For two days on August 1 and 2, McNair scholars presented their research to the MTSU community on a wide range of subjects. Altogether, 23 oral presentations were given and the same number of posters were on display.

In order of appearance, LeAnette Artis (seated, center) examined marketing strategies of newly industrialized countries. Nick Shimokochi (standing, fourth from left) then explained the theoretical uniqueness of K10 in S4. Bethany Adams (seated, far right) discussed language discrimination. Bonnie Saari (seated, second from left) compared memory of taboo and neutral words. Karin Hooks (seated, third from right) examined how poor women are portrayed in four novels. LaNora Gray (standing, third from right) discussed how hypertensive subjects comply with treatment regimens. Deidre Cullom (not shown) explained how low-income communities take the brunt of environmental policy.

James Edmondson (seated, center) showed how MPivot Sort outperforms other sorting algorithms. Ken Garrett (standing, sixth from right) demonstrated how balanced ternary logic is an improvement over binary systems in current use. Megan Musick (standing, third from left) discussed bacterial living in amoebae found in water sources. Roberta Edge (standing, fourth from right) discussed the growth of pow-wows in Tennessee. Ashley Kite (seated, third from left) described the heterogeneous Laotian community located in Murfreesboro. Jeffrey Blackman (standing, fifth from left) detailed various online threats to privacy. Next, Terri Proctor (standing, far left) discussed mental health issues among college freshmen. Calley Stroud (standing, second from left) talked about leadership of single mothers. Barbie Murray (standing, center) focused her research on adult college learners.

Continued on page 2
How do I set up grad school visits?

Good question, even if we did have to make it up ourselves. The main thing to keep in mind is that a McNair-sponsored grad school visit is more than just a campus tour. The object is to talk to as many people as possible who can get you accepted into the graduate program.

The first step is to talk with someone in the McNair office about the possibility of a visit. If you get the go-ahead, contact the Graduate Admissions office and the relevant department of the college you want to visit. Also set up appointments with housing and financial aid offices. Ask who can meet with you and set a date and time. Document the contacts with a phone log or copies of emails. Always ask if the grad school will pay for your room and board while you’re there. If the answer is yes, as it often will be, it will stretch McNair travel dollars for more visits.

Be sure you have each contact person’s title, email address and phone number. This is important for two reasons. You will need this information to attach to a travel-request form, which must be approved before you make any travel arrangements. Also, you will want to confirm your time, date and place of meeting with each contact several days before you leave.

After your travel-request form is approved, make the appropriate travel arrangements. You’ll need a credit card for this. You may also receive advance money for the trip. The McNair office can book your flight but you will need to make your own hotel reservations, if needed. The cost of the hotel should be within state per diem rates (check with McNair staff for these rates).

Also make a list of questions you want answered after reading all you can about the graduate program and its requirements. Use a separate page for each contact person. Include the person’s name, title, department, email and phone. Also include the date and time of your meeting. Then list your questions. Bring your CV and McNair Review if you’re in it.

When you meet with the person, ask for a business card and/or get a signature on your schedule to document your itinerary.

When traveling you do not need receipts for meals. Meals are covered by a flat $25 per day for each full day. For everything else, though, be sure to get a receipt. You will need to submit receipts for reimbursement upon your return. Keep track of all expenses, by day, on a laptop or notebook. Documentation of visits (copies of those business cards we mentioned earlier) also must be turned in.

Finally, it’s always a good practice to make copies of everything for your own records.

Planes you probably won’t be riding in to visit grad schools.
Ken Garrett, Solar Raider

 Held at the Heartland Racetrack in Topeka, Kansas, the Solarbike Race is one event in a series hosted by Formula Sun. Solar racing teams from across the country compete in five days of competition, ranging from high school through adult classifications.

 The competitions begin with inspections of each vehicle to ensure adherence to strict design and safety regulations. Teams qualify to compete in long-range, s-class and bicycle races. All vehicles must operate using a solar array and batteries.

 The MTSU chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers has been competing in the s-class competition for the past four years. McNair scholar Ken Garrett (left) has headed up an MTSU team for the past three years, and this team has created two vehicles: Solar Raider 1 (SR1) and Solar Raider 2 (SR2, shown below). His team has placed in the top three finishers each year.

 Currently, SR2 is fully hand-operated and is undergoing modifications that will allow disabled drivers the opportunity to compete. A third vehicle, SR3, designed by Ian Campbell, uses new technologies, including nickel metal hydride batteries, high-efficiency custom-assembled solar array, and carbon fiber and aluminum construction.

 New McNair MASTERS: CONGRATS!

 Jeanette Owusu earned a masters degree at Texas Tech University.

 Lisa Ooten-Carey earned a masters degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

 New McNair GRADS

 May 2005
 Ashley Hicks, B.S., Mass Communication
 Tanya McLaughlin, B.A., English
 Carmen Triplett, B.S., Mass Communication
 James Whitaker, B.B.A., Business
 Tim Worrall, B.S., Biology

 August 2005
 Suzanne Glen, B.S., Psychology
 Karin Hooks, B.A., English

 Well done!

 Sunshine & Collin in France

 MTSU offers diverse programs to numerous countries. As students, we may go to Costa Rica to study tropical rainforests, England to analyze Harry Potter or Australia to investigate aboriginal land rights. We may participate in courses from other universities, or even create our own curriculum.

 I hope to encourage fellow McNair scholars to use study abroad programs. No matter your interest, there is a program for you! I went to France. Why? When I was two years old, I saw the Eiffel Tower on Bugs Bunny and I have longed to visit France ever since. As a low-income, first-generation college student, I never imagined academia could make this happen!

 Pursuing a linguistic program, my French improved drastically, as expected. However, I didn’t expect to learn so much about American history and our relationship with France. I’d like to dispel the myth that French people dislike Americans. In fact, they hate to think we believe such. This is especially true in Normandy, where Collin and I were. We traveled throughout the region to explore both American and French culture. We finished with a week in Paris and my lifelong dream became a reality on July 21 when I stood before the Eiffel Tower. — Sunshine Pinell

 Conventional wisdom seems to be that funding for research in the humanities is hard to find. As my two majors are French and English, it’s been challenging to secure funding for projects that will help me gain entrance to graduate school. In my current work on the Bayeux Tapestry and other accounts of the Norman conquest, I ran up against an obstacle: I had no way of examining any medieval documents or artifacts, let alone the tapestry itself.

 That’s when my mentor, Dr. Monica Wright, and the McNair Program staff gave me the critical support I needed to make my project reach its full potential. Dr. Diane Miller guided me in finding funding through URSCA and other sources. Dr. Mary Enderson followed up to make sure I had what I needed. Ms. Cindy Howell was always available to coordinate all the logistical details. As a student, the summer research stipend from McNair was vital since I had to miss two months of work during the trip.

 As a result of this support from the McNair Program, I was able to travel to France this summer to examine first-hand the subjects of my research. The examination of artifacts and historic sites enabled me to better comprehend the significance of sources sent to us from a distance of nearly a thousand years. — Collin Davey
In a continuing series, McNair Moments will feature profiles on two Advisory Board members per issue. Our current guests are Dr. Burton and Dr. Cheatham.

Dr. Jim Burton, Dean
Jennings A. Jones College of Business
Bio
Dr. Burton, first-generation graduate, earned a BA from MacMurray College, an MBA from Murray State University and a Ph.D. in accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Vision for McNair
"Almost certainly most first-generation college students do not enter academe with thoughts of becoming college professors—probably not even of doing graduate work. Providing such students an introduction to the challenges and opportunities that come with graduate education is a most meaningful effort, and what the McNair Program is all about."

Dr. Thomas J. Cheatham, Dean
College of Basic & Applied Sciences
Bio
Dr. Cheatham, one of nine first-generation children, earned both his masters and Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. He taught at Samford University for 10 years before joining the faculty at Western Kentucky. In 1980, he became chair of the Computer Science Department at MTSU, then associate dean of CBAS and then dean.

Vision for McNair
"I hope to see the MTSU McNair Scholars Program reach the point where we must make tough decisions among highly qualified candidates. Also, I hope to hire our first Ph.D. graduate in the College of Basic & Applied Sciences. I was the first Academic Coordinator for the MTSU McNair Scholars Program. It is very"