

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**August 24, 2008**  
 Last day to pay tuition and fees without a late penalty

**August 25, 2008**  
 Instruction and late registration begin.

**August 29, 2008**  
 Last day to add courses, switch sections, change courses, change from audit to credit, or pay fees by 5:00 p.m.

**August 29, 2008**  
 Final day to drop or withdraw and receive a 100% refund.

**September 1, 2008**  
 Labor Day recess

**September 5, 2008**  
 Final day to submit an application for December graduation to the Cashier WITHOUT a late penalty

**September 9, 2008**  
 Study Abroad Workshop  
 SSC 317 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**September 25, 2008**  
 "Applying to Graduate School"  
 SSC 317 2:00-3:00 pm

**September 30, 2008**  
 Reading Series Continued  
 SSC 317 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**October 3, 2008**  
 Final day to drop or withdraw from classes and receive a 50% refund.

**October 15, 2008**  
 How to Prepare Quick Healthy Meals  
 SRWC, Room 1010 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**October 18, 2008**  
 Mid-semester

**October 30, 2008**  
 Dress for Success Workshop  
 SSC 317 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**October 31, 2008**  
 Nevada Day recess

**November 3, 2008**  
 Final day to drop or withdraw from classes by 5:00 p.m.

**November 5, 2008**  
 How to Prepare for Finals  
 SSC 317 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**November 11, 2008**  
 Veteran's Day recess

**November 27th - 30th**  
 Thanksgiving recess

**December 6, 2008**  
 Instruction ends

**December 13, 2008**  
 Fall semester ends

# McNair Scholars Institute

## Student Support Services



**Welcome Back!!**

**Fall 2008**

**The Student Support Services and McNair Scholars Institute Staff would like to welcome you to the new academic year—Fall 2008. We look forward to assisting you throughout the academic year with many different services. And don't forget, these services are FREE!**

**We are committed to helping you make your experience at UNLV a success. Please stop by our office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or call us at 895-4777 to make an appointment. We look forward to seeing you soon.**

**SSS and MSI Team**



**SSS Grant-In-Aid applications deadline  
 September 12, 2008**

## Wells Fargo Scholarship Winners

**The Academic Enrichment Division would like to congratulate the following students who received the Wells Fargo Scholarship for Fall 2008:**

Arias, Lizbeth	Diaz, Nydia	Ortiz, Rocio	Stevens, Shanice
Berta, Biruktait	Equihua, Cecilia	Pascoe, Adriana	Washington, Diana
Chaidez, Zaida	Fogenay, Kenthea	Pena, Celinda	Witherspoon, Janell
Chang, Caroline	Henry-Rogers, Amris	Silverman, Soraya	Young, Beelee
Corado, Adriana	King, Audrey	Spencer, Elena	Zuniga, Ilse

**Please visit and join our Student Support Services or McNair Scholars Institute Myspace or Facebook page.**

**Student Support Services** <http://www.facebook.com/srch.php?nm=macarena+patton>  
<http://www.myspace.com/sssstaff>

**McNair Scholars Institute** <http://www.facebook.com/home.php>  
<http://home.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user>

**Dr. William W. Sullivan**  
 Assoc. VP, Retention & Outreach  
 Executive Director, The Center

**Dr. Muriel Grimmert**  
 Deputy Executive Director,  
 TRIO Programs

**Deanna R. Davis**  
 Director for Academic Enrichment

**SSS Staff**

**Macarena I. Patton**  
 Assist. Director for Academic  
 Enrichment

**Amanda Owens**  
 Academic Coordinator

**McNair Staff**

**Terri Bernstein**  
 Retention & Academic  
 Coordinator

**Dr. Harriet Barlow**  
 Associate Dean, Grad. College  
 McNair Coordinator

**Support Staff**

**Joann Stevens**  
 Office Manager

**Bernice Harris**  
 Student Assistant

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Spotlight on Participants

*Submitted by Monica Hernandez  
Senior, History Major*

When I got married three years ago and moved to Las Vegas with my husband, my friends and family thought that my educational career was over. Needless to say, when my husband and I announced that we were expecting our first child, my parents told me that going to school was going to be extremely difficult and questioned if we could afford it. They told me not to think about having another baby because things would be impossible after that. Well, it is true, it was more difficult, but not impossible. Running up and down stairs while pregnant during the summer is not the easiest as you are rushing to class, having to wait for my husband to get off work so that I could go to the library where I could study without disruptions sometimes until 2:00 am was not my favorite, and waking up at 4:00 am to study since my baby was asleep was as fun as morning sickness. Of course, I am now six months pregnant, and having to fight nausea while your professor is talking about U.S foreign policy could be distracting. There were times during finals when I tried writing papers while my little baby "Joy" was at my knees, with a stuffy nose or a dirty diaper, and everything was put on hold. I did not only have to be a mother to Joy but to six other teenage boys in a group home where I volunteered for at least 40 hrs. per week. In addition, I had to be a wife to my husband, I constantly had to remind him to excuse dinner not being made or the dirty house until the semester was over. In addition, by him being Teen Director for the Boys and Girls Club, I found myself having to bring my laptop to numerous weekend events with hundreds of children. I guess I have many children, and yes life is more difficult but the rewards are priceless. When I see my baby's toothless smile, hear her say "mama" or when she buries her head in my chest because she is hurt I realize that I was meant to be a mother, and I would not trade it for the world. Every thought of quitting school and every tear of frustration is wiped away- and instead I stare in awe at the beautiful blessing in my arms that has been given to me to cherish and love. I do not want my daughter or all my children to see me as a quitter, because I preach against that. When they come against tribulations I want them to remember my actions so that they could triumph over every obstacle that life brings forth. I realize that people try to discourage you based on their own experiences, but those limitations do not have to be your own. When no one else is left to believe in you, you have to believe in yourself.



*Submitted by Elsie Hernandez  
Senior, Elementary Education Major*

The road to completing my education has not been an easy one but having Student Support Services being there has been very resourceful. My name is Elsie Hernandez and I am an elementary education major, I have two wonderful kids, and a strong drive for always completing what I start. My parents never went to college let alone finish elementary school so they made sure to engrave it in my head that no matter what, I had to finish school. Deciding to have my children while in school meant that I just had to try harder and to make sure to always remember my focus. With the support of my husband and my mentor, Ms Davis, I am happy to say that in December of 2008 I will be a college graduate. Student Support Services has always been there when I needed them; providing free tutoring, SSS grant, advising, and even helping with any financial aid questions. As I get to where I need to be and look back at the hardships I know that with the right dedication anyone can reach their educational goals.



# McNair Scholars Spotlight

Submitted by Karen Levy

Senior, Biology Major



I was fortunate enough to be awarded an NIH-INBRE (National Institute of Health, IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) award to conduct an independent research project during the summer of 2008 in Dr. Helen Wing's bacterial pathogenesis laboratory at UNLV. The award included a \$4500 stipend and a \$1000 allowance for materials in the lab. I have been working on a project in which I am discovering how the physiological conditions of the human host (i.e. acidity of the stomach, lack of oxygen in the colon, etc.) affect the ability of *Shigella flexneri* to express proteins associated with its virulence. This program has been an excellent opportunity to learn more about the scientific process and communication of scientific discoveries. I had the honor of attending the International Wind River Conference on Prokaryotic Biology in Estes Park, Colorado for a week in June, where I presented the results of my research to scientists from around the world. In addition to presenting my research and listening to many inspirational talks about current research topics in microbiology, I had the pleasure of spending time networking with these scientists during social hours and recreational activities in the mountains. I have learned that attending these types of conferences across the country is one of the many benefits of a career in science. However, the most rewarding aspect of this job is the intellectual freedom I am given. A recent development in my research allowed me to explore a characteristic of *Shigella* biology that has never been researched nor documented. I expressed my ideas to my mentor, and together we are working on developing experimental procedures to test our hypotheses. The results of my project will be presented at an undergraduate research symposium in August, and I plan to continue working on this project throughout the 2008-2009 academic year. I am also planning to complete a senior thesis based on my work with *Shigella flexneri* upon completion of the departmental honors program at UNLV. I cannot stress enough the importance of a program like this for anyone considering a career in science and/or medicine. In addition to learning new lab techniques and having the honor of presenting your research, you are able to network at conferences with people from academia and industry. This type of exposure is beneficial because it helps you narrow your choices for graduate school and gives you the opportunity to talk to people who are at the point in their careers where you see yourself in ten years. My current academic program provides a solid understanding of science from many disciplines and perspectives, but it was not until I conducted laboratory research first-hand that I learned what it truly means to be a scientist. I am truly honored to have been given such a fulfilling opportunity!

**The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program prepares participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. This summer, 15 UNLV McNair Scholars Institute participants will work under the direction of a faculty mentor on new and exciting research. Students will share the results of their research during the annual McNair Symposium on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 1 pm in the Student Union Rm. 208.**

**The following is a list of the scholars, faculty mentors and research topics:**

<u>Scholar</u>	<u>Faculty Mentor</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Kathleen Bell	Dr. Julian Smit	The first hundred years of filmmaking in Las Vegas
Ava Bookatz	Dr. Daniel Villanueva	The Dynamics of Chaos-Theory at work in Thomas Bernhard's Heidenplatz
Vascheral Carter	Dr. Eugenie Burkett	What effects do music education programs have on student's academic performance?
Nydia Diaz	Dr. Maria Casas	The First Latina: La Malinche and her role in Latin America Women's Literature
Kimberly Hackstock	Dr. Ramona Denby-Brinson	Impact of kinship liaison in increasing the capacity of relative caregivers to care for children who live with them
Amris Henry-Rodgers	Dr. Martin Dupalo	Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in U.S. Soldiers
Shaida Jetha	Dr. Daniel Allen	Emotional Memory and Aging
Julio Luna	Dr. Jennifer Rennels	How 6 & 12 month old infants categorize faces
Charles Mao	Dr. Larry Ashley	The Effect of Patents on Innovation and Access to Pharmaceuticals
Juan Plata	Dr. Woosoon Yim	Biomedical Engineering: Obstructive Sleep Apnea
Sandra Ramos	Dr. Larry Ashley	The correlation between sex industry workers (exotic dancers) and childhood abuse
Precious Rideout	Dr. William Sousa	How does the "stop snitching" attitude (not reporting criminal activity for fear of retaliation, condemnation, etc.) impact criminal justice processes?
Benjamin Watrous	Dr. Daniel Allen	Is the co-occurrence of anxiety disorder in bipolar disorder associated with increased neurocognitive deficit?
Chet Whitley	Dr. Janet Dufek	The Effect of Retro-Locomotion on Flexibility of the Low Back and Hamstrings
Ilse Zuniga	Dr. David Damore	How the powers and workings of the Federal Reserve grown since it was enacted

# UNLV McNair Scholars Institute Fall 2008 Workshops

TOPIC	DATE	TIME	PRESENTER
Applying to Graduate School	Thursday, September 25	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Deanna Davis
What's Like Being a Graduate Student? A Student's Perspective	Tuesday, October 14	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Panel of current graduate students
Writing a Personal Statement	Wednesday, October 29	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Writing Center Staff
Funding Graduate School	Tuesday, November 4	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Terri Bernstein

## MOVED RECENTLY?

New Phone Number or e-mail address?  
Update your information on our web page!  
[www.unlv.edu/studenterv/caeo](http://www.unlv.edu/studenterv/caeo)

## ARE YOU AWARE OF THE WALK-IN HOURS?

Mondays 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursdays 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

## GOT QUESTIONS?

If you would like more information about our services, please contact our office at (702) 895-4777 or visit us on the web at <http://caeo.unlv.edu/Programs/sss/index.htm>

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