

THE CHALLENGER

UPDATED MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM NEWS

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program prepares eligible students for graduate school. During the academic year, students attend monthly seminars, meet visiting scholars, and participate in student and professional conferences. During the summer, McNair students participate in the Summer Research Institute, a paid research internship that provides an in-depth research experience. The summer also includes opportunities for working one-on-one with a faculty mentor, learning how to apply to graduate school, and the opportunity to network with other undergraduates from across the nation. To date, fifty (50) MU-McNair Scholars have earned their PhDs. Forty-four (44) MU McNair Scholars have earned other doctoral-level or professional degrees. Two hundred thirty-three (233) MU McNair Scholars have graduated with master's degrees.



Ronald E. McNair

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr. Marcus L. Arrington

Greetings! I'm so delighted to be a member of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at Marquette University. The mission of Marquette University is powerful: excellence, faith, leadership, and service. To my mind, these core elements are aligned with the character, career, and contributions of our program's namesake.

As new Associate Director, I relish the opportunity to express the university mission in my work and collaborate with a cadre of caring adults and focused scholars to continue the rich McNair legacy. My vision is that all students who are admitted to the McNair Scholars Program will obtain a Ph.D. or a professional degree that leads to actions that enhance the human condition. I embrace the challenge of engaging students in a scholastic journey that will take them places that they've only dreamed of going. As Dr. McNair learned with his space travel, we're only limited by the smallness of our imaginations. So, whatever you do, think big!

Shouts go out to all continuing McNair Scholars and the new 2023 Cohort! Great things are already happening this semester. Greater things are in store. We are McNair Proud, and McNair Strong!

WELCOME THE 2023 COHORT



**Aracely Sanchez
Ramirez**



Jadzia Fitzgerald



Junior Romans



Sherlean Roberts



Josh Wilder



**Christian
Kasiske**



Geraldine Ruiz



Abby Rose



**Karen Ayala-
Hernandez**



**Mariana
Gonzalez-Torres**



**Alma-Aaliyah
Tolson**



**Ashley Benito
Lezameta**



Lizbeth Lopez



Riane Ntabala



Deondre Reid



Jalise Owens



Aniya Lentz



Cree Howard



Ana Cardenas Manrique



Parvathy Nair



Tesneem Al Fadhel



Summer Luna



Dami Awosika



Alejandro Gruenwald

KEEPING UP WITH MCNAIR STUDENTS

2022 AND 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

National McNair Conference via Washington University

- Washington University
- St. Louis, MO
- April 17 - 20, 2023
- Participants: - Madison Black, Lonny Clay, Gwendolyn Lazenby, Naxley Sanchez

2022 McNair Scholars Research Conference

- Baylor University
- Waco, TX
- August 4-6, 2022
- Participants: Cohort of 2022

2022 McNair Scholars Research Conference

- University of Maryland Baltimore County
- Baltimore, MD
- September 15-17, 2022
- Participants: 7 students from the 2022 cohort

SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference

- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- October 27-29, 2022
- Participants: Ricardo Hidalgo and Oscar Munoz

2022 American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention

- New Orleans, LA
- November 17-19, 2022
- Participants: Kat Maltese and Destiny Hill

2022 Black Speech Language Pathology Magic Conference

- New Orleans, LA
- November 19, 2022
- Participants: Destiny Hill

2023 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference

- Portland, Oregon
- October 26-28, 2023
- Participant Marian Gonzalez-Torress

2023 International Studies association-Midwest Conference

- St. Louis, Missouri
- November 16-19, 2023
- Participant Sherlean Roberts

Destiny Hill went to the American Speech Hearing Association conference in New Orleans last year and saw her research presented by her mentor

Elisabeth Solis recently got accepted into the Medical College of Wisconsin for their Microbiology and Immunology PhD Program; she also graduated in December 2022 and was offered a full-time position as a Research Technician at Marquette for the Biological Sciences Department

Corena Smith was accepted to the Ph.D. program in philosophy at Northwestern and Pennsylvania State University.

Trevor Morris was accepted to the Ph.D. program in psychology at Arizona State University.

3 McNair students participated in the study abroad course "Peace and Trauma in El Salvador" during the J-Term. Congratulations to **Sherlean Roberts (2023)**, **Emily Chavez (2022)** and **Aniya Lentz (2023)**



2023 Cohort at Les Aspin Center in Washington, D.C

KEEPING UP WITH MCNAIR STUDENTS

ALUMNI UPDATE

Josh Miles Completed his PhD in Media, Technology, and Society in August 2022 from Northwestern University. Dr. Miles also became an Assistant Professor of Organizational & Corporate Communication at Marquette University in August 2022

Ayaa Shanaa Completed her Master's in Nursing in 2021 and is furthering her education by attending a Nurse Practitioner program

Alaa Shanaa Completed her master's in Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2019

Maria Cobo Nieto Attended NYU and graduated with an MA in communicative disorders with a bilingual extension and a teacher of students with speech and language disorders, she is currently working in Manhattan, with pediatrics while also doing bilingual evaluations in New York City.

Nora Godoy works as a Placemaking Director at the Milwaukee Harbor District

2021 - Moe Han graduated from Midwestern University with a Masters in Biomedical Sciences and is currently in medical school

Jerrell Lovett successfully completed his doctoral qualifiers and is currently a PhD candidate at the Medical College of Wisconsin. in 2021

Lindsay Hopson graduated from George Washington University with her Masters in 2021

Jayla Hill graduated from Northern Illinois University with her Masters of Science in Education in 2021

Vivian Anochili received her MD. in 2022

Are you a Marquette McNair Scholar Program Alumnus?

Let us know what you've been up to by filling out this survey



Hey McNair Alumni! We're attempting to build our alumni database, and we need your help! Once McNair, always McNair. We're a family, and we want to remain connected, even after participants graduate. If you are in contact with cohort mates from your time in the Marquette McNair Scholars Program, please encourage them to reach out to us. Additionally, we want to engage McNair alumni in efforts with current McNair participants. We'd love to feature McNair alumni as panelists who can discuss graduate school or navigating life after undergrad. We'd also love to enlist McNair alumni as "brand ambassadors". Help us tell our story. Spread the positive news about the ways the MU-McNair continues to help transform the lives of students who are first-generation or from groups underrepresented in graduate studies. Can't wait to hear from you. Thanks in advance!



2023 McNair scholars at the University of Minnesota.

MEET THE STAFF

Dr. Marcus L. Arrington – Program Director McNair Scholars

Dr. Marcus L. Arrington is a servant-leader with over 20 years of experience in both ecclesial and academic settings. Dr. Arrington holds earned doctorates from Cardinal Stritch University and Hope Bible Institute & Seminary. His primary research interests include hope theory and critical pedagogy. In addition to leading the McNair Scholars Program at Marquette, Dr. Arrington is a minister, author, loving husband, and father.

Contact:

Marcus.arrington@marquette.edu
Coughlin Hall, 343
(414) 288-3011

Joia Wesley - Graduate Assistant

Joia Wesley is a fourth-year graduate student in the clinical psychology program at Marquette. She is originally from Chicago but has been in Milwaukee since college. She is a first-generation college student who is excited to continue her education. She completed the McNair Scholars program during her second year of college. She uses her experiences as a previous McNair Scholar and now a graduate student to help undergraduates who are interested in graduate school. A helpful tip that she received is to never self-select yourself out of opportunities that you want. It comes with confidence, but the more you lean into your goals, the closer you will get to achieving them.

Contact:

Joia.Wesley@marquette.edu
414-288-2321

Destiny Hill - Graduate Assistant

Destiny Hill is a first-generation first-year graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology Masters program. She was born and raised in Milwaukee. In addition, she was a McNair Scholar during her undergraduate career and she is excited to give back to the program that supported her. Over the last few years, she has learned to be her authentic self, network with people, and never take every opportunity if it will push you to the next level.

Contact:

Destiny.hill@marquette.edu

SPECIAL THANKS!



Jorge Montiel- McNair Program Coordinator

The Marquette McNair Scholars Program celebrates Jorge Montiel, former Program Coordinator for the McNair Scholars Program. In June 2023, Jorge successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in philosophy. Now, Dr. Jorge Montiel serves as an assistant professor in philosophy at Wabash College in Indiana. Dr. Montiel is a McNair Scholars Program Alum from Northeastern Illinois University.



Joia Wesley



Destiny Hill

CONTACT US

The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is housed on the third floor of Coughlin Hall. This is where you'll find our staff offices, student study spaces, computer lab and more resources.

Coughlin Hall, 343
1303 Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



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