

# THE PHASE



*The Our Lady of the Lake University McNair Scholars Program Newsletter*



## **GREETINGS TO ALL!**

*by Director Dr. Jessica Quintero*

Hello Scholars,

I am Dr. Jessica Quintero, the current Director of the McNair Scholars Program. As Director, one of my goals is to engage with alumni on a more regular basis.

The Phase is our new newsletter that will be sent out to program alumni at the end of each semester. This medium will serve as a way to stay informed about the program activities, learn about current scholars' progress, and celebrate all scholars' accomplishments.

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From left to right: Marisa (Mari) Valdez, Rebecca Donato, Naomi Casanova, and Dr. Quintero

## INTRODUCTIONS

### *Program Staff*

Dr. Quintero, has been with the program for a year and a half. She also serves as Sponsor for the First Gen. Student Org. and Advisor for the Tri-Alpha First Gen. Honor Society.

Mari is our most recent addition to the program. You might recognize her from your time on campus, she served as Campus Coordinator for 7 years.

Rebecca is a recent graduate of OLLU and a scholar alumni. She is continuing her education as a Saint and supporting the overall mission of the program.

Naomi is a current scholar. She is majoring in both criminal justice and psychology.

## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

### *SRI 23 UTSA Boot Camp*

The 2023 Summer Research Institute kicked off the summer by participating in the UTSA Grad School Boot Camp.

Members of SRI Cohort 23 had the opportunity to visit the University of Texas at Austin and San Antonio, network with scholars from other McNair programs around the state, and learn key concepts essential to applying for and succeeding in graduate school.



From top left; Frade Frade, Nicholas Salas, Marcus Antu, Casandra Rodriguez, Dr. Quintero, Stephanie Sandoval, Destiny Arenas, RaLisa Bernal, Aaliyah Delgado, Angelique Luna, and Naomi Casanova.



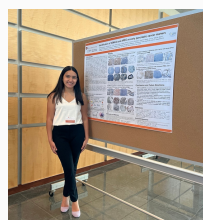
## *2023 Summer Research Institute*

The 10-week Summer Research Institute was scheduled from May 22nd to July 28th. This summer, scholars invested 250 hours in research and scholarly activities and 112 hours in personal, professional, and academic development in preparation for graduate school. This summer's cohort had 12 students; 4 of which conducted their research at other institutions, while the remaining 8 conducted their research on campus.

Highlights from this summer include; attending the UTSA Grad School Bootcamp; engaging in cultural activities such as our trip to NASA, where scholars learned about the wide variety of internship opportunities available, the workings of Mission Control Center, and the training center; developing skills to manage stress and support their overall wellness; and networking with McNair Scholars from UTSA, St. Mary's, and Trinity University.

Two skills that scholars identified as areas for growth were writing and presenting. Scholars were provided with weekly dedicated time for writing their graduate school application purpose statements under the guidance of Writing Center staff member Sabrina Zertuche and developing as public speakers with the support of Wall-e and Eve, the McNair Scholars virtual reality headsets under the guidance of Professor Gigi Hudnall.

To end our summer, students participated in their first conference as McNair Scholars.



## PLANS FOR FALL 2023

We have a full calendar for the fall semester. We start by welcoming a new group of ten scholars for the upcoming cohort. Recruitment efforts are ongoing as we continue the search for an additional four scholars. Continuing Scholars prepare for conference travel. Fourteen students will travel to Albuquerque to present their research at the University of New Mexico in September. They will continue to develop their presentation skills by presenting their work to the undergraduate community on campus. All students will participate in Fall Sessions including the 1st Gen. Student Celebration event in November. We will end the year celebrating four graduates; Marcus Antu, Psychology, Angelique Luna, Kinesiology, Jacqueline Padilla, Kinesiology, and Casandra Rodriguez, Psychology & Criminal Justice.

## 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 with us. 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](mailto:mcnair@ollusa.edu), or stop by our offices located in Lower Level Moye.



**McNair Scholars Alumni**

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