Congrats May & August 2020 McNair Graduates!

Darius Fox  
B.S., Nutrition, Exercise, & Health Science  
Bloomington, Illinois

Nestor Hernandez  
B.A., Sociology & Economics  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Ashleigh Herrera  
B.S., Chemical Engineering  
San Antonio, Texas

Maham Javaid  
B.S., Microbiology  
Papillion, Nebraska

Mahnoor Javaid  
B.S., Microbiology  
Papillion, Nebraska

My-Linh Luc  
B.S., Microbiology  
Papillion, Nebraska

Sonoor Majid  
B.S., Biochemistry & Chemistry  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mark Nail  
B.S., Mechanical Engineering  
Leawood, Kansas

Nancy Nguyen  
B.S., Biochemistry  
Lincoln, Nebraska
Since the UNL McNair Scholars Program began in 1995, we’ve served 306 students. Excluding the continuing Scholars, 97.8 percent have earned their bachelor’s degree. Forty-nine UNL McNair Program alumni have achieved Ph.D.s, 146 have earned master’s degrees, and 21 have earned professional degrees. Currently, 26 UNL McNair alumni are enrolled in Ph.D. programs, 8 are pursuing master’s, and 2 are pursuing professional degrees.

McNair Grads & Alumni Announce Graduate School Plans

Baudelio Abrica will be pursuing an Ed.S. in school psychology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and will be funded by a research assistantship from the concussion management training grant.

Cole Dempsey will be pursuing a Ph.D. in engineering at Vanderbilt University and will join Dr. David Braun’s Lab in the Center for Rehabilitative and Assistive Technologies (CREATE).

Darius Fox will be pursuing a Ph.D. in nutrition at Cornell University and was awarded a Cornell Graduate Deans Fellowship and a graduate research assistantship.

Daisy Guiza Beltran will be pursuing a Ph.D. in biological chemistry at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She will be fully funded on a graduate research assistantship and is working with Dr. Limei Zhang.

Nestor Hernandez will be pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and will be funded on a graduate teaching assistantship.

Ashleigh Herrera will be pursuing a Ph.D. in chemical & biological engineering at Tufts University and has been named a GEM Associate Fellow.

Maham Javaid will be pursuing a DDS degree at Creighton University.

Mahnoor Javaid will be pursuing an O.D./M.S. of physiological optics/vision science dual degree program at the University of Houston College of Optometry.

My-Linh Luc will be pursuing an MPH in global health at Emory University.

Mark Nail will be pursuing a Ph.D. in robotics at the University of Michigan and has received 5-year full funding through fellowships, as well as research and teaching assistantships.

Nancy Nguyen will be pursuing an MPH in epidemiology at Emory University and has received a Rollins Earn and Learn (REAL) Award.

McNair Summer Research 2020 Goes Virtual

We didn’t let a global pandemic stop the 2020 McNair Summer Research Experience (MSRE) from proceeding remotely. Special thanks to the faculty mentors who helped the Scholars adapt their research projects for remote work! Summer 2020 may have been a challenge, but it was well worth it!
We applaud these UNL McNair alumni who earned advanced degrees during 2019–20:

**Doctoral degrees**

**Jenn Andersen, Ph.D.** *(McNair Scholar 2013-15)* earned a master’s degree in sociology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May 2017 and a Ph.D. in sociology from UNL in May 2020. Dr. Andersen has accepted a postdoctoral fellow position at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Northwest Campus in Dr. Pearl McElfish’s Community Health Research Lab.

**William Lambert, Ph.D.** *(McNair Scholar 2013-15)* earned a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware in August 2020. Dr. Lambert has accepted a synthetic chemist position on the radiochemistry team at AbbVie Inc. biopharmaceutical company in Chicago, Illinois.

**Jason Thomas, Ph.D.** *(McNair Scholar 2012-14)* earned a Ph.D. in plant and microbial biology from the University of Minnesota in December 2019. Dr. Thomas is a post-doctoral researcher at The Carnegie Institution for Science at Stanford University.

**Master’s degrees**

**Myrianna Bakou** *(McNair Scholar 2015-2018)* earned a master’s degree in counseling psychology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May 2020.

**LaToya Benally** *(McNair Scholar 2005-2007)* earned a master’s degree in grant writing, evaluation, and management from Concordia University in Chicago in May 2020.

**Jazmin Castillo** *(McNair Scholar 2015–2017)* earned a master’s degree in natural resource sciences with a specialization in applied ecology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May 2020.

**Simon Deng** (McNair Scholar 2015-18) earned a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Colorado-Denver in August 2020. Simon is pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics from Iowa State University.

**Catelyn (Evans) Bridges** *(McNair Scholar 2015–2018)* earned a master’s degree in biological and agricultural engineering from Texas A&M University in May 2020.

**Andreas Miles Novelo** *(McNair Scholar 2014-2017)* earned a master’s degree in social psychology /human computer interaction from Iowa State University in May 2020. Andreas is pursuing a Ph.D. in both the social psychology and human computer interaction at ISU.

**Elia Soto** *(McNair Scholar 2012-2015)* earned a master’s degree in clinical psychology from Florida State University in December 2019. Elia is pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Florida State University.

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**Alumni Publications**


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**McNair Alumni** – keep us informed as you advance through your career, including progress in graduate school, publications, and other milestones. You may update your information at any time: [http://www.unl.edu/mcnair/scholarupdate.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/mcnair/scholarupdate.shtml)
Honors, Awards, and Leadership Activities 2019–20

Mohammad Majid – AY 2019-20 Dean's List; CSE TA; LPS robotics and technology mentor; Muslim Student Association; andInitialize CS Education Fellowship.

Sonoor Majid – Graduated in August 2020; Dean's List; BIO 101 & LIFE 120 TA; Susan T. Buffett Scholarship; William H. Thompson Scholar; 2020 SSS “I am TRIO” Award; February 2020 UNL Board of Regents UNL Student Representative; SSS Tutor; Lincoln Rotary Club 14 Foundation Scholarship; UNL American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (ASBMB); Minority Based Pre-Health Club; and Bryan LGH Hospital volunteer.

Logan Miller – Spring 2020 Dean's List; 2019-20 UCARE award; PSYC 181 tutor; and RA in the Vision, Attention, Memory, and Perception (VAMP) lab.

Mark Nail – Graduated in May 2020; Honors Program; 2019-20 Dean's List; 2020 NSF GRFP Honorable Mention; Summer 2019 Garmin mechanical engineering internship; 2019 Goldwater Scholarship; Chancellor's Scholarship, Raikes School Scholarship; Hispanic Scholarship Fund; Raikes Design Studio Team Product Manager; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) member; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE); American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME); Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) member; and FIRST Robotics Nebraska Co-Founder.

Nancy Nguyen – Graduated in May 2020; 2019-20 Dean's List; 2019-20 UCARE award; W.E.B. DuBois Honors Society; Cabela's Women in Leadership Scholarship; YYCA SMART Girls STEM facilitator; Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Treasurer; Define American; and Minority Pre-Health Association.

Vivian Nguyen – Spring 2020 Dean's List; Learning and Development Lab research assistant; Alcohol and Social Perception Project research assistant; Emerging Leaders Scholarship; Charles Towe Scholarship; Nebraska Emerging Leaders mentor; National Society of Leadership and Success; OASIS, SSS Scholar; LADR lab assistant; BAR lab assistant.

Aiah Nour – Spring 2020 Dean's List; 2020-21 UCARE award; Innocents Society Historian; Black Student Union Vice President of Outreach; African Students Association Vice President; ASUN Chief of Staff; and Black Student Union Care Bags Initiative.

Stephanie Perez – Spring 2020 Dean's List; 2020-21 UCARE award; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; W.H. Thompson Scholarship; and College of Engineering Dean's Leader.

Adan Redwine – AY 2019–20 Dean's List; 2019-20 UCARE award; Dean's List Fall 2019 and Spring 2020; Chotchaw Nation Higher Education Scholarship; Wayne & Virginia Thurman Scholarship; The National Society of Leadership and Success; Dance Marathon Family Representative; and FarmHouse Fraternity Technology Chairman.

Juliana Rodriguez – 2019-20 UCARE award; 2018-19 UCARE award; NASA Nebraska Space grant; Susan T. Buffett Scholarship; Schulte Family Scholarship; Department of Biological Systems Engineering Scholarship; NANO Outreach position at Nebraska Center for Material and Nanoscience; Morrill Hall Sunday with a Scientist: Chemistry; Women in Science conference booth: and Nanotechnology in the body and circuit kits.

Clarice Santos – Spring 2020 Dean's List; Honors Program; 2019-20 USTARS award (Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research Student); 2020-21 UCARE award; 2019-20 Alice Lou Crank Undergraduate Sociology Award; Sociology Undergraduate Advisory Board; CAS Connects Peer Leader; Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Peer Leader; Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence Scholarship; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; and Define American member.

Sergine Touré – 2020-21 UCARE award; CSCE 310 TA; and Muslim Student Organization President.
McNair Scholars who co-authored recent publications or completed an honors or senior thesis/project include:


