McNair Scholars Program
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Spring/Summer 2020

Congrats May & August 2020 McNair Graduates!

Baudelio Abrica
B.A., Psychology
Riverside, California

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, 140 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 won’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. This summer may be a challenge, but we are all in this together!
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**

*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.

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**Alumni Awards, Publications, & Presentations**

**Alumni Awards**

*Jazmin Castillo (McNair Scholar 2015–17)* received the School of Natural Resources 2019 Meritorious Graduate Student Award.

*Nathan Palmer, Ph.D. (McNair Scholar 2004-2006)* received the Georgia Southern University College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Award of Distinction in Teaching in Fall 2019. Dr. Palmer is an assistant professor of sociology at Georgia Southern University.

**Alumni Publications**


**Conference Presentations**

McNair Scholars continue to make an impact on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus and in the community through their leadership roles and volunteerism. This is a partial listing of their honors, awards, scholarships, and leadership activities:

**Baudelio Abricula** – Graduated in May 2020; Spring 2020 Dean's List; 2019-20 UCARE award; CYFS Teachers & Parents as Partners research assistant; Psychology Subtle Prejudice Lab research assistant; SECD Study of Latino Language Acquisition research assistant; Fall 2019 TA for PSYC 100; Mexican American Student Association Vice President; and Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Community Service Chair.

Mahaa Albuashar – BIOT 231 Physiology Intern; Fall 2019 research assistant in Dr. Roston's lab.

**Miguel Avila Garcia** – 2020-21 UCARE award; Susan T. Buffett Scholarship; Emerging Leaders Scholarship; Center for Plant Science laboratory student worker; Mexican American Student Association President; Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Vice President.

**Aleecce Barnard** – Graduated in December 2019; Fall 2019 Dean's List; President of the UNL College Chapter of the NAACP; Black Leadership Symposium speaker; Safe Quarters and West Lincoln Elementary School Fall Festival volunteer.

**Taylor Billington** – Honors Program; Regent's Scholar; Society of Physics Students; Horticulture Club; Behlen Observatory Open House volunteer; SAC Museum Physics demo volunteer.

**Zoe Erickson** – 2020-21 UCARE award; Spring 2020 Dean's List; Regent's Scholar; LIFES 121 TA; Pre-med undergraduate mentoring program; Biochemistry Club; Greeks Go Green representative; UNL Honors Program.

**Darius Fox** – Graduated in May 2020; 2019-20 UCARE award; 2019 Mayo Clinic research intern; OASIS Academic Excellence Award; Nebraska Spark Scholarship; Nutrition and Health Promotion Research assistant; Civic Engagement Scholar; UNL NAACP member; Rotract; W.E.B. Dubois Honor Society; and OASIS team mentor.

**Amyia Harris** – 2019-20 UCARE award; Fall 2019 Dean's List; Psi Chi member; Communication Studies research assistant; William H. Thompson Scholar; Lincoln Children's Museum volunteer; and House of Hugs Daycare volunteer.

**Nestor Hernandez** – Graduated With Distinction in May 2020; 2019-20 USTARS award (Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research Student); Dean's List; SOC 206 TA; Minority Health Disparities Initiative research assistant; First Husker Scholar; Davis Chambers Scholarship; Max & Margaret Pumphrey Scholarship; and Robert D. Carstens Scholarship.

**Ashleigh Herrera** – Graduated in May 2020; Spring 2020 Dean's List; Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering research assistant; Spring 2020 CHME 323 TA; Anderson Leadership Scholar; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers vice president & Region 3 representative; SHPE Scholarship; American Institute of Chemical Engineers; Society of Women Engineers; W.E.B. Dubois Honor Society; and Her Campus Contributor.

**Maham Javaid** – Graduated in May 2020; 2019-20 UCARE award; and W.H. Thompson Scholarship.

**Mahnoor Javaid** – Graduated in May 2020; Spring 2020 Dean's List; Pre-Pharmacy Club Vice-President; W.H. Thompson Scholar; Athletic Department tutor; Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; and Bryan Hospital ER volunteer.

**My-Linh Luc** – Graduated in May 2020; Fall 2019 Dean's List; 2019-20 UCARE award; Communication Studies research assistant; Psi Chi International Psychology Honor Society; Minority Pre-Health Association; Global Studies Honor Society; Microbiology Club; American Medical Women's Association; and William H. Thompson Scholar.

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

**Sonoor Majid** – Graduated in August 2020; Dean's List; BIO 101 & LIFES 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; Cabelas Women in Leadership Scholarship; YWCA 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 Towle Scholarship; Nebraska Emerging Leaders mentor; National Society of Leadership and Success; OASIS, SSS Scholar; LADR lab assistant; and Parent lab assistant.

**Aliah 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; Chotcaw 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 Materials 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.

**Seringe Toure** – 2020-21 UCARE award; CSCE 310 TA; and Muslim Student Organization President.
Scholars Complete Theses and Co-author Publications

McNair Scholars who co-authored recent publications or completed an honors or senior thesis/project include:


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)