professor, Chicana Studies
Mentee, Josiah Van Egdome, Angelica Garcia-Macias, Maria Rivera Diaz
- **Dr. Christina Torres Garcia**, McNair Scholar Program Director
Mentee, Marixza Torres
- **Dr. Kayleen Islam-Zwart**, Professor of Psychology
Mentee, Rachel Silverthorn
- **Dr. Kassahun Kebede**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Mentee, Kim Jones
- **Dr. Okera Nsombi**, Assistant Professor of Africana Study
Mentee, Kianna Baker
- **Dr. Philip Watkins**, Professor of Psychology
Mentee, Rosa Espinosa Zuniga
- **Dr. Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted**, Professor of Political Science
Mentee, Abdulrazik Mohammed

New & Continuing CSS Faculty Research Mentors 2019-20:

- **Dr. Kayleen Islam-Zwart**, Professor of Psychology
Mentee, Rachel Silverthorn
- **SimHayKin Jack**, Ph.D. Candidate at UC, Davis, and EWU
McNair Alumna, Lecturer, Native American Studies,
Mentee, Madelyn Brown
- **Dr. Theresa Martin**, Professor of Psychology
Mentee, Rosa Espinosa Zuniga
- **Dr. Majid Sharifi**, Associate Professor of International Relations
Mentee, Malachi Chukwu
- **Dr. Lindsey Upton**, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice
Mentee, Theresa Lee
- **Dr. William T. Youngs**, Professors of History
Mentee, Leanne Allen
- **Dr. Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted**, Professor of Political Science
Mentee, Abdulrazik Mohammed, Wendolyn Martinez
- **Dr. Aryn Ziehnert**, Lecturer of Psychology
Mentee, Lily Ann Long, Miriam Carlson



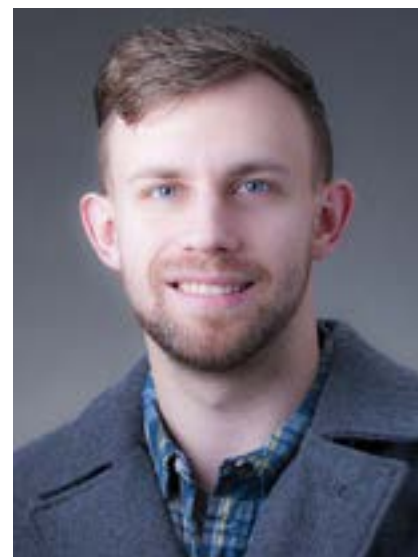
2019 Graduating Scholar



Nathan Blair, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Chemistry PhD program, with full funding!

Nathan Blair is a senior at Eastern Washington University where he studies chemistry and mathematics. His goals are pushing him to pursue a PhD in Chemistry and during his PhD studies, he intends to continue studying math. Nathan believes a strong foundation in mathematics will make him a much more desirable chemist in the eyes of the industry. He plans to gain a foothold in the industry as a PhD chemist and spend a decade or two earning practical experience that he may pass on to future students when he retires from the industry and pursues a career in academia. Nathan would also like to delve in the realm of chemical education and help the common folk understand more about the chemicals they are surrounded by in their day-to-day lives. His philosophy is that if everyone has a well-rounded chemical education, the misunderstandings leading to increases in unvaccinated children and refusing medical treatment will decline, thus using education to save lives.

2019 Graduating Scholar



Josiah Van Egdome, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend Syracuse University's Political Science PhD Program with full funding! He was also accepted to Political Science PhD Programs at Oregon State, Washington State, American University, and the University of Chicago.

Josiah Van Egdome is majoring in political science and minoring in accounting and Chicax studies. Graduating in the spring of 2019, will continue on to a doctoral degree in political science at Syracuse University. He was born and raised in a small town inside the city of Surrey, just outside of Vancouver, Canada. Josiah has been a part of the TRIO family since his sophomore year in high school in the U.S. He participated in Upward Bound and Student Support Services and worked for the Columbia Basin Upward Bound program, before becoming an EWU McNair scholar. Josiah hopes to be able to pass the vast knowledge and resources that have been afforded to him by so many throughout the duration of his life to the next generation of eager bright minds.

2019 Graduating Scholar



Ereisa Morales, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend Michigan State University's Sociology PhD program, with full funding! She was also accepted to the University of Central Florida.

Ereisa Morales is pursuing her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology with a minor in psychology and certificate in addiction studies. She is interested in investigating the phenomena of addiction among adolescents, specifically the Latino communities in the Central Valley of Washington State (i.e. Yakima, Walla Walla, and Wenatchee). During her time as a McNair scholar, Ereisa has completed three McNair research projects. One with Dr. J. Tedesco in sociology, one with Dr. Christina Torres Garcia in cultural studies, and this past summer with Dr. Edmundo Aguilar in race and culture.

2019 Graduating Scholar



Elvin Cabrera, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend Washington State University's Chemistry PhD program with full funding! He was also accepted to PhD programs at Oregon State, and the University of Arizona

Elvin Cabrera is pursuing the professional chemistry degree at Eastern Washington University, and has worked with McNair for two years in preparation to move on to graduate school and earn his PhD. His interests include conducting research in areas such as development of clean and renewable energy, sport supplementation, pharmaceuticals, and health. Cabrera has experience in organic chemistry research extracting essential oils from plant matter and analyzing its chemical composition. Now, working with his mentor Dr. Steiner, his current research involves development of analytical methods for analysis of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) compounds in biodiesel using gas chromatography with a flame ionization detector (GC-FID) and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR).

2019 Graduating Scholar



Acea Sands, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend Utah State University's Data Analytics program! He was also accepted to Pacific Lutheran University.

Acea Sands is studying psychology with the goal of graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology. He is interested in studying human irrationality and human behavior prediction. Acea plans to attend graduate school in the fall after his graduation with the aim to achieve a PhD in Social Psychology. In conjunction with Dr. Amani El-Alayli, he conducted research into how our perceptions of our own unconscious biases may enable us to judge and perceive others more accurately and less discriminatorily.

2019 Graduating Scholar



Kim Jones, EWU McNair Scholar, will attend University of Washington's Cultural Studies Master's program with funding! She was also accepted at Portland State University and the University of Colorado-Denver.

Kim Jones is a senior in the Race and Culture Studies program at Eastern Washington University. With Minors in Sociology, Native American Studies, and Chicano Education, Kim plans on continuing her education by pursuing a Masters and then PhD in Cultural Studies. Her interests of study are the experiences of minoritized and marginalized groups of people in the United States as well as internationally with a particular interest in the biracial or multicultural population. Kim was born in Missouri, raised in Tennessee but then eventually migrated to Washington with her family. Kim currently works at Spokane Falls Community College in the Student Funded Programs office as a Diversity Program Coordinator. With her mentor, Dr. Kassahun Kebede, Kim is working on a research project about the experiences of discrimination experienced by multiracial individuals.

2019 Graduating Scholar



Kelsey Rosales, EWU McNair Scholar, has been accepted into the Computer Science department at University of Idaho!

Kelsey Rosales is a graduating senior at Eastern Washington University. He is studying Computer Science with a minor in Spanish. Although he was accepted to graduate school at the University of Idaho, he has chosen to gain some real world experience before moving on to graduate education. Although this decision was not taken lightly he has decided to give back in another fashion by being selected to become a Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) volunteer. Through this program he plans to guide the next generation of computer science professors and professionals. He hopes to use his experiences and knowledge to empower more individuals from underrepresented minority groups to pursue Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) degrees.

Scholars Awarded Competitive Fully-funded Summer Research Opportunities (SROPs) at MIT, Notre Dame, Columbia, and Fred Hutchinson

Cancer Research Center: The EWU McNair staff provides ongoing financial and economic literacy education for our participants, including a course for continuing scholars that guides them through the process of seeking out and applying for scholarships and SROPs. These applications provide training in application processes, and for those selected into these prestigious programs, will provide valuably funded research opportunities as well as housing allowances to live in Seattle, Washington; Cambridge, Massachusetts; South Bend, Indiana and New York, New York. Congratulations!



Marcos Monteiro will conduct summer research in Seattle, with the 2019 Undergraduate Research Program at Fred Hutchinson, a world-renowned nonprofit cancer research institution.



Angelica Garcia-Macias will conduct a summer research project with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Program



Marixza Torres will conduct summer research in the University of Notre Dame's Graduate School Summer Research Opportunity Program!



Kianna Baker will conduct summer research in the Columbia University Medical Center's 2019 Summer Public Health Scholars Program!

Scholars Continuing Research as EWU McNair Scholar Summer Interns 2019

Continuing second-year McNair Scholars complete applications similar to the SROPs to have the opportunity to continue their faculty-mentored McNair Research Internship for a second year. These second-year projects provide a valuable opportunity for scholars to delve deeper into methodology and theory as well as to gain experience in preparing a project for publication.



Abdulrazik Mohammed



Rosa Espinosa Zuniga



Rachel Silverthorn



Erik Almaguer

Scholar Research Conference Presentations

The McNair Program provides funded opportunities for scholars to travel to present their McNair research at conferences around the country. This important experience is a key scholarly activity that allows scholars to hone their research as they prepare for their presentation, to expand their professional networks, and make connections with potential graduate faculty advisors and future research collaborations, and to gain confidence in navigating the academic world. For many scholars, this is the first time they have had the opportunity to travel, and program staff works closely with each traveler to prepare them for a safe and successful conference travel experience.

Kianna Baker presented McNair research at the 6th Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference; Charlotte, NC

Abdulrazik Mohammed presented McNair research on the Darfur Crisis as a panel participant at the 7th Annual International Symposium on Women and Genocide in the 21st Century; Washington, DC

Ereisa Morales and **Angelica Garcia-Macias** attended the 2019 Globalization, Diversity, and Education Conference in Airways Heights.

Marcos Monteiro presented McNair research at the West Coast Bacterial Physiologist Conference: Fostering Research Training in Microbiology; Asilomar, CA

Angelica Garcia-Macias, Maria Rivera Diaz, Josiah Van Egdom presented McNair research at the Northwest Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) Conference Indigenous Knowledge for Resistance, Love, and Land: Lecciones for our Children, for our Future; Albuquerque, NM

Erik Almaguer, Abdulrazik Mohammed, Kianna Baker, and Rosa Espinosa-Zuniga presented McNair research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), at Kennesaw State University; Kennesaw, GA

Rosa Espinosa Zuniga and Marixza Torres presented McNair research at the National Latina/o Psychological Conference (NLPA); LaJolla, CA

Erik Almaguer, attended the Hispanic Engineering National Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) Great Minds in STEM; Pasadena, CA

Marixza Torres presented McNair research at the 99th Annual Western Psychological Association Convention; Pasadena, CA

Rachel Silverthorn presented McNair research at the 31st Annual Association for Psychological Science Convention (APS); WA, DC

2019 McNair Spring Gathering Program



Thanks to Dr. Christina Torres Garcia, Cynthia Dukich, Najeda Patolo, Christina Ramelow, and everyone who supported McNair and our scholars, on a wonderful and productive year - Ben Murray