

“The Doctor”
McNair Scholars Program

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O
Dr. Robert Weems presented

PhD from the University of

emphasized benefits of the

advantage of what the program has to offer.

Weems grew up in Chicago and began his postsecondary career primarily focused on playing basketball. During that time, he noticed that his college professors seemed to have a pretty good life and career. He also had a professor who took an interest in him. There is a low number of African Americans with PhD's and this professor believed that

back on this journey, Weems stressed that the key to being successful is finding the right mentors

Weems received a fellowship from Boston University. At first, the award seemed like a lot of money. However, once he got there, he realized that it really didn't go very far. Weems pointed to two major decisions in his life that were influenced by money. The first caused him to switch his focus from history to education in hopes of securing a higher paying job. He realized that he had made a mistake almost immediately. He got through the first year in that program and was offered a full time position directing a school

begin earning a salary in order to pursue his original goal of

Money is a big temptation that may draw students away from their dreams of earning a PhD Weems warned. Earning a PhD requires a "fire in the belly", regardless of the discipline students pursue. It requires focus and dedication. For Weems, his decision to continue following his dream

him personal satisfaction. He explained that two thirds of people working in all industries hate their job. They wake

up dreading what the day has to offer. Many people pursue a job for the money, but find that money isn't everything. Weems assured students that if they are passionate and enthusiastic about what they are doing, the money will follow

How should students choose a PhD program?

"The short answer is the one that offers you the most financial aid," Weems joked, although he did warn students to expect some financial difficulty. Weems encouraged students

at what professors are researching. He also advised students

How do you balance your personal life?

This can be a challenge. Weems recommended that students sit down with their loved ones at the beginning. Pursuing an experience is a student's responsibility. "It's not M

sage as legitimate and not spam and gives the professor an idea of who's sending the message.

2 Always use subject lines Use the subject line to indicate what the email is for or in regards to.

3 Address your professor directly, don't just launch straight into a request. ExamM. M d p y/ Q ,

2

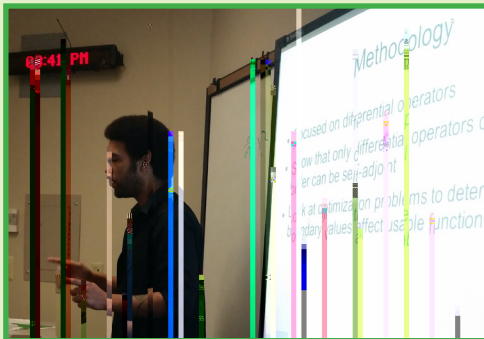
McNair Events



of the Career
information about
professional dress
during April's grad



Zumba lessons
brain break from
studying for finals
Martina enjoy a
study break during
8th, 2015



presentation of his
"Self-adjoint
Extensions of
research assembly



Matt show off
Zumba lessons at



dropped by the
office prior to
submitting his
with his master of



University of
Salma Ayoub led
on a tour of the
BME lab following

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