

***MCNAIR 150: CELEBRATING
OUR UC SAN DIEGO MCNAIR
PHD ALUMNI***

The background is a solid, bright yellow. There are two decorative blue swirls: one in the top right corner and one in the bottom left corner. The text is centered in a bold, dark blue font.

In their words...



Dr. Gaby Baylon

PhD: Mechanical Engineering, Stanford

Senior Human Factors Engineer (Abbott Laboratories)

“My favorite memory of the McNair Program was traveling to Berkeley for the statewide symposium at the end of the summer. It was the first time I ever traveled anywhere to present my research and it was exciting to connect with my cohort and with other scholars from all over the state (and beyond). During that trip, I visited Stanford University for the very first time and fell in love with the campus that would one day become my graduate home.”



Dr. Josen Diaz

PhD:
UC San Diego,
Literature

“I had a wonderful cohort that made me excited about research and sharing work with each other!”





Dr. Joshua Kellison



PhD: Clinical Psychology, Arizona State University

Director of Clinical Services & Training

“The summer program and living on campus with our cohort. We would all stay up late working on our projects and then have these intense conversations on philosophy and life. We would also play board games. These bright ambitious scholars all had an impact. I also remember attending McNair Conference at Penn State. The McNair program was rigorous and taught me to develop long working hours and how to also self-care. This helped me finish my dissertation before I went to the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle Children’s Hospital for my clinical internship.”



Dr. Karen Kornweibel

PhD: Comparative Literature,
University of Texas at Austin

Dean of the Keeping Sights
Upward Journey Honors College
at Kennesaw State University

“The McNair program was an extremely valuable transitional experience from undergrad to graduate study.”



Dr. Jesi Bennett

PhD: American Studies,
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Assistant Professor at the
University of Waikato,
New Zealand

“The McNair Program helped sharpen my research skills as a budding scholar, pushed me to see the expansive possibilities of my research interests, and supported my academic goals as a first generation Pacific Islander college student.”



“I often reflect back on my time as a UCSD McNair scholar fondly. It gave me the support and ability to conduct research in a laboratory I could not otherwise have conceived of joining. The didactic component was very helpful for learning to formulate a question and to pursue answers in a productive manner. I often remember Dr. Artis' advice to continue seeking the ghost in the machine. As a first-generation college student coming from a non-traditional background, it was wonderful to join the McNair family and feel encouraged and guided; for me, I cannot conceive having met my accomplishments without this amazing support.”

Dr. Daniel Eskenazi

PhD: Neurology and Behavior, University of Washington

Attending Psychiatrist, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services


“The McNair Program gave me the tools to become a strong researcher and graduate school applicant. It taught me how to conduct research and make my research legible to academic audiences. The program helped me gain the confidence to present my work and own my voice. It also taught me the ins and outs of the grad school application process. I wouldn't be where I am today without the guidance of the McNair Program.”



Dr. Arcelia Gutiérrez

PhD: Romance Languages & Literatures, University of Michigan

Assistant Professor, Film and Media Studies, UC Irvine



“I didn’t even know what graduate school was less than ten years before I found myself accepting a tenure-track offer at a dream teaching institution. I’m so grateful for how McNair offered me early research opportunities, faculty and staff mentors, GRE training, and (inadvertent) prep for my first independent teaching gig (teaching research methods for UC Berkeley’s McNair program)!”



Dr. Evelyn Rodriguez

PhD: Sociology, UC Berkeley

Associate Professor of Sociology





Dr. Yvonne Kwon

PhD: Sociology, UC Santa Cruz

Assistant Professor of Asian American
Studies, San Jose State
University

“No one in my entire extended family had ever pursued a PhD or other professional terminal degree, so I wasn't even sure where to start. However, McNair provided a community of fellow young scholars as well as thoughtful mentors who were pivotal to my understanding of the PhD journey. Moreover, the research funds and application fee waivers made it possible for me to achieve my dreams without the additional financial burden. From my undergraduate trajectory at UCSD and my graduate experiences at UCLA and UCSC to my postdoc at Dartmouth College and now my tenure-line faculty appointment at San Jose State University, I remember to embody the core ideals of McNair: supporting first-generation and underserved students in achieving their academic and scholarly goals.”



Dr. Erica Murray

PhD: Materials Science & Engineering, Northwestern University

Engineering Faculty, Louisiana Tech University

“My favorite memory as a McNair scholar was working in Dr. Frances Hellman's lab. One day I asked her what area of science was related to my research. She told me it was considered Materials Science. That's when I realized I wanted to earn a PhD in Materials Science.”



Dr. Christopher Olds

PhD: Political Science, Texas A&M

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Fort Hays State University

“The uplifting support and encouragement from AEP (now Undergraduate Research Hub) staff, UCSD faculty, and fellow McNair scholars will be treasured for the rest of my life.”

“Thanks to the McNair program I learned many fundamental skills related to research, including how to give a presentation and write a paper. I traveled to my first scientific conferences with a supportive group of students and mentors. I also remember considerably improving my English vocabulary by studying for the GRE prep course over the summer. I don't think I would have been admitted to any PhD programs had it not been for my participation in the McNair Program. Knowing that people believed in me and invested in me has helped me stay focused through challenges along the way to where I am now.”



Dr. Biana Himes

PhD: Medical Physics and Bioinformatics, MIT

Associate Professor of Informatics, University of Pennsylvania