The UCF McNair Scholars Program, first funded in fall 2003, is designed to assist its participants in gaining admission to graduate programs leading to a doctoral degree. The program targets low-income and first-generation students and members of groups that are underrepresented in graduate education. McNair is funded by the U.S. Department of Education through its Office of Federal TRiO Programs. McNair has served over 160 students since 2003. Currently 87% of the scholars are enrolled or have graduated from a graduate or professional school. For more information go to www.aap.ucf.edu/mcnair.

Graduating Scholars 2016-2017

AAP is proud of the achievements of the 2016-2017 McNair Cohort. 85% of the graduating scholars were the first in their family to complete college and 46% of them attended a state college before transferring to UCF. The cohort’s average GPA was 3.6. All of the scholars presented their research at external conferences and three of the scholars published their research in peer reviewed journals or conference proceedings. 100% of scholars accepted into graduate school received full funding. Two scholars received prestigious awards, the National Science Foundation Fellowship and the University of Oxford - Florida Frost Scholarship.

Michelle Aiello
Psychology
Georgia State University
Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Mustapha Mouloua

Shirley Dorsainvil
Psychology
University of Central Florida
Masters Program in Marriage and Family Counseling
Mentor: Dr. Grace White

Heidi Waite
Biology
University of Oxford
Masters in Science in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management
Mentor: Dr. Linda Walters
Prestigious Award: University of Oxford - Florida Frost Scholarship

Ahmad Azim
Photonics Science Engineering
University of Central Florida
Doctoral Program in Optics and Photonics
Mentor: Dr. Lawrence Shah

Roxanne Howes
Literature
University of Central Florida
Masters of Arts in English
Mentor: Dr. Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés

Alumni Scholars Entering Graduate School

Shekinah Fashaw
Interdisciplinary Studies
Brown University
Doctoral Program in Health Services Research
Mentor: Dr. Latarsha Chisholm

Desia Bacon
Psychology
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Doctoral Program in Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Germayne Graham

Michael Lopez-Brau
Electrical Engineering
Yale University
Doctoral Program in Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Nazanin Rahnavard

Natália Marques da Silva
Art History
Florida International University
Doctoral Program in Global and Sociocultural Studies
Mentor: Dr. Kristin Congdon

Itza Beltran
Mechanical Engineering
University of Colorado at Boulder
Doctoral Program in Mechanical Engineering
Mentor: Dr. Jayanta Kapat

Ashely Sidders
Biomedical Sciences & Biotechnology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Doctoral Program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Mentor: Dr. Kyle Rohde

Ivory Paulk
Biology
University of California Los Angeles
Doctoral Program in Molecular and Medical Pharmacology
Mentor: Dr. Alvaro Estevez

Hardeo Chin
Aerospace Engineering
University of Central Florida
Doctoral Program in Mechanical Engineering
Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Kauffman

Samantha Mensah
Chemistry
University of California Los Angeles
Doctoral Program in Chemistry
Mentor: Dr. Karin Chumbimuni-Torres
Prestigious Award: NSF GRFP

Brittany Murphy
Humanities
University of California Los Angeles
Doctoral Program in Cinema and Media Studies
Mentor: Dr. Melody Bowdon and Dr. Claudia Schippert
Scholars Summer Program Placements

Lianne Brito
**Civil Engineering**
McNair Summer Research Institute
University of Central Florida
UCF Mentor: Dr. Kevin Mackie

Jennifer Carvel
**Psychology**
Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) Program
University of California San Diego
UCF Mentor: Dr. Charles Negy

Sarah Davenport
**Anthropology**
Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) Program
University of California San Diego
UCF Mentor: Dr. Joanna Mishtal

Chanelle Hunter
**Biology**
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
University of California Irvine
UCF Mentor: Dr. Seth Elsheimer

Kevin Negy
**Computer Engineering**
Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research (SUPERB)
University of California Berkeley
UCF Mentor: Dr. Avelino Gonzalez

Antonett Nunez-Delprado
**Physics**
Undergraduate Research in Physics and Astronomy (REU)
University of California Los Angeles
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ali Gordon

Gisselle Pombar
**Chemistry**
Summer Undergraduate Research Program for Diversity in Chemistry
Princeton University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Yu Yuan

Thomas Rechtman
**Mathematics**
Leadership Alliance Summer Research - Early Identification Program (SR-EIP)
Vanderbilt University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ram Mohapatra

Tristan Reynoso
**Mathematics**
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
University of California Irvine
UCF Mentor: Dr. Bhimsen Shivamoggi

Cassandra Sarria
**Biology**
Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)
Michigan State University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Anna Savage

Joey Velez-Ginorio
**Computer Engineering**
NSF REU: Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
UCF Mentor: Dr. Georgios Anagnostopoulos and Dr. Guo-Jun Qi
Prestigious Award: Goldwater Scholarship

Pre-McNair Summer Program Placements

Samuel Deane
**Mechanical Engineering**
Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Sciences (S.U.R.E.)
Georgia Institute of Technology
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ali Gordon

Desiree Dominguez
**Computer Engineering**
Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Sciences (S.U.R.E.)
Georgia Institute of Technology
UCF Mentor: Dr. Joseph Kinder

Nathalie Fernandez
**Computer Engineering**
NSF REU: Center for Brains, Minds, and Machines
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
UCF Mentor: Dr. Guo-Jun Qi

Daniela Ojeda
**Mechanical Engineering**
Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM)
Louisiana State University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Ali Gordon

Victor Rodriguez
**Mechanical Engineering**
NSF REU: Nanotechnology for Health, Energy and the Environment
Stony Brook University
UCF Mentor: Dr. Tania Roy

George Walters-Marrah
**Biotechnology**
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology (MGCB-REU)
University of Chicago
UCF Mentor: Dr. Kyle Rohde