SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT
Name: Anlly D. Palacios
Year: Senior
Major: Sociology; minor Spanish
Current Research: The Ethnic Displacement of Dairy Farm Employees

What attracted you to the research? I became interested in the research because it has to deal with undocumented immigrants. I am really dedicated to providing visibility to the fact that undocumented immigrants work in NY dairy farms. Most people don’t realize that New York State is the third largest producer of dairy products. When I began to research this topic, I found little to no information on the immigrant workers. One of the biggest reasons I want to continue this research is to bring about changes in agricultural industry. Right now, there is no system of safety regulations or accountability if undocumented workers are hurt or killed on the job.

What have gained from being a McNair scholar? McNair has given me valuable insight into the research experience. In the beginning the thought of doing research scared me. When I thought about research, I thought I needed to be in a white lab coat and keep track of numbers, so initially I was turned off. I felt that research wasn’t really for me since I was in the social sciences. The McNair summer research program equipped me with the tools I needed to feel confident doing research. Now, research is something I look forward to doing and something I want to continue in the future.

What is your area of research? What attracted you to this?
I’m passionate about understanding how corporate power works. Most of my research has focused on understanding how corporate elites shape political dynamics in Latin America: be they the political dynamics which shifted Latin America towards neoliberal globalization in the 1980s or be it the surprising rise of anti-neoliberal leftists who have governed much of Latin America since the mid-2000s. Having lived in up-state New York for more than a decade now I became interested in how corporate power might be shaping my current rural surroundings. The dairy industry, as the state’s most important agricultural sector, seemed an important place to start. I was concerned about what I had learned about the dangerous and grueling nature of working at a dairy farm and, as a sociologist, wondered: What were the social conditions that created these working conditions?

What was it like to work with Anlly?
Anlly first stood out to me in my research methods class; sitting in the first row she was a frequent contributor that raised the level of discussion beyond merely rote understanding to true engagement. I was honored when she asked me if I would serve as her McNair advisor and readily agreed, energized by the possibility of working with such a talented student. She and I discussed several possibilities for her project, and she agreed to work with me to research the structure and dynamics of the dairy industry. Out of this project grew her interest in the shift from mostly white family labor to mostly migrant non-family employees as the labor on New York’s dairy farms. She has focused her research on understanding the social conditions which might have provoked this shift in the mid-1990s. These include both the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, which has increased the supply of Mexican and Central American immigrants “settling out” beyond traditional migrant communities, and the increased industrialization of dairy farms as soaring feed prices and low milk prices squeezed their profit margin.
Research Days 2016
Keynote Speaker Ainissa Ramirez

Research Days will be taking place on April 13-15th at Binghamton University in the Old Union and Mandela Rooms. This year's keynote speaker is Ainissa Ramirez, she will be giving a talk on Making Friends with Failure. The talk will take place on April 12th at 7pm in the Mandela room.

Research Days will have open labs, seminars, posters sessions and more. It is a chance for the campus community to come together and celebrate the research accomplishments of our faculty and students. Their contributions not only shape our communities but abroad as well.

Continued from Scholar Spotlight

What made you decide to apply to McNair? I found out about the McNair Scholars Program from being a SSS student. I talked to my advisor about whether or not the program would be a good fit for me. We talked about all the careers I could have with a PHD and realized that I could explore the things I loved.

What has been your favorite McNair event? Preview Day. It was the first time I talked to scholars about their research. I really enjoyed getting to know everyone and hearing about their projects. Everyone was interested in everyone else’s research and it made me more excited to go to the McNair conference.

What is the one thing you would change about your whole experience? I wouldn’t change a thing. I believe everything happens for a reason. It gives me a new appreciation for what I do.

What would you tell a new scholar? Don’t be afraid to ask questions. It goes hand in hand and taking charge of your own career. Do your research!

UPCOMING EVENTS
March 22nd - Community Service Project
April 8th - Faculty Mentor Workshop
April 13th-15th Research Days
May 5th- Senior Graduation Banquet and New Scholar and Faculty Mentor Recognition