



“The Doctor”

McNair Scholars Program

Wichita State University
Division of Campus Life and University Relations
webs.wichita.edu/mcnair



December, 2006 - February, 2007
Vol. 12 No. 2

Well Under Way

The 2006 - 2007 academic year is well under way for the McNair scholars. Those participating in research have begun the process of searching for articles to write their literature reviews to be due January 31. The following scholars are conducting research for the 2006 - 2007 year:

Christina Bower

Dr. Daniel McConnell - *Psychology*

Donovan Elias

Dr. Michael Birzer - *Community Affairs*

Jerry Elmore

Dr. David Hughes - *Anthropology*

Julia Fallier

Dr. Wendell Leavitt - *Biology*

Meladee Garst

Dr. James Snyder - *Psychology*

Elizabeth Jackson

Dr. Gwendolyn Mukes - *Curriculum & Instruction*

Janet Milow

Dr. Delores Craig-Moreland - *Criminal Justice*

Philip Pettis

Dr. Rhonda Lewis-Moss - *Psychology*

Mikki Phan

Dr. Barbara Chaparro - *Psychology*

Sarah Rogers

Dr. Rhonda Lewis-Moss - *Psychology*

Kim Tran

Dr. Francis D'Souza - *Chemistry*

McNair Scholars Attend National Research Conference

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sponsored its 15th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate School Fair, November 3 - 5 at the newly renovated Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wisconsin. Over 600 McNair scholars, who represented over eighty colleges and universities, made oral and poster research presentations. The conference gave students the opportunity to meet with graduate school representatives/recruiters from across the country. They also met other McNair scholars as well as **Carl McNair**, the brother of the late Dr. Ronald E. McNair during his fireside chat. Scholars attended workshops that provided information on personal statement writing and the graduate school application process. There were four Wichita State students who presented at the conference: **Christina Bower, Meladee Garst, Jan Mead-Moehring and Sarah Rogers.**



Happy Holidays from the McNair staff!

Hanukkah - December 20 - 27



Christmas - December 25



Kwanzaa - December 26 - January 1



Eid-Al-Adha - Late December - Early January (Islamic Festival of the Profit Abraham's Sacrifice)

Grammatically Speaking

The Power of Action Verbs



When writing, one can sometimes fall into the habit of using too many “be” verbs. Verbs such as “is,” “was,” and “are” often limit the effectiveness of sentences, because they present the information in the passive voice. When writing a paper, attempt to minimize the number of “be” verbs by utilizing active verbs.

Here are some tips:

1. Modify a noun into an active verb. A verb is in the *active voice* when its subject is also the performer of the action.

Original Sentence: The dove is often a symbol of peace.

Modified Sentence: The dove symbolizes peace.

2. Modify an adjective into an action verb.

Original: He is very annoying.

Modified: He annoys everyone.

3. Eliminate the passive part of the sentence. A verb is in the *passive voice* when its subject is something or someone other than the doer of the action.

Original: He was able to meet with all of his old friends at his high school reunion.

Modified: He met with all of his old friends at his high school reunion.

4. Replace a passive verb with an active verb.

Original: Dead Man Walking is about the moral and legal issues of the death penalty.

Modified: Dead Man Walking explores the moral and legal issues of the death penalty.

5. Adjust the sentence to make its subject perform the action.

Original: Oliver Twist was written by Charles Dickens.

Modified: Charles Dickens wrote Oliver Twist.

While there is nothing grammatically wrong with either construction, expressing verbs in the active voice usually produces sentences that are smoother and more concise.

Source: Grammar for Smart People, Barry Tarshis, 1992.

Food For Thought

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing.
Motivation determines what you do.
Attitude determines how well you do it.”

~ Lou Holtz:

Twenty-nine year collegiate head football coach

Health Alert: Stress & Sleeplessness

When we are stressed and anxious, we can often find it difficult to get to sleep as thoughts keep on whizzing through our minds, stopping us from relaxing enough to fall asleep. If you find this is the case:

- ✳ Make sure to stop mentally demanding work several hours before going to bed – give your brain time to wind down before trying to sleep.
- ✳ Try reading a calming, undemanding book for a few minutes, again to relax your body, tire your eyes and help you forget about the things that worry you.
- ✳ Write persistent thoughts and worries down in a notebook to put them out of your mind. Review the notebook in the morning and take appropriate action.
- ✳ Keep the same bedtime. Let your body and mind get used to a predictable routine.
- ✳ Cut back on caffeine and alcohol. Some people find that they sleep badly if they drink coffee or cola after 4 pm. Others find that if they drink alcohol in excess, they wake up in the middle of the night and cannot get back to sleep.

Source: <http://www.mindtools.com/stress/Defenses/Rest.htm>

Happy Birthday!

The staff would like to wish a Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the months of December, January & February.

Mikki Phan 12/20

Christina Bower 12/21

Janet Milow 1/11

Sheri Daniel-Washington 1/29

Donovan Elias 2/2

Julia Fallier 2/25

Kimberly Grimes 2/28



Vocabulary Builder: Solv/Solu

Solv/Solu comes from the Latin verb *solvere*, “to loosen, free, release.” The number of English words spawned by this root seem to be endless. For example, to *solve* a problem--that is, to find a *solution*--is to free up a situation, and a *solvent dissolves* and releases oil or paint.

Words to watch for on the GRE:

absolve: To set free from an obligation or from guilt for a sin or mistake.

The committee absolved two senators of responsibility for the wrongdoing.

absolute: To make complete, unrestricted, perfect.

The baby sitter has absolute authority over the children while their parents are away.

dissolution: The act or process of breaking down or apart into basic components, by disruption or decay.

The dissolution of the U.S.S.R. is a momentous event of the last quarter of the 20th century.

Note: The prefix *dis* means “apart” or to “separate.”

resolve: (1) To deal with successfully; clear up. (2) To reach a decision about; determine, decide.

At the start of every new year, we resolve to become better than we were the year before.

soluble (1) Able to be dissolved in a liquid, especially water. (2) Able to be solved or explained.

The principal, perceived the school’s problems to be challenging but soluble.

Note: This example is using *soluble* to mean “solvable.” In this sense, *soluble* (like its opposite *insoluble*) is usually paired with the word *problem*.

Sources: Merriam-Websters Vocabulary Builder, 1998.

<http://www.southampton.liunet.edu/academic/pau/course/webroot.htm>

Events to Come

DECEMBER

- 1 **Student Group Meeting**
2 - 3 p.m., Room 206, Heskett Center
Shukura Bakari-Cozart
“Closing the Semester”
- Research Assembly Meeting**
3 - 4 p.m., Room 206, Heskett Center
- 7 **Last Day of Classes**
- 8 **Study Day**
McNair Holiday Feast & Gift Exchange
- 9 - 15 **Final Exams**
- 10 **Fall Commencement**
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 22 -1/2 **Holiday Shutdown - Campus Closed**

JANUARY

- 1 *Happy New Year!*
- 2 **Campus Reopens**
- 8 - 12 **Campus Visits to Kansas Universities**
- 15 **Martin Luther King Jr. Observance**
- 16 **First Day of Classes**
- 31 **Literature Review Due**
- 19 **Birthday of Ronald E. McNair**
- 21 **Faculty-led Seminar**
10 - Noon, Room 106, Devlin Hall
Dr. Anna Chandler, Ethnic Studies
“Lifestyles of People with Doctorates”

FEBRUARY

- 2 **Student Group Meeting**
2 - 3 p.m., Room 206, Heskett Center
Gayle Veltman, Counseling and Testing
“Graduate Test Preparation Resources”
- Research Assembly Meeting**
3 - 4 p.m., Room 206, Heskett Center
- 10 **Faculty-led Seminar**
10 - Noon, Room 106, Devlin Hall
Dr. Deborah Soles, Philosophy
“Writing for Publication”
- 13 **National TRIO Day Celebration**
- 14 *Happy Valentines Day!*
- 16 - 18 **Texas National McNair Conference**
- 21 - 23 **Oklahoma State University Research Symposium & Campus Visit**

Someone Like Me?

Dr. Alton S. Wallace - Mathematician



Alton Smith Wallace was born in 1944 in New Bern, North Carolina. The town was the colonial state capitol before the capitol moved to Raleigh. His parents, Arthur Smith Wallace and Addie Mae Wallace, were tobacco farmers and were among a small group of African Americans who owned large farms in the particular region of the state where they lived. His father was also a Baptist minister.

Education was always important within the Wallace household, but Wallace does not remember his parents “pushing” him or his siblings as many parents do today. He studied and did well in school because it seemed the natural thing to do. In 1954 the Supreme Court’s decision on school integration was passed while Wallace was in 4th grade. However, he continued in segregated schools. Wallace attended the segregated West Street Elementary School and graduated as Salutatorian of his high school class at J.T. Barber High School in New Bern.

One of his high school memories that shaped his attitude about life relates to taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) at the all-white New Bern High. Like many children brought up in the 1950’s, his images of white America had been shaped by “Ozzie and Harriet” type television shows where the world seemed perfect and the kids (i.e., white kids) could do no wrong. So, on his first trip to New Bern High to take the SAT (it was not offered at his school), Wallace expected an “Ozzie and Harriet” environment. When he went in to take his seat, he noticed that the desks in the classroom were marked up and carved up with graffiti just like the ones at his high school. The graffiti and the general behavior of the students led him to conclude, “... they are no different than us ...” That conclusion has followed him throughout the remainder of his life.

Wallace always liked science and was as comfortable with chemistry or physics as he was with math. His sister, Carothene Wallace-Crump, a math education major at North Carolina A&T University encouraged Wallace to study “Engineering Mathematics,” a new major that was tied to the new emphasis on engineering and the “Space Race” with the Soviet Union. In the fall on 1962, he entered NCA&T as an Engineering Math major on a partial scholarship from the Alumni Association.

After finishing his master’s degree at Penn State in 1968, Wallace was sent to Viet Nam for a year to complete a military commitment he had deferred. While there he quickly realized that he was not cut out for the military and began applying to graduate schools. He entered the University of Maryland in the fall of 1970. At that time, there were very few minority students there and only one African American math professor named Dr. Raymond L. Johnson. They became friends and began discussing common math interests. Dr. Johnson suggested that Wallace do research under him on a problem bridging the gap between the “real” math that Dr. Johnson was studying and the “abstract” math that Wallace had grown to love. Wallace received his Ph.D in 1974. It is believed that he became the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in math studying under another African American.

Today, Wallace has a strong interest in keeping the mathematics pipeline filled with minority students nationwide through internships and mentoring.

Source: http://www.math.buffalo.edu//mad/PEEPS/wallace_alton_s.html

→ → → → → → *The Graduate Formula* → → → → →

GRAD-CONNECT

Senior Rule: An option for Graduate School

As students get closer to completing their bachelor's degree and preparing for graduate school, Senior Rule is a wonderful option to get a head start on a graduate education.

What is Senior Rule?

Most universities offer qualifying seniors the option to take graduate courses and receive credit while still an undergraduate. At Wichita State University, the *Senior Rule* option allows students who are within 10 hours of graduating and who have a 3.0 or above GPA in their major and upper division courses to take graduate level courses. This is done in addition to the requirements for receiving the bachelor's degree. Students who take these courses will receive graduate credit. This gives the student a "heads up" because they have completed some graduate courses prior to entering a graduate program.

How does one apply for Senior Rule?

The first step in applying for *Senior Rule* is to be admitted to the graduate school. Once admitted, students will complete an application for *Senior Rule* and make submission two weeks prior to the semester in which *Senior Rule* will be implemented. In addition, approval is needed from the student's major advisor, department chairperson or graduate coordinator, undergraduate dean of the student's college and the Graduate School Dean before any classes can be taken for graduate credit.

Does one pay undergraduate tuition for graduate courses?

No, the courses that are specifically geared for graduate credit will be charged graduate tuition. However, all undergraduate courses will be assessed undergraduate tuition.

Can students transfer graduate credits under Senior Rule to another institution?

Most graduate courses are transferrable to other universities. However, students must contact the institution they plan to attend to find out what courses are transferable.

For more information:

Dr. Susan Kovar, Graduate School Dean
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, Kansas 67260
316-978-3095

Source: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=gradschool&p=/ApplicationandAdmissionRequirements/>
Dr. Susan Kovak, Dean of the Graduate School at Wichita State University

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Inside....

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*“If we don’t start, it’s certain
we can’t arrive.”*

~Zig Ziglar

“The Doctor”

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**McNair Facts
Did You Know?**

In 1978,
Ronald E. McNair was one
of thirty-five applicants
selected for the astronaut
program from a pool of
ten thousand. He was also
nationally recognized for
his work in the field of laser
physics.



Ronald E. McNair

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. It is the stated policy of Wichita State University to prohibit discrimination in employment and in educational programs and activities because of race, color, religion, gender, age, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disabled/Vietnam-era veteran status or physical or mental disability.
2. In working to achieve and maintain a welcoming and discrimination free environment, it is necessary and appropriate that employees and students be encouraged to make complaints and concerns about perceived discriminatory behaviors known to University supervisors and officials.
3. Any University employee or student who in retaliatory conduct against a University employee or student who has filed a complaint alleging discrimination or otherwise exercised their rights and privileges against illegal discrimination will be subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to establish University procedures up to and including termination of employment or student status.
4. This prohibition against retaliatory conduct applies regardless of the merits of the initial complaint of illegal discrimination.

→ → → → → → *The Graduate Formula* → → → → →