
McNair Association of Professionals

MAP Newsletter

Issue No. 7 | May 16, 2025



Greetings From the MAP Communications and Media Committee

Welcome to the MAP Messenger Newsletter!

In the midst of uncertainty and challenges across the TRIO community, this newsletter is meant to be a safe and steady space; a reminder that TRIO Works, even during the hardest of times. Here, we celebrate McNair, our accomplishments and wins. We shine a light on the resilience, brilliance, and heart that make TRIO and McNair what it is. This is a space for connection, encouragement, and shared purpose. A place where our collective wins, big or small, are recognized and uplifted.

As we continue navigating during these turbulent times, let this newsletter and MAP serve as a reminder that you are not alone. You are part of something powerful. You are TRIO! You are McNair! And together, TRIO Works!

With solidarity and warmth,

MAP Communications and Media Committee



MAP News

MAP Legislative Committee wants to hear from you!

Please take a few minutes to fill out the MAP Legislative Committee form. By participating, you contribute valuable insights that help us understand your priorities and concerns as McNair professionals. Your feedback will help guide our efforts to address the issues that matter most to the MAP community. To access the form, [follow this link](#).

MAP Journal

[Scan the QR code or follow the link to view the Fall 2024 edition of the McNair National Research Journal](#)



TRIO Advocacy

COE has provided us with links to support TRIO and our programs in connecting with your representatives in our states and districts.

- [Alumni Sign On Letter](#) (over 1000 signatures already - keep it going)
- [BluePrint](#)
- [Social Media Contacts](#)
- [Prominent National TRIO Achievers](#)
- [Complete List of National TRIO Achievers](#)
- [TRIO Caucus](#)
- [Advocacy Center](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[11th Annual Grad School Boot Camp](#)
May 20-22, 2025 - San Antonio, TX

[2025 TCU McNair Grad School Boot Camp](#)
June 2-3, 2025 - Fort Worth, TX

[SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference](#)
June 27-29, 2025 - Atlanta, GA

[Undergraduate Research Conference](#)
July 23-26, 2025 - University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

[UCLA McNair Conference](#)
July 28-30, 2025 - University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

[Baylor McNair Research Conference](#)
August 7-8, 2025 - Baylor University, Waco, TX

[UNM McNair Scholars Research Conference](#)
September 4-5, 2025 - University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

[UMBC McNair Research Conference](#)
September 17-20, 2025 - University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

[MKN Heartland McNair Research Conference](#)
September 19-21, 2025 - Kansas City, MO

[FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference](#)
Florida International University, Miami, FL
2025 dates TBD

Professional Conferences

[COE Annual Conference](#)
September 6-11, 2025 - Chicago, IL

Meet MAP's Newest Exec Board Members



Eric Dieter, Ph.D.
President Elect
The University of Texas
at Austin

Do you have any tips or advice for new members?

Don't suffer in silence. Never be shy about asking for advice from the MAP community. I haven't met a single member who wasn't willing to help, and who didn't have something valuable to teach me.

What do you like most about being a MAP member?

By joining MAP, you extend your professional community beyond your program and campus to programs and campuses across the country. Your colleagues are all over, and we all get to harness this wide network of people with deep institutional knowledge. Plus, it's comforting to have a group of people who "speak a common language," who understand and appreciate the challenges and celebrations unique to McNair.

Who/what inspires you?

For me, it's heartening that, despite any tumult and turmoil swirling around them, our Scholars stay committed to the promises they made to themselves, their families, their communities, and to the world to use their smarts to make positive progress. I am inspired by their determination to make tomorrow better than today through tenacity and empathy.

Also, my partner, Colleen, has a singularity of purpose unlike anyone else I know. I am inspired by her mission, as a professional gardener, arborist, and seed advocate, to bring together people and plants in meaningful and mutual ways.

What has been your biggest professional achievement?

I've been lucky enough to get to design, grow, and sustain lots of student support programs over the last two decades, but I take particular pride in completing my first McNair grant. Then there are moments while you're teaching when you see an idea spark in a student and you know they're thinking about the world in a way new to them; each of those sparks seems to me a worthwhile achievement.

Meet MAP's Newest Exec Board Members



Susan J. Ott, PhD, MBA, MSED, CFP
Treasurer
University at Buffalo

Do you have any tips or advice for new members?

I strongly encourage new members to begin to participate in any of the MAP committee work that defines this amazing association! Give yourself time to "find your passion" and "place" in MAP, and how your strengths will help us all to achieve our goals of serving the McNair Professional community in a most effective manner.

What do you like most about being a MAP member?

What I enjoy most is the camaraderie and collegiality that defines the McNair community. No one is an outsider here...we are "in" this work together and through that lens we enrich not only ourselves professionally, but also our ability to deliver amazing programming, services, and support to the scholars whom we are most privileged to serve. This Association is truly unique in its mission as it provides a number of value-added benefits including, but not limited to: 1) Access (free) to the "Sched" Conference/Meeting Platform, 2) Ability to have your scholars submit their research manuscripts/creative expressions/thoughtful reflections for publication consideration in our annual, on-line, and peer-reviewed, McNair National Research Journal, 3) Access to timely educational/informational opportunities through our Pedagogy committee work.

Who/what inspires you?

Outside of my most wonderful family (including the recent birth of our first grandchild), I can most confidently say that it is the ability to engage with our McNair Scholars every day! Since each day comes with new accomplishments, celebrations, challenges, disappointments, questions, concerns, and activities, it is they who inspire my passion for this work and are the reason I come to see each day as unique!

What has been your biggest professional achievement?

In all honesty, my professional trajectory has been a real journey that has included wonderful work as an Investment Banker, a Certified Financial Planner, a High School Business Teacher, a College Professor, and of course, a McNair Director. Each position had its achievements (i.e. first woman to serve as the Vice President for Treasury Operations at a large bank in New York). But I guess as I look back and start to plan for retirement, my past professional achievements have really just been to make a positive and impactful difference wherever I am "planted!" My achievements might not qualify as "big," but at the end of the day, I truly hope that the colleagues and students with whom I have had the sincere pleasure to work with these past 45 years found my presence to be at least somewhat welcoming, comforting, helpful, and positive!

Meet MAP's Newest Exec Board Members



**Ricardo Garza, M. Ed.
Parliamentarian
University of Texas
at Arlington**

Do you have any tips or advice for new members?

Try and get involved in at least one committee. It is a great opportunity to learn what other programs are doing and finding new ways to support your program and your fellow McNair directors.

What do you like most about being a MAP member?

Being able to continue learning in my role and finding avenues to expand my skills and professional development.

Who/what inspires you?

Our McNair Scholars achieving their dreams and paving ways for their own generational success.

What has been your biggest professional achievement?

Seeing 100% of a cohort get accepted into graduate programs at a McNair program I was working with. Shout out to Steven Fernandez and Baylor University McNair.

Congratulations

to all the newly elected executive members of MAP! Your commitment, passion, and leadership have earned you this important role, and we look forward to the positive impact you'll make. Wishing each of you success, collaboration, and inspiration as you begin this new chapter together.

MAP Member Spotlight



Joshua A. Dunn, Ph.D.

Assistant Director, St. Mary's University

Joshua Dunn is a McNair alumnus from St. Mary's University. After graduating from St. Mary's in 2013, Joshua went on to complete his MA in Communication in 2015 from The Ohio State University and then his PhD in Media and Communication from Texas Tech University in 2020. After COVID-19 threw him for a loop, Joshua landed at the University of Kentucky as a Postdoctoral Scholar for a year. Then an opportunity to come back to St. Mary's opened up and Joshua returned to St. Mary's as the Assistant Director of the McNair Scholars Program where he has served for the past 3 years!

A MAP member for the past 2 year, Dr. Dunn, as he is now called by his students, serves on the legislative committee and more recently the Communications and Media committee. Dr. Dunn is also one of the cofounders of *San Antonio McNair* - a collaborative group of four McNair programs within the San Antonio area.

Dr. Dunn defines success as one's ability to achieve the things that you envision for yourself. Dr. Dunn views himself as successful as he was able to complete his doctoral degree by 30! He attributes his success to the support he received along the way and is thankful to the TRIO McNair Scholars Program!

Today, Dr. Dunn works to ensure that the next generation is able to achieve their doctoral dreams. He finds the most exciting time of the year to be "acceptance season" when his scholars receive offers to continue their education to graduate programs. He is also a nerd that loves to work on the program budget. "You have to know what you're working with to spend down as much as you can!" he says.

While he loves working with his scholars, Dr. Dunn still envisions himself in a faculty role in the future. Watching his students engage in the research process keeps his own spark alive. He longs for the day when he can complete another study examining his own research interest in parasocial phenomena.



Feed Your Soul - Spring Edition

Healthy Eating
Sans Cooking

Sweet and Savory



Recipe.

Strawberry and Tomato Gazpacho

Summer is near and hot days are soon to follow. You've had a long day and don't feel like turning on that stove, oven, or even light up the grill. You just want something quick, light, and refreshing. You look in the refrigerator and find...

10 large strawberries, hulled
5 small vine ripe tomatoes, chopped
1/3 hothouse cucumber, chopped
1 jalapeño, seeded and chopped (keep seeds for more heat)
1/4 bunch mint, chopped plus extra for garnish
2 limes, juiced
3 tablespoons honey
salt and pepper to taste

garnish

2 ounces goat cheese, softened
12 cherry tomatoes, halved
2 limes, zested
2 tablespoons olive oil
fresh mint leaves optional

Instructions

1. Place all ingredients into a blender and puree until smooth (strain if desired but not necessary)
2. Pour soup into a large bowl, set into an ice bath and chill soup for 30 minutes. Alternately place soup into refrigerator and chill for at least 1 to 2 hours.
3. Stir and adjust seasonings.
4. Place goat cheese, lime zest and pepper into a small bowl and stir together until fully combined.
5. To serve: Ladle soup into each bowl and top with a small dollop of prepared goat cheese and snips of fresh mint leaves.

** Serves 6

McNair Photo Highlights



Photos provided by Dezzarae Francis and Kari Azevedo from COE Policy Seminar

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Job Listings

Check out open McNair job listing from around the country by following the link or scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.



<https://www.triojoblist.com/job-lists/mcnair-program-job-list>

Social Media

Find and Follow Us on IG, Facebook, & LinkedIn for all relevant and important information for MAP!

