



“The Doctor” McNair Scholars Program

Letter from the Director

Congratulations and welcome to the McNair Scholars Program, “MCNAIR: The Graduate SUPERPOWER.” This year holds great potential for you, an amazing group of students. It is our intention as the McNair staff to assist you in your pursuit of graduate studies. This process can sometimes be daunting and overwhelming as you work to meet all of the goals and expectations to continue your education. Know that the McNair Program is here to serve as your support system on this journey.



Over 300 students have come through this Program and there have been many **SUCCESSES**, and we want to be able to count you in that number.

We will ask you to push yourself further than you thought you could to reach a goal that may seem unattainable. But have no fear, this team of “SUPERHERO” staff members have just the tools you need to clear the path for your **SUCCESS**:

1. Writing Skills Development,
2. GRE Preparation,
3. Scholarly Research, and
4. Graduate School Preparation to name a few.

Each of these opportunities can play a big part in your **SUCCESS**. The McNair staff is excited to be a part of these next steps and decisions that you will make. We are here to assist you along the way. So, please take advantage of the support and the resources that are here for you. It is my pleasure to have served as the director of this program for over 20 years, and I look forward to working with you.



2017 - 2018 McNair Scholars

The McNair Scholars Program is off to an excellent start for the 2017 - 2018 academic year, with students participating in activities to become familiar with the graduate school process and scholarly research. The McNair staff welcomes the following scholars:

Tracia Banuelos*	Eugene Potts*
Lupe Fraire*	Elizabeth Ramirez*
Raven Hodges*	Veronica Ramirez*
Tony Hula*	Brandon Reyes-Turcios
Eric Kromidas*	Christian Saldana*
Darrin McPherson*	Marliz Valles
Aja Molinar*	Carrie Van Dusen*
Marsha Norton	Joshua Villa
Andrea Ponds	Carol Viluethpad*

*indicates returning students

Fall Faculty-Led Seminars

Day/Time Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon
Location: Devlin Hall 105

September 30: Dr. Robert Weems
“*Selecting a Mentor/Professionalism*”

October 28: McNair Alumni
“*Personal Statement Writing*”



Grammatically Speaking: *The Literature Review*



All students involved in the research component will complete a literature review as part of that process. Use the information below as a guide. Your aim should be to evaluate and show the relationship between previous research and your current research. In order to do this effectively, you should carefully plan how you will organize your work.

Functions of the Literature Review

1. What is a literature review?

A literature review can be just a simple summary of the sources, but it usually has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis.

A summary is a recap of the important information in a source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations. Or it can trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates.

2. How does a literature review relate to my research question?

A review of the literature is an essential part of an academic research project. In a research paper, the literature is used as a foundation and as support for a new insight that you contribute. The review is a careful examination of a body of literature pointing toward the answer to your research question.

3. Why do we write literature reviews?

Literature reviews provide a solid background for research investigation. Comprehensive knowledge of the literature in the field is essential to most research papers. Through the literature review you will discover whether your research question has already been answered by someone else. If it has, you must change or modify your question.

Strategies for Writing the Literature Review

1. Find a focus

A literature review is usually organized around ideas, not the sources themselves like an annotated bibliography. You will not simply list your sources and go into detail about each, one at a time. As you read widely but selectively in your topic area, consider what themes or issues connect your sources together. Do they present one or different solutions? Is there an aspect of the field that is missing? Do they reveal a trend in the field or a raging debate? Pick one of these themes to focus the organization of your review.

2. Read with a Purpose

You should summarize the work you read, but you must decide which ideas or information you want to add to your research (so you can emphasize them).

3. Additional Considerations:

- *Use evidence* - Your interpretations must be backed up by evidence to show that what you are saying is valid.
- *Use quotes sparingly* - A few short quotes here and there are okay, though only if what the author said just cannot be rewritten in your own words.
- *Keep your own voice* - While a literature review presents others' ideas, your voice (the writer's) should remain front and center.
- *Use caution when paraphrasing* - When paraphrasing a source, be sure to represent the author's information or opinions accurately and in your own words.

Summary: Your Literature Review should:

- *Demonstrate why your research should be conducted*
- *Summarize important information, but remember to synthesize that information as well.*
 1. *Interpret information in a new way*
 2. *Trace progression of ideas/debates related to your topic*
- *Provide a foundation for your research*
- *Include the most important ideas from each source*
- *Provide evidence to support your interpretations*
- *Employ a limited use of quotes*
- *Paraphrase accurately and in your own words*

Sources: <http://www2.uncp.edu/home/acurtis/Courses/ResourcesForCourses/LitReview.html>; <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/>; <http://www.ait.ac.th/education/LanguageCenter/ait-writing-services/guide-book/using-the-literature.html#U-EzLFYtS68>; <http://webs.wichita.edu/depttools/depttoolsmemberfiles/holtfields/Newsletters/2012%20Doctor%20Oct%20-%20Nov.pdf>



Research Proposal Deadline



Superhero Grammar Tips



Events to Come

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
 Jill Pletcher, *"Vitae Writing"*
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
 Ashley Cervantes, *"Intro Research/Writing a Proposal"*
- 15 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Grad Prep Meeting (2 - 3 p.m.)
 LaWanda Holt-Fields, *"Time and Stress Management"*
Research Proposals Due
- 30 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
 Micheal Birzer, *"Selecting a Mentor/Professionalism"*

OCTOBER

- 6 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Grad Seminar (2 - 3 p.m.)
 Ashley Cervantes, *"Grad School Application/Funding"*
Ablah Library, Rm 217
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
 Angela Paul, *"Library Database Tour"*
- 20 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Grad Prep (2 - 3 p.m.)
 Ashley Cervantes, *"Intro to Writing Styles"*
- 30 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
Faculty Led Seminar (10 a.m. - noon)
 Michael Heppler, *"Personal Statement Writing"*

NOVEMBER

- 4 Devlin Hall, Rm 105
McWrite (2 - 3 p.m.)
 Ashley Cervantes, *"Lit. Review/Integrating Sources"*
Ablah Library, Rm 217
Research Assembly Meeting (3 - 4 p.m.)
 Library Services, *"Library End Note Training"*
- 17 McNair Office
Program Meeting (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
"Closing the Semester/Holiday Feast"



Someone Like Me: Jedidiah Isler, Ph.D.



Jedidiah Isler, Ph.D.,
Astrophysics

Dr. Jedidiah Isler is an award-winning astrophysicist, TED Fellow, and a nationally recognized speaker and advocate for inclusive STEM education. She is also the creator and host of the monthly web series “Vanguard: Conversations with Women of Color in STEM.”

Dr. Isler received her bachelor’s degree at Norfolk State University’s Dozoretz National Institute for Mathematics and Applied Sciences (DNIMAS) before earning a Masters in Physics from the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master’s-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program, a pioneering effort to increase the attainment of advanced STEM degrees by students of color. Dr. Isler continued her education at Yale University, where her research on supermassive, hyperactive black holes was supported by fellowships from NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. In 2014, she became the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Yale, completing an award-winning study that examined the physics of particle jets emanating from black holes at the centers of distant galaxies called blazars.

Dr. Isler’s current research focuses on using simultaneous infrared, optical and gamma-ray observations to better understand the physics of these blazar jets.

Dr. Isler has served as a Chancellor’s Faculty Fellow at Syracuse University, an affiliate of the Future Faculty Leader Fellowship at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and is currently an National Science Foundation Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University. She was recognized as a 2015 TED Fellow for her astrophysical research and innovative efforts to inspire a new generation of STEM leaders from underrepresented backgrounds. She has been invited to Astronomy Night at the White House and featured in various publications including Wired, Diversity in Action,

Ebony, NPR:CodeSwitch, and The Crisis Magazine. Her writing has appeared in the New York Times.

As a speaker, Dr. Isler works with schools, museums, libraries, and nonprofit organizations across the country to advance the cause of truly inclusive STEM engagement and has established herself as a champion of access and empowerment in STEM education from middle school and beyond. She was also a featured speaker at the EOA Girls in STEM Conference hosted on the Wichita State University campus.

Learn more at: <http://jedidahislerphd.com>



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to those celebrating during the months of September, October, and November:



Tony Hula • 9/2

Aja Molinar • 10/29

Ashley Cervantes • 10/12

Veronica Ramirez • 11/12

Brandon Reyes • 10/17

Eugene Potts • 11/23



McNair Events



Dr. Shchommer-Aikins led the Summer Research Seminar for prospective McNair researchers.



McNair Scholars Eugene Potts and Carrie Van Dusen attended the MKN Adult Student leadership conference on June 3, 2017.



2016-2017 McNair Student Researchers at the 22nd Annual Closing Symposium July 28, 2017.



Student researchers gave both oral and poster presentations during the Closing Symposium.



Students participated in ice breaker activities to kick off orientation activities August 18, 2017.



Program Director LaWanda Holt-Fields highlighted program components and expectations during the McNair Orientation.



McNair Scholars Program: Graduate School SUPERPOWER





WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

TRIO PROGRAMS

McNair Scholars Program



McNair Scholars Program

1845 N. Fairmount

Wichita, KS 67260-0199

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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:

Bell State University waives applicaiton fees for McNair scholars and offers the following funding opportunities:

McNair Scholars can apply for McNair assistantships, which have the same duties and benefits as other departmental assistantships.

If you are awarded an assistantship, you'll receive a stipend (currently \$9,294.38) during the academic year as well as a partial tuition waiver so that you pay only certain fees (currently about \$2,500 per academic year) instead of the full tuition. You'll work 20 hours per week assisting faculty with teaching, research, and/or administrative duties.

"The Doctor"

McNair Scholars Program
Wichita State University
Grace Wilkie Annex, Room 173
Campus Box 199
Wichita, KS 67260-0199
Phone: (316) 978-3139
Fax: (316) 978-3439

E-mail: mcnairscholars@wichita.edu
Ashley Cervantes, Editor
Website: webs.wichita.edu/mcnair

Staff:

LaWanda Holt-Fields, Director
Ashley Cervantes, Program Counselor
Neshia Greene, Senior Administrative Assistant

McNair Facts: Did You Know?

Dr. McNair exemplified excellence and was the recipient of several honorary doctorates, fellowships and commendations. He had a sixth degree belt in karate and was an accomplished saxophonist. Dr. McNair was also a dedicated husband and the father of two children, Reginald Erwin and Joy Cheray.



Source: <https://mcnair.njit.edu/ronald-mcnair/index.php>

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.
Effective Date: March 25, 2016



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