

# McNair Research Scholars

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**2016**

**GRADUATING SENIOR  
RECOGNITION  
AND FACULTY MENTOR  
APPRECIATION**

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**April 11, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.  
LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College  
French House**

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**LSU | University College**

**HOSTED BY JOSEPH GIVENS,**  
Director, Ronald E. McNair  
Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

*Reception*

*Opening Remarks and Welcome*

*2016 Graduating Seniors Recognition*

*McNair Research Scholars  
Faculty Mentor Appreciation*

*Adjournment*

A Special Thank You to the  
McNair Research Scholars Staff  
**Julie Michal and Derrick Lathan**

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**LSU University College** is dedicated to students achieving excellence at LSU. Academic and personal success is the hallmark of a well-rounded student, and University College provides a foundation of support services for students beginning their academic careers at LSU. Our two enrollment divisions are the **Center for Freshman Year** and the **Center for Advising & Counseling**. In addition, a variety of retention-specific programs that focus on particular student populations are a significant part of the role and mission of University College, including **McNair Research Scholars, Student Support Services, and Summer Scholars**.

**The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program** promotes a new cohort of scholars that more accurately reflects the emergent diversity in life experiences, cultures, and perspectives represented in academia by preparing students who are first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented in graduate education for doctoral studies. **McNair Research Scholars** provides thirty sophomore, junior, and senior college students from Louisiana State University with information and experiences to prepare them to be competitive graduate school applicants and successful graduate students.

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## 2016 GRADUATING SENIORS

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### **CHRISTINA BASTIEN**

Major: Biological Sciences

Research mentor: Jerome La Peyre, PhD,  
School of Animal Sciences

*Comparison of the growth, mortality, Perkinsus marinus infection intensity, protein concentration, and plasma protease inhibitory activity between the progeny of oysters with different plasma inhibitory activity*

### **JUDE BUMGARDNER**

Major: Anthropology

Research mentor: Mary Jill Brody, PhD,  
Department of Geography & Anthropology

*South Korean women in Baton Rouge, Louisiana:  
A case study of work within and outside the home*

### **HEATHER BUZBEE**

Major: English, Writing & Culture

Research mentor: Chris Barrett, PhD,  
Department of English

*The violence and pleasure of persuasion in Gorgias's  
"Encomium of Helen"*

### **ATIANNA CORDOVA**

Major: Architecture

*Safe place: Designers learning from the informal  
community developments of homeless individuals*

### **YOEL GEBRAI**

Major: Petroleum Engineering

Research mentor: Frank Tsai, PhD, Department of  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

*Geostatistical modeling of aquifer heterogeneity*

### **CENE HARRIS**

Major: Psychology

Research Mentor: Anna C.J. Long, PhD,  
Department of Psychology

*Impact of a transdiagnostic risk factor on willingness to  
seek treatment among Black students*

### **MATTHEW JOHNSON**

Major: Biological Sciences

Research mentor: Maheshi Dassanayake, PhD,  
Department of Biological Sciences

*A survey of the SMR gene family in the plant kingdom,  
using a motif oriented search tool*

### **SAMANTHA LEBOUF**

Major: Psychology

Research mentor: Katherine Stamps Mitchell, PhD,  
School of Social Work

*The self-presentation and perception of college students  
on Instagram*

**TODD MOULDER**

Major: Physics

Research mentor: Jonathan Dowling, PhD,  
Department of Physics & Astronomy

*Linear optical quantum metrology with single photons –  
examining practical realizations for beating the shot-  
noise limit*

**ZACKARI MURPHY**

Major: Psychology

Research Mentor: Dr. Daniel Hayes PhD, Department  
of Biological & Agricultural Engineering

*Thiolene based medical scaffolds utilizing frontal  
polymerization*

**VICTOR OMOJOLA**

Major: Biological Engineering

Research Mentor: Todd Monroe, PhD, Department of  
Biological & Agricultural Engineering

*Characterization of microfluidic mixing devices for  
analysis of zebrafish sperm motility*

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**MCNAIR RESEARCH SCHOLARS  
FACULTY MENTORS**

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**We thank this year's faculty research mentors for  
their time, effort, and committment to ensuring the  
success of our students.**

**Chris Barrett, PhD (English)**

**Mary Jill Brody, PhD (Geography & Anthropology)**

**Alex Cohen, PhD (Psychology)**

**Theda Daniels-Race, PhD (Electrical & Computer Engineering)**

**Maheshi Dassanayake, PhD (Biological Sciences)**

**Jonathan Dowling, PhD (Physics & Astronomy)**

**Daniel Hayes, PhD (Biological & Agricultural Engineering)**

**Linda Hooper-Bui, PhD (Environmental Sciences)**

**Anna Grove, PhD (Biological Sciences)**

**Angeletta Gourdine, PhD (English)**

**James Garand, PhD (Political Science)**

**Jerome La Peyre, PhD (Animal Sciences)**

**Anna C.J. Long, PhD (Psychology)**

**James Miller, PhD (Pathobiological Sciences)**

**Katherine Stamps Mitchell, PhD (Social Work)**

**Todd Monroe, PhD (Biological & Agricultural Engineering)**

**Marchia Newcomer, PhD (Biological Sciences)**

**Jas Sullivan, PhD (Political Science)**

**Frank Tsai, PhD (Civil & Environmental Engineering)**