

Vol. 20, No. 3
March - May, 2015

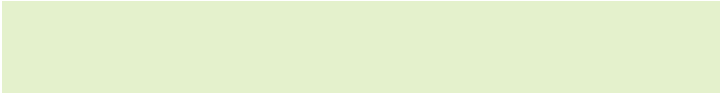
“The Doctor”
McNair Scholars Program

Rosa Palacio, Lydia Ibarra, Joy Foster, and Logan Gisick



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Someone Like Me: McNair Alumni Panel



Meladee Garst,
Staff Psychologist,
Counseling and Testing Center,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2005 - 2007



Francis Nguyen,
Graduate Teaching Assistant,
Mathematics and Statistics,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2010 - 2012



Philip Pettis,
Research Assistant, Center for
Community Support and Research,
Wichita State University

McNair Participant
2006 - 2009

On March 7, Meladee Garst, Francis Nguyen and Philip Pettis, McNair alumni, led the annual McNair Alumni Panel. During this activity, they shared their stories and answered questions about higher education for current McNair Scholars who are preparing to begin their graduate education.

The McNair alumni dispensed advice on how to submit a successful graduate school application. All three stressed the advantages of conducting research. Students may also consider participating in more than one research project with different mentors in order to gain experience in a variety of approaches to problem solving and also build rapport with additional instructors who can write them supportive reference letters.

The alumni advised students to read many articles with focus and persistence, giving close attention to the recommendations and further results sections: it's in those sections that McNair Scholars' own research projects begin. Garst

told students that her own research project for McNair was a continuation of her mentor's research.

When alumni mentioned their participation in McNair during the application process, college representatives would lean forward and say "Oh really? Tell me more"

In addition to research advice, the McNair alumni encouraged students to keep their heads up. All three agreed that a low GPA or GRE score should not discourage students from applying to the graduate programs they are interested in. While those numbers are important, a set of stellar reference letters or meticulous research can make up for lower-than-expected academic performance.

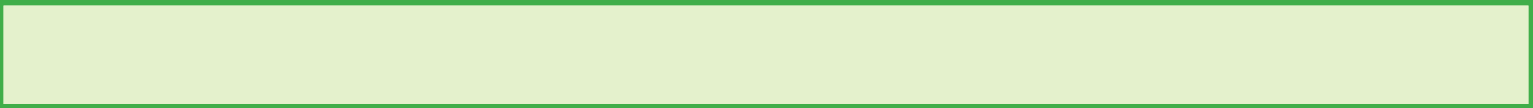
Pettis recommended that students email professors in prospective graduate schools to seek advice on research and opportunities to network with them at conferences.

All three McNair alumni emphasized McNair's positive

mentioned their participation in McNair, college representatives would lean forward and say "Oh really? Tell me more."



Francis Nguyen, Meladee Garst, and Philip Pettis (not pictured) offered current McNair students advice during the McNair Alumni Panel meeting.



Duties of research assistants vary by discipline and lab but include all tasks needed to pursue research in a given area, such as:

- data collection, entry, and analysis

- reviewing the literature and other library work

