

FALL 2011

Cal Poly Pomona McNair Scholars Newsletter

ISSUE NO. # 1, NOVEMBER 2011

Cohort 12 Scholars at the UC Berkeley McNair Symposium early August 2011 (from center going clockwise): Ben Clarke, Deandre King, Brian Ramirez, Ida Legesse, Claudia Bracamontes, Ijeoma Onuoha, Diana Valadez, and Krisha Pruhs.



Greetings to all our McNair Scholars and Supporters !!!

"The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program succeeds because of its rich legacy of excellence."

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the McNair Scholars Annual Newsletter. We are very excited to showcase previous and current accomplishments of all cohorts through this forum. We encourage you to participate by submitting personal articles concerning your research work, conference attendance, or any notable journal publications.

In addition, you may submit for other cohort members who ordinarily may not want to draw attention to themselves.

We are truly proud of all our McNair Scholars and we want to recognize everyone's hard work and success. And so we invite you all to the **Annual McNair Program Potluck which is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 9th., and will be held in Science Building 8, room 306, from 4:00-6:00pm.** Before we move on, we

welcome your donations to the Scholars Fund. Also, we ask that you update our records of your academic pursuits and RSVP to the potluck by using the tear-off contact sheet provided at the back of this newsletter.

Contact/visit us at our website:
<http://www.csupomona.edu/~mcnair/>

Email: mcnair@csupomona.edu

Or friend us on Facebook page:
McNairepp Scholars

McNair Stats and Figures :

- * CPP McNair Scholars Program has had 200 participants between 1999 and 2010.
- * 17%, or 24 of the last 140 PhDs earned by CPP graduates, have been McNair Scholars.

Congratulations to McNair Scholars with Doctorates (Date attained):

- ★ Krystal Allen (May 2010)
- ★ Brian E. Armenta (August 2010)
- ★ Adipat Chaichanasakul (August 2011)
- ★ Le Ondra Clark (August 2010)
- ★ Lorraine Cuadra (December 2008)
- ★ Shakira L. Ferguson (June 2007)
- ★ Daniela F. Guillian (July 2008)
- ★ Oranoos Haghighi (June 2008)
- ★ Hiroko Hata (June 2008)
- ★ Christine Holland (Dec 2011)
- ★ Tracey K. Hoover (August 2010)
- ★ Raffi Kaprielian (June 2007)
- ★ Jeffrey Kim (June 2009)
- ★ Lydia Najim (May 2011)
- ★ Angelica M. Martinez (June 2007)
- ★ Hoorig Nassanian (May 2008)
- ★ Meeghan Simmons (May 2009)
- ★ Ayesha T. Sirajuddin (June 2009)
- ★ Sopheap Tang (June 2007)
- ★ Emily Thompson (Sept 2011)
- ★ Jennifer L. Trilk (July 2010)
- ★ Allison Vaughn (August 2008)
- ★ Taneeka E. Ward (May 2007)

Doctorate Profile: Allison Vaughn, PhD, Cohort 2 Scholar (2000 - 2001)



Dr. Allison Vaughn is currently an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University having attained her PhD in Social Psychology with an emphasis in Health Psychology from the University of Utah in 2008. Her dissertation is titled

The effects of relationship quality and distraction on cardiovascular reactivity and recovery in a social support context.

Dr. Vaughn became a Cal Poly Pomona McNair Scholar in 2000 - 2001 as a member of Cohort 2. She represented Cal Poly Pomona as a selected Plenary speaker at the 2001 National McNair Symposium held at the University of California, Berkeley. A few months later, she presented her research at another McNair Scholars Conference hosted by the University of Puerto Rico. After completing her B.A. in Psychology at Cal Poly Pomona, she garnered an M.A. in Social Psychology at

San Diego State University. In the decade since becoming a scholar, Dr. Vaughn has garnered several awards, grants, accolades as well as numerous publications.

The Cal Poly Pomona McNair Scholars Program treasures this opportunity to profile Dr. Allison Vaughn in our inaugural newsletter as a true Ronald E. McNair Scholar!



Developing Leaders
Through Graduate Education

Research Doesn't Take Summer Off **JUNE - SEPT. 2011**

"I like knowing how the body works, that it's not magical, that things happen for a reason, even if we don't know the reason yet."

Across campus, on the first floor of the College of Science, Deandre King is studying muscle tissue using adenosine triphosphate, a molecule that provides energy to nearly all cells, from bacteria to humans.

Commonly known as ATP, the compound has long been known to exist inside the muscle cell, and its presence outside the cell as a "signaling molecule" was discovered 30 years ago. Building on that



Deandre King is a senior majoring in Clinical Kinesiology and Cohort 12 Scholar.

knowledge, King's faculty mentor, biology Assistant Professor Andrew Voss, recently found that ATP's effects on skeletal muscle may have implications for muscle fatigue. Understanding muscle

fatigue is still in many ways a mystery, says King, a senior and Cohort 12 Scholar who plans to attend medical school.

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CLOSE-UP: Brian Ramirez is a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Cohort 12 Scholar.

"I'm not worried about classes this time of year... I can come in at odd hours to check things since I'm just just five minutes away."

Brian Ramirez, who lived in the Residential Suites during the summer, relished the opportunity to focus exclusively on his research,

which involves "creep testing" composites in the materials lab.

He is not only meticulously testing epoxy carbon fiber specimens for their durability and breaking points, he built the specimens, as well as the mechanical rig that tests them. A first-generation college student and rising senior, Ramirez plans to enter a doctoral program, with a long-term goal of working as a researcher at Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

REPRINTED FROM CPP POLYCENTRIC.

**Alexander Gutierrez, senior,
Computer Science student**

Summer Job: Research assistant for Professor Amar Raheja through the McNair Scholars Program, Cohort 12.

What did you do? I tested various configurations of artificial neural networks in order to create an application that could read handwritten numbers off of an image that had other objects. Artificial neural networks are an attempt at closing the gap between conventional computers and the organic brain. The brain is composed of billions of interconnected neurons that form a web of neural impulses. An artificial neural network is a software simulation of this web by using interconnected nodes that compute input signals using a transfer function and transmit the resulting signal to the next nodes.

Summer Intern & Scholar:
Alexander Gutierrez



What is your favorite memory from the summer? Spending time with other members of the Cal Poly Pomona McNair cohort. This was probably the most significant and unexpected experience. There was such a wide variety of intelligent students dedicated to their research in different fields from all corners of the

university from mechanical engineering to kinesiology. We helped each other when we had problems or when we wanted criticism in order to improve our work. By the end of the program, everyone became a friend.

**REPRINTED FROM
CPP POLYCENTRIC.**



Green Campus Intern &
Cohort 12 Scholar:
Krisha J. Hernandez-Pruhs

My research on Women Leaders as Environmental Activists Paving the Road Toward Food Sovereignty: A Convergence in Cities Across America proposed that conventional agriculture is a direct link to environmental degradation, and also how it adversely affects society's health and social issues. My work supported the argument that women and their

children are the ones most likely to be marginalized in the process of food crisis as it occurs today. The detrimental effects of conventional agriculture thereby make women who are successful in alternative agricultural systems in urban spaces, that much more remarkable.

**REPRINTED FROM
CPP GREEN CAMPUS.**

Message from McNair Scholars Program

Director: Dr. Winny Dong

(She is also a professor in
Chemical and Materials
Engineering and the Director of
Projects and Research
for the College of Engineering).



This is my inaugural year as Director of the McNair Scholars Program. During my short time with the program, I have had the privilege to interact with exceptional students, faculty, and administrators. The McNair Program staff members (Dr. Wei Bidlack, Dr. Frank Torres, Matthew Sipek and student assistants) have been extraordinary and I am awed and humbled by their dedication to the scholars.

I want to thank current and past McNair Scholars for continuing to demonstrate the power of moral integrity in their academic and personal lives, as they apply the virtues of enthusiasm, loyalty, cooperation, friendship, and industriousness. Since the

inception of the program by Dr. Frank Torres in 1999, over twenty Scholars have completed their doctorates, and more than thirty are in PhD programs across the nation. The McNair Scholars Program has brought great distinction to Cal Poly Pomona, and the program continues to provide student Scholars with valuable research experience and encouragement that give them a distinct edge when undertaking the demands of graduate school.

The McNair Scholars Program has been a model for promoting academic success and for ensuring that underrepresented students pursue doctoral studies. Most of our Scholars hail from low-income, first-generation college backgrounds, and they

have overcome economic, social, and cultural barriers on their academic journey. Few aspects of human endeavor are more stimulating than actions that nurture intellectual creativity among young individuals.



McNair Stats and Figures

* 183 CPP Scholars graduated with their Bachelors degrees and 44 have completed their Masters.

* 74 are currently enrolled in post baccalaureate education.

IN MEMORY



Stephanie Anne Renee Stoeppler, 24, of Corona Ca., November 17, 1986 - September 26, 2011.

- *Attended Santiago High School in Corona, Ca.*
- *Cal Poly Pomona Graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences, 2010.*
- *McNair Scholar, 2009-2010, and earned a place on the Deans Honor list.*
- *She loved animals and her pets: 2 dogs & a cat.*



Scholar Year-round Activities



USC Diversity Forum, April 2011



Claremont GRE Workshop, June 2011



Upward Bound Ice cream social, Apr 2011



Rock Climbing activity, July 2011



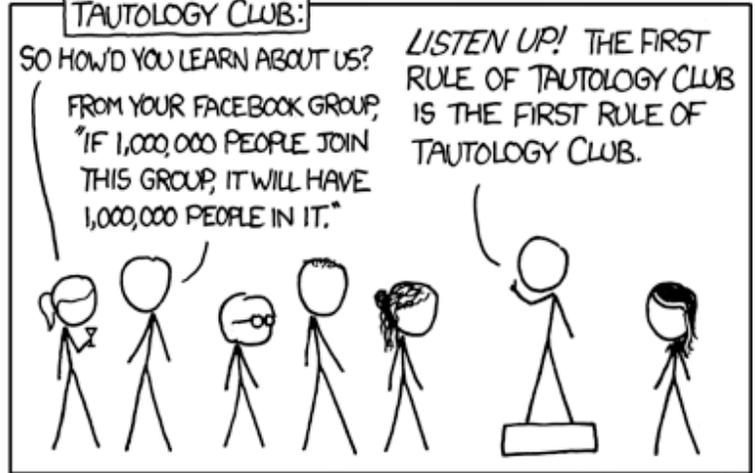
BOBA Fundraiser, May 2011



Bowling activity, July 2011

Comic Strips from xkcd.com

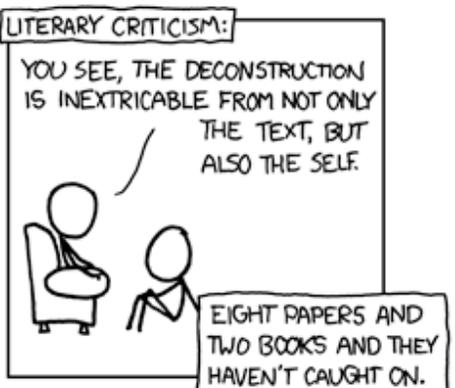
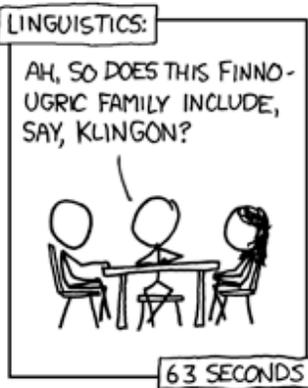
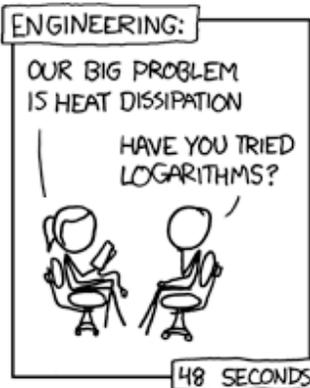
Honor Societies



Impostor

MY HOBBY:

SITTING DOWN WITH GRAD STUDENTS AND TIMING HOW LONG IT TAKES THEM TO FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT ACTUALLY AN EXPERT IN THEIR FIELD.



Priorities



Study



Use this form to update & mail information to the McNair Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

Cal Poly Pomona Cohort Year: _____

Highest Degree Attained and when: _____

Degree in Progress: Master's ____ PhD ____ or Education complete ____

Field of Study: _____

Expected Year of Completion : _____

School in attendance: _____

Email Address: _____

Give to the McNair Scholars Fund !!

“Yes I want to support the Scholars Fund by contributing to scholarships and travel expenses to professional conferences for McNair Scholars.”

* All donations are 100% tax deductible

I will like to donate _____ \$50.00

_____ \$100.00

_____ \$200.00

Other amount: \$ _____

Please make check payable to Cal Poly Pomona Foundation

Mail to:

Cal Poly Pomona
McNair Scholars Program
Building 8, Room 306
3801 West Temple Ave
Pomona, CA 91768

McNair Potluck RSVP: Yes, I will be attending _____ Not Attending _____