



“The Doctor”

McNair Scholars Program

19th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference



Jasmine Mayorga (EPSCoR), Kevontrez Jones, Ayris Franklin (EPSCoR), Alissa Bey, Jose Esquivel

On September 18, 2015, five McNair and EPSCoR scholars attended the 19th Annual McNair Heartland Research Symposium at the Country Club Plaza Marriott Hotel in Kansas City, MO.

The conference gave students an opportunity to present their research to McNair students from across the country and learn about research being conducted by their peers. Also included was a graduate school fair, allowing students to interact with admissions representatives from various colleges and universities.

McNair Student Achievements

Featured below are notable student achievements.



Sanjuana Martinez received a \$2000 grant to fund the development of two additional prototypes for therapeutic toys that will be used with hearing impaired children at Heartsprings.

Jasmine Mayorga presented her research at the the 2015 Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in August. She also attended the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Conference in November, 2015.



Elvin Salerno received a Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (KINBRE) award for the fall 2015 semester. He also received this award for the summer 2015 semester.

Upcoming Research Deadlines

The following deadlines have been set to ensure that students successfully complete their research projects.

- December 30** The IRB Process (Blackboard Meeting)
- January 29** Literature Review
- February 29** IRB Submission
- May 20** Final Literature Review



to those celebrating during the months of December, January and February:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Joy Foster • 12/1 | Nicole Ramirez • 1/26 |
| Rosa Palacio • 12/2 | Zachary Pearson • 2/5 |
| Jesus Gonzalez • 12/22 | Nicholus Cox • 2/13 |
| Nephi Escobar • 1/3 | Kerisha Broadus • 2/23 |
| Martina Salerno • 1/23 | Maria Lucas • 2/25 |

Grammatically Speaking: Avoiding Common Grammatical Errors

Grammar is not just the domain of high-minded intellectuals holding court in an ivory tower, nor is it a sadist creation designed to make you feel frustrated and confused. It is a system and structure that is genuinely in existence to help us communicate more clearly—to help us better understand each other and derive meaning from the things we say and write. That is why it's so important to take notice of grammatical mistakes and figure out what you need to do to correct them. Below are nine examples of common grammatical errors.

1. YOUR / YOU'RE

Your
"Your" is a possessive pronoun, as in "your car" or "your blog."

You're
"You're" is a contraction of "you are," as in: "You're screwing up your writing by using 'your' when you mean 'you are.'"

2. IT'S / ITS

It's
"It's" is a contraction of "it is" or "it has."

Its
"Its" is a possessive pronoun, as in: "This infographic has got its groove on." Say your sentence out loud using "it is" instead. If that sounds goofy, "its" is likely correct.

3. THERE / THEIR / THEY'RE

There / Their
Always do the "That's ours!" test: Are you talking about more than one person and something they possess? If so, "their" will get you there.

They're
"They're" is a contraction of "they are," so talk it out to be sure.

4. AFFECT / EFFECT

Affect
"Affect" is a verb, as in: "Your ability to communicate clearly will affect your income."

Effect
"Effect" is most often a noun, as in: "The effect of poor grammar on a person's income is well documented."

5. THEN / THAN

Then
The word "then" can have a variety of meanings, including "at a point in time" or "in addition to." As a rule, use the word "than" when comparing and "then" in all other instances.

Than
The word "than" is used to compare two different things: "This is bigger than that."

6. LOOSE / LOSE

Please don't mess this up. If your pants are **too loose**, you might **lose your pants**.

7. ME, MYSELF, AND I

Me/I
Choose between "me" and "I" by removing the other person from the sentence and using what doesn't sound silly.

Myself
"Myself" is only proper two ways, both used here:
"Many despise asparagus, but I myself tolerate it. I thought to myself, 'Why?'"

8. IMPROPER USE OF THE APOSTROPHE

You need an apostrophe in two cases:
For **contractions** ("don't" for "do not forget the apostrophe") and to **show possession** ("Frank's apostrophe means the apostrophe belongs to Frank").

9. COULD OF, WOULD OF, SHOULD OF

"Could've," "would've," and "should've" are legitimate verb contractions, but when spoken, they sound like they end in "of" (wrong) instead of "have" (correct). "Could of," "would of," and "should of" all make you look silly.

Sources: <http://www.nextscientist.com/tips-improve-your-academic-writing/>

<http://www.grammarly.com/blog/2015/5-of-the-most-common-grammar-mistakes/>

PERSEVERANCE: 20 YEARS AND COUNTING

McNair Alumni Samanta Souriya Honored as Teacher of the Year Semi-finalist



Samanta Souriya, ESOL Teacher at Jardine, was honored as a semi-finalist for the Kansas Teacher of the Year Award from the Kansas Department of Education. She was honored during a banquet in Wichita on September 12, 2015.

Souriya was a participant in the McNair Program during the 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 grant years.

Student Research



Pictured left are motion sensors similar to those used with Khoi's research.

My research involves making a prosthetic lower arm for a six-year-old girl to play the violin. Initially, I was not interested until my mentor, Dr. Brooking, explained the situation. I got a chance to meet with the girl's family and see her playing the violin. She was amazing, but her current prosthetic hand is limiting her potential.

I immediately took an interest in the project. I am very hopeful that by the end of the upcoming semester, she will even play better with a modified version of her current prosthetic hand. I am excited about the project.

- Khoi Lam

Events to Come

JAN

29 Research Deadline
Literature Review Due

FEBRUARY

5 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
McWrite Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
Noah Trammell, *"Integrating Sources"*

Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, *"Methodology and Data Collection"*

12 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Grad Prep/Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Dr. Jeffrey Jarman, *"Critical Thinking Skills"*

27 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
Dr. Michelle Redmond, *"Writing for Publication"*

29 Research Deadline
IRB Submission Due

MARCH

4 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Kaylee Nungesser, *"Managing Graduate School Debt"*

Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Noah Trammell, *"Parts of a Manuscript"*

12 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
LaWanda Holt-Fields, *"McNair Alumni Panel"*

25 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, *"The Back-up Plan"*

APRIL

1 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
McWrite Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
Noah Trammell, *"Writing in Review"*

Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
Ashley Cervantes, *"Research Concerns"*

9 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
Dr. Robert Weems, *"What it Took to Get My PhD"*

13 Devlin Hall, Rm 106
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
Connie Dietz, *"Portraying a Professional Image"*

Someone Like Me

Jaswant Sullivan, Ph.D., Political Science



Jaswant Sullivan, Ph.D. was honored as a TRIO Achiever in 2012. He participated in the Ronald E. McNair Program from 1996 - 1997 at Truman State University. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Truman State University, two Master of Arts degrees from Southern Illinois University and Indiana University, and his Ph.D. from Indiana University. Sullivan studies race, identity and political behavior. His current projects explore the effects of African American racial identity on political attitudes and behavior. He currently is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University.

Sullivan's recommender shared the following in her letter of recommendation, "Jas' dedication to helping others from disadvantaged backgrounds like himself embodies the ideals of TRIO and helps fulfill the dream of Dr. Ronald E. McNair."



Jamie Bezdek, Ph.D., Special Education, Behavior, Leadership, and Systems Change



Jamie Bezdek, Ph.D. was honored as a TRIO Achiever in 2014. She participated in the University of Kansas McNair Scholars program in 2000 - 2001. Bezdek's passion and commitment for disadvantaged students started with her undergraduate research projects as a McNair Scholar and her commitment to educational equality is grounded in her beginnings as a TRIO student. Bezdek is a TRIO champion at heart and will continue to advance the lives of many underrepresented populations.

Bezdek works as the research coordinator for the SWIFT Center. Past work includes applying (Positive Behavior Support) PBS at all levels in schools, community mental health agencies, and in homes. Past research includes implementing school-wide PBS in urban schools, piloting a web-based application that allows data to be accessed and trigger research-based interventions, exploring parent and professional partnerships, and researching the effectiveness of office discipline referrals.

TRiO
WORKS!

Sources: <http://www.mokanne.org/Past%20TRIO%20Achievers.aspx>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWn4BvX23dk>;
http://www.lsu.edu/hss/polisci/faculty_and_staff/sullivan.php; http://www.beachcenter.org/staff/staff_detail.aspx?id=28

Grad Connect: *Study Abroad Opportunity*

In June 2016, a group of 15 TRIO SSS and McNair students will have an exciting learning opportunity. You will have a chance to explore Salamanca, one of Spain's most spectacular cities, as you immerse yourself in an intensive, month-long study of Spanish language and culture. You'll study with international students at the University of Salamanca and have the option to live with a Spanish family or with other international students in a residence hall.

The Program

Your courses will include language classes tailored to your proficiency level in Spanish. Beginners will have special language lab and vocabulary building sessions. You'll also choose among classes that focus on Spanish history, culture, and art, as well as Arab culture in Spain. Outside of class, you'll take part in group excursions to Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its Roman aqueduct, medieval walls, and Romanesque cathedrals; as well as attend salsa classes and other extracurricular activities. The program is administered by COE and Travel & Education, a program provider that partners with universities in the regions of Castile and Leon, Spain.

The Application Process

You must be nominated by your TRIO director to apply to this program. Students must be in good academic and social standing with their institutions, have at least sophomore status, and have demonstrated leadership ability and potential. Priority will be given to students who have had at least one semester of Spanish or the equivalent.

Applications must be submitted with a transcript (unofficial is acceptable), personal essay, and \$500 deposit to COE by January 15, 2016. The deposit is refundable if you are not admitted to the program. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status in early February. Thanks to generous corporate support, COE will award Keith Sherin Global Leaders Scholarships to at least 15 students selected for the 2016 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program so that the net cost to students is \$2,300.

Find out more about the program at http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/Students/International_Opportunities/Study_Abroad/COE/NAV_Students/International_Opportunities_Study_Abroad.aspx?hkey=81e5a666-2836-4a1c-a738-d6fd56831301

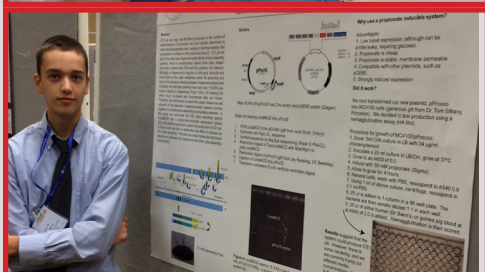
McNair Events



Martina poses with President Bardo and Coach Marshall at the Morning Joe MSNBC Event on November 3, 2015.



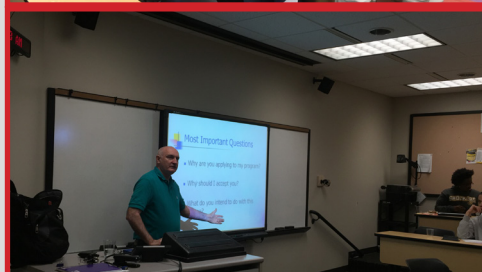
Jasmine organized several activities including a visit to Pfizer as president of the Wichita State chapter of the American Chemical Society.



Elvin poses with his poster at the American Chemical Society Regional Conference in Missouri.



McNair Students interview one another during the Personal Statement Writing Seminar in October 17, 2015.



Mike Heppler offered students tips for graduate school applications and personal statement writing during October's Faculty Led Seminar.



Alissa had the opportunity to meet with graduate school representatives during the MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference.



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

TRIO PROGRAMS

McNair Scholars Program



McNair Scholars Program

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The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), in conjunction with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), has compiled a list of McNair incentives to help Scholars find graduate schools that offer application fee waivers and/or fellowships and other opportunities that are available to McNair Scholars.

This list can be found at http://www.coenet.us/coe_prod_imis/COE/TRIO/McNair_Fee_Waiver_List/COE/NAV_TRIO/McNair_Scholars_Fee_Waiver_List.aspx?hkey=d459a62a-5577-4103-b125-8c3bb8aa5029

Highlighted Fellowship:

The University of Texas at Austin.

At The University of Texas, a graduate application fee waiver is provided to McNair Scholars who apply for graduate admission except for MBA, MPA, or Law School.

The McNair Graduate School Fellowship provides a \$28,000 stipend and health insurance assistance in addition to full tuition and fees. Nominations open December 7, 2015. The deadline is January 29, 2016.

Find out more at http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/funding/fellowships/diversity_recruit/

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McNair Facts: Did You Know?

Following graduation from MIT in 1976, McNair became a staff physicist with Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California.



He conducted research on electro-optic laser modulation for satellite-to-satellite space communications, the construction of ultra-fast infrared detectors, ultraviolet atmospheric remote sensing, and the scientific foundations of the martial arts.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

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