

THE ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

“The Doctor”

McNair Scholars Program

Wichita State University

Division of Campus Life and University Relations

webs.wichita.edu/mcnair

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McNair Scholars Present at the University of North Texas McNair Research Conference

Five McNair Scholars from Wichita State University presented at the UNT McNair Research Conference February 15 - 17, 2008. This provided an avenue for students to not only present before their peers, but also network, meet faculty and speak to graduate school recruiters from universities around the country. The following students attended: **Temperance Acquistapace, Kimberly Grimes, Philip Pettis, Mikki Phan** and **Tayoni Scott**.



(l-r) Kimberly Grimes, Mikki Phan & Temperance Acquistapace, Shukura Bakari-Cozart, Tayoni Scott & Philip Pettis

New Scholarship Program for African American and Hispanic Women to Study the Sciences or Medicine

The Johnson & Johnson Skincare Company that created AMBI skin care products for women of color, recently announced the establishment of the *AMBI Scholarships in Science and Medicine Program*. The scholarships are available to African-American and Hispanic women interested in pursuing careers in sciences or medicine. The \$10,000 scholarships are for nontraditional students seeking to continue their academic careers. Eligibility includes: age 21 or older and residents of the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited post-secondary school during the 2008-2009 academic year and enroll in an undergraduate or graduate program in the fields of science or medicine and demonstrate financial need. For more information or to apply go online: <https://www.scholarshipadministrators.net> Access key: AMBI. **Deadline is March 28.**

Source: The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.
February 27, 2008 issue. <http://www.jbhe.com/latest/index.html>

*“He who is calm in mind acquires peacefulness
and thus is able to cultivate his mind day and
night with more diligence.”*

~ Buddha ~

Spring into Spring!
March 17 - 23
Spring Break!



Grammatically Speaking

Undergoing Editing: Helpful Hints

Now that many of you are in the process of writing your summer research projects, it is important to address one of the most essential elements of writing: editing. In order to produce a truly polished work, you must examine and revise your paper many times; thus, editing is not a one-time activity but an ongoing process. The following suggestions will aid you in progressing through the revision stage of your research.

Check Spelling and Grammar:

Be sure to have a dictionary and thesaurus on hand as you write and revise, *DO NOT* rely solely on spell check.

Check your Verb Tense:

Do not switch back and forth between several tenses. Select one tense (preferably past or present perfect), and make sure you stay within your chosen tense.

Check the Organization of your Paper:

Make certain that each paragraph examines a specific topic and that the information you include is not too broad. Additionally, make sure sentence and paragraph fluency is established.

Check the Format of your Paper:

Every discipline has a specific writing style to which they adhere. Whether you are writing in APA- or MLA-format, be sure to have a copy of the style guide available as a reference.

Avoid Wordiness:

Make certain that your ideas and sentences are concise and to the point. If you find yourself getting lost in a sentence, remember, simplicity is the key.

Avoid Overusing the Passive Voice:

Frequently using “be” verbs, such as “is” and “are,” creates passiveness that detracts from your paper. When possible, try to replace the passive “be” verbs with active verbs, which will add variety to your sentences.

Top 20 Acceptance Factors for Graduate Admission


Dr. Patricia Keith-Spiegel, Director of the Center for the Teaching of Integrity at Ball State University surveyed 158 faculty active in the graduate student selection process. Grades, test scores, and letters of recommendations were factored out, and faculty were asked to rank other factors of importance. Below, the top 20 factors are listed in order of importance:

1. Applicant is listed as a senior author of a research article published in a refereed scholarly journal.
2. Applicant is sole author on a paper at a major regional association convention.
3. Applicant has a letter from a mentor with whom he/she has done considerable work.
4. Applicant has a letter from his/her professor who is well-known and respected [in the discipline.]
5. Applicant’s personal statement reveals a sustained and focused interest in an area appropriate to the program.
6. Applicant has earned a junior authorship on a research article published in a refereed scholarly journal.
7. Applicant is in the top 5 % of the graduating class (overall GPA standing).
8. Applicant writes very well.
9. Applicant includes a research paper (independent study project) in submitted application package that is relevant to the program focus.
10. Application materials indicate that the applicant paid considerable attention to assessing a “match” of his/her interests and the intended program.
11. Applicant is the sole author of a paper presented at an undergraduate research conference.
12. Applicant was a research assistant as an undergraduate.
13. Applicant is a “self-starter” (according to recommendations).



14. Applicant was a junior author of a paper presented at the convention of a large regional association.
15. Applicant won a departmental award in a research paper competition.
16. Applicant is highly motivated to achieve (according to recommendations).
17. Applicant was invited to participate in an honors program during the senior year.
18. Applicant earned an A in required upper division statistics courses.
19. Applicant is responsible and dependable (according to recommendations).
20. Applicant holds membership in a prestigious scholarship organization.

Source: Steps to a Successful Application. <http://www.psych.ku.edu/honors/grad.pdf>



Happy Birthday!

The staff wishes a **Happy Birthday** to those celebrating Birthdays during March, April and May.

Adella Rucker - March 1
Diane Jefferson - March 9
Steven Hernandez - March 16
Cynthia Salas - March 16
Kate Page - April 21
Jesse Valdez - April 22
Shondella Umeh - May 13
Kristal McGhee - May 26

Graduate School Acceptance!

Roni Ayalla was accepted at the University of Washington in the Digital Communication program.

Jade Hudson was accepted to Miami University in the Master of Arts in Creative Writing program.

Events to Come

MARCH

- 7 **Grad Prep & Seminar**
Linda Matson, Cooperative Education
“**Portraying a Professional Image**”
2 - 3 p.m., room 106, DV
- Research Assembly Meeting**
3 - 4 p.m., room 106, DV
- 14 **McNair Academy**
(Homework Assignment: *Graduate School Selection Worksheet*)
- 17-21 **Spring Break! Enjoy!**
- 29 **Grad Prep & Seminar**
Dr. Rhonda Lewis -Moss, Psychology
“**What it Took to Get the Doctorate**”
10 - Noon, room 106, DV
- 28 **Grad Seminar**
Shukura Bakari-Cozart
“**The Plan B/C&D (The Back-up Plan)**”
2 - 3 p.m., room 106 DV

APRIL

- 4 **Grad Prep & Seminar**
Doris Burgert, College of Education
“**Critical Thinking**”
2 - 3 p.m., room 106, DV
- Research Assembly Meeting**
3 - 4 p.m., room 106, DV
- 11 **McNair Academy**
Communication Fitness Lab Work
2 -3 p.m., room 166, GW Annex (lab)
- 19 **Grad Prep & Seminar**
Graduate School Panel
2 - 3 p.m., room 106 DV Hall
- 25 **Grad Seminar**
Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle, LAS
College “**Thinkers, Doers, Movers & Educators: Social Skills and Professionalism**”
2 - 3 p.m., room 106 DV

MAY

- 1 **McNair Academy, Grad Prep & Seminar**
“**Closing the Semester**”
2-3 p.m., room 106 DV
- 12 **Last Day of Classes**
- 16-17 **Commencement**



Someone Like me?

**Dr. Marché Fleming-Randle Assistant Dean,
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wichita State University,
Wichita, Kansas**

Marche Fleming Randle was born to college educated Civil Rights activist parents, James and Walter Mary Fleming in Birmingham, Alabama. They believed that education was not an option, it was a necessity to make it in this life. Her father was a military man who moved his family across the country and the world. As a child, Fleming-Randle and her younger brother James Jr. were educated in Europe and attended predominantly white elementary, middle, high schools and universities.

Though Fleming-Randle attended the University of Maryland in Munich, West Germany, she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's in adult and continuing education from Kansas State University. She earned her doctorate in adult education with emphasis in diversity and she is currently pursuing her Ed. D. in child and youth studies from Nova Southeastern University.

Fleming-Randle has also received a number of awards and honors. She was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at Upper Iowa University 2004, and in 2005 she was named Who's Who Among America's Teachers. She has several publications and is a motivational speaker. She credits her success to her morals and values instilled in her by her parents.

Fleming-Randle shares that while attending college, she faced several barriers. For example, she had no professors to mentor her through her undergraduate or graduate school process. She was not awarded any scholarship. Fleming-Randle was even told that she was not doctoral student material and it appeared that professors graded her work harder than others. She did not allow this adversity or academic hardship to stop her from seeking her goals.

Fleming-Randle married her soul mate Aron Randle in 1991 and returned back to Germany as a military spouse. In 2002, personal hardships took a toll on her education process. Her only son died and her mother was diagnosed with colon cancer and underwent treatment until her death in March 2004.

Today, she is the Assistant Dean for the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the college liaison for student services planning and implementation, which encompasses undergraduate recruitment activity, enrollment and matriculation to degree completion. She loves her position as assistant dean of the largest college on Wichita State University campus. She states it is a great day to be a Shocker! "Wichita State University is the best thing that could have happened to me in 2007!"

Fleming-Randle's family and friends have always been very supportive of her education. For example, her mother always told her she would need to use three bones in this life: Wishbone, Funny bone, and Backbone to be successful! The wishbone to wish for your success, the funny bone to laugh when you want to cry and the backbone to stand up for what you believe in! This quote from her mother has proven to be successful to Fleming-Randle as an educator. When things got tough, her husband always stated "You cannot climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets. You have to work twice as hard because you are black and a female! So get your hands out of your pockets and get to stepping!" When she complained about her professors her father would state "You can get busy crying about the conversation or you can get busy working on the situation! It is what it is!" These tidbits of "TLC" have stayed with Fleming-Randle and she holds them dear to her heart and uses them to encourage students of all race, gender and background who come to see her. She has a few words of wisdom herself to share with the students: "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies who He calls". "Let no man or woman black, white or other stand in your way of your educational endeavors! Success Awaits You!"

GRAD-CONNECT

“How to Avoid a Senior-itis Outbreak”

Do you find it hard to concentrate in class? Do you procrastinate on your homework? If so, then chances are you're a prime target for a senior-itis outbreak!

What is Senior-itis?

Senior-itis is that drop of motivation common among students in senior year (high school and college.) Its symptoms are procrastination, lack of focus and slipping grades.

Why you can't afford Senior-itis?

Last summer, the University of Washington revoked admission letters of 23 potential students, as their grades dropped considerably over senior year. As many as 37 students had their admission letters rescinded by the University of California, Berkeley, for the same reason! Although these examples apply to high school seniors-- *this can happen to graduate school applicants too!*

The Cure:

The best remedy for senior-itis is to stay motivated throughout your senior year. Developing good study habits and attempting to stay focused by keeping your eyes on the prize can help to alleviate senior-itis.

Beat Procrastination

Procrastination is one of the biggest problems seniors face. “The habits one forms early in life are often carried over into later stages of life, be it college or the professional world,” says **Mike Frantz**, Dean of Enrollment Services at Wilkes University. “Motivation and hard work will always win out over basic intelligence.”

Cara Garcia, author of [Too Scared To Learn](#), explains why procrastination happens: There are two parts to each student, “one being the *Concentrator*, which thinks about the studying that needs to be done. The other part, the *Interrupter*, interrupts the efforts of the *Concentrator*.” Get into the habit of jumping into the task at hand right away. Do not let the *Interrupter* think, you won't ever get started. Let the *Concentrator* get going.

Fuel your Interest

Try to make learning fun. “While studying something boring, get yourself to draw similarities and analogies between what you are studying and things you already know well or find interesting,” suggests **Dr. Juan Salinas** from the University of Texas, Austin.

Follow a Study Pattern

Preview every chapter before your teacher starts it. This will help you concentrate while it is being taught in class. Review the chapter after school. Memorize the material after you've understood all the concepts discussed. You'll never forget it!

Don't Obsess

It's easy to get caught up in the college admission process and forget about the here and now. “Don't spend the whole senior year obsessing about [graduate school] admission,” says **Paul Marthers**, Director of Admissions at Oberlin College. “Go about the business of being a good student and citizen and make choices for the betterment of your brain, body, and spirit.”

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Inside....

- McNair Scholars Present at UNT
- Scholarships for African American & Hispanic Women
- Grammatically Speaking
- Top 20 Factors for Graduate School Acceptance
- Someone Like Me?
- Grad-Connect
- Events to Come

*“Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.”*

~ Joel Barker

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.



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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.
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