

“The Doctor”

McNair Scholars Program

Division of Campus Life and University Relations

Now Accepting Applications

The McNair Scholars Program is looking for new participants for the 2013 - 2014 academic year. To be eligible for the Program, students must meet the following criteria: have U.S. citizen status, be enrolled at WSU full-time with sophomore, junior or senior standing (between 45 - 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 traditionally underrepresented groups in graduate education (*e.g., African American, American Indian/ Alaskan Native, Hispanic/ Latino, Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian.*)

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, conference attendance, and opportunities to be published in a local journal.

The application period is March 1 - April 19, 2013. 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.*



2013 TRIO Day Student Achievement Award Recipients

TRIO Day Observance

In 1986, the 99th Congress passed a resolution urging people to celebrate National TRIO Day. This observance calls attention to TRIO programs (initially three programs) and their place in the federal strategy to ensure equal educational opportunity in higher education. These programs enable Americans to successfully enter and graduate college regardless of economic circumstance, race, or ethnic background.

On Wednesday, February 6, 2013, the Wichita State University TRIO Programs (**Communication Upward Bound, Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers Program, McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services, Talent Search-Project Discovery, Upward Bound Math/Science Regional Center, Upward Bound/Wichita Prep, and Veterans Upward Bound**) along with **GEAR UP**, and **The Office of Disability Services** celebrated National TRIO Day with student speakers **Brittany Carson** and **Abraham Rodriguez**. **Reverend Terrell D. Davis**, pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, was the Keynote Speaker. **Michael Heppler**, educational consultant and retired assistant director, of Student Academic Services, Graduate School Oklahoma State University, was one of the recipients of the *TRIO Building Bridges Award*, and **Monica Williams**, McNair Scholar, received the *2013 Student Achievement Award* for the McNair Scholars Program.

McNair Scholars Program

• Educate • Enrich • Empower

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Grammatically Speaking Correct Ways to Read Critically

According to Writing: A Manual for the Digital Age, reading critically involves a careful evaluation of four important elements in order to become a more skillful reader and writer.

Analysis

To analyze is to show the way ideas, readings, or theories connect with each other by dissecting them. Key questions to consider: *“What choices did the writer make about content, organization, and language? How do these choices relate to one another?”*

Interpretation

Interpretation is finding your voice within an issue or piece of writing whose meaning may be unclear or have several possible readings. Key questions to consider: *“What elements of the text are open to multiple viewpoints? Where would you disagree with the author or with the readers? Why is your interpretation better than the other?”*

Synthesis

To synthesize an analysis (see above), put all its components together in a meaningful and understandable manner. Key questions to consider: *“Do you see any patterns or shades of meanings that you didn’t see before your analysis? If, after reading your analysis and interpretation, someone asked “So what, how would you respond?”*

Evaluation

Evaluation involves weighing the text against the standards of writing and research to see if it is a valuable contribution to its field. Key Questions: *“Is the text good/bad, worthwhile/unimportant, or better/worse than others of its kind? Why?”*

According to the Blakesley and Hoogeveen (2012), critical reading involves thinking as one reads. Key Questions to consider: *What are the intentions of the author? What is the basis of his or her argument and/or research question/hypothesis and the evidence (sources) that back them up? Are there contradictions or biases? Can one determine facts (true statements that can be verified by trusted sources), opinions (interpretations of facts) or beliefs (deeply held convictions that cannot be proved or disproved)?* The critical reader separates facts, opinions and beliefs from each other to carefully evaluate the evidence the author presents that underlines the argument or research question/hypothesis.

Source: Writing: A Manual for the Digital Age. Blakesley, A. and Hoogeveen, J. L., 2012. Wadsworth, Boston MA

McNair Scholars Present at University of North Texas McNair Conference

McNair Scholars, **Kristina Durham** and **Monica Williams** presented their research at the 15th Annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference in February. The conference was a way for Durham and Williams to meet graduate school representatives from across the country, make UNT graduate program visits, and hear presentations from featured speakers **Donald Asher** and **Dr. Sylvester James Gates Jr.**



Kristina Durham, Donald Asher, Monica Williams



Kristina Durham, Dr. Sylvester Gates Jr., Monica Williams

Happy Birthday

to those celebrating
during the months of
March, April & May

Marcus Crawford - 3/21

Olivia Graves - 3/26

Sharon Cox - 4/23

Cree Enna - 5/1

Brandon Brooks - 5/4

Christina Johnson - 5/13

Joseph Shepard - 5/29

Marissa Barnes - 5/30

Want to Reduce your Stress?

WebMD offers several tips that may help lower your stress levels:

- Accept that there are events you cannot control.
- Keep a positive attitude. Avoid negative cues like “Bad things always happens to me.”
- When you feel stressed, take a break and take a walk or drive.
- Do things you enjoy.
- Get enough sleep. Your body needs to recover from stressful events.
- Exercise regularly.

Source: <http://www.webmd.com/balance/stress-management/reducing-stress-tips>

Top Ten Mistakes Graduate Students Make

According to TADA Thesis and Dissertation Accomplished, as students prepare to enter graduate school, take classes, participate in research, complete thesis and dissertations, many have not begun the process of planning with the end in mind (graduation). Below are some common mistakes students can avoid to help get to the finish line a little easier.

- Failing to present your work during graduate school. *(Getting published and presenting your work is crucial in graduate school.)*
- Leaving before finishing graduate school. *(Avoid becoming ABD (All but Dissertation)).*
- Waiting until you have finished your degree to begin your job search. *(Start early and remember you have acquired marketable skills.)*
 - Work well independently
 - Manage a large project from start to finish
 - Outstanding research and analytical skills
 - Great professional presentation skills
 - Outstanding ability to Multi-task
- Being unprofessional or disrespectful to advisors/committee members. *(It is important to be professional at all times. You are leaving an impression - good or bad.)*
- Piling up incompletes on your transcript and/or taking too long to complete your degree. *(Taking too long to complete your work is frowned upon in graduate school.)*
- Dismissing the power of the administrative staff. *"These professionals serve as the "gatekeepers" to faculty, advisors and committee members and, as such, can either hinder or propel your educational progress."*
- Assuming your advisor/principal investigator knows more about your research/project than you. *(You must be able to defend your ideas. You know your research.)*
- Looking for a friend when you need an expert. *(Choosing a good advisor is critical to your success. Do your homework before applying to make sure you have an expert in your area of interest.)*
- Not maintaining consistent and meaningful contact with the committee as the thesis/dissertation unfolds. *(Stay in contact!)*

Events to Come

MARCH

- 8 - 14 Spring Break - Enjoy!
- 29 **Grad Prep** (2 - 3 p.m.)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106, Staff
Connie Dietz, Cooperative Education
"Portraying a Professional Image"

- 5 **Grad Prep** (2 - 3 p.m.)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 105, Staff
"Stress Management"
Dr. Greg Buell, Counseling & Testing
- Research Assembly Meeting** (3 - 4 p.m.)
"5-Slide Presentation Instruction & Research Questions and Concerns"

APRIL

- 12 **Communication Fitness** (2 - 3 p.m.)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
Robynn Sims, English Department
"Style Guide Review Review"
- 13 **Faculty-led Seminar** (10 a.m. - Noon)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106
"Graduate School Panel"
- 19 **Grad Seminar** (2 - 3 p.m.)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106,
JoLynn Bright, EMPAC
"Managing your Debt While in Graduate School"

MAY

- 2 **Grad Prep & Seminar** (2 - 3 p.m.)
Devlin Hall, Rm. 106, Staff
"Closing the Semester/ 5-Slide Presentations"
- 9 **Last Day of Classes**
- 10 **Study Day**
McNair Cookout
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 11 - 17 **Final Exams**
- 17 - 18 **Commencement**

Someone Like Me?



Wela Yong, PhD, Applied Mathematics, Arizona State University

Dr. Kamuela “Wela” Yong understood what it felt like to be alone many times as the only Native Hawaiian in his college classes or departments.

Yong received a bachelor’s in civil engineering and applied mathematics from *Loyola Marymount University*, and a master’s in mathematics from the *University of Iowa (UI)*. In 2012, Yong received a Ph.D. in applied mathematics at *UI*, becoming the first Native Hawaiian to receive a doctorate in applied mathematics—ever.

“It didn’t dawn on me until after I started my studies that I didn’t know anybody who has the same background as me,” recalled Yong. However it was at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference where Yong discovered...other people out there of similar backgrounds, doing similar types of things, [which] doesn’t make it seem as lonely.”

Today, Yong wants to make sure other Native Hawaiians know they have opportunities to pursue degrees in math and science. Last summer, he spoke to students at Kapiolani Community College, explaining that even though students may be the first in their families to go to college and be far from home, there is always support—and a group of people to cheer them on. “He wants to be a role model for people who are Native Hawaiian, and that drives him very hard to do very well in research,” said **Dr. Yi Li**, Yong’s thesis advisor in mathematics at UI.

Yong has had his moments of doubt. Before he started working with his advisors, his classes started to feel overwhelming. “I felt that I, for a moment, wasn’t prepared enough and didn’t deserve to be in grad school,” Yong confesses. After talking to one of his classmates, Yong realized that almost everyone had felt the way he did about graduate school. Yong added, “People are just too afraid or proud to admit that they feel overwhelmed...I didn’t want anyone to think I was dumb, but it turns out—that’s how everybody feels. It kind of motivated me to keep pushing on.”

Yong called his mentor, **Dr. Erika Camacho**, assistant professor of mathematics at Arizona State University, and a long-time SACNAS member. “She’s really been a big motivating factor in my life,” Yong explains. “She’s the one who inspired me and then encouraged me to go to graduate school—and she’s helped me throughout.”

Yong’s dissertation, “A Mathematical Model of the Interactions Between Pollinators and Their Effects on Pollination of Almonds,” combined his love of math and ecology. He earned a postdoc position at *Arizona State University*, where he’ll teach and conduct research. “He’s really worked hard at becoming a good teacher, says **Dr. Stephen Hendrix**, Yong’s thesis advisor in biology at UI. “He’s very interested in teaching and passing on what he’s learned to others.”

Yong will create mathematical models pertaining to the relatively new field of ecohydrology, where he will look at river networks and study the biodiversity throughout systems of water networks. “I did this because I followed my passion, and it doesn’t matter if there isn’t anybody here before me,” Yong declared. “It might have been easier, but it sure wasn’t a deciding factor.”

“At SACNAS, they have a gathering for Native Americans. I would go and share my stories and my wisdom,” says Yong. “In Hawaii, we call it *mana’o*. I would tell them that yeah, it gets tough...but that’s why they don’t just hand out degrees.”

GRAD-CONNECT

Internships: A great way to gain experience for graduate school and beyond

Internships are an excellent way to get students exposed to valuable experiences and skill building in their chosen field of study. Internships can be paid or unpaid, both offer students opportunities that could lead to future employment. One thing to consider is where to look for internships. The internet may overwhelm the average searcher to locate an internship that is legitimate, safe, and worth looking at. The Huff Post HerCampus.com (HC) offers their top 5 best websites to search for internships.

1. Internship.com

This website offers more than just a search engine. It allows students to search by major, job, company and in a city they would like to have their intern experience. It also provides additional resources, tips, and an area to blog, and gives information for students to know the internship basics. There is the Internship Predictor®, which allows students to use their personal information and personality to find current internships that best fit them.

2. Idealist.org

This website is for the non-profit internship experience. Students can sort internships by focus, paid or unpaid positions, and by language. The website gives detailed job descriptions, instructions on how and where to apply, and the dollar amount on paid positions. The website is updated regularly, so students have current experiences to apply to. Students receive emails from their chosen organizations of opportunities available, and can save their searches.

3. Experience.com

Many colleges and universities, such as Duke, Spelman, DePaul, and University of Tampa, use Experience.com in their career centers to connect students to articles about careers and job listings. Students can also refine their internship searches to their specific career choices.

Through the school, students can set up accounts to receive additional benefits and get connected with local employers.

4. HC's Careerette Section

HerCampus.com offers their own internship website for experiences at HC and other companies.

5. Mediabistro.com

This website offers internship experiences for media interests. Mediabistro offers a large job database, news, analysis and popular topics, such as social media.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word,
a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of
which have the potential to turn a life around.

~Leo Buscaglia



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
TRIO PROGRAMS
McNair Scholars Program

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McNair Facts Did You Know?

In 1981, Ronald E. McNair received a bachelor's degree in physics, magna cum laude, from North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro.



Notice of Nondiscrimination

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 engages 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 established 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 Vice President and General Counsel and the Office of Human Resources shall have primary responsibility for publication, dissemination and implementation of this University policy.

