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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE COLLEGE

Iowa State University McNair Program

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October 2015

INTRODUCING THE 2015 COHORT!



(L to R): Bishop Archer, Chemical Eng.; Marcos Cortes, Mechanical Eng.; Susan Cruz-Rodriguez, Public Relations; Icel Davila, Psychology; Andrew Guinness, Biology; Jocelyn Jackson, Mechanical Eng.



(L to R): Justin Madison, Communication Studies; Kristina Nugent, Chemistry; David Ortiz, Environmental Science; Berenice Real, Psychology; and Chandler Wilkins, Community and Regional Planning.

We welcomed 11 new Scholars into the 2015 Cohort! They began their McNair experience right away, which included attending class, participating in the Fall Brunch and Potluck, and interacting with their new faculty and graduate student mentors.

Be on the lookout for our next newsletter with more information about these outstanding Scholars!

Summer 2015 Scholar Activities

While in the McNair Program, the Scholars are encouraged to make the most out of their summer. Take a look at how two of our McNair Scholars' spent their summers!

David Enciso spent his summer as a research assistant at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Arizona. There he worked with Dr. George Angeli on optical measurements for the M1M3 mirror of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST). His project was involved in making a validation finite element model (FEM) of the M1M3 mirror that can predict optical surface shapes as the function of temperature distribution in the glass. David's task was to fine tune the FEM until it fit the measurements.



David Montealegre participated in the SPIRE-EIT REU here at Iowa State.. He worked in the Virtual Reality Application Center (VRAC) with two other students, a graduate mentor, and Dr. Dorneich. The research was focused on how addressing someone differently affected their performance. They used physics problems as a task to test the effects of different feedback using etiquette strategies. They set up the experiment, submitted an IRB and received approval, and conducted some pilot tests. David and his group presented their research at the university wide REU Symposium at the end of the summer.

Scholar Spotlights



Scholar, **Angel Raymundo**, has been accepted to the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUPF). The mission of NUPF is to mentor students from traditionally underrepresented and historically disenfranchised populations into student affairs and higher education fields. Angel is being mentored by Der Vang, the MLO for the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Currently Angel is attending workshops where he will learn about different professions within higher education, network with faculty and staff, and has the opportunity to shadow faculty or staff members within Iowa State University.

The past academic year (2014-15), **Rubén García**, senior in Microbiology, studied abroad at the Universidad de Extremadura in Caceres, Spain. While there, he was able to teach, travel, and explore over 12 countries and 23 destinations. Ruben explains, "there was an adventure everywhere I went and I was an explorer without a map." He was a volunteer at the university teaching English to undergraduate students and elementary school children. In addition, Ruben worked as a researcher at a Tumor Immunology laboratory at their veterinary school, and had the opportunity to work at the Center of Minimal Invasion Surgery. The center is the only one in the world. There he learned research techniques in the area of Immunology and Cancer research. Ruben says he, "can't wait to go back and visit my Spanish *familia!*"



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