



# “The Doctor”

## McNair Scholars Program

Division of Campus Life and University Relations

### National TRIO Day Observance

In 1986, Congress passed a bill (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act), which reduced funding for all programs in the federal budget, including TRIO. TRIO leaders went to Congress to proclaim February 28, 1986 as National TRIO Day to increase awareness and rally support for its programs. These programs enable Americans, regardless of economic circumstance, race, or ethnic background, to successfully enter college and graduate.

On Tuesday, February 9, 2010 the Wichita State University TRIO Programs (i.e. **Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC), McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services, Talent Search-Project Discovery, Upward Bound Math/Science Regional Center, Communications Upward Bound, Veterans Upward Bound, Upward Bound/Wichita Prep**) along with **GEAR UP** and **The Office of Disability Services** celebrated National TRIO Day with middle and high school students from USD 259, school staff, university administrators, community representatives and TRIO alumni from various programs.

“A Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success” was this year’s theme. All programs collaborated to bring keynote speakers, **Latina Alston** (Upward Bound & Student Support Services alumna), **Darryl Carrington** (Educational Opportunity Centers alumus), and **Abraham Rodriguez** (GEAR UP and Talent Search alumus and recipient of the Gates Millennium and Gore scholarships). Speakers told their story of challenges and successes in their pursuit of reaching the academic and personal goals of attending college.

The McNair Scholars Program recognized three individuals: **Dr. Abu Masud** received the *Building Bridges Award*, **Kerry Grosch** (alumna) received *TRIO Student of the*

*Year*, and **Shannon Ray**, received recognition for writing an essay on what TRIO has meant to him. Ray is currently a senior, majoring in Physics and Mathematics.



Shannon Ray

Source: News You can Use. National TRIO Clearinghouse. No. 3 Feb. 2004 (J. McNants)

### Application Period

The McNair Scholars Program is looking for new participants for the 2010 - 2011 academic year. To be eligible for the Program, students must meet the following criteria: have U.S. citizen status, enrolled at WSU full-time with sophomore, junior or senior standing (between 40 - 90 cumulative hours), and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours. Students must also be first generation and low income or a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (i.e., *African American, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian and American Indian/Alaskan Native.*)

The Program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree. Support and services for graduate school planning include, but are not limited to: graduate school exploration, tutoring, research opportunities, faculty mentoring, writing assistance, GRE preparation, attending conferences, and opportunities to be published in local and regional journals.

The application period is March 1 - April 19, 2010. Students may stop by the McNair Office, located in room 173B, Grace Wilkie Annex to pick up an application. *Faculty and staff may also contact the office with the names of potential candidates.*

# Grammatically Speaking

## Preventing Plagiarism



Classes are in full swing, and for many students, this means writing papers where one has to take extra precautions to avoid plagiarism. Unfortunately, not everyone has a clear understanding of what plagiarism is. According to the *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* to “plagiarize” is:

- To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own.
- To use (another’s production) without crediting the source.
- To commit literary theft.
- To present as a new and original idea or product derived from an existing source.

### All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- Turning in someone else’s work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

### How to Prevent Plagiarism when Writing:

- Talk with the Instructor About:
  - Concerns with writing
  - Citing issues
  - How to avoid plagiarizing
- Plan Your Paper:
  - Will you use other sources of information?
  - How will you include them in your paper?
  - Work out a balance between the ideas you have taken from other sources and your own original ideas.
  - Writing an outline, or coming up with a thesis statement in which you clearly formulated an argument about the information you found will help establish the boundaries between your ideas and those of your sources.

### Take Effective Notes:

- Take thorough notes from all of your sources.
- Keep notes organized.
- Avoid confusion by making sure you clearly distinguish your own ideas from those you found elsewhere.
- Get in the habit of marking page numbers and recording bibliographic information or web addresses for every source right away.

### Writing Your Paper

- When in Doubt, Cite Sources:
  - Of course you want to get credit for your own ideas. But if it is unclear whether an idea really came from you, or from some where else and you just changed it a little, you should always cite your source.
- Make it clear WHO said WHAT and give credit to the Right Person:
  - Make sure when mixing your own ideas with those of your sources that you always clearly distinguish them. If you are discussing the ideas of more than one person, watch out for confusing pronouns.
- Know How to Paraphrase:
  - Paraphrasing is restating in your own words someone else’s ideas. You must:
    - \* Change both the words and the sentence structure without changing the content.
    - \* You must still cite the source, even though you used your own words.
- Evaluate Your Sources:
  - Not all sources are good sources, web or literary. Make sure you know where the author(s), got their information, and when it was written.

The information from this article is cited from [plagiarismdotORG website](http://www.plagiarism.org/). This website offers useful tools, tips and how-to’s from citing sources correctly to using quotation marks--for the novice as well as the established writer, in hopes of preventing plagiarism.

source: plagiarismdotORG: <http://www.plagiarism.org/index.html>



**SPRING COMMENCEMENT**  
**MAY 14 - 15**



## Happy Birthday!

The staff would like to wish a Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the months of March, April & May

Rachel Jacobs - 3/18  
Sara Gomez - 5/17  
Antony Ngicu - 5/20  
Traniece Bruce - 5/21  
Kristal McGhee - 5/26  
Berenice Soto-Frias 5/29  
Marissa Barnes - 5/30



## Back to Basics: Writing Numbers

Still confused on whether to spell out or write the actual number? A general rule is write out the number when you are expressing numbers between *one* and *nine*, and use Arabic numbers for numbers above *nine*.

I counted eight [less than 10] horses and 23 [more and 10] king's men.

### Large Numbers:

\* Use *Cardinal* (spell out) numbers for very large (in the millions) estimated numbers.

\* Use *Arabic* numbers when the number gets complicated.

There are roughly ten million [large, estimated number] tango dancers in the world, but only 522 [more complicated] live in Bratislava.

### Money:

Use Arabic numbers, except when expressing large, estimated numbers or when talking about money in general terms.

We have spent more than \$2 million [estimated number] on the Linear Tides and Productivity Project, compared to \$750,000 [more complicated] last year and several million dollars [general terms] the year before.

Source: Grammar for Smart People. Barry Tarshis. Pocket Books, New York, 1992.

*"When I keep the small things small,  
I have more time to experience the  
magic and beauty of life."*

~author unknown

## Events to Come

- 5 **Grad Seminar** (2-3 p.m.)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106  
Dr. Michael Birzer, Sch. of Comm. Affairs  
*"Social Skills and Professionalism"*
- 5 **Communication Fitness** (2-3 p.m.)  
McNair Computer Lab, GWA, Rm. 166
- 15 - 21 Spring Break - Enjoy!
- 26 **Grad Prep Meeting** (2-3 p.m.)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106  
Connie Dietz, Cooperative Education  
*"Portraying a Professional Image"*
- Research Assembly Meeting** (3-4 p.m.)  
McNair Staff *"Parts of a Manuscript"*
- 27 **Faculty-Led Seminar** (10 - Noon)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 105  
Dr. Rhonda Lewis-Moss, Psychology  
*"What it Took to Receive my Doctorate"*
- 31 **McNair Informational** (11:30-12:30 p.m.)  
Heskett Center, Rm. 210
- 
- 5 **Grad Prep Meeting** (2-3 p.m.)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106  
Dr. Greg Buell, Counseling & Testing  
*"Stress Management"*
- Research Assembly Meeting** (3-4 p.m.)  
McNair Staff *(Style & Grammar)*
- Lit. Review/Five-Slide Presentation**
- 16 **Communication Fitness** (2-3 p.m.)  
McNair Computer Lab, GWA, Rm. 166
- 17 **Faculty-Led Seminar** (10-Noon)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 105 Grad School Panel
- 26 **Grad Seminar** (2-3 p.m.)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106  
JoLynn Bright, Financial Advisor  
*"Managing your Debt while in Grad School"*
- 
- 7 **Grad Prep Meeting** (2-3 p.m.)  
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106  
McNair Staff *"Closing the Semester"*
- Research Assembly Meeting** (3-4 p.m.)  
McNair Staff *"Research Concerns"*

MARCH

APRIL

MAY





## Someone Like Me?

**Henry Jackson, Ph.D.**  
**Criminal Justice, Metropolitan State College of Denver**

When **Henry Jackson** began college at *Wichita State University*, he never thought a graduate degree was attainable. However, the more classes he took, the more he wanted to know and the more he wanted to share his new found knowledge with his peers and professors. This spark eventually turned into a desire to become a member of the professoriate, and with the help of the **Ronald E. Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program** (McNair Scholars Program), Jackson met his research mentor, **Dr. Brian Withrow**. After completing his McNair research project and having it published in *The National McNair Journal* (Fall 2000), Withrow encouraged him to pursue graduate education. Jackson applied to the *University of Kansas* and received a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in City Management. This later became a career interest for Jackson where he worked in the field for four years until Withrow encouraged and assisted him in obtaining a job at *Wichita State University* in the Department of Criminal Justice. After a few years of working as a research analyst for the *Juvenile Justice Research Center*, Jackson knew he was ready to pursue the Ph.D. He applied to *Kansas State University* where he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in June 2009 in the departments of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. Looking back, Jackson feels he could not have achieved such a milestone without the encouragement and support of the McNair Scholars Program and his mentor.

Jackson credits the McNair Scholars Program with helping him build the relationship with his mentor, leading to both career and educational opportunities. In March 2000, Jackson and Withrow presented research on racial profiling to the *Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences* in New Orleans, LA that led to several journal article publications. Jackson is proud to call Withrow a colleague and friend as he was his strongest proponent during graduate school and the job search. Jackson recalls, "While I was sitting in Withrow's office one day, he stated that I had the intelligence to not only make it through graduate school, but he also encouraged me to enter a career in academia."

Jackson was born and raised in an economically depressed area, and never dreamed of attending college. He is grateful to Wichita State's McNair Scholars Program for providing the resources, (both financial and emotional) needed to apply to graduate schools, participate in national conferences, study for the GRE and to be prepared for graduate education. More specifically, for their research experience, whereas Withrow's words of encouragement were so inspirational that it gave him the confidence and drive to pursue graduate school. This path led him to his current position as assistant professor at the *Metropolitan State College of Denver*.

**MCNAIR INFORMATIONAL**

**MARCH 31, 2010**

**11:30 - 12:30**

**ROOM 210 HESKETT CENTER**

**RSVP to 978-3139 by March 29th**

**(lunch will be provided)**

# GRAD-CONNECT

## Congratulations! You're Now Getting Acceptance Letters into Graduate School!

The waiting is finally over. Acceptance letters are beginning to come in with offers from one or more graduate programs. How does one wisely consider the best option? *About.com: Graduate School* offers some insightful pointers on how best to navigate through the offers to accept and decline graduate programs.

**How to Handle Multiple Offers:** Take time to decide which school to attend, but never hold more than one offer in hand because there are other applicants waiting anxiously to hear. Each time you get an offer, compare it with the one you have in hand and determine which to decline. Repeat this comparison process as you receive each new offer. Admissions committees will appreciate your timeliness and honesty - and they will be able to move on to the next candidate on their list. You hurt other candidates, your peers, by holding on to offers that you have no intention of accepting. Notify programs as soon as you realize that you will decline their offer.

**How to Decline Admission:** Send a short email or faxed letter thanking them for the offer and notifying them of your decision. Address the note to your contact person or to the entire graduate admissions committee, and simply explain your decision. Be sure to type your name and then sign the letter. You may notify the program by email, fax, or phone, but be sure to follow up with a written letter through the postal system because messages are sometimes lost.

**Pressure to Accept:** You often find that some programs will pressure you to make a decision and accept their offer of admission before **April 15**. It is not appropriate for the committee to pressure you, so stand your ground (unless you are absolutely certain that it is the program for you). Remember that you are not obligated to make a decision until **April 15**. When you have accepted an offer of admission, remember that you are committed to that program. If you attempt to be released from an acceptance agreement, you might make waves and gain an unsavory reputation among graduate programs (*it is a very small world*) and among the faculty who have provided you with letters of recommendation.

**Accepting Admission:** When you are ready to accept an offer of admission, call or email your contact for the program and follow up with a written letter that is faxed and then mailed to the program. A short professional looking note indicating that you have made your decision and are pleased to accept their offer of admission is adequate.

**How to Handle being Wait-listed:** Graduate admissions committees realize that not all candidates who are accepted will take them up on their offer of admission and they have selected others as alternates; they wait and notify them of acceptance if a slot opens. If you are wait-listed, then you are waiting to see if a slot opens - if a candidate who has been offered admission declines.

**What do You do if You are an Alternate?** Wait. Take the time to consider whether the program is still of interest to you. If you have been accepted elsewhere and plan to attend, notify the admissions committee to withdraw your name from the wait list. If you receive an offer from another program but you are more interested in the program to which you are an alternate, it is permissible to follow up and inquire if any additional information is available since the **April 15** deadline is approaching. Understand that the program staff may not have more information, but, like you, they want to end the process as quickly as possible. If you are down to the wire and have an offer of admission, sometimes you will have to make a decision to withdraw your alternate status or run the risk of declining a solid offer of admission for something that may never materialize (this decision could force you to start the graduate admissions process all over again), so think through the pros and cons of your decisions.

Sources:

<http://gradschool.about.com/od/admissionsadvice/a/waitlist.htm>  
<http://gradschool.about.com/od/admissionsadvice/a/accept.htm>



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
TRIO PROGRAMS  
*McNair Scholars Program*

## McNair Scholars Program

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### Inside....

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### “The Doctor”

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## McNair Facts Did You Know?

The Ronald E. McNair  
Baccalaureate  
Achievement  
Program is dedicated to  
providing research-related  
experiences and academic  
support to undergradu-  
ates who are interested in  
pursuing a doctorate.



#### 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.

