Rojas Receives McNair Fellowship for Graduate Study at UT-Austin

Roxana Rojas graduated from Trinity in May 2010 with a BA in Spanish and International Studies. After graduation, Roxana served as an Academic Tutor for Trinity’s Upward Bound Program. This fall she will be starting a Master of Arts program in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Not only did Roxana gain acceptance into the very prestigious Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, but she also received a McNair Scholar Recruitment Fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year. This highly coveted award is given to only the strongest graduate applicants and includes a very generous stipend, in-state tuition and fees, and medical insurance. With Roxana’s strong background in related coursework and research experience, she will no doubt be extremely successful. We wish her the very best in all of her graduate endeavors!

A Message from the Director...

It’s been nearly three years since we learned about Trinity University’s successful application for a McNair Scholars Program grant. I’m proud to say that the Program is stronger and more vibrant than ever.

Our two most recent additions to the McNair staff have been valuable additions to the Trinity community, running an efficient operation and connecting marvelously with Scholars, faculty, and staff. Assistant Director Teresa York (BS and MAE, Truman State University) joins us from Missouri by way of Austin, where she developed an extensive resume as a classroom educator and higher education administrator. Program Assistant Mary Helen Acosta (BA, Rice University; MPSA, Texas A&M University) joins us most recently from Dallas, where she launched her career in higher education administration.

Both Teresa and Mary Helen would be delighted to have you stop by the new McNair Scholars Program office, located in Cowles Life Sciences building room 319. While there, be sure to check out the new “Wall of Fame” highlighting our Scholars’ many impressive achievements.

Teresa, Mary Helen, and the McNair faculty will be busier than ever this coming year. This fall we welcomed 15 new Scholars, bringing the current slate of Scholars to 30. We’re delighted to be bursting at the seams.

~Michael
Welcome!
New Scholars for 2010-2011

Scholar: Rachel Alley  
Class/Major: Junior/Engineering Science  
Hometown: Covington, LA

Scholar: Rebecca Carey  
Class/Major: Junior/Psychology & Chinese  
Hometown: Georgetown, TX

Scholar: Christina Cooney  
Class/Major: Soph/Business Administration  
Hometown: Denver, CO

Scholar: Jena Daggett  
Class/Major: Soph/Political Science  
Hometown: Montello, WI

Scholar: Jonathan Gallegos  
Class/Major: Soph/Psychology & Math  
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Scholar: Victoria Gbenjo  
Class/Major: Soph/Computer Science  
Hometown: Missouri City, TX

Scholar: Samantha Gonzalez  
Class/Major: Soph/Biology & Sociology  
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Scholar: John Kerr  
Class/Major: Junior/Engineering Science  
Hometown: Bryan, TX

Scholar: Tanvi Patel  
Class/Major: Soph/Biology & Accounting  
Hometown: Richmond, TX

Scholar: Kallie Pfeiffer  
Class/Major: Soph/Art (Photography)  
Hometown: Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Scholar: Devon Powers  
Class/Major: Soph/Engineering Science  
Hometown: Houston, TX

Scholar: Laura Sandling  
Class/Major: Soph/Communication  
Hometown: Missouri City, TX

Scholar: Megan Sparks  
Class/Major: Soph/Comm. & Art History  
Hometown: The Woodlands, TX

Scholar: Aimee Vidaurri  
Class/Major: Junior/Psychology & Spanish  
Hometown: Laredo, TX

Dr. Amy Stone, Sociologist, Joins McNair Tutorial Faculty

This fall Dr. Amy Stone, assistant professor of sociology, joins the McNair faculty team. Together with Drs. Kelly Lyons and Wilson Terrell, Dr. Stone will help prepare Scholars for the rigors of summer research and guide them through the elaborate graduate school application process. She will teach GNED 2110: McNair Tutorial during the fall and spring semesters.

Dr. Stone grew up in La Quinta, a desert town in southern California. She is a graduate of Amherst College and received a PhD from the University of Michigan. She has been a member of the Sociology and Anthropology department at Trinity since 2006.

“For me, being part of the McNair Program is a chance to repay all the mentoring I received as a young, first-generation college student far from home,” Dr. Stone remarked. “An important part of my success was being supported in my academic environment, and I hope to support this group of college students in pursuing their academic goals.”
Alumni Profile: Domale Dube

After completing summer research projects under the skillful watch of Dr. Rocio Delgado (Education) and Dr. Betsy Tontiplophol (English), Domale Dube (May 2010) was prepared for a wide range of graduate programs. She was invited to visit and was ultimately admitted to a number of the top programs in education and English literature throughout the United States. After much consideration, Domale eventually settled upon Harvard University, where she continues her academic career in the Graduate School of Education.

Alumni Profile: Daniel Large

As a Trinity student, Daniel Large’s (May 2009) gifts as a researcher took him to academic conferences throughout the United States. Today, Danny works in a research arena closer to home, at the South Texas Psychiatric Genetics Research Center, part of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio campus. As the Lead Assessor for the Center, Danny supervises the assessment of study participants, completes data entry, and coordinates a new volunteer and internship program. Danny looks forward to visiting with current Scholars and sharing his work experiences and his plans to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology.

Congratulations to our Recent Graduates

Domale Dube
BA, English, May 2010

Patrice Durden
BA, Business Admin & Spanish, May 2010

Celeste Garcia
BA, Sociology & Spanish, May 2010

Mike Guerra
BA, Comm & Int’l Studies, May 2010

Amanda Martinez
BA, Sociology & Int’l Studies, Dec 2009

Nancy Nguyen
BA, Art History/BS, Biology, May 2010

Chad Oian
BS, Engineering Science, May 2010

Roxana Rojas
BA, Spanish & Int’l Studies, May 2010

Mark Sullivan
BS, Physics, May 2010

Nathan Tovar
BA, Business Administration, Dec 2009

Trinity University McNair Scholars Have Received Admission to Graduate Programs Across the Country

Arizona State University
Columbia University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
New York University

Rice University
Stanford University
Texas State
Texas Tech University

Trinity University
University of Houston
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas San Antonio
Where are they now???

Jonelle Bailey (May 2008) earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Trinity in 2009 and is currently teaching Spanish at Bush High School in Houston, TX. She hopes to begin a PhD program in Education in 2011.

Maria Cristina (Lopez) Lara (December 2008) is currently working for PennWell MAPSearch in Houston, TX. She will be attending Tulane University in Houston this fall where she plans to obtain her Professional MBA.

Gordon Abner (May 2009) is currently in his second year of a PhD in Public Policy at Indiana University.

Patrice Durden (May 2010) will remain at Trinity University where she will begin her Master of Science in Health Care Administration this fall.

Celeste Garcia (May 2010) will be attending New York University this fall where she plans to earn a Master of Arts in Corporate Communication and Public Relations.

Nancy Nguyen (May 2010) will be attending the University of the Incarnate Word this fall where she plans to obtain a Master of Science in Nutrition.

President Ahlburg Welcomes Scholars

The Program kicked off its fourth year on August 24th with our Fall Welcome Back Meeting. Dr. Kelly Lyons, Tutorial Faculty member, graciously hosted the poolside event at her beautiful home a few miles from campus. After an opening serenade from Mariachi Internacional, Trinity President Dennis Ahlburg helped welcome new and returning Scholars back to Trinity. During the 2010-2011 academic year, Dr. Amy Stone will be working with the sophomores in GNED 2110, Dr. Wilson Terrell with the juniors in GNED 3110, and Dr. Lyons with the seniors in GNED 4110.

Summer Cultural Outing:
SA Missions Baseball

The summer wasn’t all about spending countless hours in the lab, attending Weekly Wednesday Workshops, and writing personal statements! Scholars, Faculty Research Mentors, staff, and their families also had time to enjoy one another’s company for Dollar Night with the San Antonio Missions. Play ball!

Visit our new office in Cowles Life Science Room 319!!!

Director: Michael Soto, PhD, English
Assistant Director: Teresa York, MAE
Program Assistant: Mary Helen Acosta, MPSA
McNair Tutorial Faculty:
Kelly Lyons, PhD, Biology
Amy Stone, PhD, Sociology
Wilson Terrell, Jr., PhD, Engineering Science

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