College of Liberal Arts Honor Students:
Nick Mackie
Ana Valenzuela
Kamryn Warren

Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Sigma Chapter:
Petra Morkel

Meritorious Service Award:
Shaun Guffey
Nick Mackie

Ernest Hooper Scholarship:
Lindsay Gates

Diversity Scholarship:
Mat Elder

URECA:
Kamryn Warren
Mat Elder
Lindsay Gates

Nancy Hill Robertson Scholarship
Danielle Whitlow

T. Randy Stevens Scholarship
John Meese

Corcoran Scholarship
Ennie Aladejana

McNair Moments

India: A Snapshot of Cultures

The McNair Scholars experienced the fastest, most exciting, and packed spring break of their lives with an unforgettable trip to India. Felicia Brown, Jonathan Gilliam, Matt Hampton, Michael Harris, Lindsay Gates, Amber Gray, Petra Morkel, Paige Stubbs, Laurence Tumpag, Kamryn Warren, Assistant Director Steve Saunders and myself experienced eight days spread among 40 hours of flight time (roundtrip), airport layovers, and visits to Chennai, Agra, and Delhi. With small excursions and sight-seeing sprinkled in around research presentations at SRM (Sri Ramaswamy Memorial) University, it was certainly a trip we will not soon forget.

In the southern region of India lies a bustling city of 10 million people. Interspersed among cows, motorcycles, buses, cars, rickshaws, dogs, horses, camels, goats, and monkeys, we learned to expect constant beeping horns and grew accustomed to the “break-neck” taxi rides in this Indian metropolis known as Chennai. About an hour outside the city is one of the top ranking engineering school campuses, SRM University, which hosted us for four days and let our students showcase their research.

Each student presented for approximately 15 minutes to about 50 aerospace students with time for questions at the end. (Continued –See Insert)
This spring Jenae Matikke studied and lived in Cordoba, Argentina. While there she studied the History of Argentina as it pertained to Latin America, as well as specific events that have taken place there and greatly impacted the development of Argentina. She will also be studying Argentine popular culture, and events and other cultures that have influenced daily life there.

### Spring 2010 Seminars

Clockwise from the top:  
- **Etiquette dinner with Michelle Gibson**, Personal Consultant, spoke about the proper way to conduct themselves at a business dinner.  
- **Diane Miller**, Director of McNair, elaborated on what it means to be a professor.  
- **Laura Clippard**, Academic Advisor in Honors College, spoke on how to apply for scholarships.  
- **Kamys Warren**, McNair Scholar, shared slides and stories from the India trip.  
- **Dr. Frank Michelle**, Associate Professor for Economics and Finance, educated scholars on saving and investing their money for their future.  
- **Dr. Michael Allen**, Dean of Graduate Studies (not pictured), gave advice on how to research and rate graduate schools.  
- **Emily Born**, IRB Compliance officer (not pictured) also spoke about IRB approval for summer research.

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**India: A Snapshot of Cultures Converged**

*Continued from cover*

Amber Gray, whose major in Aerospace, was of particular interest to that group as well as Lindsay Gates who did research on Indian Agriculture. All were well received. Future academic encounters may not be far from reality for the scholars. The networking and contacts established with the SRM students and faculty was beneficial for both parties.

As we ventured out on our own to explore the landscape, we quickly recognized we weren’t in “Kansas” anymore. The 90 degree weather and sun made the dusty and thick air apparent, and lack of sanitation, clean water, and tremendous population in India made every city in the US much easier to tolerate in our minds. Some of us wandered to various beaches and it was worlds away from the kinds of Florida beaches fellow spring breakers were enjoying on the other side of the world. Without getting into detail, just realize it was unsafe to swim in the water both for cleanliness and for undertows, and just as risky to be on the beach itself walking around. Others enjoyed shopping and were treated to observing Indian attire, as silks and saris of beautiful hand-made embroidery and bright colors stood out in many stores. Trinkets galore lined the shelves and street vendors latched onto “foreigners” wanting as many rupees (their currency—Rs) as possible for their goods.

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Before leaving Chennai to head north to Agra, where the population was about 2 million, we toured an archeological site Mahabalipuram located 60 km away. Filled with beautiful monuments, cave temples, pavilions, sacred shrines and chariots that showcase the skill and artistic talent of the previous inhabitants. The sculptures belong to the 7th and 9th century and are of a great value to archeologists. Upon arrival in Agra we immediately visited the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and no doubt deserves to be. Known as the “epitome of love” this marble marvel was erected in memory of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan’s wife after she died bearing their 14th child. It took 22 years to complete and thousands of laborers and is one of the most costly tombs that exist. We were shown some more archeological stone carvings, a Hindu temple and went to the “baby Taj” which was actually erected before the Taj Mahal. It is a fourth smaller and much more elaborate in detail. It was magnificent. The stone work and marble inlay was extraordinary. We saw green parrots on the premises and monkeys galore nibbling their treasures along the way to the site.

The scholars also had varied opinions about Indian food. Mostly vegetarian based, it was often spicy and uniquely flavored with Indian staples like curry, cumin, and chilies as well as spiced mango relish. Naan is a delicious flatbread often served as a side to more gravy-like or bean-mixed combinations. One eats with one’s hands, tearing a piece of Naan and scooping up the mixture. Masala tea was a favorite beverage as well as mango and lemon juices.

The last leg of the trip was in the capital, New Delhi. We were whisked through the city seeing some fantastic parliament buildings including the “Gateway” and a temple that looked so outstanding it was surreal. It was all over in an instant, but we observed Delhi was much cleaner, well manicured, and more modern looking than the other cities we visited. It would definitely be worth a second visit, as would discovering more of spectacular India as a whole. – Monique Richard
Poster Winners & Presenters:

Left to Right: Matt Bennett, Laurence Tumpag – 1st and 2nd place for liberal arts, Joseph Quarles – 3rd place for liberal arts, Johnathan Gilliam – Presenter, Michael Harris – 3rd place for Business

Not pictured: Matt Hampton – 2nd place for Business, Brittany Oliver, Kamryn Warren, Lindsay Gates and Amber Gray – Presenters.

Oral Presenters were:
Kamryn Warren, Petra Morkel, and Felicia Brown

(Right- Laurence’s poster and display)

**HISTORY LESSON**

The Taj Mahal was constructed in 1631, took 12 years and 20,000 workers to complete. Known as the “epitome of love”, and one of the seven wonders of the world. It was built by Shah Jahan as a tribute to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

**NEW MCA OFFICERS**

The McNair Challenger Alliance (MCA) is an organization within McNair. Newly elected officers will preside beginning May 1st.

**NEW SCHOLARS**

The McNair program welcomes two new scholars:
Matt Bennett (Left), Psychology/Sociology
Jamie Sutton (Right), Philosophy/Religion

**AWARDS**

Nick Mackie (Right), was awarded MTSU’s Provost Award, one of the highest honors at the university. He also won the Jack Justin Turner Award and the Meritorious Service Award.

Joe Quarles (Left) was awarded the LaLance Award. He has also won the TASP Award, Hixon Creative Writing Award for the Collage Literary Journal and the Homer Pittard Creative Writing Award.