On September 19, 2016, four McNair scholars attended the 20th 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.

### Upcoming Research Deadlines

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

- **January 29**: Literature Review
- **February 29**: IRB Submission
- **May 20**: Final Literature Review

### New Student Highlight

**Erica Kromidas** is a sophomore majoring in psychology. He is interested in researching how to better optimize resources in place for Immigrant and Refugee populations here in Wichita.

**Christian Saldana** is a sophomore majoring in economics. He is interested in government spending and its effect on society and would like to research government aide to identify effects on individuals and commercial endeavors.

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

- Jesus Gonzalez • 12/22
- Christine Fuston • 12/22
- Martina Salerno • 1/23
- Neshia Greene • 1/23
- Valerie Noseng • 2/12

### Welcome Writing Tutor

McNair is excited to welcome David Caylor to the McNair team as writing tutor. He will be available to assist students in their efforts to improve their writing.

**Schedule**

- Monday/Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday/Thursday: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
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.

Sources: http://www.nextscientist.com/tips-improve-your-academic-writing/
http://www.grammarly.com/blog/2015/5-of-the-most-common-grammar-mistakes/
24th Annual National McNair Research Conference and Graduate Fair

I had the opportunity to attend the National McNair Research Conference in Delavan, Wisconsin in October 2016.

The research presentations were very diverse. I found one poster particularly interesting. It was about finding the location where a Nazi soldier was buried. The student and his mentor were able to go to Israel and use special equipment to analyze the soil to determine and map where the soldier might be located. They actually found what they were looking for and put in a request to get a team to dig, and the panel approved it!

My favorite speaker at this conference was the keynote speaker, Dr. Sylvester James Gates Jr. First of all, his presentation kept the whole audience at attention because he spoke in a way that relates to everyone. His life story was incredible. I was in awe at how much hard work he does and what he has accomplished. Now he decides what kind of work he would like to do. He definitely became my new role model. He showed me how history can be made and I hope to do that one day.

In conclusion, I am so glad I attended this conference. I am at a point where I’ve been feeling very discouraged, like maybe I’m not good enough or ready for the next big step. This conference is exactly what I needed. It was refreshing and reminded me that I’m not the only one who feels this way and that it’s completely normal. I am more motivated because of the individuals who attended and shared their experiences with me. I met a graduate program I am seriously considering and I have realized the importance of funding in programs.

- Elizabeth Ramirez
Dr. Michael L Blakey is a Biological Anthropologist who specializes in physical anthropology and its connection to the history of African Americans. He spent 3 years as the director of the African Burial Ground Project researching the 6.6 acre burial ground which is now a national monument. His work and that of his team from the Montague Cobb Biological Anthropology Laboratory at Howard University (an HBCU) gave us insight to the lives of African American slaves and freemen in New York City.

Blakey received his B.A. degree in anthropology from Howard University in 1978. He continued his studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and earned his M.A. degree in 1980. He travelled to England to do research on the biology of contemporary Londoners at the University of London and Oxford University. In 1985, Blakey received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He also worked as a physical anthropologist at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution for nine years.

From 1991 to 1994, Dr. Blakey served as the director of the African Burial Ground Project in New York City, one of the most important archaeological finds in the United States during the 20th century.

In 2003, Dr. Blakey was appointed as the director and the National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary Institute of Historical Biology. He directs the Institute of Historical Biology. He is also a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Dr. Blakey has published more than forty articles on the history and philosophy of science, paleopathology, historical demography, medical psychophysiology, http://nmaahc.si.edu/ and racism.

Read more:
http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/michael-blakey
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Blakey_%28anthropologist%29
http://www.wm.edu/as/anthropology/faculty/blakey_m.php
We all know that graduate school is a lot of work, but did you know that it has its own vocabulary? Fancy words start cropping up in conversations with professors and fellow students before you even apply to graduate programs. Hopefully, the following explanations will take some of the mystery out of the lingo.

**A.B.D.** - This is an acronym for “All But Dissertation.” These will be the initials behind your name if you’ve completed all your Ph.D. coursework in graduate school, but not your thesis.

**Dissertation** - Essentially, this is a gigantic research paper! A dissertation or thesis is almost always required when pursuing a Ph.D., but some master’s programs also require them.

**Assistantship** - Assistantships are available at many grad schools with graduate programs and can be teaching or research centered. In exchange for completing some work or research for the graduate program, you’re offered free or reduced tuition, as well as other possible benefits, such as health insurance and a monthly stipend.

**Defense** - Generally an oral presentation to a committee of people where you provide a summary of your thesis and the research results you obtained. An examining committee then presents you with questions and you must respond and defend your work. There’s usually a time limit.

**Orals** - These are essentially final exams for graduate school, which are common for doctoral degrees and sometimes required for master’s-level programs. These comprehensive exams are presented verbally and are usually graded by a small committee of professors who will require you to demonstrate your mastery of the concepts you’ve covered in your studies.

**Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy)** - This is an advanced degree, beyond the master’s level, which requires further courses, as well as several years of original research culminating in a dissertation.

Source: [https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/graduate-school-glossary.aspx#sweeps-modal](https://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools/graduate-school-glossary.aspx#sweeps-modal)
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McNair Fee Waivers/Fellowships
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:
Indiana University Bloomington waives application fees for McNair scholars and offers the following funding opportunities:

Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship
$18,000 to $25,000 stipend (depending on the field of study), plus tuition, subsidized health insurance, and a recruitment visit. The McNair Graduate Fellowship is for outstanding McNair Scholars entering Ph.D. or MFA programs at IU Bloomington.

Each McNair Graduate Scholar will receive four or five years of support. At least one year of the award is pure scholarship with no duties beyond continued progress toward the graduate degree. Annual stipends range from $18,000 to $25,000 depending on the discipline. For the remaining years, details of the guaranteed funding package depend on the department and will be a combination of other scholarships and research and/or teaching assistantships that cover full stipend, tuition, and health insurance.

The Art of Deliberate Success: Practice • Perform • Achieve

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Effective Date: March 25, 2016